

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
April 10, 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 prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmen Dressel, Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons and Villamagna. Absent was Councilman DiLoreto. Mr. Paul made a motion to excuse Mr. DiLoreto from the meeting. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. Mrs. Hahn mentioned Mr. DiLoreto was ill and asked that he's kept in everyone's prayers.

Also present: City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Chuck Murphy, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Utilities Supervisor Lisa Knight, Planning Director Chris Petrossi, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, City Engineer Mike Dolak, Street and Sanitation Director Bob Baird, Deputy Building Inspector Ron Gaylord, Housing and Property Maintenance Inspector Earl Gates, Robert Disch of the Water Department, Paul Giannamore from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for April 3, 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. McGinnis – "Nothing this evening."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Madame Clerk."

Mrs. McGinnis – "You're welcome."

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-27 – BY THE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Messrs. DiLoreto, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – "You heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2018-27 by the Utilities Committee and declaring an emergency. Is there anyone wishing to speak on it; please come forward and state your name and address. Question?"

Mr. John Mascio Sr. raises his hand. "Yeah, I've got a question."

Mayor Barilla – "Alright, Mr. Mascio."

Mr. Mascio – "Uh, it says 'an Ordinance repealing specific sections of 2018-4' and then section one says that Ordinance 2014-92 Section 1 (B)(1) is repealed. What is being repealed? What is that section?"

Mr. Paul – "What we did, we set up the Water Reserve Fund could not go below \$6400 the minimum..."

Mr. Mastros – "\$640,000."

Mr. Paul – "\$640,000 minimum and by us taking money out to fund this project, correct? Is gonna go below that \$640,000 limit that we established back in 2014."

Mr. Mascio – "So there's no limit?"

Mr. Mastros – "Correct."

Mr. Paul – "We can establish it again but..."(talking over each other) "if we pass this, yeah, it's gonna go below that threshold we set up."

Mr. Mascio – "I just wanted to know what it meant."

Mr. Paul – "I'm sorry, I should've stood up."

Mr. Mascio – "No, no. Sit down."

Mr. Paul – "But, that, that's what it's all about."

Mr. Mascio – "Okay, alright. Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Mr. Mascio. Any other questions? Question on the floor?"

Mr. Paul – "Question."

Mayor Barilla – "Roll Call."

Roll Call by Mrs. McGinnis. All ayes.

Mayor Barilla – "So moved. Ordinance No. 2018-27 is duly adopted and will take effect immediately."

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-28 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MASTER AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT FOR THE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND CRITICAL VALVE REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (AS AMENDED)

Mayor Barilla – “You heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2018-28 by the Finance Committee and declaring it an emergency. Is there anyone wishing to speak on it; please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul – “Ah, before we go any further...”

Mayor Barilla – “Yes, Mr. Paul?”

Mr. Paul – “I’d like to make a motion; I wanna amend this.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay. Um, I’m not sure for... Okay I got, I have an ordinance authorizing the city manager to enter into a master agreement and contract for the asset management planning and critical valve replacement and repair project and declaring an emergency. Is that what we have in here now? Okay, alright, alright. I wasn’t sure. Excuse me; I’m sorry. It’s already there. Sorry about that. Yeah, I wanted to make sure we had it.”

Mayor Barilla – Inaudible – speaking quietly

Mr. Mastros – “There’s really no amendment needed.”

Mr. Paul – “There’s no amendment needed. I’m sorry. I, I didn’t know, I mean, I had this and I didn’t. I’m sorry.”

Mayor Barilla – “So is anyone wishing to speak on this, please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Mascio stands up.

Mayor Barilla – “Yes?”

Mr. Mascio – “I gotta question. Don’t you have to specify who, who you’re enterin’ into a contract with and how much the money is that you’re paying for this contract? It’s not in here.”

Mr. Dressel – “No.”

Mr. Mascio – “You don’t?”

Mr. Dressel – “Never have before.”

Mr. Mascio – “I think you should.”

Mr. Mastros – “There are two ways to do it.”

Mr. Dressel – “That’s why, that’s why I have a comment.”

Mr. Mastros – “There are actually two ways to do it and that’s why I pull the old ordinances that-that have, some of the old ordinances where we have utilized, ah, the emergency section and sometimes it designates, as we have here, as it was amended by Mr. Dressel last week to give the City Manager the authority to enter in to this agreement and there are some where we actually know who that particular vendor’s gonna be so we put that in there.”

Mr. Mascio – “It leaves it up to him to pick who he wants to enter into the agreement with.”

Mr. Dressel – “That’s what I’d like to address.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah. That’s what, that’s how it was amended.”

Mr. Mascio – “That’s Council’s choice.”

Mr. Mastros – “No, not as it’s written.”

Mr. Dressel – “No, so...”

Mayor Barilla – “Mr. Dressel.”

Mr. Dressel – “That’s what I wanted to address. So, we just heard from the three vendors who are willing to bid on this. Um, we got a lot of information; I think it helped a few of us clarify what we’re doing and what they can do. (Sigh) Um, however, I don’t think that led anybody to a firm conclusion on even being able to necessarily recommend to Jim our opinion. Because at this point we have seven people sitting here, six but one missing, that has not voiced their opinion as to who they think should be the right choice, so, um, I’d like to make a motion to table this for one more week so we can have a discussion about who to pick and then choose.”

Mr. Mastros – “I think you used the correct word before: recommend.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah.”

Mr. Dressel – “Yes, so Jim can choose...”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct.”

Mr. Dressel – “... so we can recommend.”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct.”

Mr. Dressel – “Alright.”

Mr. Mastros – “Thank you sir.”

Mr. Dressel – “Is there a second for that?”

Mr. Timmons – “I second that.”

Mayor Barilla – “It’s been moved and seconded that we table Ordinance No. 2018-28, ah, to, to for next week.”

Mr. Mastros – “One meeting.”

Unknown Speaker – “Correct.”

Mr. Dressel – “One meeting.”

Mayor Barilla – “One meeting.”

Mr. Dressel – “And then we’ll have a meeting in between to discuss it.”

Mr. Timmons – “Craig has something.”

Mayor Barilla – “Mr. Petrella.”

Mr. Petrella – “Um, that’s what I was gonna ask, Scott. I think we need to have something; a little discussion...”

Mr. Dressel – “Yeah.”

Mr. Petrella – “and if necessary after that discussion, ah, call it. Are we up against a deadline here?”

Mr. Dressel – “Yes.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes.”

Mr. Petrella – “So d-d-do we need a special meeting?”

Mr. Mastros – “That’s up to you all. We can’t vote until Tuesday anyway. I, it’s up to you; however you guys wanna handle that.”

Mr. Dressel – “Can we vote on the motion to table it first and we can have a discussion about scheduling a meeting?”

Mr. Mastros – “That’d be a good idea.”

Mr. Petrella – “Well, I mean, h-here’s what I’m looking at. I’m looking at having a dis-, uh, committee meeting or whatever to discuss this, but, if we’re, if we’re under a strict deadline we have the authority to call a special meeting...”

Mr. Dressel – “Right.”

Mr. Petrella – “... with due notice and vote on this prior to next Tuesday.”

Mr. Mastros – “You do.”

Mr. Petrella – “And that’s why I wanna know; are we coming too close next week? Do we have to act on it sooner than next week? That’s m-my question.”

Mr. Murphy – “Our first deadline is actually that May 1st deadline but of course that’s gonna be giving a serious time crunch to whoever gets this project. So, I would readily say the sooner the better because if you want a good quality project, you wanna make sure that they got as much time as possible to go ahead and sort through everything and get all the necessary information and give us what we really need. “

Mayor Barilla – “Mr. Dressel.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “If I could comment to Council; I think it was important that Council heard from all three vendors, ah, I deal with this all the time. Ah, I had some, ah, concerns that were answered tonight, ah, especially by Mrs. Hahn’s question and it was asked and answered; so you have three vendors that have applied for this job. They know specifically what we need; there was no doubt there. I can give you a recommendation right now and that recommendation would go with Arcadis because they are the lowest bidder; they clearly have experience based on their briefings. All the companies have experience. But when you get down to it and start looking at all three of them, you start looking at what the cost factor is and can they do the job. And one of the most, I’d have to say strongest point, was have-have over 50 jobs, ah, that did the asset management program. So that’s my input; if you wanna make a decision tonight, you can make it. If you wanna table it, then table it. Ah, but again, I think, ah, ah, Council has asked for the right things it was presented tonight and again, if you have any other questions I have no issues going which way but as far as I’m concerned, Arcadis is, ah, made a very good presentation as well as the other two but it comes down to dollars and cents and it comes down to get started on this project. That’s all I have to say.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay, I’ll-I’ll just add to what the City Manager said and I also had discussion with, ah, some of the other Councilmen. I did a little bit of research on all three of these companies and tonight was really not a good program for it because we didn’t have time to ask a lot of questions. I don’t know if anybody else has their mind made up. Unless something drastic happens, I have mine made up. But if Council feels that we need more information or if you wanna go with what the City Manager recommended. Whatever you wanna do, you know.”

Mr. Dressel – “I’ll just say what I think then, and we can decide that if we wanna make, we wanna amend the motion to list the specific name of the company we can, um, and I’m fine with the recommendation so we need to I guess decide if anybody else has a dissenting opinion we should consider.”

Mayor Barilla – “Just for public record the bid for Arcadis was the low bid, is that correct?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes sir.”

Mayor Barilla – “And, and the amount of that bid is...”

Mr. Mavromatis – “\$175,000.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay, thank you.”

Mr. Timmons – “I-I mean, I thought HDR, um, had a great presentation as well but, ah, their bid was \$248,000; Arcadis \$175 and, you know, we are in the money crunch so yeah. We’ll go with that.”

Muttering

Mrs. Hahn – “I’d like to add that, I’m sorry...”

Mr. Petrella – “No, no let her go.”

Mrs. Hahn – “In terms of representing us to the Ohio EPA I think that they’re a very strong company having worked with them from the beginning and the crucial thing is to understand the details of the Asset Management program which they assisted, ah, in-in that drafting of the legislation so I think that’s a very strong point and then the other were the number of grant writers that they have and we are going to need grants. We’re going to need more monies than just what we can get from loans and ah, and I thought that was strong in their presentation as well so that would be my encouragement. Thank you.”

Mayor Barilla – “Mr. Petrella?”

Mr. Petrella – “I have no problem votin’ on it tonight; I do have reservations with ‘em. Ah, they do not have the mapping in their proposal, ah, which could be bid out separate, if need, if need be and if, ah, Chuck and the City Manager is comfortable with it, I am comfortable with votin’ today. We, we’re against the deadline; we need to get off dead center and keep moving forward on these projects. And then I would like to have another meeting; I wanna know all the pieces to the puzzle cause I still, it’s still alluding us. And ah, I want all the pieces of the puzzle and how they’re going to fall in to place on a timeline.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay, I’d like to withdraw my motion to table it for a week.”

Mayor Barilla – “So be it. Motion withdrawn. Any other comments?”

Mr. Paul – “Yeah, I got one, I got one comment. I mean, if-if he wants to have one more meeting, I mean, I-I go with what the City Manager says. He recommends this, I go with it. That’s what this Ordinance says.”

Mr. Petrella – “That’s fine.”

Mr. Paul – “Now if you want to have another meeting; discuss it further, that’s fine by me. I’m not gonna be at that meeting, that’s fine.”

Mr. Petrella – “No...”

Mr. Paul – “I-I don’t have time. You guys can do it again. But you can figure this out. The man just recommended to us what he thought.”

Mr. Petrella – “I have no problem with what we’re doin’ tonight.”

Mr. Paul – “This guy needs an answer...”

Mr. Petrella – “Willie! I said I have...”

Mr. Paul – “And I’m tellin’ you he needs an answer soon!”

Mr. Petrella – “And I said I had no problem what we’re havin’, doing tonight on the asset management and gettin’ this contract movin’ forward. I made that very clear. What I also said was I wanna know the other pieces to the puzzle.”

Mr. Paul – “Well, you know what?! You wanna know the other pieces, you shoulda been here earlier! Cause there was other people here before. I mean, I don’t wanna go where I’m gonna go here. So I’m done. I’m done sayin’ what I have to say.”

Mr. Villamagna – “We got, it’s withdrawn. Do we have to make any kind of motion now?”

Mr. Mastros – “No. Motion to table is withdrawn. And now you call the question.”

Mr. Dressel – “Question.”

Mayor Barilla – “So we’ll call a question and then we’ll call a Roll Call.”

Roll Call by Mrs. McGinnis. All ayes.

Mayor Barilla – “So moved. Ordinance No. 2018-28 is duly adopted and will take effect immediately. Thank you.”

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-29 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE THREE (3) YEAR WAGE AND BENEFIT CONTRACT ENTERED INTO BY THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS UNION LOCAL NO. 228, I.A.F.F., O.A.P.F.F., AFL-CIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mayor Barilla – “You heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2018-29 by the Finance Committee and declaring it an emergency. Is there anyone wishing to speak on it? Please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul – “Question.”

Mayor Barilla – “Question. Roll Call.”

Roll Call by Mrs. McGinnis. All ayes.

Mayor Barilla – “So moved. Ordinance No. 2018-29 is duly adopted and will take effect immediately.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mayor Barilla – “That concludes Ordinances and Resolutions for this evening and we’ll now move into reports of committees, ah, starting off with, ah, Mr. Dressel.”

Mr. Dressel – “I have one thing. I’ve been asked to sunshine ‘an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to advertise for bids for the 2018 City Pavement Marking program, City Project No. 2018-102 subject to the right to reject an, any and all bids and rebidding that may be required. Authorizing and entering into said contract with the lowest and most qualified bidder. Authorizing payment therefore and to execute contract as required.’”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Mr. Dressel. Move on to Mrs. Hahn?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes. Um, under Parks and Recreation there is a meeting at the Clubhouse tomorrow night at 7:00 pm for anybody who would like to come and just listen or give some input. Um, along with that, our hope is that we will have at least one large event at the marina each month. Um, in-in addition there’re other, other items in the works but um, for the first weekend of May the State of Ohio does not charge for fishing licenses and so Terrance and Elise Rainbow have agreed to have an event at the Marina. Ah, they have 60 or 70 fishing poles that people can use and the Jefferson County Soil and Water has offered another 14 rods and our hope is that if fishing is something you enjoy doing maybe you’ll think of some people, um, especially young people, that you can bring along to expose them to the sport of fishing. Um, we’re hoping that maybe Wal-mart will come down and be available so that people who want to buy fishing licenses would be able very quickly and easily to buy them. If you have ideas on um, maybe a couple of two or three different ways we can have competitions, um, we can come up with some small prizes. But we’d really like to draw people down to the Marina um, for them to see the possibilities and also because then more people might care about how it looks be willing to pitch in and help us improve it. So um, and then we have other ideas for each of the other months which if you’re interested in working on a project at the Marina please see me or see Lori and we’ll see how we can incorporate those. That’s it. Thank you.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Mrs. Hahn. Mr. Paul?”

Mr. Paul – “Yes, your Honor, I have one, I’m sorry, Mayor. I have one; it’s under ah, Finance. Um, ‘an Ordinance authorizing a wage adjustment for the City Manager and declaring an emergency.’ And what that would be, that would be a 2.2 percent raise; every other employee of the City of Steubenville got a 2.2 percent raise and I feel the City Manager and we feel, most of us feel, the City Manager should get a 2.2 percent raise. That’s what that’s all about. It’s nothing, we’re not giving him \$60,000, it’s 2.2 like everyone else got.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay.”

Mr. Paul – “Thank you.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Mr. Paul. Mr. Petrella?”

Mr. Petrella – “Nothing...Mayor.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Mr. Petrella. Mr. Timmons?”

Mr. Timmons – “Nothing this evening.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Mr. Timmons. Mr. Villamagna?”

Mr. Villamagna - “Ah, nothing this evening Mayor.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Mr. Villamagna. Well, that concludes Reports of Committees; we’ll now move into Administrative Officers starting off with our City Manager, Mr. Mavromatis.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. Ah, today we executed a Administrative Warrant on the Moose facility which is on 4th Street. This has been a structure that has been abandoned for several years. Ah, clearly it’s gonna be declared, ah, uninhabitable there and eventually we hope to work to where it can be taken down. We’ve done numerous attempts to locate the owners which we’ve tracked down to the Wheeling area which we found out the Wheeling author-authorities are looking for the owners also. So based on that we’re now going to the legal process to where we can get the order, ah, after we do the advertising where we can do the demolition of the property. Ah, I took several photos, as well as our inspectors, on how bad the, ah, place was. The interesting thing was, which probably adds a lot of the issues that Mr. Murphy has been facing here, is the water leaking. The water meter had been shut off for several years but there was a water leak down there and the only way it was found was when they went into the basement found the water 2-3 inches but walked off to where it needed to be shut off and it was shut off. So there’s numerous houses, businesses throughout this City that have those same things there so unless we’re called in to the facility or neighbors notice or hear water running and I ask them to report that, there’s no way we’re gonna know this so this adds to our-our ever pressing problem with the water issues here. So that has been basically taken care of; the locks have been changed, we have a key to it and we’re gonna try now to find these owners if we can cause we will go to the normal process, ah, the legal Civil process to get the order to destroy, er, demolition the property, so that’s where that’s at. Ah, what I wanted to do beca-, well, another thing, ah, Mr. Villamagna and Mr. Paul had brought this up several weeks ago, ah, the parking of trucks. This has been goin’ on at least while I’ve been here off and on for several years, ah, and this is at the old Grant Street parking lot. Ah, it involves trucks that have gone to the Volvo business on South Street to get worked on; ah, there’s been other individuals that have given them “permission” to park there. Well we put an increased effort this past week of getting these vehicles off there. There’s one trailer that’s there. They’re tryin’ to track down the company where it may belong to before we tow it out of there. One of the reasons we didn’t tow it immediately because it had, we don’t know what cargo’s inside here. Ah, so we don’t have any issues there. But again, ah, we’re gonna have signs ordered that will put No Parking there by permission only which will open this up for times with the Greek Festival, ah, with events downtown that that should be open but this is not a location for these tractor trailers. It’s unsightly; it causes problems and so that’s being focused on. Now which brings me up to, ah, a code enforcement. We talked about a task force being created. This is part and parcel to our, um, four day garbage pick-up to the fifth day because that’s gonna involve some of our sanitation people as this goes on. But what I’d like to do, ah, when I, when I finish here I-I have some paperwork that all of you were given. The chart I would like you to study; take it home with you, look at it. This gives you an idea how complicated the process is and I’m gonna have our, I brought two of our, ah, Housing Inspectors here tonight, ah, to come and explain a little bit about this so you’ll understand what they deal with here. Ah, the one thing that caught me, and I can clearly see where this will bottleneck, because I do understand what Council has been asking for. Enforcement is a great tool to have but you have to look at the whole process because eventually you get over, it gets overloaded. And the one box there it says the court day is once a month from 9:00 am to 10:00 am; that’s it. When you look at the other violations that were done here, ah, 2008 to present, that’s 1570 code cases from 2008 to present. Then 130 code cases in 2017. It doesn’t mean we can’t do more, we can absolutely do more. I could put as many people focusing on it; the problem is you’ll have the bottleneck come here. Now, if fairness to the Judicial system. It starts off, you have thirty days to correct whatever it is then they have to come back out and re-inspect it. Did you do anything? Well, if you didn’t do anything then you’re cited into court which that’s gonna be thirty to sixty days before you get in here then you come in and see the judge. What have you done on those violations? Well, depends what you done. If you done everything that you were cited on, no problem; case dismissed; everybody goes home. Well, your Honor I only did one of the five things. I couldn’t do the other four; I didn’t have enough money; I had sickness, illness, whatever. Well, again, the extension’s given by the judge which means inspectors have to go back out there then it comes back to court. Again, a lot of these people don’t have the money to fix these houses; they’re there, it’s their responsibility. So where do you go? If you put ‘em in jail or you fine ‘em; they don’t have the money to fix the problems, how they gonna pay the fine. That means they’re gonna go to jail

which is still not gonna get the problem here. But what I'd like if you gentlemen or whichever wants to stand up, explain a little more. So, when Council is looking at this, do you need a copy to look at?"

Mr. Gates – "No."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Okay. This'll give them a little idea of what you deal with and uh, uh..."

Mr. Gates – "Well actually, I mean, we take it from the start to the finish. You've summed it up quite well with that but there's so many variables that work through and every case is different. For whether they comply, non comply, bankruptcies, foreclosures. There's a lot more than just goin' out writin' them and ticket it. There's thirty days. You know, we get a complaint, we go look at it, take pictures if there's violations there. If not, then you know, we sign it off. If there's violations there we send out a notice, it goes out, they get thirty days; that's if it doesn't get returned. Or locate the owner, we can't locate the owner or the owner lives out of town or we have a bad address. And then a lot of those we can't send to court cause there's no service. So, if you look at it, it breaks it down. There's quite a lot of steps there and I probably might even missed some but there's a lot there; lot of repeat have to go back to court, lot of re-inspections to do on it. So, if you have questions on it, I think we're gonna have it at another..."

Mr. Mavromatis- "Meeting."

Mr. Gates – "...meeting and go over it."

Mrs. Hahn – "I just have one. When we did that Code Enforcement workshop and Judge Mascio was there, didn't he say he was willing to consider adding time to hear these cases or was that just..."

Mr. Gates – "I don't remember that."

Mrs. Hahn to Mr. Mavromatis – "Do you remember him saying that? Because it does seem like there's quite a bottleneck there."

Mr. Mavromatis – "He did and I just talked with the judge yesterday and he showed me his Court calendar, the criminal side, which has been added on to that by our special enforcement group that's been out there. So again, yes, he'd be, he'll be willing to look at it so we have to look if we need to get other resources for this. The biggest problem is we spend all the time and money to do this and we correct it then they go back to something else here. But we have to do something and this is just so you understand the magnitude..."

Mrs. Hahn – "Thank you."

Mr. Mavromatis – "...from the civil side and criminal side. Their intent isn't to be criminals; it's just defined what the Ordinances are, what our goals are. And again, I hate to use the expression 'you can't get blood out of a turnip.' A lot of these people are barely getting by and they're trying to do the right thing but, the flip side is, we have a lot of people that have multiple properties and this about money. So, they wanna buy all these properties and they can take care of them."

Mr. Paul – "I do remember the judge saying also if it's a lady who has no funds to do that and if she shows just that she's trying to do something... He also said he's not gonna sit there and fine this lady because she doesn't have the money to do that, she doesn't have the funds to do that. If, ah, if you remember that also."

Mrs. Hahn – (inaudible)

Mr. Paul – "I remember he talked about it; yeah. And he gave us a scenario with this one lady and she couldn't, she couldn't pay a fine even if she had to so he just asked her just try to do something. He said some of these people don't have two nickels to rub together so, I mean, some of these people are property owners that own a lot of property. Yeah, I think they should go through the whole process; I think they should go in front of Judge Mascio. But the other ones I think, the little lady that can't afford it then I think, that's...(to Mrs. Hahn) go ahead."

Mrs. Hahn – "Well, I was gonna ask is it, is it possible for us, I mean I see Teresa out there with the Hilltop Association and I know there are resources through the Urban Mission and the Joshua Program, and you know, could we get a list of resources that are, are available in our community and see if there's some way that we can assist you all with the process. Because it will help the whole community if we have some of these houses fixed up."

Mr. Gates – "I know we had, we had one case last year and we were ordered by the judge that was there to try to get the guy help. We called five to six different places and there was nothing to be found for help for him. So, I mean, yeah you could call 'em if they have the funds to do it or are they booked up for the season to do the repairs that they scheduled. Ah, runs into a lot more."

Mr. Villamagna – "I, I add somethin' to that too. We, we got a lot of problems here, you know we got a lot of problems here. You could walk around here all day long and, and, and find stuff. So, one of the citizens in the said audience maybe if you start with the easiest ones and work to the hardest ones which I never thought of but that kinda makes sense because there's some things we're not gonna be able to correct no matter how hard, no matter what we try they're just not gonna comply. Whether they can't, they don't have the means or there's, there's ah, no money to do it or whatever, or just because they're elderly. So, there's plenty to work on, I think, if we start even in that kind of a process you know, instead of goin' after the real serious ones take you a lot of time to work on; the minor ones er kinda light, you know they can be accomplished and even if you're elderly you can afford a little maintenance to the house but the second thing is, and I hear criticisms all the time and I, everybody in this room knows that I'll argue. I hate Facebook with a passion. These people get on here that are supposedly educated and they say things on Facebook like they're little kids and the they presented six pictures of houses that there's violations on. So, I'm sittin' at home and I, and I saw this and I says wait minute I says I think I know some of these houses so I get my notes out and I start goin' back and out of the six houses he posted on Facebook, three of 'em are in the demolition list, two of 'em are in court and one belongs to the State of Ohio so they're all taken care, cause you can't do anything with the State of Ohio; State of Ohio they got it and good luck with that. You can't arrest the State of Ohio, right Costa?"

Mr. Mastros – “Correct.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay, so and the, the time, the timeframe to take care of this stuff is phenomenal. Then you gotta deal with people tell me that one guy goes to a house and he was rude and blah, blah, blah and the inspector was this and he was that, then I call down here to try to find out who was there. That inspector wasn’t even there; it’s a complete different scenario after he posted all this... These people who are college, college educated sayin’ these things. They come under criticism all the time. I don’t know who drew this timeline up, one of you guys did, I’m sure, right?”

Mr. Gates – “We both did.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Both, okay. Ah, very good took some time to do that. Lot of criticism comes your way, I think yins are doin’ a great job. I think the Building Department does a great job along with the Fire Department that works with you constantly; with that, the Police Department that works the Code Enforcement Officer who I call a lot. You know I do, I call a lot and you guys check it. I know it takes time. I’ve had more than one incident, a lot of people think nothin’s gettin’ done: the camper on Cunningham Lane.”

Mr. Gaylord – “Yes.”

Mr. Villamagna – “By the time that got done, was goin’ to court and everything, the deadline’s up and the guy left. So it, it can’t be done overnight. So, that’s just all my add to it and one thing that I want to ask Chris is how are we doin’ with that downtown thing? With all the violations downtown, I know the weather was kinda bad and kinda hampered it a little bit.”

Mr. Petrossi – “Yeah, and as Jim mentioned we started with the Administrative Warrant with the Moose and we will continue on Fridays, ah, with the, ah, taskforce consisting of the Building Inspection Department as well as the Fire Department, ah excuse me, as well as the Police Department and other departments as needed.”

Mr. Villamagna – “To address the downtown area?”

Mr. Petrossi – “Yes, our first target area is downtown and afterwards we’ll move to the hilltops.”

Mr. Villamagna – “And I think that, I think that building on 4th Street was a good start because at one time we were gonna buy that building for the F.O.P., remember Chief, we were gonna buy it for the F.O.P and it was beautiful. I know, I know it ain’t beautiful now so... Thank you. And thank your department too.”

Mr. Timmons – “I, I kinda want to say something about this. You know as you look at this, I don’t know if everybody saw it, it’s, it’s really frustrating but it’s just, I mean I think the people we have to hold responsible for this are state and federal representatives. We need these laws changed where people get this much time and judge may continue the case, gives owner time to comply 30, 60, 90 days. I mean as we were sayin’ some of this doesn’t require that much time so yeah, I think if we really wanna, I think we might wanna invite some of the them to the meeting where we go over some of this stuff, ah, if they really wanna make a change then, ah, cause that’s what we’re abiding by and we have to go by this stuff so... that’s just awful.”

Mayor Barilla – “Mr. Mavromatis is still...”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I had a phone call conversation this week, ah, our 2016 audit was clean as it gets and the City as well as Mr. Lewis has received a Letter of Achievement Award from the Auditor’s office but it was held up. And so I did the initial inquiries and I talked with the number two auditor today, er, yesterday Mr. Hinkle. And, ah, apparently something came up from earlier on ’14 and ’15 had absolutely nothing to do with ’16. So I asked him to review everything. And the reason I bring this up, that needs to be done. Ah, I think it’s been unfairly, ah, held against the City and Mr. Lewis, especially for his hard work with him and his staff. And, ah, one of the things their waiting to get an answer from, we got the answer on the, the demolition funding and it’s been sent down to the Auditor’s office and that’s where we’re waiting. The reason I’m bringin’ this up now, ah, each of Council has a copy of the tentative demolition, ah, list, Ms. Hahn, that you asked for.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Oh good, thank you. Yes.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “So you have that, you can look at that, and if you have any questions you can bring it up next week. But I wanted to give you, at least all of Council has that, that’s our (unintelligible). Now Chief, ah, Capaldi if you could comment on the two fires because two of them’ve been in the South End. I know, ah, one for sure is under investigation, this most recent one.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Let me interrupt you for one second, Jim, these are not the ones that are, these are the ones that are pending if we, there’s no contracts on these houses, is that correct?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No. Those are, that’s what’s on the list, correct?”

Mr. Petrossi – “Yes, there are some there, if you notice the column across the top that says ‘contracted’ and those are the ones that are currently under contract.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yeah. While we’re on here with-with contracts Chief, before you get up, I need to brief Council on this. We put the bids out for these, ah, demolitions and normally based on if the criteria is met it’s given to the lowest bidder. But we just had somethin’ that’s come up with the lowest bidder. We’ve had issues with (1) not paying employees; (2) the equipment that were, are leasing to buy, they weren’t making payments on it and the equipment was seized. And this is why I pulled two contracts away from them; one was on Oak Grove and the other was on North 4th Street. They have been reissued; I’m meeting with the contractor tomorrow to make sure that this can be expedited as quick as possible. So, again, these things... you always run in to this, you don’t know the contractor until they do some work. Ah, this is my normal philosophy. I love using local people if you can; I don’t care how far I have to get the contractors as long as they meet the price and they get the job done. And that’s what we’ll do cause we have to start gettin’ these properties down and cleaned up in a lot of areas here. So that goes on here but to Council, this, this is a list here; if you follow acrossed here that’ll explain it then any questions, we’ll, we’ll take care of next week. Chief Capaldi, if you could brief us on those two fires.”

Chief Capaldi – “Sure. Um, a week ago, ah, I believe it was a Monday night, we had ah, we had a fire at 639 Lincoln Avenue. Ah, it was a vacant structure, unsecured. Ah, came in about 3:00 in the morning. Ah, that structure was a total loss; it was fully involved when we got there at 3:00 in the morning. That one’s under investigation. Ah, we’re-we’re looking for videos of-of the area. We’re talkin’ to people in the area but, there’s, there’s really no developments on that one. That one’s ah, under investigation, undetermined right now. And then last night, oh, the one at 639 we had an occupied structure on the east and an unoccupied structure on the west that was secured. The one on the west received some exterior damage; the one on the east, minor exterior damage but it’s-it’s livable, the people are still there. Ah, last night about 2:30 – 2:45 in the morning, I believe it was 1245 Lincoln Avenue, um, vacant structure. Um, from what I understand, ah, Code Enforcement has sited that building a couple times. Ah, I don’t know if there was any movement on that it was goin’ to court or anything but, same thing. That one’s under investigation. Ah, the inspectors’ve been workin’ on that today and they’ll continue workin’ on it. Ah, we’re talkin’ to people in the area; if anyone, if anyone hears anything feel free to let our inspectors know. We’re reviewing City cameras; we’re looking for residents that have cameras so that’s that’s what I can say now is that they’re reviewing anything that they can have right now. Ah, no injuries on either of the fires to any residents or firefighters. The one last night there was an occupied house to the east, it wasn’t damaged. Um, but as of right now, that-that’s what I have to report. And, well, in the meantime, also we had a fire on Wellesley.”

Mrs. Hahn – “1245.”

Chief Capaldi – “Ah, I believe it was the 1200 block of Wellesley.”

Mrs. Hahn – “1245.”

Chief Capaldi – “Yes. Um, actually we had two on Wellesley. The one was up in the 1200 block. We had one in the 1400 block the other day.”

Mr. Timmons – “Where was that?”

Chief Capaldi – “That big apartment building before you go down the hill.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Right on the corner, yeah. The last one on the left.”

Chief Capaldi – “Yeah. Now that one was ruled a set fire. That was ruled set, the big apartment building and that investigation is ongoing too. So, we got four that are under investigation right now. So, any questions?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Chief.”

Chief Capaldi – “You’re welcome.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mayor, that’s all I have for this evening.”

Mayor Barilla - “Thank you, thank you Mr. Mavromatis. We’ll ask, ah, move on to our Law Director Mr. Mastros.”

Mr. Mastros – “Nothing tonight your Honor.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you, thank you Mr. Mastros.”

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “Ah, under Miscellaneous this evening we have Mrs. Hahn signing in.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you. Um, I have two questions and a statement I’d like to make. I wanted to ask Bob Baird um, how did the trash go this week and are people putting their garbage in the cans and turning the cans around or do we need to...”

Mr. Baird – “Just, um, it’s goin’ pretty well. Ah, to some extent there’s some, some ah, we’ve got a lot of requests for additional cans, um, so no not everyone has, is getting everything in the can, but they are calling and inquiring and we’re setting them up with additional cans. Um, so, really aside from that kind of, just transition type stuff, it seems to be going okay.”

Mrs. Hahn – “We missed getting our garbage out cause our day changed and it’s like I told all my neighbors I was like ‘don’t forget, don’t forget’ and then the next morning came and my husband said ‘our cans weren’t out’ and everybody else so...”

Mr. Baird – “So, so that’s another aspect.”

Mrs. Hahn – “We’ll get the hang of it.”

Mr. Baird – “There’s a little bit of that all over the place also.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay. Um, what strikes me about the fires, every time you’re saying, and it’s not always, I know that 1245 building actually wasn’t vacant but I think there’s a misunderstanding that if a vacant property burns it’s not a big deal; they’re- they’re just moving the City on in getting houses demolished but it actually is more costly to get rid of the structure because we haven’t gone through the proper basis of the asbestos removal and so anybody who’s thinking somehow or another they’re helping the City, they’re not. But on those, along those lines I wanted to ask about the 300 vacant properties up on LaBelle. Where are we in the process of getting those letters sent out?”

Mr. Petrossi – “We sent letters out to um, property owners on two streets and um, as I mentioned before, that because of the backup in the court system we’re trying to stagger those as they go out rather than send out a-a-a bulk group all at once. And so, ah, the first group did go out and within the next couple days a second group went out and another couple streets will go out until we finish it all.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay, might wanna add ‘P.S. there’s a fire bug looking for vacant properties so if you want your property to have any value, you need to take care of it. Okay, um, I just wanted to mention one thing. Um, and various people have mentioned it to me so I know it’s not private knowledge, um, and yet there are a lot of people who are just finding out. Um, there is a documentary that is airing at the Tribeca Film Festival up in

New York that is called Roll Red Roll and it's highlighting the Steubenville rape case. And for those of us who have worked so hard to present our city as I believe it actually is which is a wonderful place to live, to work, to raise your family, that's very very disheartening. Um, I believe our city has, is moving ahead and it's slow, by slow degrees because we don't have money just flowing in here. There's a lot of volunteerism, there's a lot of people, um, working hard to bring new businesses here; we're working on neighborhood revitalization, downtown revitalization, working on our parks really making an effort and what I would encourage you to do if you see these messages and, and I know there's information and misinformation out there, I would just encourage you, don't focus on the darkness. We all agree what happened was a horrible crime. People were to justice and it was dealt with and the City Manager may want to say more but, the best thing to do when there's darkness is put on a light and we have a lot to highlight and I just wanna encourage you as you get in conversations with people and someone says something derogatory about the City that you really help promote the City, not in a false like 'oh, it's, you know, Camelot' but we have good people here with a lot of good will and we are working on many many issues and most especially really letting people know how much they are valued. Their dignity. The respect that they are due as an individual and I just wanted to be the voice of encouragement even though I'm bringing up something negative because I believe we have a lot of wonderful things to promote about our city, most especially our people I want to encourage you to do that and not get in to the back and forth. Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Mrs. Hahn. Before we move in to ah, Public Forum, I want to ah, thank the Department Heads for coming this evening to Council. We appreciate it."

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – "So now we'll now move in to Public Forum and tonight we have signing in ah, Mr. John Giles. So Mr. Giles, if you'll please come forward and state your name and address."

Mr. Giles – "John Giles, 1101, 1101 Hillary Square."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay."

Mr. Giles – "Yeah, how much is the water hike gonna cost us?"

Mrs. Hahn – "We don't know."

Mayor Barilla – "What water hike?"

Mr. Giles – "Well, if you guys are gonna, you know, fix the pipes, right? If you guys are gonna fix the pipes..."

Mr. Villamagna – "We haven't come up with a cost; we haven't come up with the, with the rate increase."

Mr. Giles – "Yeah, because I think it's wrong that here we are workin' our butts off and you guys keep raisin' stuff, okay?"

Mr. Timmons – "When's the last time the rates went up?"

Mr. Villamagna – "We haven't raised the water rates in..."

Mr. Paul – "2012."

Mr. Timmons – "Okay."

Mr. Giles – "But it still, but it still went up and you guys keep..."

Mr. Paul – "But we're tryin' to keep it down, I mean that, we're doin' the best we can, I mean, I can help the, what happened in the winter; I can't help what happened in January, I mean, the EPA came in and talked to us about this, it wasn't, we didn't go ask the EPA about this, they come in and talked to us."

Mr. Giles – "Yeah, but still, you know, as a tax payer, you know, if you guys keep taxin' us with little stuff like this 'n this 'n this what's gonna happen when you guys come out there for taxes and all of a sudden we can't pay it cause we're too broke and we can't eat cause you guys keep raisin' our taxes; takin' money away from us."

Mr. Villamagna – "Well, John, what happens if you can't get water outta your pipes? I mean, there's there's, I mean, listen, everybody that, and we're gonna have to raise it somewhat and everybody in this room is gonna pay that-that raise same as everybody else and nobody wants to this, believe me, we-we've fought this ever since I been a Councilman, every single body that's in this room said 'we're not raisin' it, we're not gonna raise it, we're not gonna raise it' and now we got hit with a catastrophic event that we have no choice cause the money is just not there to fix it. Now is it gonna be astronomical? No. But I mean and uh, and what we're doin' is with the tax payer in mind; we're tryin' to keep it as low as we can, I think everybody's committed to that to make the-the lowest rate that we can increase but what's facin' this city with the water infrastructure i-is, if it happens to us again, we're, we got some serious problems."

Mr. Giles – "How come, you know, we can't call our so-called Governor, tell them to take the money that he makes off the side, the millions, and that..."

Mr. Villamagna – "Well, I agree with you there but he's not gonna do it. That's already been tried, we got, and Jack Cera's involved with this also, a Representative, ah, Bill Johnson and ah, Frank Hoagland. They're all, they're all tryin' to see what funds are available to help us out and the company that we just hired tonight is gonna look for grants to try to, you know, help us out too but we're talkin' millions and millions of dollars and this-this can's been kicked down the road for so long and that's why we're in the situation that we're in and but we're still, it's not gonna be, it's gonna be a minimal amount, you know, but we have to do somethin'. And we're gonna try to be as easy as we can on the tax payers because we all gotta pay it also, you gotta keep that in mind too."

Mr. Paul – "That's one of the reasons why we been havin' these meetings so we can find that way to keep it, the cost, low. And like Bob says we're tryin', we're kickin' the can down the road but we don't wanna kick it

anymore, we wanna pick it up and put it in the garbage can where it belongs and get this thing goin' so we can move forward with this because its-it's been going on too long. We've had a Consent Decree since 1998..."

Mrs. Hahn – "Twenty years."

Mr. Paul – "on the sewage. Twenty years and the EPA is letting us, um, kinda like, go with this because we keep tellin' 'em we don't have the funds to um, take care of our sewage, okay? Then this came up with the distribution side which is the water side and now we have a bigger problem; the EPA steps in again and now we have the distribution side and the sewage side both tellin' us we need to do somethin'. They're letting us go with the one for right now but they want the distribution side, these critical valves, replaced and it's, trust me, I don't wanna raise water rates, I don't wanna do it at all. I was hopin' when I was done with Council after my two years but, we have to do it. Like Bob said, we can't kick the can down the road anymore."

Mr. Giles – "Somebody else messed up now we gotta pay for it."

Mr. Paul – "No, it's just, it's just..."

Mrs. Hahn – "They ignored it. They ignored..."

Mr. Paul – "There's a lot of things, John, that were involved. I mean, the mill shutting down, loss of citizens, the population. It, there's a lot of things involved, it's not just someone else did it, we're, we have, we have to do something about our, us people in this room today so..."

Mr. Giles – "So when do we find out, you know, how much our water's goin' up?"

Mr. Paul – "Um, I don't know if we discussed it..."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Could I? Ah, Mr. Gent-, ah, one of the things the Ohio EPA's requiring we may have to do a rate study because a lot of times they don't rely on the city to pick a number so what they do is we contract somebody to come in. This isn't gonna happen in the next month or two cause it takes time to get that rate study and make sure but I can tell you this. The two years I've been here there's been several cities up and down this Ohio Valley that've upped their rates; going down as far as Wheeling and workin' your way back up here. Ah, this current administration here and the ones previous have done the best they can not to increase it. I-it's two-fold. And we all suffer this. We have people that've moved out; our customer base has dropped down. And I know I'm hittin' my employees cold but Lisa, if you can go back to 2012, that, well, how long have you been here?"

Mrs. Knight – "Um, three years."

Mr. Mavromatis – "How long?"

Mrs. Knight – "Three years...almost three years."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Alright, go back three years. What was our, our service accounts? We're 7,000 now, weren't we up around 8 or 9,000"

Mr. Lewis – "Very close."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Right, so what that does is that's income, revenue that we don't have now. It keeps dwindling because people unfortunately pass off, others move out because of the job situation so where it falls upon is the brunt of the City ah, trying not to raise the increases but trying to get additional revenue that will help offset that. And sometimes it's very difficult so right now this is gonna be looked at and I know a decision will not be made until everything has been looked at. So that's the best answer that I think I can give you at this time. I hope that helps you a little bit it's not gonna be overnight I can tell you that."

Mr. Giles – "Yeah, I know because I work for a company, they bid on a lot of jobs."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Right so that's where we're headed right now and if you'd have been here earlier, ah, because you didn't know we had a water meeting and what it's costing us to get started on the problems in this city. And as Councilman ah, Paul said and the other Council people, this can's been kicked down for numerous years. It's not goin' down any farther; it's gotta be acted upon now and the problem is not gonna be corrected overnight; it's gonna take several years to correct this problem so everyone's gonna have to pitch in and help on that and again, this effects everybody in here that has a water account. So, again, it's not just you and I understand your concerns and, and, and they're right to have those concerns so but again, I can, you can rest assured that we will look at everything here before we have to do a rate increase and what amount we will have to go to. I hope that helps ya."

Mr. Giles – "It does a little bit."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Okay."

Mr. Dressel – "Can I add something to that?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes sir."

Mr. Dressel – "Just to clarify. There's something I learned when I started on Council that a lot of people don't know but ah, when you pay for your water, just that little part for water which isn't so little, that has to be spent on water only and it actually has to cover the cost of producing that water and getting out. The same thing with the sewer fund. What you pay for sewer has to be spent on the sewer system, it can't be spent on anything else and the same thing for trash. So those three funds all are separate and they only can be used for that and they have to be used to pay for those things so that's what makes it complicated. We have, this, the minimum bill is \$68.80, I think..."

Mr. Paul – "\$68.82."

Mr. Dressel – "eighty two..."

Mr. Paul – "Yeah."

Mr. Dressel – "I pay many of them. Um, and of that and a part goes to each one of those. What we're tryin' to do is minimize the impact. I can assure you I don't want it any higher, um, I don't make much, and it's like so we're tryin' to do that but it-it people forget that that's what pays for those too. So it's not like you pay for your water and we take that money and spend it on other things; you can't do that, it's illegal. So that's an

interesting thing just to note that that's where all that money goes, it goes for those specific three things only.
So that might help...(unintelligible)"

Mayor Barilla- "Thank you Mr. Giles. Appreciate it. If there's no further, further business, ah, before Council
this evening I ask a motion to adjourn."

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