

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
May 16, 2017

The Regular Meeting of City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Mucci presiding. The meeting was opened with a silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Councilmen Hahn, Johnson, Paul, Timmons, Villamagna, DiLoreto and Dressel.

Also present; City Manager James Mavromatis, Acting Law Director Costa Mastros, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Health Department Supervisor Nicole Runco, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star and WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to be approved from May 9, 2017. Mayor Mucci welcomed the new Clerk of Council Karly Haley.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Mucci – “Madame Clerk is there any petitions in communications?”

Mrs. Haley – “I have none.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you. Before we move into the ordinances and resolutions I will ask anyone having a cell phone to please turn it off or put it in the vibrating position.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2017-37 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. DiLoreto, Johnson, Hahn

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS THE LOCAL OFFICIAL WITH THE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT KNOWN AS JEF-STEUBENVILLE SHARED USE PATH FROM FRANKLIN AVENUE TO THE NEW MARINA ENTRANCE, PID NO. 105885, CITY PROJECT NUMBER 2016-126, AND COMPLETE ALL NECESSARY FUNCTIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE SAID PROJECT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES, RIGHT OF WAY SERVICES INCLUDING ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF WAY, UTILITY RELOCATION, CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION/INSPECTION SERVICES, BIDDING SERVICES, ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION, RE-BIDDING IF REQUIRED, ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST MOST QUALIFIED BIDDER AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREFORE.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the second reading of Ordinance No. 2017-37. The third and final reading will be on May 23rd. If adopted by city council effective date of this ordinance will be June 23rd.”

NO. 2017-41 – BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. DiLoreto, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE CONVEYANCE OF A NEW 12-INCH WATERLINE AND DEDICATION OF A WATERLINE EASEMENT BETWEEN GOOD VENTURES PROPERTIES, LLC AND THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-41. The second reading will be on May 23rd. The third and final reading will be on May 30th and if adopted by city council it’ll be the effective date of June 30th.”

NO. 2017-42 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Paul, Johnson, Dressel

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTIN THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR 79/1000 ACRES TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY PURSANT TO R.C. 721.29 AND AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE SAME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2017-42. Is there anyone who would wish to speak on it? Please come forward; state their name and address.

Mr. Paul – “Question”

Mayor Mucci – “ Before I call roll call let me point out that week we had a couple other emergency legislations; and the question was asked why we are not suspending the second and third reading? The charter amendments under Section 5 Emergency Ordinances don’t require that rule to be suspended. It asks for public comment and then we go to a vote. However the amount of votes and it would take five (5) votes to adopt this order. With that roll call.

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-42 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Hahn – No report

Mr. Johnson – “Yes, your honor. I’d like to make a motion accepting your recommendation to appoint the following person to the tree commission. To fulfill the term of Thomas Way and his name is Bill Schnieders of Ridge Ave. Second by Mr. DiLoreto. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Mucci.

Mayor Mucci – “Once again I would like to thank the members of council for accepting the recommendation from my office. Anything further Mr. Johnson?”

Mr. Johnson – “That’s all”

Mr. Paul – “Yes, your honor. I would like to call Dr. Patrick Macedonia tonight to speak to the council and the people of the audience. He has an update on consolidation of the health board between Steubenville and the county.”

Dr. Patrick Macedonia – “I represent the Steubenville Health Board and I’m temp President; as you know Mayor Mucci is the President but in his absence; I represent the health board. I’m here tonight representing the Health Board to inform you, council, and the citizens of Steubenville that the health board after 114 years will be closing on June 30th. We will no longer provide public health services to the citizens of Steubenville or to other residence. That services will provide hopefully through the county. Though we’re trying to make this process transparent as possible. I’m sure you’re all aware of our decision many months ago; we decided that the funding for the Health Department will be terminated come June the 30th. So, we acted upon that decision and since March of this year we developed our exit plan, we’ve been doing an exit plan. There are a lot of things that have to be done; notifications to the state, notification to vendor, notification to insurance companies, and obviously notification to you and to our other public will also be notified. We tried to make this as transparent as possible; it’s been difficult over the last couple of years. One of the problems we have had is loss of staff because of articles in the newspaper their job security so some have moved on to other areas. We have had staff who has maintain and stayed with us and will stay with us until the end of June to provide services that we can provide at this time. There are some people I would like to thank for sticking with us and I say that kindly that they have stuck with us. The employees of the Health Department those that have not deter from their jobs; they have been very supportive in spite of some conversation that occur throughout the past two (2) years. As you know Shaleeta our Health Commissioner left a couple years ago. We asked our nurse at the time Nicole Runco to step up to be our inter house commissioner. She has done this graciously and has done a tremendous job is doing that and she did that will a little bit of a pay increase. So she has actually held three (3) positions; our nurse, our secretary, and our Health Commissioner and I wanted to thank her. She will continue with us until the end of June. Also I would like to thank our board. We have committed to (inaudible) this process through and have also been very helpful and determine to make this a very transparent process; one of our board members Carletta she’s in the background here again I want to thank them. So what’s this mean now to the Board of Health or to the services that we provide? As I said, the county will provide the services. What we have been able to do, Mr. Mavromatis, myself, Nicole, and some county representatives are meeting in December to talk about a merger. The merger has a DAC, the DAC is the authority of a county health board, so they (inaudible). They took a vote in the Fall of 2016 and they decided at that time they did not want a merger or a union, we use union because that is the correct term, they said no we do not want a union. They were asked again I think a month or two ago to take another vote and they also decided at that time they did not want to form a union; they want to do a contract. So, as of this date we do not have a contract. Now according to the Board of Health the contracts are between the boards The Steubenville Health Board and the County Board. Obviously councilmen have to come back because there’s going to be money involved so the services that the county is going to provide are going to be a cost back to the general fund, back to council and we’re not sure what that number is we’ve heard numerous amounts; we might want to talk about that number later but I don’t think we’re going to recognize or appreciate the cost that was anticipated because again we are not forming a union. So the contract is still in negotiation and we the city board meetings tomorrow to discuss where we are with the contract. I’m sorry it’s on Thursday, but also there are somethings in the contract; for the preliminary contract we did receive there needs to some discussion because as I said earlier, as we’ve been saying all along, we want to make this as transparent as possible so the citizens of this community do not lose public health services. That’s kind of the summary of where we are today; as I say that there is no question the health department services of public health will cease June the 30th. Thank you for your time and I would also like to thank the Mayor, Mr. Mavormatis, and Mr. Paul for being very supportive of us through this process and have always been able to call on them for support and discussion; again I appreciate the three (3) of you offering your services to us. Any questions?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Doctor I would like to thank you; I know it was a tough time but you had the best interest of the citizens of the county and I’ll thank you and members of council.

Dr. Macedonia – “I appreciate that thank you.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you Dr. Macedonia and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your leadership for the President Pro Temp of the Steubenville Health Department. I would like to thank all the board members throughout the years that served for the Steubenville Health Department. I can remember not too long ago Mr. Pizzaferrato being the Health Commissioner, then Anne Marie Rastovich, Patty Reda, Shaleeta, and now Nicole and quite frankly Nicole you’ve done an outstanding job as the (inaudible) director, administrator for the health department, and also as our health commissioner. It was not an easy task that was put before you;

working through all these contractual agreements, union or whatever course. You've kept the ship together and you've worked extremely hard at keeping the employees morale up within the department and moving the department forward in providing the services. You're right Dr. Pat, providing health care services is extremely important to our community especially those who cannot afford those services but even some of the ones that just love coming to the Steubenville Health Department. It has a great history, a long history with the City of Steubenville and it is really a sad day after 114 years that the City of Steubenville itself will not be providing. Although the county will be providing healthcare services in some fashion or another but it is my understanding that we still have a way to go. (Inaudible) indications that the information I'm receiving this contractual agreement could be \$170,000 or so a year out of the general fund; not counting on our inner millage that we come off the top of through the real estate of taxes. So the outcome of this, I don't believe and never did believe that there would be a great savings to the general fund except for shifting of those dollars but we will see ultimately that outcome. But I do want to thank that past board members, the present board members, and more importantly all the citizens that utilized the Steubenville Health Department. They saw the value there and they appreciated it so to all our customers throughout the years I would like to thank them and I know at the present time some of the businesses that use our health department, such as the funeral home and we've been getting calls from some of the directors of the funeral homes wondering the hours of operation but that should go seamlessly then when we move over to the county because they could provide those services so thank you again Dr. Pat. Anything else Mr. Paul?"

Mr. Paul – "I have nothing else this evening your honor."

Mr. Timmons – No report

Mr. Villamagna – "Yes mayor, I would like to call an executive session to discuss police personnel." Second by Mr. Johnson. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved declared by Mayor Mucci.

Mayor Mucci – "Is there anything else Mr. Villamagna?"

Mr. Villamagna – "No just one more thing. That 173 or 175 you said that's not a final number we'll go into negotiation; so to say that it's kind of unfair that we're not seeing a savings because even at that number there is a savings but it's not substantial.

Mayor Mucci – "Depends what comes off the inner millage."

Mr. Villamagna – "It's still in negotiation and I can't say enough about Nicole and I've made my feelings known to the County Health Board also how we felt and thankfully some of our people are going to be employed by the County Health Board so that makes me feel good. Regionalization, I mean, no one likes to have change but things happen.

Mr. DiLoreto – No report

Mr. Dressel – No report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. Mr. Paul I had Chuck Murphy send me this and it's just for this year of water breaks; so we've had 22 water breaks this year in 17and there were 70 breaks in 2016. This year the highest for 2017 for breaks on a road is Bryden Road with three (3), Brockton with two (2), Southeast Drive with two (2) and Lafayette with two (2). Those were the high number ones. There's no (inaudible) single breaks (inaudible) but that's where we're at this year already 22 water line breaks. I received a couple of letters this week from citizens in Steubenville but they remain anonymous. All I can do is put this out to the citizens; you can send me all the letters I just ask that you sign them with your phone number in it so I can call you. If you want to remain anonymous that's easy it won't go any farther then that it'll just be the substance of your letter. It's difficult when they send complaints in when there is a lot of unknowns there; they don't look at a lot of different things and a case in point one was describing increase traffic on Bryden Road, the increase speeding on Bryden Road, and it's easy to make comments when they're a lot of things they don't know. What I mean by that, had they called and talked to me I could explain certain things that are being done. This I can tell you, every turn on the police department has be advised of the speeding issue and the increased traffic on Bryden Road. This is due to Lovers Lane being closed because of the roundabout being constructed. Again, if you take the time to write the letters they were very constructive nice letters, I just wish they would've put a contact number and a name. I get calls every day from people reporting drug activity, reporting something they don't want to be named that is kept confidential and that's the bottom line. So again, those of you that come here regularly; please pass this on to your friends I have no problems when the letters come in. But if they took the time to write that letter they have an honest concern for their neighborhood. This time last year on Braybarton, this lady put her name and phone number and we had additional officers up there. Now from an enforcement stand point; the number one priority to the controlled division is calls for service. That means when someone calls and they need to have a policeman. We don't have the man power to station somebody for 8 hours on Bryden Road. There are peak times and we're going through the motions now to determine which times are the best times that we've had the highest rate of speeders then we will augment these places with our man power. So again I just break this up as an educational thing to the citizens here. If you are going to take the time, please put your name and phone number and I will get back to you. We did attend the meeting on Monday for the health care and this is not over yet. They have just received the data that we desperately needed and it's interesting when we have a court order that all of a sudden it appears. The bottom line is we have the information that we need; now we can start going out and getting the right bids that we need because this ends at the end of the year and we still have the other litigation on the other side. That's all I have Mayor."

Mr. Villamagna – “I thought about this earlier when Jim brought that up about not having a policeman there. It’s a great burden on the residents of Bryden Road. I found out something very interesting, we’re paying or the company is paying or I could be wrong who is making the payment but for somebody from our engineering department to sit out there to make sure that the roundabout is going the right way. I believe that is what we’re doing; somebody is paying somebody to sit there and make sure everything is getting done according to the plans. On a project of this magnitude we should put in that bid for a police officer to be in that area down there in big projects like this. It’s terrible on Bryden Road and there’s no way to relieve it like Jim said you can’t have somebody there 24 hours a day. He is making an effort to have them down there randomly; the neighbors have called me and told me the officers are writing citations. I think in the future we got to check into when we are going to have something where it’s going to be this type of burden on citizens that we put a police officer there somewhere to alleviate the traffic congestion because it’s bad down there. There is no solution and I answer these questions every day, I’m nice and polite and I say the same thing that I’m saying to you guys there’s no solution. The good news is we’re ahead of schedule but we just need to keep this in the back of our heads for next time we have this kind of project. That’s all and thank you.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you Mr. Villamagna and point well taken. If you notice the work going on at Lawson Ave. Bridge, Lawson Ave and Belleview, there is a police officer on Sunset Blvd because of the truck movements and the ingress and egress site but good point. Thank you Mr. Villamagna.”

Mr. Mastros – No report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes I would just like to let everybody know that I scheduled another work time at the Belleview Park Pool for the gardening and it’s going to be a really different time Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you are interested and I am going to be there I would love to have you join me. We have a lot to do; we have a lot of weeds to pull and pine needles and things to rake up. We are definitely making head way. Anybody who wants to join me I will be there even if its lightly raining I’ll still be there but if it is lighting and thundering I will not be there. I will send out a notice by e-mail to the e-mails I have from people who have volunteer but this is an opportunity to really think about all the people that are in this city; to let them know that we are thinking of them and preparing for them and really wanting this pool to be a welcoming place for everybody who wants to come. I hope you can join me.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you Mrs. Hahn. That will conclude our miscellaneous reports from the council and we will now move to public form.”

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Mucci – “If there is anyone wishing to speak to City Council on City business please come forward and state your name and address.”

Council Chambers were cleared for Executive Session.

Council Chambers were reopened for adjournment.

Mr. Paul moved to adjourn. Second by Mrs. Hahn. Roll call. All ayes. So moved; meeting adjourned declared Mayor Mucci.

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR