

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 26, 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, Paul, Timmons, Villamagna, & DiLoreto.

Mr. Paul moved that Mr. Dressel & Mr. Johnson be excused from the meeting. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Mucci.

Also present; Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Assistant Fire Chief Frank DeLeonardis, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for September 19, 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 – “Nothing your Honor”

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**NO. 2017-69 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 second reading of Ordinance No. 2017-69. The third and final reading will be on November 7th. The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>.”

**NO. 2017-70 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Messrs. Paul, Johnson, Dressel**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-113, THE EXISTING TABLE OF ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2017-70. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-70 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-70 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Hahn – “Just a few things we’ve been working down at the Marina and we continue to encourage anybody who wants to work with us down there; we’ll be there tomorrow from 9:30 to 11:30 at least; community service people have come (inaudible) the session last Thursday; it was last Thursday; some of the people doing community service with us thanked us because they had the sense that they actually were working alongside the community as well as benefiting the community very directly; we got some people to come down you may have caught it on the news some of the teens who were (inaudible). We haven’t done nearly as much as we hoped to do but it’s a beginning so anyway if any of you are free tomorrow morning 9:30 to 11:30 we would love to have you come down.

Mr. Paul – “Yes your honor I have two. Both are resolutions and it will be under Council as a whole. The first one will be a resolution proclaiming October 2017 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and October 20, 2017 as National Mammography Day; my mother died of Breast Cancer when she was 48 years old so this is very near and dear to my heart Kim if you would like you could present this next week; my mother died of Breast Cancer when she was 48 years old she was very young so this is always since 1985; I’ve thought a lot about this one and I do wear my pink and it means a lot to me; this is from my heart that one there. The next one is very much from my heart also it’s a resolution as a whole of proclaiming the week of October 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2017 as Fire Prevention Week and October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as Fire Prevention Day because our first responders are our Fire Department; God only knows what they go through with the alarms and some of the calls we get anymore, vacant homes, so yes we need to honor those individuals also.”

Mr. Timmons – No report

Mr. Villamagna – “No report but just one addition to what Mrs. Hahn said was I would like to thank again Judge Mascio for this community service program; they have done so much work in the community and made

such an impact with the cleaning up and the cutting of weeds and everything that; we're really a lot further than we would've been without him."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Two ordinances or two meetings; October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 in the Pugliese's Room with Mr. Dolak. A resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to make application for a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission to be used towards funding the City of Steubenville's hot-mix resurfacing project; so this will be at 6:30 on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Pugliese Room Mr. Dolak will conduct the class. On October the 31<sup>st</sup> Ohio Power is coming down; Utility Meeting at 6:30 they want to talk to Council about changing bulbs in the City and saving money at no expense and I told them there would be no ordinances; we want to save money and that's it. Okay thank you."

Mayor Mucci – "Also for a clarification the meeting with Mr. Prader at AEP let alone Angie Peters making the presentation on cost savings measures for the City's facilities and building through AEP. We will also be talking about a meter replacement program for the residents of the City of Steubenville and Mr. Prader will be presenting the plan on how they are going to move through our community and how to identify the AEP employees that will be changing out the meters in the residential area."

## **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Mayor Mucci – "I would like to announce that this coming Friday at 1:30 here at municipal court we will have the swearing in of the new Police Officer for the City of Steubenville. Council graciously agreed to add one additional personnel patrolman on staff; the individual is coming highly qualified and will be able to move right into the position coming from another Police Department and already receiving his certification and training so if any member of Council would like to attend that swearing in; 1:30 this coming Friday."

Mr. Mastros – No report

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

Mr. Villamagna – "Mayor fellow Councilmen I would like to introduce tonight Dr. Lewis, Larry George, and Craig Allen from the Indian Creek School District and I would like to have them do a little presentation of the levy that is coming up. Thank you."

Dr. Lewis – "Thank you Mr. Mayor, Mr. Villamagna, members of Council; thank you for providing us the opportunity to appear here tonight so that we might inform the Council, the Mayor, and the citizens of Steubenville of our new School Levy that we'll have on the November 7<sup>th</sup> Ballot. At this time I would like to have my two colleagues on the committee come forward and they'll tell you more about our levy and if you have any questions we'll be happy to answer."

Larry George – "I'd like to also thank you for giving us time to address the Council. As you know the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward is in Indian Creek School District and I had our superintendent run some numbers today; 341 students of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward go to Indian Creek Schools and we thought it would be a great opportunity if the Steubenville Council would consider endorsing our levy; we're looking at building two new buildings with some state assistance; the new elementary which would be on the Bantam Ridge property a 20.6 million dollar building and the state will give us 7.9 million for that one and the new high school on the Wintersville campus where we are now; a 32.5 million dollar building and the state will give us 10.1 million; the renovation cost to Hills Elementary of over 10 million dollars will come out of this levy as well as the additional funds or what the state will give us and Mr. Villamagna was very nice to pass out our brochures and on the front; the total of all of this is 63.0 million dollars; 18 million from the state and the levy would generate 45 million dollars and also employ a lot of construction people; getting two new buildings and totally dismantle and get rid of properly the two buildings that we had and our building are older, our students deserve we feel and we're just asking and wanting to inform the Council of what we're trying to do because we realized that we've never asked you before and you're a big chunk of our school district and so we wanted to inform ya and Mr. Villamagna passed out our brochures and we're open to any questions. Now I'll turn it over to Mr. Allen. Thank you."

Craig Allen – "Good evening your Honor and I will try to be brief. I'm in the beginning of my second year teaching integrated science which is the freshmen science course at the high school. I'm there every day and our students; they are out in the weather 3-4 times a day I mean half of our classrooms are outside and my wife went to school there in the 80s and they had outdoor classrooms they even had them in the 70s but it's not conducive to learning in today's environment; they come into my classroom on a rainy day soaking wet we spend the first 5 minutes drying off with paper towels and this is an opportunity you know for the state is going to fund 40% of the cost for the new high school; the state is determined that building is in a situation where it would cost more to remodel it and upgrade it to a moderate facility than it would be to build something new. So it's not just spending people's taxes; I don't like paying taxes but these are local taxes and I believe we've had conversations; I like local taxes because I get to go to my Council, my school board, my commission at the county level and I can see where my local tax dollars go; so I think this is a good investment for everyone and I know the Mayor often for years has been speaking about regionalism and what's good for the western part of this county is good for Steubenville and what's good for Steubenville is good for the western, northern, and southern parts of this county. I think; we're asking your endorsement I think its money well spent on our young people and our entire community not just the Indian Creek School District. I think you for your time."

Larry George – “If I could bring up one more item and I apologize for not bringing it up earlier. When Mr. Allen mentioned it safety is a real issue for us out there now because we do have; like he said we do have 12 portable classrooms at the high school and 5 at Hills Elementary where he already addressed; the kids have to go outside so we can’t lock any of the doors and the lower level of the building we have now is all glass all the windows (inaudible) it’s at ground level so that’s another big issue as we all understand what happened recently to the Judge and things like that and that’s a big issue that will be addressed and really taken to the next level with new facilities and we’re just hoping that our voters can see that it’s time to do something to change this all around; protect the kids, get them a better facility, and get a better education. I’ll turn it back over to Mr. Lewis.”

Dr. Lewis – “Again I want to say thank you for having us here this evening and your help is greatly appreciated and we humbly request that if the Council sees fit that we would appreciate their endorsement it would help us immensely. Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Mayor I would like to make a motion to have a vote this evening for the Indian Creek School Levy.”

Mayor Mucci – “Do you happen to have the Issue number? When it appears on the ballot. The City of Steubenville has a renewal of a 5 mill operating levy and its Issue #5. It’s not on the brochure. It’s okay I just wondered Mr. Villamagna would you like to make that motion?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes I would like to make a motion that this body decide tonight on a resolution to endorse the Indian Creek School Levy.” Seconded by Mr. Paul.

Mr. DiLoreto – “I don’t want to throw a curveball into this but you know you got 361 kids going from Steubenville to Indian Creek; that’s probably about 2 million dollars the City of Steubenville is losing; those kids lose Steubenville as far as I’m concerned I think they should be going to Steubenville Big Red; that’s our tax money; I know it’s a hot issue and I’m for education but I think that 6<sup>th</sup> Ward should be placed back into the City of Steubenville and that’s my own personal opinion.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you Mr. DiLoreto I understand your concerns it has been talked about from time to time again ever sense the west end was incorporated into the Indian Creek School District; however that is not a local decision that we can make that’s up to the State of Ohio, the Board of Education, and the Chancellor for the State of Ohio.”

Craig Allen – “Just to clarify as you’ve done 90% of it for me; the City of Steubenville; the corporation of the City of Steubenville has absolutely nothing to do with public education. Ohio is an odd ball in that.”

Mayor Mucci – “Quite frankly that discussion and argument is outside the rounds of this motion for the endorsement but Mr. DiLoreto did want to call to our citizen’s attention.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Mayor called for Roll Call.

Mrs. Hahn – “I would like to ask more questions first but I would like you to have the support your school obviously needs so um...”

Mayor Mucci – “Was it a question that concerns the levy or school district?”

Mrs. Hahn – “The levy in terms of how many years are you talking about an increase? Is this a permanent increase?”

Mayor Mucci – “I think those are legitimate questions to be answered for a vote. If hearing no objections from the Council I’m going to let Mrs. Hahn asks her questions for clarification as long as it deals with the levy and not the makeup of the school district. Can somebody answer if it’s a 5 mill? Is it a continuous levy?”

Larry George – “Down at the bottom of that brochure we passed out on the right hand side it’s a 6.49 mill levy and we all believe it’s for 37 years.”

Craig Allen – “I believe its 37 years because...”

Mayor Mucci – “It’s a continuous; according to the State of Ohio (inaudible) that long. So it’s continuous.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I feel like; I really need more information before voting on it because I have never heard of it before tonight.”

Mayor Mucci – “Okay well we’re opening it up for discussion because it’s (inaudible) as long as it’s pertains to this. Do you have any more questions on the actually issue? The bond that they are requesting?”

Mrs. Hahn – “I don’t believe so that was the main question.”

Mr. Timmons – “No just the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward would be affected by this? By the tax increase?”

Mr. Paul – “Yes it starts from Cunningham Lane out towards Wintersville. It’s something that wasn’t even; we had nothing to do; can I say something? I’m anything for the kids; I mean I’m not going to vote on this because it’s not in my Ward; it’s from the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward out and it’s from Cunningham Lane out towards Wintersville. I mean why not do this for the kids? Like I said most of us in Steubenville aren’t going to vote for this; it’s something that the people out there are going to vote for and they have their own mind; I’m just endorsing it; I’m just saying yes I think it’s great for the kids; let’s do it so if you guys don’t want to do it then that’s fine too.”

Mayor Mucci – “Any other discussion on the motion in the second that’s on Council floor on the bond issue for Indian Creek? If not I’m going to continue with Roll Call.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Mayor declared Roll Call.

Mrs. Hahn – “I’m happy to let the people vote for themselves so; you put me on the spot at the last minute and I haven’t had time to think about it. So I’m; can I abstain? I cannot abstain.”

Mayor Mucci – “If you check with the Law Director members of Council that are in attendance must vote.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I want your situation to improve I just don’t know.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Question on the floor for a vote. Court of order vote.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I guess I’ll say yes.”

Roll Call. Four ayes and one no. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Mucci. The City Council has endorsed the yes vote on the Indian Creek school levy.

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes one more thing. Thank you for coming to the meeting and good luck with the levy; I’m in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward so you know I’ve supported it over the years; all the kids; I’ve been putting Central and Big Red signs in my yard all my life and the kids in the neighborhood take them cause I’m the only one that’s there. But good luck with it.”

Larry George – “Thank you and if anybody has any more questions we’ll be happy to get you the information; I don’t want to give the wrong information; we’re having a meeting out there regarding the now as far as; we wanted to come here; we’ll address any questions that you have and get you the correct information; we’ll be happy too. Thank you for your time.”

Mrs. Hahn- “I want to mention a few things that are coming this week. The What’s Up Downtown is meeting tomorrow 5-8 at the Grand Theatre and they’re going to be; from 5-8 and I believe there’s a \$10 cover charge and you’ll be able to walk into the theatre and see the progress and it should be a very interesting time.

Thursday from 2-4 at the Clubhouse they’re gathering with anyone who is interested in working with Andrea Ireland on the idea of how we connect the parks and how we can move forward on all of the parks in general but we hope that the mirror of that focus to the Marina toward the end of that time together; that’s Thursday 2-4 at the clubhouse then Thursday night from 5:30-8 there’s an (inaudible) community chat; a woman who does this professionally is going to be at the Grand Theatre; also from 5:30-8 there will be snacks and drinks and there’s going to be a presentation on trails; this I heart trails network which involves several states again should be very interesting there will be a kids corner with activities so kids are welcomed and there will be a sharing of ideas and then a short walk focused on getting ready for visitors. Finally for anybody who’s a landlord on LaBelle even if you just own one piece of property that you rent; I’m hosting a meeting with the Mayor, Eric Timmons, and Mike Johnson (inaudible) though and also Chris Petrossi who has Planning and Zoning and so we are meeting with people who are landlords on LaBelle to hear concerns and be able to share ideas and to talk (inaudible) of what the city’s expectations are; that will be at my home Thursday evening at 6:30. Thank you.”

## 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.”

Ed Florak – “434 Scenic Drive. Some of you know that I have been involved with Economic Development for probably at least 10 years. I had the privilege of growing up in north hills part of Pittsburgh; north side part of Pittsburgh and the reason why I point that out is because in Economic Development we compete with West Virginia and Pennsylvania and the educational system doesn’t necessarily have to have good buildings and facilities if you have good teachers but I’m also reminded; my former coach use to say that if you’re going to be a player, he said dress like a player and look like a player. I want to tell you that when we’re competing in with places like Ambridge or Hopewell or North Hills area of Pittsburgh; we’re dealing with an educational system and some of those buildings are lack of a better term are Taj Mahal; they’re beautiful facilities. Is the education any better? Well the products that come out of there I think our people compete with the people that come from North Allegheny or North Hills or Quaker Valley or where ever they come from and I will say this that in all my years of experience one of the things that’s always been raised is when you go out to Wintersville and you see that building that’s Indian Creek High School; wow nobody wants to go in there because it doesn’t even look like a ball player; it doesn’t have an appearance; now does that mean that they’re not getting a good education? I don’t think so from what I’ve heard and what I’ve been able to observe; students coming out of Indian Creek are doing very well but it’s time for us to really consider and I’m saying this because I live in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward and I’ll be 112 years old when we get this levy paid off but I think every citizen of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward has to think the terms of what is needed in the way of facilities to compliment and supplement in support that these teachers are doing in the classrooms day in and day out. Thanks.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I got to say something because it’s bothering me and I can’t keep my mouth shut. We sat in this Council and we talked about putting marijuana out for these kids; we care what goes; we had a big debate about the medical marijuana; we cared about that but I’m embarrassed that we don’t care about the kids’ education; we’re worried about marijuana but we’re not worried about education and I live in that 6<sup>th</sup> Ward and I see these kids and my own family went to Indian Creek my nieces and nephews and I’ll support it 100%; you have the support of the City as a whole and I’ll need some yard signs. Thank you.”

Mayor Mucci – “I hope that our 5 mill operating levy will receive this much conversation and excitement in November also for its renewal.”

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR