

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
May 23, 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 Johnson, Paul, Timmons, Villamagna, DiLoreto, Dressel, and Hahn.

Also present; City Manager James Mavromatis, Acting Law Director Costa Mastros, City Engineer Mike Dolak, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star and WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for May 9, 2017 and May 16, 2017. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Mucci.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Mucci – “Madame Clerk is there any petitions in communications?”
Mrs. Haley – “I have nothing your Honor.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2017-37 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 3rd 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 third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2017-37. Is there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-37 please come forward and state your name and address.”

John Mascio – “567 Braybarton Blvd. Question first. What is this supposed to be? Is this a bike path, a nature trail, or what is this supposed to be?”

Mike Dolak – “It’s a shared use path for biking and walking.”

John Mascio – “I have no problem with a biking or walking path; I really don’t; it’s good for everybody; it’s good for exercise the whole thing. I do have a problem though with the fact that you laid this whole thing out and you have set the whole decision making on the city manager. I’m not sure any one person should be making this decision; I think it should be something that should be brought before council and then decided on the decision on whether to go forward or not to go forward. Number two (2); you’ve got other reason in the city that might need to be considered; instead of spending money to do something like this. There are a lot of people that walk and jog and bike through Union Cemetery/Mount Calvary Cemetery; Beatty Park is a naturally wooded area (inaudible) you’re shutting out every other opportunity or availability of uses throughout the city. I think you should look at something more than just this one path from Franklin Ave. down to the Marina. I’m not saying don’t do it; all I’m suggesting is tabling this and looking into other alternatives; rather than this to where you might be able to go ahead and accomplish the same thing for a heck of a lot less money with existing facilities that we already have in the city. Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Just clarification; if I didn’t understand what you meant. We did authorize this already; we’re just making him the guy that signs the contracts.”

John Mascio – “You authorize him to do everything; to transfer bids, review everything, enter a new contract, rebid if necessary. I’m saying I think that there should be a little bit more input from council as an all and maybe even from the people then once all these bids come in; to see where we are rather than put it on one person and I’m not criticizing Jim. Whether it would be him, you, me; I don’t think one person should be making that altered decision.”

Mr. Villamagna – “But correct me if I’m wrong that’s how we do all our contracts with everything.”

Mr. Johnson – “It is.”

Mr. Villamagna – “All of our contracts are done that.”

Mr. Dressel – “We’ve already discussed the project.”

Mr. Villamagna – “We’ve had plenty of discussion on it.”

Mayor Mucci – “This is also part of the US 50 bike path and also don’t forget ODOT’s participation and corroboration on this project. I think Mr. Villamagna (inaudible) while the language of this particular ordinance; exercises the city manager to execute the contract.”

Mr. Villamagna – “The point I was trying to make is that is how we do all of our contracts; we give him the authorization to make. Anyways my questions was this; do we have the okay from the railroad and everything or how does that work Mike?”

Mike Dolak – “With the current configuration on how it’s running through that area; right not it will not be on railroad property; obviously we will have to cut paths and consultation with them and that creates issues but right now we’re not on their property.”

Mr. Villamagna – “But we are not on railroad property and that was the question; I believed that we weren’t but I wanted to make sure. Thank you.”

Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-37 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

NO. 2017-41 – BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – 2nd 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 second reading of Ordinance No. 2017-41. 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.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Johnson – “Yes your Honor; I just wanted to remind everybody that next Tuesday at 6:30 we will be having a Planning Committee meeting.”

Mr. Paul – No report

Mr. Timmons – No report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor; I read the paper one day last week and also the Sunday paper and do you have any idea who’s responsible for this ad?”

Mayor Mucci – “The Steubenville Health Dept.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Who authorized payment for a full page ad?”

Mayor Mucci – “The Health board.”

Mr. Villamagna – “The Health board authorized? Do you have any idea how much a full page ad costs? Do you have any idea?”

Mayor Mucci – “I’m not quite sure.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Close to a \$1,000. The Health Dept. spent \$2,000 on an ad that says unfortunately the Steubenville Board of Health has to make changes with the hours of operations for the Steubenville Health Dept. These changes are a result (inaudible) allocated by the Steubenville city council and the general fund. The county is extending only until June 2017 with funding expected to end in June. Several staff members have pursued employment elsewhere or have resigned from the department. The Board of Health is announcing a 60 day notice. How many employees do we have in the Health Dept.?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “7 or 8”

Mr. Villamagna – “How many did the county take with them now? Three (3)?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “One for sure; they offered two (2) part-time positions.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Those two (2) positions are available if they want them.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes”

Mr. Villamagna – “So there’s three (3); two (2) retired so that’s five (5); three (3) have positions with the county if they take them; one (1) bid into the M & R position for the City of Steubenville and there’s one missing and I’m not sure what happened to her. They didn’t lose their jobs; they got employment with the county health dept. Effective April 30, 2017 any immunization, tuberculosis testing, and all clinical nursing services will end. Is that true? No it’s not true. It’s going to end at the Steubenville Health Dept. but you’re going to be able to go to the county. Effective May 30, 2017 all vital statistics operations will cease. Is that true? No. They’re going to go to the county to get them. It’s been a pleasure and an honor protecting the safety and wellness of the residents of Steubenville; our expectations are services provided by the Steubenville Health Dept. in the future will be provided by Jefferson County Health Dept. They’re going to take the people that go up there and treat them. There’s no expectation; that’s it they’re going to go up there; we spent between \$800 and a \$1,000 and then last week the number came up \$173,000 and it’s not going to stay at \$173,000; I’m almost a 100% sure of that; if it does stay at \$173,000 we’re still saving \$150,000 by doing what we did. Plus you have a vacant building where the Police Dept. can go into now and better the city. This is an insult to spend two (2) days; which there is probably more coming; there is money left in that account; are they going to just spend it on these ads? Do we have the right to stop that or no the Health Dept. can put this in there seven (7) days and spend \$7,000 if they want too? Is that correct?”

Mayor Mucci – “I would think so; it’s in their budget.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I sat here and I listened to Chris for a long about the Health Dept. deal; this is an insult to me and an insult to the city; to the citizens because that’s not true; these people didn’t get left behind; nobody got left behind here with the exception of that one employee that I can’t figure out what happened. Every citizen in

this town can go to Jefferson County Health Dept. which is located in the towers on the second floor. Anybody can go up there; which you could go there before but now that's where you are going to go instead of the city. The plumbing inspector; that's the guy I was missing; John Shannon."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Here's staying here."

Mr. Villamagna – "We transferred him from the Health Dept. to the Building Dept. We did not lose anybody. That's it thank you."

Mr. DiLoreto – No report

Mr. Dressel – "One brief thing; I would like to thank Mr. Mavromatis for getting the North 11th Street pot holes fixed this week. It was appreciated by everybody up there."

Mrs. Hahn – "We are working in the pool area; a number of people have come out to volunteer and we can use all the volunteers we can get. We were out there last Thursday and then also yesterday from 3-6, today 3-6, tomorrow we will be there from 3-6 but unfortunately I do not have someone to be in charge on Thursday's so I don't know whether or not anybody will be able to be there. We are going to go ahead and clean out the area where people will take money when you come in for the pool; so if somebody is more interested in cleaning than in doing landscaping; (inaudible) involve your help. I do have a handful of questions; it would be wonderful if we could paint the pool but if we don't have to paint it we could save that money and time; it's quite a process you have to really let it dry very well and have special treatment; so if power washing is the next part of the pool how can we schedule that? You said maybe a city employee could do that?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "The answer is yes; that's up to our new parks and rec director; she knows what we have to get done with the pool. We've had filters that were cleaned and sent back, (inaudible); so that's the appropriate direction to go right now. Our biggest problem right now is we can do everything we want but if we don't get these lifeguards then that pool is not opening. I hope that I'll have an answer this week; they're supposed to have a class this week at Big Red for all the people that applied for it."

Mr. Villamagna – "So we have the personnel we just have to get them..."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Well Bob we have the applications so it's a matter of unity; there's no use in even trying to hire these people if they don't have the certifications; and we'll have that answer this week. We still have other issues there with the slide having to be corrected and made safe there; questions about the wall there, is that a safe wall there? Somebody is going to have to look at it and determine is it safe to leave the wall the way it is."

Mrs. Hahn – "Is there someone who can come check it out tomorrow because we may have enough man power to dismantle the wall and have it repaired and we could put the pieces back."

Mr. Mavromatis – "We can have somebody there but this is my recommendations; let a professional handle that; I've got more concerns about liability issues; not taking it down properly or the wall collapsing on somebody. That's just my recommendation."

Mrs. Hahn – "Then the baby pool; apparently something needs to be fixed; do we have someone going up to look at the baby pool and figuring out..."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Fort Steuben Maintenance is the one that has been doing the pool openings for us. They can handle that; again it's on their availability too."

Mrs. Hahn – "Because we can't get in and clean it; more water has accumulated since it was drained; as soon as we get that drained the sooner we can get in there and really clean it well and it will need to be painted."

Mr. Villamagna – "Do we know what is wrong with the baby pool? Did Jimmy check it out well enough?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Well he was up there putting in a new water meter in there I don't know if he checked the pool."

Mrs. Hahn – "So he didn't know what the problem is as of..."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I'll call Jim."

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay. So anyway we really do appreciate whatever anyone can do. Also do we have the cleaning service scheduled for the bathrooms?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Not yet; what our biggest concern and what we're trying to get done is the finish of our three (3) bedroom apartment there; it's up to the \$28,000. In the roofs there were leaks through the years and it caused dry rot in the frames; so that will hopefully all be done by Wednesday of this week. We're waiting for the carpet which is the last thing to go in there."

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. Last week we had a microburst come in and cause major outages in the city; prior to the areas that got hit the worst was highland, 4th Street, and 6th Street. Again our crews were out there the police department, the streets department, AEP and they were able to bring this back around again; we still have some damage throughout the city; but they are in areas that do not stop traffic or hinder anybody from getting to their properties. AEP the (inaudible) affects are possibly fifteen (15) to twenty (20) residences at County Road 26 and Lovers Lane; they are going to do a complete replacement of the power there; which will shut down the power to these homes. They have been very good on notifying the occupants by phone and by leaving door tags. Saturday was the last weeks of the bulk pick up; we had twelve (12) locations that cleared there were no accounts on it; in abuse photographs were taken; code enforcement officer was going to deal with these and see where we have to go from there. Through the six (6) weeks it was minimal amount of abuse; most of the people were following what they should be doing and that finishes; this Saturday was the last of the six (6) weeks and that's all I have Mayor for right now."

Mr. Villamagna – "Jim until that pool is open can we have Lorri here every Tuesday?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Absolutely"

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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.”

Sarah DiCarlantonio – “2719 Whitehaven Blvd. I actually have a couple things but I’ll make it quick. First of all with discussing the hopeful opening of the pool; I’ve actually called three (3) different numbers to volunteer to help and I have never received a phone call back; I have even called the Mayor and asked if I was being black balled or something.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I have never gotten your name or number.”

Sarah DiCarlantonio – “Okay well I actually left a message for the new recreation director welcoming her to our city. Anyway I really think that it is sad that as one of the original pool moms who raised our children at Belleview Pool; it really saddens me to see the condition of the pool because my girlfriends and I; there were eight (8) of us we raised our children and at Beatty Park and there is no reason for that; but it is what it is. I’ll go to the most important reason that I came here; I was really hoping that the Chief was here; and I’m telling this story and I really hope that you will print it Dave because of something that happened to me last week. Last Wednesday; I was laying in the sun in my backyard; my phone rang and normally I don’t go in but I just came in; I answered the phone; normally if it is a number I don’t know I don’t return the call but for some reason I did. On the other end I get this gentleman who barely speaks English; who said that he was contacting me; there was a warrant for my arrest; that he was homeland security; I was frightened and maybe a little naïve I guess yea; but I actually envisioned myself being lodged into the Jefferson County Jail that night. I was petrified and I went into a full blown panic attack; I was on the phone screaming and my son kept telling me to hang up the phone it’s a farce; I kept saying to the guy can I speak to someone who speaks English please because I can barely understand you and he refused; my son just kept telling me to hang up and finally I did. By that time I was absolutely hysterical; I told him to call his dad and he just kept telling me it was a hoax; don’t worry about it forget about it. This is next to the time that he fell off of a chair and spilt his head open when he was three (3) years old I’m not sure that I have ever been that frightened in my entire life. I mean I could just not calm myself down; I was hyperventilating and I thought maybe I should call the Chief; but my son said no mom believe me it’s okay so a couple minutes later I’m still crying and I said maybe I should call the Chief and he said you know what if it will make you feel better then go ahead; so I did. He called me back immediately and I so appreciated it because I know he’s busy and then there’s me this hysterical woman that he knows anyway; but I’m telling this because I never want anybody else to fall for it and be as frightened as I was; it took me all day and with everything that is going on in this country and it’s only going to get worse with this administration; you might not like that but oh well. Anyway I thought it was important; I did; if I could save somebody from that then it’s worth me coming down here. My friend the Mayor too; that I spoke too said Sarah stop and breathe; you’re okay; and I appreciate you calling me back to Mayor.”

Mayor Mucci – “Mrs. DiCarlantonio let me say that unfortunately a lot of our citizens are preyed upon and are vulnerable; I think your son gave you the best advice; Anthony told you to hang up; it’s a hoax; however you telling us the story tonight will make other people aware that this scam is going on and to actually ignore it but it’s the society that we live in. We appreciate you coming forward and sharing that story with us; I know that you were worked up about it; in fact I really did need my phone because I could probably hear you from my house. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “Come here Sarah; call this number; it’s a do not call list line; 1-888 and put your name and the phone number they are calling and in about five (5) weeks they’ll quit calling that number. You might still get some phone calls but call that number.”

Sarah DiCarlantonio – “Thank you I appreciate it; thank you.”

Kurt Wickham – “3903 Maplewood Way in Steubenville. Lately I’ve been hearing a lot about the Marina and having it apart of our future in the city and things; I always kind of heard something about the safety of the Marina from natural water undermining the lower part of the Marina; do we know anything about that?”

Mayor Mucci – “I am not aware of the safety concerns that you are indicating.”

Kurt Wickham – “With heavy trucks sometimes going down to the lower part of the Marina; it’s been explained that a lot of that underneath there has eroded and that there may be some safety issues; I was just wondering if there has ever been a study or an army core of engineers; if we know how far it’s undermined underneath there or if it is a true safety issue?”

Mayor Mucci – “I am not aware of any; the (inaudible) that has been happening is what’s been happening throughout the years; is the truck traffic on La Belle; that’s the Marina road; (inaudible); it tears it up from the use of it; being undermined I’m not sure now. Now at the actual Marina wall there are some voids from the water rising and Mother Nature washing it out. I am not aware of any study that was done; I do know that when it was given to us from the Core of Engineers; we had all kinds of stuff within the engineer’s office and planning office nothing that I can recall to say that it is being undermined.”

Kurt Wickham – “Okay because Weirton has brought their firetrucks over and other departments down in front near the edge of the Marina.”

Mayor Mucci – “(Inaudible) to the water with hoses.”

Kurt Wickham – “Yea so I didn’t know if there was officially anything that was known about the safety of that part.:

Mayor Mucci – “Mr. Dolak were you aware of anything?”

Mike Dolak – “Mayor I am not aware of anything.”

Kurt Wickham – “Okay it has just been a concern over the years and I didn’t know if it was something known that wasn’t released. Secondly on the pool issue; I read in the paper about possibly having a full-time police officer at the pool and I know I’ve been to Starvaggi Pool, Follansbee Pool, and I don’t recall seeing a full-time police officer there. Growing up I was in traffic court; I’ve heard many times that driving is a privilege not a right and I would think that we have enough police officers here that if there is an incident at the pool that they could take care of that without having somebody there all the time; or have cameras at the pool to record those people and you can later follow it up; like suspending somebody that is a disciplinary problem; if they come back then you file unruly charges; but I don’t understand why there is a possibility that we would have a police officer full-time?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Let me explain it to you; it’s very simple; first off when me and you grew up it was a whole different world; you pick up the paper and kids are getting killed in theatres, churches, schools, concerts you’re safe nowhere. By the time a policeman responds to the call; we want you to know that Follansbee has a policeman over there and one of the pools in Weirton does have a policeman; our concern is for the kids; why would we not want a policeman there? Why? We can afford to pay him and he can protect the kids and the citizens that are there; we want to send a strong message that that pool is open and it’s going to be used by kids and families but there is no nonsense there and that’s the reason why we want to hire one for our pool. When I was growing up; you would get grabbed by the back of the neck and get thrown out; now these twelve (12) year old kids got guns and knives and they’ll use them. This council’s concern; this administration; to make sure that everybody is safe at that pool; by putting a policeman there we are guaranteeing; hopefully; that they are safe; but that’s why we want one there.”

Kurt Wickham – “I guess I just didn’t want to believe that things have gotten that bad; because I don’t think that there is 200 people up there.”

Mr. Villamagna – “That’s why we have the policeman there.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Bottom line we are concerned with how clean it is and how safe it is. So we are really trying to speak to the concerns on people’s hearts and say we are really doing the best we can to guarantee a really pleasant experience for everybody that comes.”

Kurt Wickham – “I’m just very old school and it’s just hard to grasp why we need to have; we shouldn’t be thinking or have to think we’re bringing people up from the jail to go swimming for the day; our public and our youth are to the point where we need to be that protective of places that are supposed to be fun.”

Mike Streaan – “652 Longvue Drive Wintersville, Ohio. I’m here this evening to represent the Steubenville Revitalization Group. I was here about two (2) months ago and made the same presentation and at that time we were requesting the meeting with Mr. Mavromatis, legal counsel, Chris Petrossi, (inaudible) as for one of the documents; inside we have the project, budgets, conceptual drawings, and some fundraising ideas. More importantly and this was discussed last year; that certain things were going to take place after this project was completed; the city was going to take over the maintenance of the sign and everything. So we just wanted to make sure that those things are still in place; we also want to know legally where we are right now; what we need to do to move this project ahead and that’s the reason why we would like to request a meeting with all these people; members of council can come but more importantly Mr. Mavromatis, Mr. Mastros, Chris Petrossi who’s not here this evening but again we are just requesting that meeting. The contractor, Mr. Rice, will also be there from (inaudible). Thank you.”

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

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

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR