

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
September 19, 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 DiLoreto, Dressel, Hahn, Johnson, Paul, Timmons, & Villamagna

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Acting Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Parks and Recreations Director Lorri Fetherolf, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for September 12, 2017. Second by Mr. Villamagna. 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 – “Nothing your Honor”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2017-67– BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. DiLoreto, Johnson, Hahn

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW FOR THE PURCHASE OF NECESSARY SUPPLIES FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SAID MATERIALS FOR THE YEAR 2018, AUTHORIZING THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO OF CONTRACTS AND PAYMENT THEREOF.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2017-67. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-67 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-67 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci. The effective date of this ordinance will be October 20th.”

NO. 2017-69 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1175 OF THE ZONING CODE CREATING THE BRADY CIRCLE-GRANARD PARKWAY – HAMILTON PLACE – JACKSON PLACE – LONGFORD DRIVE- NORTON PLACE – WILLIAMS PLACE – 1800 BLOCK OF COLUMBIA AVENUE – 1700 AND 1800 BLOCKS OF OREGON AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-69. The second reading will be on September 26th. The third and final reading will be on November 7th. The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday November 6th.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. DiLoreto – No report

Mr. Dressel – No report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes a couple things. Last week several of us went to the Marina and we are working on a pretty limited area; just trying to clear the hillside between the observation deck and heading towards the bridge. One of the beautiful things we had some community service people who came on Tuesday and Thursday last week and today and some will come on Thursday and at the end of the time on Thursday; the woman who was with us said this felt like community service because she was working alongside a bunch of us that weren’t there for community service and secondly it improved the area so that she could look forward to bringing her kids down and showing them what she contributed too; there were similar comments made today so if any of you are interested we’ll be at the Marina again and beginning to do some planting actually on Thursday from 1:30 – 4:30; we would love to have anybody join us; do bring a shovel or a rake with you we need some tools. I really appreciate how responsive Julie has been with the community service people and Kim so that’s great to work together. Also tomorrow morning if any of you are free to do this from 9-12 the University is going to have some staff come and help at Belleview Park pool we have some more plants to put into the ground and so I’ll be there along with some other volunteers. I think if we can put forth a good effort it blesses a lot of people and hopefully inspires people to do that. Also I wanted to mention there are 208 registered landlords on LaBelle; 208 so we have mailed a 140 invitations to people who live out of town and then we hand delivered 88; if you own a property on LaBelle and you didn’t get an invitation; I don’t know whether or not you are registered; please contact me if you want to know about this meeting; contact me through the City e-mail it’s on the

website and we want to make sure that you get the details of that meeting; it will be a week from Thursday Eric and Mike will be there because they both represent areas of LaBelle; the Mayor will be there and also Chris Petrossi head of Planning and Zoning and Code Enforcement so our goal is to really hear from the landlords but also to be able to clarify from the City's perspective what our expectations are and how we can work together; everyone is not going to own a home and so how can we recognize the real service that this business is of being a landlord; taking that financial risk buying the building and providing it also how to hold renters accountable as well as landlords and how do we promote the really good faithful landlords who are genuinely trying to keep up the property; contribute to the neighborhood and so that's going to be the focus of the meeting. Thank you."

Mr. Johnson – No report

Mr. Paul – No report

Mr. Timmons – No report

Mr. Villamagna – No report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. At this time I would like to bring before Council on my two appointments one being Mr. Costa Mastros as our Law Director permanently and Mr. Bernie Battistel as our Assistant Law Director; so I would like Council to take a vote and authorize these positions."

Mr. Timmons made a motion to accept Costa Mastros and Bernie Battistel. Seconded by Mr. DiLoreto. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion declared Mayor Mucci.

Mr. Mavromatis – "Mr. Battistel will you please stand up so Council; some of them know you and some don't. Welcome aboard and thank you for taking the initiative to be with the City."

Mr. Battistel – "Thank you; thanks for having me."

Mr. Villamagna – "I can't think of two (2) better selections for these positions."

Mayor Mucci – "I agree"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Several months we were going back and forth; we do have some good news here I've been waiting for this for a year and a half; staying on top of it; last couple days and I'll have a question for Mr. Villamagna when I'm finished; our asset forfeiture funds released; the City of Steubenville has received a share of the \$1,526,104 that was ceased on May 16, 2014 from the residence of Timothy Smith and our amount turned out to be \$213,654.56; this has now been deposited in our asset forfeiture federal account so that is here for our Police Department. This was a result of a gambling investigation which was investigated by the Steubenville Police Department and Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation; this money was forfeited by Mr. Smith on June 21, 2016; that's when it was forfeited into Federal Court by Judge Lee; due to temporary suspension by the Justice Department of the State and Local Asset Forfeiture and it was reinstated in late 2016 has caused a delay in (inaudible). I wish to personally thank Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine who I personally met with and expressed my concerns and what I thought was a fair asset and Special Agent in charge James Seotte who was in charge of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Northern District; for their support in the investigation and the asset sharing; at no time was there any issue between the Attorney General and Seotte on what the asset sharing should be; these funds can be used for law enforcement investigation, law enforcement training, law enforcement equipment, law enforcement transportation and travel, and our drug education and other things. So again I wanted Council to know this; this just recently got deposited; we've been looking for this for the last several months again I am well aware of the Justice Department and the delays that go on there; spending 22 years there. The only thing Mr. Villamagna I wanted to ask you I wanted to make sure I'm clear; I don't think the Police Department has ever received this amount of money in the history that I know of and I wanted to (inaudible). Chief this is a great infusion of money that we could use for our officers for training, equipment, whatever we need to support these citizens so again this show you the value of joint investigations and asset sharing and Mayor that's all I have."

Mr. Mastros – "Thank you your Honor. Two things I think we're going to do the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Battistel as the assistant I think we're going to have to amend the T.O. to reflect the salary of that he's going to be receiving and I'll ask Council to sunshine that ordinance tonight and just on a personal note I want to thank Mr. Mavromatis and Council for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Law Director; I've been here since 2005 on a part-time basis; I was born and raised here as Bernie was; graduated from Steubenville High School and both Bernie and I have chosen to make our homes here and it's a privilege for me to practice law and to have the City of Steubenville as my client; so I want to thank Mr. Mavromatis, Council, and also working with me in terms of the agreement and contract that we had where I will be the Law Director and you all are my clients but I'll also be able to maintain my private practice (inaudible) Bernie but we look forward to helping everybody and helping you all as our clients and that's all thank you."

Mr. Paul – "I would like to make a motion to sunshine a legislation for the position and the salary for the new Assistant Law Director."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Just so I can add for Council I met with Dave Lewis today; our funding is there; there is no issue with this we actually saved \$6,835.30 on this two together based on things that are needed for each one so it worked out for our benefit."

Mayor Mucci – "Next week when we sunshine the legislation for the change in the Table of Organization; we already did the hiring so we're doing this a little backwards but that's perfectly fine; we will pass it then on an emergency?"

Mr. Mastros – "Yes sir."

Mr. Paul – “Mr. Mastros will give that to our Council Clerk.”

Mayor Mucci – “And then Mr. Mavromatis (inaudible) that costs savings too.”

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mr. Dressel – “Thank you. I have a few things that I wanted to mention that were happening. One is the Harmonium project is having an Oktoberfest Music Festival the weekend of October 6th, 7th, and 8th in a number of places downtown; details are on their Facebook page if you’re interested in that. The Fort’s display of the Bill of Rights is running through Sunday I have a handful of Constitutions left if anyone would like one. There’s a Valley Youth and Community Rally at Harding Stadium on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. with music and motivational speaker. What’s Up Downtown will be at the Grand Theater on the 27th of this month from 5-8 p.m. and I won’t be here I’ll be out of town. There’s a special display of our restoration of the (inaudible) pipe organ and we’re almost finished with so stop by if you want to push a button and make a noise. Socrates in the City is a lecture being held at the YWCA on the 27th at noon. There are also three (3) murals that are going to be worked on; one is the Firehouse mural by PNC Bank by the back door it’s being worked on now, the Centennial Arch Mural on 5th Street across from Froelich’s I think if you’re sitting in the dining room you can see how part of that has fallen down; sort of the building is falling down it will be repaired and the mural will be fixed, and the River Boat mural on North 3rd Street will be worked on after those. Christmas parade invitations have gone out to everyone who has done it before so if you didn’t get one, you haven’t done it before or you changed your address if you want to be in the parade just call the Fort its 283-1787 which is the year that it was built. Also if you want to be involved with the Nutcracker Village (all inaudible) and then this Sunday is the Urban Mission’s Longest Table event to help promote Hunger Action Month if you’re interested in being involved with that event contact Ashley Steele. Thanks.”

Mayor Mucci – “The artist that is doing the refurbishing of the City of Murals has agreed and Mr. Barilla was an important part of this; but has agreed also to do the Steubenville sign on Market Street to bring that up to speed for our community so I wanted to publicly thank him for donating his time; we’re purchasing the paint for that particular one so that will go into the mix of paintings to be done.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes your Honor I’m sorry I didn’t say something earlier I thought the subject would’ve came up but I would like and not to put you on the spot; I know you’re going to try something next Monday with the weight lost (all inaudible) anyway bring that up because I think it’s good what you’re trying to do.”

Lorri Fetherolf – “Yes I’m trying to do a Biggest Loser for a weight loss challenge; teams of 2 will meet every Monday for an hour there’s a lot of nutrition and how to read labels those kind of things; there will be some exercise classes that I’ll teach in there; it’s a fun thing; it’s supposed to be fun and then the top 2 teams that lose the most percentage of weight will get a cash prize and I got prizes along the way for those; I just picked something out so if somebody has been there every week they get a prize so I’m really trying to get this going if we only have 3 or 4 teams I want to get; that’s the biggest challenge now but I want to get something going I think it’s going to be great it’s going to be hell; starting Monday at 6:30 at the Clubhouse at Belleview Park. If you have any questions feel free to e-mail me or give me a call.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I remember when we challenged the Weirton Police Department; the Biggest Loser we challenged them and we beat them we lost the most weight and the grand prize was a trip to Myrtle Beach.”

Lorri Fetherolf – “It will end before Thanksgiving so you do have to worry about dieting during the Holidays.”

Mayor Mucci – “Lorri if the people are interested do they need to register or just show up?”

Lorri Fetherolf – “They can register at the Martin Luther King Center or they can show up so I will be there I prefer that they register beforehand just so I know how many people are going to be there but they can also register that night as well. Call 283-6000 extension 4002.”

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.”

Bobby Jo Bauman – “1706 Oregon Ave. and I just wanted to mention that we are having an all Valley Youth and Community rally here at Harding Stadium that will be coming up on Saturday at 6:00 it’s a good way to support our Youth come on out. Adrian Branch from the LA Lakers who use to play with Magic Johnson, Kareem Odol Jabar, who is going to be the guest speaker and it’s going to be a good way to support our youth in the community I just wanted to let you know in case you were interested.”

Ed Palombizio – “113 S. Bend Blvd. on LaBelle and I’ve heard today about their being a lack of pride in the residents of LaBelle and Pleasant Heights; I grew up on LaBelle and Pleasant Heights and when I grew up there; there weren’t vacant buildings, there wasn’t drugs, there weren’t gangs in the streets who were going to shoot you; I’ll make you a deal you get rid of the vacant buildings, the drugs, and the gangs and I will go out and pick up the trash and I’m sure the other people who live on LaBelle and Pleasant Heights will pick up the trash but you can’t expect us to go out when we see what continues to go there and there is no improvement in the situation

from our perspective. Part of it might be that your message isn't getting out to the residents; I mean we don't like to live in that situation in any case; you do your end and I'll do my end. Thank you."

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