

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
January 16, 2018

The Regular Meeting of City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Barilla presiding. The meeting was opened with a silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmen Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, & DiLoreto.

Mr. Paul moved that Mr. Dressel be excused from the meeting. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Barilla.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Wastewater Director Chuck Murphy, Parks & Recreations Director Lorri Fetherolf, Animal Control Officer Brian Young, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mr. Villamagna for January 9, 2018. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Barilla.

Mayor Barilla – “Before we move on into tonight’s business I’d like to say a few words if I may; over the past week we’ve got to experience this water issue; emergency here in our City and I want to commend some people here that I was fortunate to work with. You know sometimes when you are in the stands watching a football game it’s much different than when you have that helmet on and when you’re down on the field. So I want to commend Chuck Murphy and his water crew for the many hours; cold; I don’t know how they did it but I want to really commend them for the outstanding contribution they’ve put forth trying to find these water leaks and solve this problem. Chief McCafferty who became the Acting City Manager during this crisis I would to congratulate you Chief on a job well done; Chief Capaldi of the Fire Department did an outstanding job delivering water to the high rises and the rest homes throughout the City; the fire department and crew they really need to be congratulated and commended for their hard work; Rob Herrington from the Emergency Management Association he was the fella that got a hold of the State to deliver a trailer truck of water some 19 skids of water; each skid handled some 84 cases of water which there were 44 bottles in a case that was brought here to the City of Steubenville and I have to also commend Scott Campbell from M & M Hardware; Fort Steuben Hotel they needed water and there were 8 residents there that had no way to get water from the water buffalo so Mr. Campbell sent down ten 5 gallon buckets of paint containers; new; so they were able to get water from the water buffalos he also provided his truck and his time to distribute water from that trailer truck to the Fire Department and also throughout the City; he put in a lot of hard work and I have to commend him for that and also Gabriel Nelson; there’s a young man that was plowing a street and we called him in to help on this water brigade and he stood with us probably a good 6 hours there; he has to be commended for the hard work he has put in. I would also like to thank Bob Baird and the Street Department very difficult timing with all this happening and trying to keep the roads clear and our Council person Willie Paul came down and used his superman arms to carry water up many steps for residents in the various facilities.”

Mr. Paul – “So did you your Honor.”

Mayor Barilla – “Well I don’t have the muscles that you do and I need to also congratulate and thank Melissa McGinnis who’s the secretary for the City Manager and Karen who’s the secretary for the Police Chief, and Kelly at the front desk, and Karly over here; you know they had to answer phone calls throughout that afternoon on Friday and there were a lot of questions coming through and they handled them very well and I want to congratulate you girls for doing so and finally I want to congratulate Jim Mavromatis even though he was away he took control of the situation as well from his time away and then when he got back he just jumped right into it; Mr. Mavromatis you did an outstanding job in having the crisis here thus far so those are my comments that I wish to say here this evening but I also want to mention; I’m going to break a little rule here now; I’m going to allow the public to ask questions in the public forum only pertaining to the water situation; nothing else; Mr. Mavromatis is going to give you a detailed report on this later on in the meeting; so if you have any need for clarification on the water you will be free to stand and ask and I’m probably going to allow 2 minutes per person and I hope that we don’t duplicate the same kind of question over and over again so we can do this in a timely manner so saying that we’re going to continue on with the rest of the meeting.”

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Barilla – “Petitions and Communications Madame Clerk?”

Mrs. Haley – “Nothing this evening.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

**NO. 2018-1 – INTRODUCED BY MR. DRESSEL; SECONDED BY MRS. HAHN – 1st reading
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-88 (AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING
CITIZENS TO REGISTER WITH THE CLERK OF COUNCIL PRIOR TO SPEAKING DURING
THE “PUBLIC FORUM” PORTION OF THE AGENDA.)**

Mayor Barilla – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-1. The second reading will be on January 23rd. The third and final reading will be on January 30th. If adopted by city council it’ll be the effective date of March 1st.”

NO. 2018-2 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE - 1st reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND URBAN PROJECTS DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE 2018 CDBG STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO SAID CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND MOST QUALIFIED BIDDER AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREOF.

Mayor Barilla – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-2. The second reading will be on January 23rd. The third and final reading will be on January 30th. If adopted by city council it’ll be the effective date of March 1st.”

NO. 2018-3 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1175 OF THE ZONING CODE CREATING THE BELLEVIEW BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Mayor Barilla – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-3. The second reading will be on January 23rd. The third and final reading will be on January 30th. If adopted by city council it’ll be the effective date of March 1st.”

NO. 2018-4 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE 505.071, CRUELTY TO COMPANION ANIMALS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – “You have heard reading of Ordinance No. 2018-4. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2018-4 please come forward state your name and address.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Mayor before you call for public comment could our Animal Control Officer give you a little bit of detail of how helpful this will be?”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay sure.”

Brian Young – “Hi Mayor; Officer Young Animal Control City of Steubenville. We’ve had some incidents with some animals that by Ohio Revised Code it’s states as long as they have shelter; that doesn’t even mean a dog box it could just be a couple pieces of plywood or just some type of shelter; a lot of people think it’s a dog box and it’s actually not; so if I show up and there’s a dog box no matter what the temperature is; wind chill; anything there’s not citation there’s nothing because they are not breaking any laws of the State of Ohio so this here; is not giving us actual; we can’t just go confiscate; we’re going to cite someone into court and I do believe it’s going to be on a first offense is going to be an M1 and the second offense will be a F5; second offense will be a felony of the 5th degree for this statue. I do believe this will be a helpful thing for the City of Steubenville and the dogs out there.”

Mayor Barilla – “Good thank you. Is there anyone wishing to speak on this? Please come forward state your name and address.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2018-4 duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Hahn – “Can I just ask one thing? I’m just wondering if we need to clarify because this now becomes law as an emergency it becomes law today; not 30 days from now.”

Mayor Barilla – “Yes that is correct.”

Mrs. Hahn – “And so we’re heading into cold temperatures so what this requires is someone can’t have an animal outside for longer than 30 minutes if it’s below 32 degrees so really take that to heart; I mean hopefully people love their animals enough to not expose them to that but this is now the law; so I just wanted to be clear you know and not have people say well it’s only 32 degrees because we’ve gotten use too...”

Mayor Barilla – “Zero.”

Mrs. Hahn – “0 to 5 degrees. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes your Honor I have one item I want to bring up tonight. Normally we like to have a Finance Committee Meeting every month; I know Dave is not here tonight but I will contact him. I would like to have one; today is the 16th in 14 days is the 30th; I would like to call for a Finance Committee Meeting on January 30th at 6:30; Eric’s here Scott’s not; is that good? Do you want longer?”

Mr. Timmons – “I think its fine.”

Mr. Paul – “It’s fine? Okay. We’ll let Dave do most of the talking he’ll give us month end and what’s going forward; or not month end year end; okay and how the City is progressing.”

Mr. Timmons – “What time did you say?”

Mr. Paul – “6:30; is an hour good or do you want to go longer? 6:00?”

Mr. Timmons – “Well I’m thinking; I’m sure we’re going to get to it but with the pending water repairs and things...”

Mr. Paul – “We’ll go 6.”

Mr. Timmons – “I think we need to talk about that; I’d rather start talking about it as soon as possible.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay”

Mr. Timmons – “I want to see Dave and where we’re at financially and what we need to do and I know Yonk we’re going to have our Utilities meetings and everything so.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I’ll talk about that when my time comes.”

Mr. Paul – “Alright 6:00”

Mr. Timmons – “I think we’ll need more time.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes we’ll go 6:00 on the 30th.”

Mayor Barilla – “Finance Committee meeting January 30th 6:00.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes sir.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay thank you Mr. Paul”

Mr. Paul – “Thank you.”

Mr. Petrella – No report

Mr. Timmons – “I have a few things. First off I want to thank the water crews for working diligently in the cold weather to restore water to downtown and everyone else who helped out this weekend. With that being said too many times people and specifically politicians put off projects or simple put band aids on problems to let the next group of officials deal with an issue that way the popularity doesn’t suffer and then they can work towards re-election; I can care less about that; we need to fix these water problems now so that our future officials and children do not have to deal with this. If raising rates or having an infrastructure charge is the answer then we need to do it; having no water for 5 days is beyond crisis time not to mention we’ve been dealing with water breaks pretty much weekly so who knows when the next one is going to happen. We may have to pay a lot of money now but it’ll be a cost savings in the long run and that is what we need to consider; we can’t rely on these fix it for now solutions; the whole water system needs an overhaul and we need to pay the money; this should be City; this should be Council’s number 1 priority right now. Secondly some; I’m going to pass these out just so people can see what I’m talking about; I’ve labeled the streets on the back; secondly sunset and some of the other main roads looked great on Saturday; they were clear on Saturday morning however I received several calls and I’m still receiving them today about some of the secondary roads that weren’t touched at all as of today my road the 900 block of Oxford is still covered; we’ve seen a plow probably twice; Sunday and yesterday afternoon people were spinning out getting stuck; I followed up on a citizen complaint at rear Arlington it hasn’t even been touched once and that was yesterday afternoon; I noticed the same for Hawthorne and (inaudible) I attempted to drive up Foster Place because another citizen complained; it was impassable I couldn’t make it up; Kendall was a mess as well; I didn’t even see any salt being put down; I and the rest of the citizens want to know why we’re experiencing these situations; Longford after Tuesday afternoon is still not in driving conditions I spoke with a gentleman who’s neighbor couldn’t go to work today; the gentleman said he also spoke with one of our plow guys and he said that he didn’t know about the salt; why we weren’t putting it down because he doesn’t even work for the street department; that gentleman also said that he had seen a plow twice; you know if it’s a case of manpower Council gave the authority to hire more personnel but that was never done and just to reiterate I talked about an emergency or notification system last week; I believe the circumstances of these last 5 days reiterate the need for website updates; even if it’s simple a Facebook page, some kind of telephone system just something to get people informed and to enhance communication; I know there’s an argument that some still don’t have the means to do that but the vast majority do and they need to be informed. So I just want to know why those places haven’t been touched and what we’re going to do.”

Mayor Barilla – “Is that a question for the City Manager?”

Mr. Timmons – “Yeah I would like to; I mean.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well I’ll answer some of it for you. It would’ve been nice to know this a few hours ago because I would’ve had Mr. Baird here.”

Mr. Timmons – “I did send you a text earlier today.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Right and I got that but here’s the problem that people don’t understand; we’ve got 2 snows in 1 day; in the morning and in the afternoon; our primary responsibility are the emergency routes first; that has to get done and that’s Sunset Blvd., John Scott Highway, Lovers Lane, your major emergency routes then they start working back into the neighborhoods and that’s how it goes that way. Now I watched today when I left my car sat out there all day and it’s covered with snow; I watch people drive and speed is the biggest problem in causing; I watched them in my rearview mirror fishtailing all over the road; I’m in the same car going down the road without sliding this I can’t help; I agree but some of these people live; you gave; the couple streets that you mentioned there; Foster I know, Longford, Arlington; those aren’t major streets now they may of got down there once and covered it and there covered up by the time they get out of the area but these are things that Mr. Baird needs to focus on when he can but his primarily responsibility are these major roads to get to the hospitals and for our emergency vehicles to go; I had two complaints that came in today; one they are putting snow in front of my driveway; well our trucks can’t stop at everybody’s driveway lift up their plow and continue on; all I can tell you is as a kid I shoveled my driveway I shoveled the snow back into the road off our driveway so we could get out there so again yes these are inconveniences I’ve got that; number 1 thing that comes up when snow is coming you should prepare to have what you need in your house so you don’t have to leave those people that have to work they have no control over that I understand that but our crews are not going to snap their fingers and have this whole city done just in one sweep; we have to focus on our major arteries and what

I'll do is I'll have Mr. Baird next week here he will lay out how our streets are covered so these people can understand this and it's a matter; listen; just like this water crisis this is bad but the bottom line is it's slowly coming back and I'm going to cover that when it's my time to speak why we have the problems that we do; what we're experiencing right now and I watched yesterday working all day how people were crying about getting water; they want water but they don't even want to come down and get it and they have the capabilities of doing it. Listen this isn't our job to spoon feed everybody but I will tell you this we've had a lot of elderly people that couldn't move out of their house and our Fire Department took water to these people and then they're fighting over water at some of these other facilities; this is what happens when you have crisis like this; this is not the end of the world here; you want end of the world? Go to Hawaii and see what they did out there and watch the (inaudible) that they raised just with one broadcast that goes out so again I ask people take care of yourself what do you need to do? I got phone calls every day; Friday at 2:30 in the morning I got a call from Chuck Murphy about the water being out so I'm well aware of it and just like the snow it's common sense the news stations tells you when the snow is coming out; prepare for it; if I need more milk more bread whatever; if you got to go to work that's a different story; completely different but again if you live on a side street or a street that is not occupied every day chances are you are not going to get hit the first day there; not being hit at all you should be calling down to the street department and say listen we haven't had a plow truck through here in 2 days again that's the best that I can tell you; I'd be on the phone if it was my street."

Mr. Timmons – "The only thing is we're talking about a Sunday a holiday nobody was in; I did have people call."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Right"

Mr. Timmons – "Several times; no answers; voicemails; machines all of that kind of stuff so that's another reason why we need some type of notification and something like that but I do understand."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Did they call the Police Department? Cause I'll tell you right now the Police Department takes calls 24 hours a day and they find somebody in the respective department the best answer I can give you is how this works is Sunday night Ohio EPA called; the lady says she's with Ohio EPA; the captain got the call; doesn't really know if she really is EPA gets her number and calls me at home; there's a lady from the Ohio EPA that needs to talk to you; I called the number she verified the quick questions I asked her this is a legitimate call; can we set up a conference call for the first thing; excuse me this was Monday; first thing Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. we're on a conference call with Ohio EPA so it does work. The lifeline in this City believe it or not and this has gone down is our Police Department; they're there 24 hours a day there's someone manning the phones there; when again when we're face with a 3 day holiday our crews are out there in the snow; there's nobody sitting in the office they're out on the road."

Mr. Timmons – "Yeah but I do; you know you said those are back streets I don't consider East Granard a back street I mean that's right there off of Oregon; Oregon is also; those are main streets I just think that there was no salt put down and yea know a lot of citizens are upset about it."

Mr. Mavromatis – "They're going to be a lot more upset if we run out of salt I can tell you that and that may not be the case; I think it's Martins Ferry that was out of salt; they just got salt back so again these are things that I would ask Mr. Baird."

Mrs. Hahn – "I wanted to build on what Eric said if you're going to address it then I won't say too much but in our meetings over the last 4 or 5 months we talked about the possibility of reverse 911 calls; we've talked about one call service; the schools have all worked it out so that they can send one notice out and all the parents and even kids that have cell phones get that notice; and the website I kept going on the website trying to see if press releases were being sent there and they were not; it was not being updated. I think this is one of the things coming out of this experience that I really hope that we will quickly figure out how we're going to move forward and really be sure that we get something in place and that way the people that don't have cell phones know somebody who does and we can definitely reach more people with the specific information; I think the more information that people have the less fearful they will be and the less upset they'll be because they'll have some idea some progress is being made even if all you're saying is the crews are out and actively working on this right now so I really wanted to highlight what Eric is saying in terms of communication and I think it's something that we really solve quickly because we're not out of this (inaudible) yet."

Mr. Timmons – "I mean I get; there's nothing more frustrating than when a citizen calls and I have absolutely nothing to give them as far as updates I have to get stuff from social media pretty much and we've already; how many times we've talked about; you know who knows what the sources are from there; rumors start; so we need something; some better kind of communication and updates."

Mr. Villamagna – "Maybe if we; I know we have emergency response like Carlo you've drafted that up at one time didn't up Chief?"

Chief Capaldi – "Yes we did work on that."

Mr. Villamagna – "There was no communication what so ever; the Mayor called me once and he gave me an update he's like me he didn't know how to send a group text; I tried to do it and I couldn't get it either but maybe one person designated it; and I know they're busy and I know they got a lot of stuff to do if they could send..."

Mr. Timmons – "A 10 word text would do it."

Mr. Villamagna – "Once a day or every few hours or whatever so we could know because again I took a lot of calls and is wasn't in my ward which I'm sure I didn't take as many as you guys probably did."

Mr. Timmons – "I'm still getting them."

Mr. Villamagna – "But some kind of communication; when you came back you called me; but some type of group e-mail; one person designated to handle the news media."

Mayor Barilla – “I think Mr. Mavromatis will speak here in a few moments on that reverse 911; it did work on Friday; it was sent out I think Mr. Herrington said the downtown people about 74% was responded to it; which is a pretty good percentage and he’s done that today as well so Mr. Mavromatis will speak on that here in a few moments. By the way Mr. Timmons I did see on that secondary news company called Wheeling that they are down there complaining about the roads not being cleaned as well; it was just overwhelming the amount of snow and as somebody eluted too here these snow plow drivers we’re also helping in trying to find the water leaks throughout the City as well as trying; it’s tough when you’re short staffed but anyway I understand (inaudible).

Mr. Timmons – “Well to be honest; I will disagree with you for the first time as Mayor; I don’t think it was that big of a snow fall; I mean we could get a foot or two; I can only imagine what would happen if that comes here soon so just a thought.”

Mr. Villamagna – “No I’m going to wait until Jim gives his and then; I think he’s going to cover what I wanted to ask him.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Yes I had scheduled a meeting next week on utilities; regards to raising the water rates and the whole mess; I think Mr. Murphy worked about 80 hours in 24 hours so has Mr. Mavromatis so I want to postpone that until further notice. I want to get all the information on how much it costs us; what we have to do; there’s no (inaudible) and we’re going to have to raise the rates; somebody’s got to pick up the tab and it can’t be the customer all together we got to get the EPA in here, Congressmen, some grants cause this is going to be a huge bill I can just imagine all the time and a half and all the money that’s worked and then people criticize; it’s easy to criticize; I had it very nice I stayed home all day and answered telephone calls and I had to get one nasty telephone call cause I (inaudible) home in my warm bed; people understand there’s a big snow fall and water breaks all over the place; you have no manpower and I sure as hell don’t want to be in that hole for 10 hours a day freezing so Murphy you did a good job; I’m done just bear with it everyone got the same problem we got; we’re a lot better off than the rest of the country; we don’t have no fires; we don’t have no mudslides; we don’t have no air raids where they’re going to bomb us so let’s count our blessings cause I think the good lord is trying to tell us something but we’re not paying attention.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. One of the main things that I want to discuss is our water issue right now cause since I arrived back here at 12:30 on Sunday I’ve been on this non-stop; our biggest problem is we had a massive leak in the City and did not where it was; there’s other issues that go with this we have valves that you can do shut off in certain sections to see if you’ve isolated the break or the leak somewhere we don’t have that throughout the City especially in the downtown area; you may have a valve in the north a valve in the south maybe one in the middle it’s too long of an area to isolate and pin point the break; (inaudible) the next 2 days after that cause I received a phone call at 2:30 in the morning Friday morning of the water shutdown in downtown so from then they were working on it until I got back and they believe they isolated the one area it was down at the railroad bridge, Lincoln, and 4th Street meet down in that are there; there’s a 100 year old valve there and to even try and close that; they could not get it entirely closed so there was still a leak there so we have another valve that’s going to be put in there to shut that completely off; now where we’re at and everyone wants to know when am I getting water back in downtown; we have 2 systems; we have a high pressure system and we have a low pressure system; the high pressure system has been up but there’s only certain places that have that; the commons at Steubenville Big Red has water there because it’s a new facility and it’s on a high pressure; the City of Steubenville building that you’re in here we have water here because we’re on a high pressure and there’s other certain areas in the downtown area; the rest is on an old and outdated low pressure system; now what does this mean; that means the tower; the water tower that’s on Adams Ave. is the source of supply to the downtown City of Steubenville.”

Mr. Paul – “It’s called a clear well right?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes. So what you have right now that’s a 300,000 gallon receptacle there; it has to be filled now I asked Chuck Murphy to notify the treatment plant I want hourly updates on where we’re at it has to come up to an area of 20 or 25 feet in the tank this is where we’re at right now; we’re at 0.6 feet a half of a foot is where we’re at in the last hour and 45 minutes.”

Mr. Villamagna – “So it’s still shut off?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well in a lot of areas now we’re saying that water is starting to slowly come back the M & R Department has starting water to come back; what I directed with News 9 was simple do not leave your faucets opened, make sure everything is closed in your residents for this reason because that causes a leak; if you go to bed and the water comes on you got free water going there if you had a busted pipe there now to give you an idea there; Thursday we have to bring a crew in from Indiana to replace that valve there; the valve was turned as far as it could go without breaking it; if it would have broken we would’ve had all water shut down all over the City and we would’ve been draining everything so again we have all these lines that are in all these residences right now that have to be filled and that’s where this water is slowly going into before it will start building up pressure and going up there; those people that live here on 3rd Street, Water Street, 4th Street, you’re naturally going to get filled up first before you start getting up to 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th Street cause you’re on a higher level and it’s fed by gravity that comes down so our biggest concern right now is filling that reservoir up, making sure this is the leak that we have, but with that we had 4 other leaks in just the last 2 days here that puts a draw on our City water supply. We had one at University Blvd. there was a leak there; we had one at the 100

block of South 4th that was called in today this morning and it's being worked on; we have one at 4th and Lincoln and we still have to get that completely shut off and Argonne which broke yesterday which has been fixed. Anytime that there is a broken water line it drains on our system anything in the downtown area here that you've got valves opened, faucets opened, or a break it's draining on our system so you can clearly see in an hour and 45 minutes it has only gone up a half a foot and we got to get up to 24-25 feet so you can see the length of what we're waiting here to get this done. I've cautioned people be very consumer wise on this; if you take 2 showers a day take 1; if you take a shower a day take it every other day but conserve the water this is in other parts of the City that we have water because at some point it'll affect downtown; so that is where we're at right now our crews have been working 24 hours a day to fix these breaks; this is an old City and our biggest oldest spots are downtown this is where it started in downtown; this is what we're faced with right now and old system that should've been replaced several years ago; we have valves that should've been in throughout this City downtown which we need to do all of this is being looked at. We had a conference phone call today at 9 and at 3 o'clock today with Ohio EPA; one wanting to make sure we're doing everything and Chuck Murphy and his people have done it specifically dead on; why I can say this they sent one of their representatives up here; Russell; and he came up here was briefed on everything; we showed him what we're dealing with here he had no issues what so ever and in fact in the conference call clearly corrected his people on information that they had that was wrong; so it was to our benefit that we had him up here and he went back home tonight. Now we're scheduled to have another conference call with him tomorrow morning with the Ohio EPA to see where we're at so again until these numbers get up there's no way that the downtown low pressure system will be on; what the lowest Chuck that we'll start feeling? About half way there?"

Chuck Murphy – "About 13 feet."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Okay you can see with only a half a foot we got 12 and a half feet to go that has to be filled there. So you can see what our concerns are we've got these other leaks that we have to get done here and tighten up the system and that's hopefully that they're no other water breaks that come up here so again majority of the people have been very patient; the elderly that could not come out we've been able to get water to them; drinking water; bottled water and the others came down to the Police Station to get bottled water so again this is where we're at right now we cannot go any faster then what it takes to fill that reservoir and that's where we're at. Any questions? Yes mam?"

Ruby Stubbs – "You said the water tower on Apple or Adams Hill?"

Mr. Mavromatis – Adams mam."

Mayor Barilla – "How about boiling the water Jim."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Okay boiling the water; we're under a boil order now and it will stay there until you get notification; we have to test throughout our City especially in the downtown area all over our high pressure our low pressure; we have to send this out to Dover; is that correct Dover Chuck? Dover and it takes at least 24 hours to get it back; once they say there's no bacteria or anything in there; plus on top of this with these tanks being filled we have to flush our water in different areas to get some of the rust out, the dirt out, and that will help bring cleaner water into the residents here so this is what we're prepared to do; this is where we're at right now again nobody knows what will happen throughout the night; if there are any other breaks that happen; God hope that he is protecting us because that we do not need cause all that will do is slow down filling up of that reservoir and can't get the low pressure filled."

Mr. Villamagna – "You mentioned a few water leaks."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes."

Mr. Villamagna – "Those are major problems what you mentioned?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes."

Mr. Villamagna – "Besides those we've had..."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Oh I didn't even go back to that Bob."

Mr. Villamagna – "Just so they know that those are; we've had countless in the past couple weeks."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Chuck do you know (inaudible) of what we had this month?"

Chuck Murphy – "As far as just this month I don't have a grand total as of yet but I know just looking at the month of December we had 27 line breaks in the month of December and that doesn't include service line leaks that my guys have done."

Mr. Villamagna – "So you're close to one a day at least."

Chuck Murphy – "Yeah"

Mr. Villamagna – "I know you're busy and you probably forgot I and I think the Mayor; Weirton and the County Commissioners; Jefferson County Commissioners; maybe if you can..."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes. Weirton I will tell you this Travis Blosser is the City Manager in Weirton; he called me while I was in Florida and told me whatever assistance we need they're there to help us and I thanked him personally and I told him I would call him if we did. County Commissioners with their people we may very well need that if we have a massive break here or that valve blows down there then we will call them but again it shows you that these are our partners around here and they are prepared to help us."

Mr. Timmons – "So if the boil order for the entire City of Steubenville or just downtown?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Down here isn't it?"

Chuck Murphy – "Just the downtown area."

Mr. Mavromatis – "High pressure low pressure."

Mr. Timmons – "Okay I had to verify that thanks."

Mr. Mavromatis – "That's all I have Mayor."

Mayor Barilla – “On the valve that 20 inch valve of course I was in the meeting with Mr. Mavromatis with the EPA this guy was coming from Zanesville and the people that install the valve are coming out of Indiana; I guess according to Mr. Murphy they are the only ones that can install this kind of a valve; if we installed it according to Mr. Murphy we would have to shut off the water to the entire City but this company is able to install a valve without interruption of water flow so that’s the reason that they’re coming in from Indiana and they’re going to put this in on Thursday if I’m not mistaken? The valve?”

Chuck Murphy – “Yes sir they’re going to bring it in on Thursday; they’re going to do a 20 inch valve insertion it’s a specialized technique that will allow us to go head and out a valve in an active line without shutting that line down; the valve you referred to from Zanesville is one that actually is a backup just in case something does go wrong we have an actually standard valve; it should be here now; the county graciously helped us out by going out and picking it up and wanted to keep our crews here just in case we needed them for other breaks. The bottom line is that that valve is here so if the worst does happen and that depressurizes on that high pressure system then that 20 inch line we would be able to immediately go get that valve right there at the wastewater plant where we’re having it set up at and go head and get it in place with the pipe and everything all in hand and go head and get us back in service as quickly as possible. So it’s just planning for worst case scenario and hoping for the best.”

Mr. Villamagna – Mayor I don’t know if I understand completely; do we know where this problem started at? Do we know what caused this situation to be? Do we know anything yet?”

Chuck Murphy – “As far as the situation?”

Mr. Villamagna – “We knew there was a leak and we couldn’t find it do we find it I guess?”

Chuck Murphy – “Yes”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay it was down there...”

Chuck Murphy – “It’s on the 20 inch line right there by that underpass where the railroad can go over to Lincoln (all inaudible) we actually found a very large hole to say the least that was actually being; kept the water there’s concrete above it; keep the water from actually coming up it shot it down instead and down in (inaudible) there’s a nearby creek and we believe there is actually more than one hole; that was just only one; that line actually runs through the creek (inaudible) underneath the mill and accentually that we believe is also leaking we won’t be able to confirm that until water levels come down so far and we are actively looking at plans to address that situation.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Thanks Chuck.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Was there any information that we could get from all of our new meters to help us? You know how you’ll get a notice and something will say from the water department you know; your bill seems higher you might want to see if you have a leaking toilet. Do we have; is it possible to utilize anything from those meters to help us identify the water loses and where we’re heading with these major breaks?”

Chuck Murphy – “As far as when it comes to the major break aspects the only way that that system actually functions is it actually deals with everything after the meter which is inside your house or the building; so if it is anything prior to that the meter will never register. Now the only way to accomplish what you are talking about is something that I have been thinking on; money pending; we would go head and be able to put meters in certain key locations within the City to go ahead and be able to make comparison between that meter and the meters out there in that particular portion of distribution system but that is going to require a lot more work as far as things are concerned to be able to get it to where it would hopefully work with our current system. I believe there is going to be (inaudible) way I haven’t had the time to fully flush it out so you can go head and balance it between this and that and say yes these two match up; everything is okay; well wait a minute we have a huge amount of water here but the houses aren’t showing it so that’s a whole other animal if you will.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay so not yet? Not at this point?”

Chuck Murphy – “Yes.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay thank you.”

Mr. Petrella – “So if you put that up do we have anyway looking at production versus consumption?”

Chuck Murphy – “We actually had gone through placing through the (inaudible) meters that weren’t functioning properly and one of them not really at all in the last couple of years. Essentially we can go ahead and we can compare what we are billing for as compared to what the plan is actually putting out and it is a huge difference between the 2. I can’t remember the exact numbers because I don’t have that information here but it’s extremely high and that being said is there water loss out there other than just this? Yes. You got to figure if you go ahead and just have a wee little leak here and a wee little leak there, a little leak here; it all adds up especially like these old abandoned houses where we tore them down and the service lines are there leaking underground for days and years on end there’s time where we actually found these kinds of things while we’re fixing a line. If we do find or if they go ahead and finally ever surface you know we go ahead and shut them off at the corporation valve which is what we try to do on these situations to prevent all that water loss; you add that all up it ends up becoming a huge sum instead of (all inaudible).”

Mr. Petrella – “Since Councilman DiLoreto is going to postpone the meeting we will probably need those figures of the production versus the consumption so we can look and see what we have to do.”

Chuck Murphy – “We can go ahead and definitely provide all that information I’ll contact the utility office to go ahead and get the most recent thing. I know we recently did a comparison I will say it was over 60%.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “We want everything all the cost, all the loss, we want everything.”

Chuck Murphy – “I’m sorry?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “We want everything all the cost, all the loses, overtime and everything.”

Chuck Murphy – “We will go ahead and definitely do our best (inaudible).”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I know take your time cause you look tired.”

Mr. Mastros – “Very quickly Mr. Mayor. The 5th and final appropriation case will be filed this week. The second thing I have is; 2 more things actually; the second thing I have back in November I prepared an ordinance and revised a lease with SVRTA Steel Valley Transit Authority; Mr. DiLoreto brought up the fact that we might want to try and contact them to try and get a restaurant in there; I tried to make contact with their lawyer I’m getting no response but we still have to move on the lease so I’m going to ask Council tonight to introduce and sunshine the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into the ground lease with SVRTA and for that to be an emergency; we got to get this done. I will still follow through with their lawyer to talk about what they need or what they need to have to put a restaurant in there but we got to get this lease done so I’m going to ask Council to do this tonight and I’m also going to schedule a meeting with our lawyers regarding our healthcare lawsuit; we still have 2 pending and I hope I’ll have a report on the status and possibly wrapping those up very soon so with that I’m just going to ask Council; someone to...”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I’ll make that motion for that ordinance for whatever we need.”

Mr. Villamagna – “If we sign this lease will it have any bearing on what we’re going to do?”

Mr. Mastros – “You are not connected; the one is a ground lease is what we always sign so they are leasing our ground from us.”

Mr. Villamagna – “That’s what makes it different?”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct and the request to determine what needs to be done or what we need to see from the individual to put a restaurant in there. I’ll follow up on that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay thank you very much.”

Mayor Barilla – “Do we have a second for that motion?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Seconded.”

Mr. Mastros – “That’s all I have Mr. Mayor thank you.”

Mayor Barilla – “For me Mr. Mastros you want to state that for me again.”

Mr. Mastros – “To authorize the City Manager to enter into the ground lease with SVRTA. That will be in a form of an emergency too.”

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – “Just like I stated before if you will make sure the comments are directly in reference to the water so if anyone would like to speak to Council on the water issue come forward and state your name and address.”

Joe Smarrella – “112 Starkdale Dr. Steubenville, Ohio. I just want to commend the water people too cause everybody is telling them I had a drink Christmas Eve early; behind my house they worked on it for 7 hours; and if I would’ve been able to speak I would’ve congratulated them then but that’s why I think that reversal of that 88 ordinance...”

Mr. Villamagna – “Point of order Mayor; point of order.”

Joe Smarrella – “Why I went too low Bob?”

Mayor Barilla – “No we’re discussing about the water issue; only the water issue that’s at hand the emergency issue you’re allowed to speak tonight.”

Joe Smarrella – “I’m not allowed to thank him then?”

Mayor Barilla – “Well you just did so we’re okay.”

Sandy Rue – “803 Longford Drive and I would just like too; when you put the emergency information out we were trying to determine whether we could have church service or not on Ross Street where our church is located on 5th and Ross; I called the City Manager he was out of town; I don’t have your number I couldn’t call you so I called the former Mayor; he ended up calling the Police Department and wastewater cause we were under the impression that you know we could not have church service because we are a public building but because we were only in there for a couple hours (inaudible) determined that there was no ordinance but we didn’t know that that there was no ordinance so we did have church service; we took in water we went down to the water buffalos got water and had service but we just didn’t know so you know when things like that happen they come up and say okay that we’re under a boil order so you know I don’t know how we could get that information out; we know now but you know the crisis situation we didn’t know what to do so the Pastor just kept calling and we kept calling different people until we found out that there was no ordinance to say that we could not have church service because we weren’t doing food service; we were only in there praising and worshipping God and that’s what we did we got out and went home but you know I don’t know how we can communicate that I guess is what I’m saying how can we communicate that to the public that if you have a building if you want to have church service; if you’re not doing food service that you are allowed because we didn’t want anybody come knocking of the door you know disturbing the service because we were in there; you know I just thought on how we could communicate better.”

Mayor Barilla – “Well those are things that we need to work on; communication is extremely important and we’ll certainly address that thank you.”

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

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR