

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
February 6, 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 Timmons, Villamagna, DiLoreto, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, & Petrella.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Wastewater Director Chuck Murphy, Paul Giannamore from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for January 30, 2018. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Barilla.

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 – 3rd 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 third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2018-1. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2018-1 please come forward and state your name and address.” Mrs. Hahn called question. Roll Call. Four (4) ayes, three (3) nos. Ordinance No. 2018-1 duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. The effective date of this ordinance will be March 8th.

Mayor Barilla – “At this time I would like to exercise my right as Mayor; a veto; I therefore are vetoing 2018-1 as of February 6, 2018. It’s my belief that the present Council did not give ample time for Ordinance No. 2018-1 to see if it would benefit how the public forum would be conducted. I think it was actually Ordinance No. 2017-88 if I’m no mistaken. I had the wrong one there. Again I’ll start over that...”

Mrs. Haley – “No it’s right. You were right; you’re vetoing 2018-1.”

Mayor Barilla – “I’m vetoing 2018-1.”

Mrs. Haley – “Yes.”

Mayor Barilla – “I’m vetoing 2018-1 this evening; they did not give ample time to see if it would benefit how public forum is conducted; having public sign in prior to Council meetings giving their name and address and the subject matter that they wish to address provides a more structure format; it allows time for City Council, the City Manager, and Department Heads to acquire information pertaining to the subject matter so as to having proper informative response to the questions and comments by the public; so be it.”

Mayor Barilla handed the Clerk of Council (Mrs. Haley) a certified and signed copy letter stating that he was vetoing this ordinance and the reason why.

Mr. DiLoreto – “I have a question. How long will this be in effect? Can it be brought up again in the near future?”

Mr. Mastros – “The procedure on the Charter is that the Mayor; I know the Mayor knows this but it has to communicate that veto in writing as well; within 5 days; then Council may override the veto with at least 5 or 5 members sustaining the veto; I mean overriding the veto and if that does not occur then it can be brought up at any time.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Any time?”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Every week?”

Mr. Mastros – “Every week.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I hope not. Thank you.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes sir.”

NO. 2018-9 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AND ADOPT CUREENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2018-9. Is there anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2018-9 please come forward and state your name and address.” Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2018-9 duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2018-10 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION PROCLAMING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28th – FEBRUARY 3, 2018 AS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK.

Mayor Barilla - “We recommend that Resolution 2018-10 be read in its entirety; hearing no objections; Madam Clerk.”

Mrs. Haley – “Resolution No. 2018-10. A Resolution proclaiming the week of January 28th – February 3, 2018 as Catholic Schools Week. Whereas, the theme for Catholic Schools Week 2018 is “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed;” and whereas, Catholic Schools Week theme focuses on the important spiritual, academic and societal contributions provided by a Catholic education; and whereas, one way Catholic school students have been challenged to “learn, serve, lead and succeed” this academic year has been through the National Catholic Educational Association’s (NCEA) “Student to Student” campaign; and whereas, the observance of Catholic Schools Week began in 1974. Schools and parishes around the country will hold activities such as masses, open houses, and pot luck gatherings to celebrate the communities they represent. The week also highlights the educational and community successes of Catholic Schools nationwide. Ninety nine percent of students graduate from high school and 86 percent of Catholic school graduates attend college. This percentage has been consistent over the past 20 years. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio: Section 1: That this Council does hereby proclaim the week of January 28th through February 3, 2018 as Catholic Schools Week throughout the Diocese of Steubenville. Section 2: That the Clerk of this Council shall present a certified copy of this Resolution to a representative of the Diocese of Steubenville and the principals of Bishop John King Mussio Elementary School, Bishop John King Mussio Junior High School, and Catholic Central High School. Section 3: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval by Council; otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.”

Mrs. Hahn made a motion to accept the Resolution by Roll Call. Seconded by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes I would like to ask Jude Lucas if she would come up we will give you the Resolutions. Thank you for all of your hard work and for all the wonderful (inaudible).”

Jude Lucas – “Thank you for honoring our Catholic schools with the Resolution; we really appreciate it; thank you so much; to the Council members thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes your Honor. I know there is no further business on our agenda but last week this Council; we approved the Resolution honoring Black History Month and it was 2018-8. Last week Karly read the caption; she read it in its entirety but I’ll just bring up a little on Black History Month and then I want to present it to Mr. David Hilliard. Black History Month is the chance to remind the nation of the advances that have been made; it’s not just about Civil Rights and about justice; the justice comes from deserved recognition. Black History Month’s roots go back to the 1920s when Dr. Carter G. Woodson the son of former slaves earned his doctorate from Harvard. He knows the history books of the day virtually ignored Black History; rather than complain Dr. Woodson worked to change the situation; he found The Journal of Negro History in 1926 and launched Negro History Week during the second week of history; he choose that week around the birthdays of two men; President Abraham Lincoln and Mr. Fredrick Douglas; Abraham Lincoln’s was on the 12th and Fredrick Douglas’s was on the 14th. It also provides an opportunity for recognition to accept this that our American History is largest in the History of Black America; it’s the chance to focus on the positive achievements and struggle so that one day we may reach when togetherness and harmony are not split by racial lines. I would like to present that ordinance to Mr. David Hilliard; a little bit about Mr. Hilliard; Mr. Hilliard is a retired commander sergeant major with 27 years of dedicated service with 3 tours in Vietnam as a combat medic and is a highly decorated war veteran. Mr. Hilliard was elected commander of the American Legion the department of Ohio at the 96th annual department convention in Cincinnati, Ohio for the year 2014 and 2015. He’s a life member of the American Legion Post 274 Steubenville, Ohio and he has served the American Legion in numerous positions which include commander of Post 274 with 5 years, commander of Jefferson County Council, commander to the Great 10 District; Mr. Hilliard is currently serving as a child welfare committee chairman and a member of the scholarship committee for the American Legion Department of Ohio and he’s a lifetime member of the American Vets Organization, the DAV, and the VFW and I would like to thank you for your years of service Mr. Hilliard; you are very deserving of this; you are part of our history and Black History sir.”

Mayor Barilla – “I’m going to have Karly read this.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay you want to read it. Okay.”

Mayor Barilla – “I’m going to have her read it in its entirety and then you can present it.”

NO. 2018-8 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION PROCLAMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018 AS NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH.

Mrs. Haley – “A Resolution proclaiming the month of February 2018 as National African American History Month. Whereas, each year beginning on February 1, an entire month of events are planned nationwide honoring the history and contributions of African Americans; and whereas, the theme for Black History Month in 2018 is “African Americans in Times of War” honoring those brave men and women who served their countries in the armed forces, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending the American ideals of freedom and democracy; and whereas, during World War II, for example, more than 2.5 million black men registered for the draft and one million served as draftees or volunteers in every branch of the armed forces; and whereas, a decade before the first glimmers of the American Civil rights movement, most black men were assigned to segregated combat groups; and whereas, even so, more than 12,000 black men who served in the segregated 92nd Division received citations or were decorated for “extraordinary heroism” on the battlefield. Perhaps more famously, the Tuskegee Airmen also became legendary for their heroic feats, and in total received a Distinguished Unit Citation, several silver stars, 150 distinguished flying crosses, fourteen bronze stars and 44 air medals; and whereas, the theme suggests that contemporary conditions, past and present, give us cause for critical pause in our studies and deliberations to consider the specific and unique issues faced by African Americans in times of war. These issues include opportunities for advancement and repression of opportunities during wartime; the struggle to integrate the military and experiences during segregation and successful integration; veterans experiences once they returned home; the creation of African American Veteran of Foreign War posts; the impact of migration and urban development; educational opportunities; health care development, the roles of civil rights and Black liberation organizations, including the Black Power movement and the Black Panther Party; the roles of African American businesses, women, religious institutions, and Black press; in the struggle aboard and at home; the topographies and spaces of Black military struggle, resistance and rebellion; and how Black soldiers and/veterans are documented and memorialized within public and private sectors. These diverse stories reveal war’s impact not only on men and women in uniform but on the larger African American community. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio: Section 1: That this Council does hereby proclaim the month of February 2018 as National African American History Month throughout the City of Steubenville. Section 2: That this Council does hereby call upon all the citizens of the City of Steubenville to observe National African American History Month and to participate in appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. Section 3: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval by Council; otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.”

Mr. Paul – “Mr. Hilliard; on behalf of this Council I would like to thank you for your many years of service; your bravery and dedication to this United States of America; (all inaudible) you are very much about of Black History and all of American History; thank you sir.”

David Hilliard – “I’m honored and humbled to receive this for Black History; I received this on all veterans that have served in the armed forces and the sacrifice they have made; that this country is great; this country is free; I ask that you don’t forget about those that are serving now that’s in harm’s way; they need our prayers and our prayers give them strength; again thank you to Council.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Timmons – No report

Mr. Villamagna – No report

Mr. DiLoreto – No report

Mr. Dressel – No report

Mrs. Hahn – “I wanted to mention something for next week we will have a gentleman from the Jefferson County Sewer and Water come and his name is Aaron Dodds; they have asked us to give a letter of support; a Resolution of support for the Hellbender Preserve Project. They are making major application for a grant; this is not a commitment of funds but just a letter of support; it will involve approximately 380 acres of land and it’s sort of focused around this salamander the Hellbender that was an endangered species and so some exciting things seem to be emerging if they are able to pull this all together. It can also connect a trail with the (inaudible) trail and so anyway he can give more details but I just wanted to give Council a heads up that we’ll be asked to give that letter of support so we’ll work on that next week.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes your Honor I have several items. First of all I would like to adopt an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2017-107 and it’s the existing table of organization of the City of Steubenville and declaring an emergency; what this is about is our Council Clerk is with child and we need to bring in someone to replace her while she’s off and that’s what this is about just a change in the table of organization for her pay and the temporary. Is there something else in here that I was supposed to do? Karly? I’m kidding. Secondly I make a motion to go into executive session two items; one is the pending lawsuit with St. Stevens and as appropriation; okay that’s one; Number two I would like to go into executive session also for the Fire Chief and Police Chief the education training and I would hope that Fire Chief Capaldi would be there; I need you there (referring to Mr. Mastros), and all of Council; and the City Manager there. Okay thank you sir; and third;”

Mrs. Hahn – “Do you need a seconded?”

Mr. Paul – “Yes I do; I made a motion to go into executive session yes.” Seconded by Mrs. Hahn. Roll Call. All eyes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Petrella – “One question; executive session now?”

Mr. Paul - "No after the meeting; after the end of the meeting I'm sorry."

Mr. Petrella - "Okay I just wanted clarification."

Mr. Mastros - "Mr. Mayor. Just for clarification on the record the education pay is used under personnel matters."

Mr. Paul - "Sorry. And third; Dave Lewis reached out to me and told me that on February 20th; RITA that was brought up at our last Finance Committee Meeting; RITA representative can be here at 5:30 on February 20th so we'll have a Finance Committee meeting starting at 5:30 and we'll have the RITA representative here and we can discuss whatever we want; asks the questions we need to ask and right after that we'll roll right into the January month end reports; okay so we'll have Finance Committee starting at 5:30 on February 20th. Thank you."

Mr. Petrella - "Just one thing your Honor; Kimberly you said a letter of support and I see we have a Resolution; is it going to be a letter or a Resolution?"

Mrs. Hahn - "It will be a letter of support and I thought that in the past we passed it as a Resolution; is it just simply called a letter of support?"

Mr. Mastros - "It's called a Resolution of support."

Mrs. Hahn - "A Resolution of support and they gave us a copy of what would be (inaudible) to say so I don't think that we even have to draft it; it's attached."

Mr. Petrella - "Right I just wanted that clarification if it was a letter or Resolution."

Mrs. Hahn - "Yeah it's a Resolution."

Mayor Barilla - "Mr. Paul do you want to bring this onto the floor what Mr. Mavromatis has?"

Mr. Paul - "Oh I'm sorry. Yes your Honor I would like to make a motion that we approve to the Board of Civil Service Board Ms. Anne Marie Campbell; she resides at 4130 Sunset Blvd. Steubenville, Ohio; and that will fulfill the unexpired term of Pat Riley and the term expires September 2018." Seconded by Mr. DiLoreto. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis - "Thank you your Honor. One thing I would like to cover tonight and I've given a copy to all of my Council is our statistical information for the last 5 weeks of our Criminal (inaudible) team. As you can see here on the last page; total traffic stops 126; citations 73; warnings 64; minor misdemeanors cites 12; searches 156; seizures 53; and 36 arrests; out of those 36 arrests there were 8 felony arrests there. Again when this was put together it was for a specific reason; this was based on the needs and the requests of the citizens of Steubenville; I will clearly tell you why this has been so successful is for two reasons; one this was taken out of (inaudible) and what I mean by that we pulled officers from every turn shift that we have here and with that they are to focus clearly on our hot areas within the City that we have crime; information that is given to us by the citizens; well they are not taking a direct involvement but watch, copy, got license numbers, descriptions of cars, traffic at the scene and we give it to our officers here who had the time there. Now when we have an overabundance of calls for service then those officers will be pulled to assist that turn while they are working here and they work all different shifts and that's the whole idea; not to have them on any permanent shift but to move them and rotate them around the City to focus on these different crime areas and I'm fortunate tonight to have Sergeant Cook here; thank you sergeant and your men and the job that they are doing but it's all the Police Officers working together out there and most importantly the citizens today that have been helping and giving us information and it continues to help. I get calls every day and I make sure it gets to the right areas that they have to go and make sure that Sergeant Cook and his men; now the last couple weeks the only thing that has changed; we had to move one of the four officers off the group because he is a field training officer; we had a new graduate from the (inaudible) State Patrol Academy last month he's now of the street for training and that's where he'll be for the next 12 to 14 weeks out there; it just depends on how he progresses; once that's end that officer will be brought back to this Interdiction team and they will continue to do what they want so these are statistics for Council here; for News 9 I have a copy that I'll give you just so you have it when you leave here. What I would like to do at this time we received a letter; a notice of violation from the Ohio EPA; what I've asked tonight is; I wanted Chuck Murphy to come in; this is no surprise this is a normal course of business that happens after we have an event; yes we had a major event; when we lost the water in the downtown area that is a major event; we were on a morning call and an afternoon call with the Ohio EPA keeping the abreast on how we're dealing with the situation here so at this time; Chuck I would like for you to brief Council where we're at with this and also the request have come and I've already told some of the Council in the next couple of weeks we're going to have a meeting here and we're going to walk them through everything; why our City is in this condition; what we need to do; what we need to do with the Ohio EPA so we can (inaudible) thank you."

Chuck Murphy - "Basically where we're at here is of course the depressurization of the downtown distribution system essentially that put us into a notice of violation situation and caused us to receive this letter here today and essentially what this letter does is it gives us 30 days to go ahead and respond regarding some sort of a plan as far as what we're going to be doing to address this moving forward; to try and prevent it in the future of course. Those things have already been in action in terms of trying to go ahead and get it nailed down and make it to where we got to get those numbers and cost to you folks that's the hard part is trying to get all those things nailed down; getting numbers from contractors (inaudible) things of that nature and making sure also that we want to go ahead and talk to EPA in regards to what those plans are specific to make sure that they understand

and they're on board and basically we're all on the same page; to eliminate confusion as much as possible; make things go as smooth as possible but the bottom line is and as we are going to have to go ahead and respond to this basically either as a meeting scheduled with Ohio EPA for February 21st also with the attorney general's office because they are going to put us under a consent decree in regards to this matter so therefore of course our attorneys will be there as well because they want to go ahead and talk to us in regards to both the water in the consent decree and the wastewater consent decree which has been under negotiation because as they stated to me very clearly on the phone that they understand our financial situation having looked at all of our documents and realizing the financial information realizing we don't have a lot of money around here and as such when it comes too scheduling everything saying okay you will get this project done or you will get that project done and so forth and so on they want to make sure that scheduling isn't putting us into a greater bind and we can go ahead and perform based on our limited capabilities financially; so we'll know more after that February 21st meeting hence the reason why I suggested to our City Manager and also to you folks that we go ahead and hold off in terms of going ahead and having further discussions because these discussions will play a large role and worth all the dollars and cents (all inaudible) so anything right now will be a little on the premature side; kind of give you a bit; (inaudible) go ahead and start bringing some information up to you don't get me wrong but we're not going to be able to give you a complete picture until after these negotiations are done."

Mr. Villamagna – "One thing Jim; more to you than him; I agree with what he said about the meeting not until after we get all the; but I think we need a meeting prior to this to get us caught up to speed to how much it's going to be so far so it's going to be overwhelming when the EPA comes in; but maybe if we have a meeting prior to the EPA; he said February the 21st after February the 21st it's going to bring us into March maybe before that we can have a meeting with a briefing on what caused the problem and some of the other issues."

Mr. Mavromatis – "That's fine."

Mr. Villamagna – "I mean that way it's not going to be all brought up at one meeting; but I don't want to rush him either I would like it to be at his convenience so he would have the proper information; it's not something that has to be done tomorrow."

Mr. DiLoreto – "I just want to say two things. Make sure we get enough financial help cause we need it; cause we're going to get a lot of help; the tax payers can't pay for all of this; water rate just ain't possible and Sergeant Cook the housing project can we make some stops down there? We got a very good council down there working together and they got a lot of information; people that come out of that housing project unauthorized; criminals from out of town; they have no one to go too; we have one Police Officer on duty 10 hours a week for 4 and they want to get the information out and we're trying to help them; we're going to have a couple meetings this week to see if we can get some more help."

Sergeant Cook – "We've been working closely with Sergeant Buckmelder..."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Yeah well he sits (inaudible) down there; you got 4 buildings and people... (All inaudible). It's your first day have a cup of coffee or something (inaudible) thank you very much. Jim I'll call you about that meeting with Sergeant Buckmelder. Thank you sir."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Mavromatis anything further?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Nothing more your Honor."

Mr. Mastro – No report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – "We do have two signing in under Public Forum Mr. Ed Palombizio and Mr. John Mascio."

Ed Palombizio – "113 South Bend Blvd. Again Neighborhood conservation districts. There are 24 neighborhood conservation districts in Steubenville ranging in size from 21 properties to 237 parcels. There's a big difference between living in a neighborhood or community with 24 members than one with 237. It's easier to work with 24 people than 40 people, it's easier to work with 40 than 80, with 80 than 160. As long as you have enough people to start with, smaller groups can be more focused, more cooperative, and more productive than larger groups. Large groups are fine, but there is more occasion for distraction, disagreements, the development of competing subgroups competing priorities. Brady estates is the largest NCD with 237 parcels some might see a 237 parcel united NCD but only 157 signed the petition. I see an NCD with 78 upset residents living next door to folks who have taken away some of their property rights. How could that be good? Bigger is not always better. So it is with the NCD even though the same rules apply to all NCDs, the rules can have a different effect on each member based on the side of the NCD. For example "amendments" especially an amendment intended to correct an unanticipated unjust situation. The ones most affected who are in favor of the proposed amendment might be outvoted by the persons not affected. It might have a significant impact on 40-50 residents. They might be the closest and each one may be in favor of the amendment however, the remaining 100-150 who are not affected would not have the votes to reject the amendment. The larger the NCD the more likely you are to have a situation where only a portion of the NCD is affected and if those not affected out vote those who are affected. I think you understand what I'm saying there. There are a couple of ways to avoid this situation..."

Mrs. Hahn – "Can I make one point of clarification?"

Ed Palombizio – "Yeah."

Mrs. Hahn – “No amendments are permitted. The ordinance was passed and it is the same ordinance for every neighborhood conservation district and it is not possible for one NCD to pass any amendments. So I think your concerns actually are not (inaudible).”

Ed Palombizio – “The amendment was to just eliminate the NCD; I was told when people were approaching me that if I signed it and when I thought that it wasn’t going to work then it could be amended and eliminated the following year.”

Mrs. Hahn – “It can be eliminated and put in place but both procedures are the same and amendment means you (inaudible) on something and you cannot; no neighborhood group modifies the NCD ordinance.”

Ed Palombizio – “I guess that maybe I should be saying there should be amendments. I appreciate that. The point that I want to make here is that larger is not always better and if you look at what you have; you have 22; 24 now; 9 are from 22-50; 7 are from 51-100; 2 are from 101-150; and 4 are from 151-200; 1 is over 200. Currently 13 of the 24 are 72 or below 17 of the 24 are 92 or below; what I’m suggesting is to establish a maximum number for each NCD between 75 and 100 again that’s 16 of the 24 that you have. When you get above 75 you have more than a neighborhood; when you get above 200 you have several neighborhoods in a mini-village; the idea is to keep an NCD the size of a neighborhood. Two adjacent 75 member NCD provides better local control, more responsive to individual and neighborhood concerns than one large 150 or 225 NCD and also I would suggest if they’re going to have; well I would suggest that the fee could be reduced from \$500.00 to maybe \$300.00 for 100 properties; \$200.00 for 50 properties etc. I mean I don’t think the fee has to be as much as it is. Smaller NCDs will have better responsiveness to neighborhood concerns. Thank you very much.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I just wanted to share a few thoughts and I really do want to pick up the conversation privately but because you now addressed it 3 weeks in a row and said somethings last week and I just want to make a few clarifications. I think that if you begin with a premise that isn’t true you end up building a case that doesn’t work. You said it jeopardizes the City’s continue existence because we wouldn’t be able to draw in new businesses who are going to depend on apartments and all of that. The concern is for quality not quantity of apartments; we have on LaBelle alone we are over 70% rental and there are 1,731 places to live on LaBelle; so 70% is very high. There are rentals all over the City; this ordinance does not take any of those away; those are all grandfathered in. Secondly if someone has a rental and they sell it that is also grandfathered in so the person purchasing it can decide if they want to continue to rent it or if it going to become home owner occupied because they’re going to move in. Property rights are being able to enjoy your own property with the expectation of peace and safety; being able to rent turning your home into a business is not a right it is a property use and our last Council member Mike Johnson really articulated this very well. Your correct in saying that vacant properties can hurt property values we have heard repeatedly that they are over a thousand vacant properties many of those vacant properties are not in the neighborhood conservation districts so we know that there are more housing units that are even currently being rented; we are not in a shortage; we’re (inaudible) and when people look at Steubenville for business what are the things they consider? Is there a property that I can use pretty easily? What are the quality of homes available not just for rent but also for purchase? What are the schools like? Those are really good here. What are the parks and recreations like? We’re working on that. I do not believe that someone will look at Steubenville and say because some property owners have said we want to preserve our property values and they’re going down because of rentals therefore we can’t follow this ordinance and I would just encourage you to reconsider your position just because people work for a NCD does not mean that they don’t care for all the neighbors in the area and they are 2 important provisions; if you want to sell your home you are allowed to rent it up to 2 years while you sell it; in addition you can do a rent to own lease which your (inaudible) the entire time that it’s a contract and if the people decide to move away and lose the money it comes back to you and you can set up another rent to own lease; so I think there’s a lot of information that’s not being shared accurately enough about what this ordinance actually is and does.”

Ed Palombizio – “May I reply? I don’t disagree with a lot of what you said but what I said before the first time was that this is the only housing program to deal with problems on LaBelle and anywhere else. Until those vacant buildings are removed until there is a program to get rid of them; until there is a program to get rid of the bad landlords this NCD program is absolutely irrelevant; the property values will continue to be depleted as long as vacant buildings continue to increase and they increase more. I mean that’s my opinion.”

Mayor Barilla – “Mrs. Hahn one more time.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Anybody who thinks the NCD is the salvation of any neighborhood; you’re right; it’s only one strategy; the county land bank has just received a one and a half million dollars to take down dilapidated structures in Jefferson County of which some of that can be spent in Steubenville; so dilapidated structures got to come down; some vacant properties; we’re getting ready to send out letters to hopefully 300 owners of vacant properties on LaBelle and ask them if they’ll consider donating to the County Land bank and if they are redeemable they are willing to try and work on a deal to try and help people who are first time home buyers actually be able to own a home at a far discount. There are other strategies in play and you’re absolutely right it takes much more than just one thing but it’s been a really important tool. Thank you very much.”

Mayor Barilla – “I just want to point out what just transpired here; was that you signed up to speak on the conservation issue; you came here and you addressed it and Mrs. Hahn knowing that you were coming here prepared for an answer for you and to you and I thought what just transpired was how; in my view; it should work; you have a question; we get prepared for it; you come and present the question and you get a responsible decent answer so I thought what just transpired proves the point to what we’re trying to do with this resolution but anyway thank you.”

Mr. Petrella – “I don’t.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you.”

Council Chambers were cleared for Executive Session.
Council Chambers were reopened for adjournment.

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

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR