

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
June 19, 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 Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, DiLoreto, Dressel, & Hahn.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Wastewater Director Chuck Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Assistant Finance Director Dave Babela, Paul Giannamore from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Mrs. Hahn – “One quick comment before I move that we approve the minutes; there; as you look through the minutes and Karly mentioned this last week; there are many times where she has to write inaudible so I just wanted to ask everyone to speak a little louder, a little clearer, and a little slower so that she really has a chance to catch them because she’s trying really hard to get all the words and a so anyway; just wanted to make a general comment that might be able to be helpful.”

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for June 12, 2018. Second by Mr. Timmons. 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.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Madam Clerk.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2018-46 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd Reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING SECTION 1195.04 AND ENACTING A NEW SECTION 1195.04 OF THE ZONING CODE.

NO. 2018-47 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 2nd Reading

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1327.02(C) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE.

NO. 2018-48 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2nd Reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT, BIDDING, AND SALE OF THE OLD AND OBSOLETE WATER METERS OF THE WATER DEPARTMENT.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Paul – “Mayor I have one. I know next week we have I think two meetings already set up. I would like too at 5:00 have a Finance Committee meeting; Mr. Dressel and I were talking and a; I would like to go over the finances for the month of May and also hear some other items that we need to discuss.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay.”

Mr. Paul – “And I talked to Dave here; yes sir?”

Mr. Timmons – “Were we going to invite the head of the Belco; the Jefferson County...”

Mr. Dressel – “The workshop.”

Mr. Timmons – “Yeah the workshop because we had talked about the tax; I remember we said that for next; if we don’t have too I just thought; we had said...”

Mr. Paul – “I didn’t know; I just threw this in because we had one at 6; one at 6:30; I figured throw this in at 5; (inaudible) finance is over I mean we can discuss it and have a nice Finance Committee meeting if you want in the month of July or something.”

Mr. Timmons – “That’s fine.”

Mr. Paul – “Is that okay?”

Mr. Timmons – “Yeah I just remember we said that and I just wanted to remind you (all inaudible).”

Mr. Paul – “Yeah; yeah thanks for reminding me I forgot all about that too but I know we’re going to be kind of busy that night we’re going to discuss street paving for next year; some others items so...”

Mr. Timmons – “Yeah that’s fine we’ll do that.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay; alright remind me again please.”

Mr. Timmons – “Okay I will.”

Mr. Paul – “So I don’t forget. Okay.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I like the haircut.”

Mr. Paul – “What haircut?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I like it.”

Mr. Paul – “What haircut? Okay and Mayor I’m done for tonight.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay thank you Mr. Paul.”

Mr. Paul – “Thank you Mayor.”

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

Mr. DiLoreto – No Report

Mr. Dressel – “Yes. I’ve been asked to bring up something about parks that I wasn’t going to bring up in here but apparently I’m going too. We have a number of parks in the city little ones, big ones, and one that we closed a couple years ago called Piece of Pie and (inaudible) that doesn’t get discussed or hasn’t been of course is that having these parks open also prohibits certain activities from occurring near or around them. One is registered sex offenders living within a 1,000 feet of them; parks, schools, or any or registered day care center for example if we close parks then we’re opening up whole neighborhoods to that happening; as a landlord I actually know that’s what happens; okay so on top of everything else I’d actually like to have Piece of Pie park opened back up; will be really annoying. So that’s something that we really need to consider; I wanted it brought up with the Parks and Rec Board and have them all decide that and talk about it; apparently it didn’t happen; is it going to happen? I don’t know but it needs to happen now. Because if you just close parks (all inaudible) because you can’t mow them you also then can put a bar in the park or a marijuana dispensary whatever other annoying thing that people don’t want that those prohibit from coming in. So it’s not as simple as just mowing a park period. You also can’t just tear all the equipment down and call it a park and mow it and just call it a park; it has to be a place where children can congregate. That was clarified for me recently by a captain of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department because I was stuck in a quandary with the person trying to rent (inaudible) apartment in (inaudible) can’t be discriminatory; got to follow the law and a; gladly enough it’s the 1,000 foot rule that at least got (all inaudible). So I really appreciate all the people that are out there helping to mow these parks and keep them maintained; that may cause some issues for some of our employees (inaudible) mow them; we get paid more but we just don’t have enough people to do it all so we have to figure out a way to keep these parks open and protect our City or; but my point of view is that we should keep them open for that very reason; I just don’t know what else to say about it but the fact that I had to stand up here and say that; I find to be sort of irritating only because I asked somebody else to make sure that we didn’t get to this point and still got here so; that’s just a legal issue; it shouldn’t have to come here but the parks need to stay open as they are and we need to figure out a way to make that happen because a lot of reasons to have them besides just a place to play and a (all inaudible) in my opinion so just (all inaudible). Thanks.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay so we had the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting; board meeting last week and that was the primary topic. The odd thing was that really until the very end of the meeting there was; I don’t think there was anyone younger than 50 there maybe even younger than 60. So it’s difficult to see much interesting expressed by the people who live around them; a couple of people definitely said they wanted to step forward but there’s; there’s just a number of issues that have to be wrangled with; not the least of which is the issues you raised. So at this point the board itself said they would delay the vote then until next month and it’s up to people who want to volunteer to step forward and I just have to see how it can be managed; (inaudible) can be managed.”

Mayor Barilla – “Wait wait.”

Mr. Timmons – “I just want to ask a question.”

Unknown – (All inaudible)

Mrs. Hahn – “Sure.”

Mr. Timmons – “What was it? Is a vote to close them or is the vote to... what’s the vote?”

Mrs. Hahn – “That is what they were...”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Discussing.”

Mrs. Hahn – “That’s what they were discussing and intending too. They did do a preliminary vote and two said they would not vote to close down and three wanted to wait a month and see if more interest was actually expressed than what was expressed at that meeting. Mr. Villamagna and I were the two council people there. So there is another meeting coming up but if people wait until the last minute it’s not going to be very helpful to us because we had to sort through all the issues so aside from that I just wanted to say; maybe it should be under miscellaneous; but I really appreciate everything people did to make this last weekend and actually the full week with the Greek Festival, the Dean Martin Festival, (all inaudible) it was just such a joy to enjoy our City with so many people and so I thank you; all of you (inaudible).”

Mr. Villamagna – “Kimberly? Also at the meeting there’s more than just closing the parks. It was; they explained it; it’s not just swing sets that I played on when I was a kid it’s \$25,000 for swing sets; I don’t remember so I don’t want to say the price for the mulch but it was astronomical; it has to be 12 inches deep and it has to be a special kind of mulch so there’s more to it than just closing the park this is not something that anybody is going to take lightly because everybody in this room I assume likes children so we want to do it right. But I did some looking when I left there in 1976 they had 12 full-time recreation people and 2 or 3 part-time I couldn’t tell because it was crossed out with a pencil so I’m not sure if it was 2 or 3. M & R had 42 full-

time employees in 1976; 2018 we have 3 full-time employees one of them is not allowed to do any work because she's a department head and we have 2 full-time employees and 3 part-time employees and M & R has 18 full-time employees and as in 76 the 18 employees are not all dedicated to taking care of the streets (all inaudible) there's other work that needs to be done besides just mowing grass so; and you brought up an interesting point with what I brought up at the meeting was; I'm 64 years old and I was probably the youngest guy that was there and a couple of them; god bless them; Mr. Biacco I know he's got to be at least 80; in his 80s; he has to be at least in his 80s and he's eager to take it but; and also the equipment that we have is in disrepair and it has to be replaced so; I was saving that for later but since it was brought up I was to address (inaudible) you know I figured; I just wanted to let people know that this is not; and the kids it's a different era; I lived in the playground; I lived in the pool; these kids are walking around with cell phones in their hands and iPads and playing games and we didn't even have a car so I walked to the park and stuff like that; (inaudible) everybody has 2 cars; you can get to LaBelle; they can get to LaBelle and they can get to Jim Woods field I think our primary focus has to be to make these two parks pristine parks that the City can be proud of in every way, shape, or form and just to be a realist; it cannot be done with 2 park employees."

Mr. DiLoreto – "I was going; I was going to chime."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. DiLoreto"

Mr. DiLoreto – "I was going to chime in later on in the meeting so I also did some homework along with Mr. Villamagna. I went back to the year 2006; we had 9 employees; the gold course; that was including the golf course which had 2 employees; now the year 2018 there's no golf course; we have 3 employees including the recreation director. Talking about ballfields we miss a lot of ballfields we have in this town; at the legion ballfields which is maintained by Steubenville Big Red and Steubenville Central at no cost to the City; Central has their own softball team; I already mentioned the tot lots and Martin Luther King; Beatty Park since I've been on Council at practically no cost at all to the City maintained by all volunteers from the South End and Franciscan University who are no or not even residents of this particular town; the only cost the City has incurred is Mr. Mavromatis build a fence around the creek; he put a basketball court in for me and he installed a fence around; I already said the fence; I have people buying mulch, people cutting grass, people pulling weeds; you go over to Weirton you got one ballfield; one ballfield and they're larger than we are. Richmond; I've taught at Richmond for 17 years; (inaudible) teacher and principle; never did one thing to the ballfields except pay for the material; have the grass cut, the fields were lined, the restrooms were cleaned; painted; all I did was go out there and enjoy myself; I want something done I told the parents to do it or the kids. Pleasant Heights should be (inaudible) all those kids running around on the hilltop up there shooting; somebody some leader in this town should take those kids; get them in a van and every Monday take them up there and line the fields, cut the grass, cut the weeds, clean out the restrooms, and do something positive; something like Cole Mullens use to do in his day (inaudible) he got these young kids; get them off the streets; the ballfield could be like PNC park and as far as (all inaudible) mentioned in conclusion I'll make it short; we have less population 36,000; 18,000; less teams participating; (all inaudible) teams not too many teams play now at anything; pony league, little league, when I was a little kid and (inaudible) little league they had a parade for them from the north end to the south end you couldn't get a seat on the streets. We have less help to do whatever we had before and we also have less revenue coming in and we've already added the Martin Luther King facility which is a big asset to the City and we go to Weirton; cost you \$5.00 to get in no matter what you are; if you're poor, rich, the only way you get in free is if you fill out a form. Figures; M & R had 25 employees in the year 2006 and now there's 15 now; some are workers; also some of the ballfields; Harding stadium is used for soccer and band practice; they used to use our ballfields; and it's helped by the Steubenville Big Red Boosters so I think now you're going to have to (inaudible) and like everyone says it's not like it used to be and we're going to need help and if they don't want to help and then; there are a lot of people in this town but this young generation just doesn't want to do anything. Thank you."

Mrs. Hahn – "Thank you; all of you."

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. There's already been quite a bit of discussion on the parks and this has been brought out (all inaudible) who will lead the presentation tonight in Public Forum and these are issues that need to be discussed and a decision made. Several of the Councilmen have (all inaudible) points; I've talked like I said before with the City Manager over in Weirton; larger city than us; more population more land; plays back to they had one central park area here and these are things that we need to focus on; again we're in difficult times here; it's not that we have the revenue stream coming in like we had before; we don't and a decision has to be made here. I'm fully supportive of any neighborhoods that want to adopt a park with the guidance of the City of what is needed there; that's a smart thing to do but the bottom line is it's staying and the residents adopting that park and taking the interest in it. Mr. Dressel the point that you brought up on the sex offenders and the drug dealing; they're legitimate points but (inaudible) deciding factor there just because there's a park there. I will tell you that there's been times that it's been orchestrated on drug deals to occur in the park so the enhanced punishment can go there and again a lot of times it's been thrown out of court because like you said the deal up there. The sex offenders have to register a sex offenders they're going to be anywhere (inaudible) but I do understand your concerns; it's legitimate concern but I can tell you that's one of the reasons

why Piece of Pie park was closed because these kids were going down there smoking marijuana, doing drug deals there; now it's a closed park; they're not there anymore; (inaudible) there; they can be arrested there again there's ways to deal with those things so all of this has to be looked at but a decision has to be made; this has been going on for over a year and a half here and again I don't want to be the bearer of bad news but if we have an issue with this City it's our water issue right now and that's what I've been focus on for the last several months here and I'm hoping within the next 2 weeks that the proper information can be given to Council; you can see what decisions that we have to make here. We're not going to please everybody that's the bottom line but I have a bigger concern here that the citizens; which I'm one myself that we don't go through these water issues again and this is something and this has nothing to do with this Council that's sitting here; this is a can that's been kicked down the road for many years as I said last week I think Ohio EPA truly understands the dire situation we're in financially; I think that Dave will be satisfied as the paperwork is going to lay here for Council to look at to go back to our last rate assessment with RCAP; update it with current financial information so Council can make a proper decision what we do. We have 2 accounts that are in debt right now; we have a 3rd one that is heading down that way; we've got to get these accounts solved and the only way we're going to do that is with rate increases and again it's a simple math when you sit and look here; Mr. Villamagna brought up some very strong statistical information of the past; I wish we had that manpower and we don't so we have to deal with what we're dealing with right now; we've basically got 2 people assigned for all these parks here; humanly it's impossible to do that and I cannot bring our streets people over there because then your potholes, their grass cutting issues are unattended to it and we still don't have enough people in those categories there so all of these are factors that we have to look in here. I will tell you this we have partnerships with Franciscan University they've been excellent partners; I've already experienced issues with the tennis courts and they've been right here with us; right hand and hand and we addressed the issues that we had to deal with so again this is something that I'm always looking for of a partnership. For me the ideal partnership for Belleview would be marrying up with Franciscan University for a variety of reasons so that's one of our large; and that should be our flagship park without question there. Now with that being said let's talk about what we have here for citizens here. This is going into the third year the child's part there at Belleview in the lower level; the third year that the lattices have been busted there by individuals and again it's going to have to be replaced again; we do have cameras there but it's very difficult to identify the people that are there but this is what we have every; everybody needs to take part of this to be watch dogs and call the Police. I've seen other communities that had these problems but when they get involved being the eyes and ears for the Police and Council and us; to let us know when there's disruptions going on and we can respond to it like we should so again these are what we; these are what we're facing right now and the best thing that I can do is get the information to Council; the factual information so the proper decision can be made and then we make it and we move on; that's the bottom line. But as much as certain individuals like to talk about this town; this is the largest city in this county; it's the third largest city up and down this Ohio Valley; there's a lot to be thankful for and you just experienced it this past week what went on again; the Dean Martin week; all of this the Greek Festival; the people that came in for this; they clearly had functional things to go to; the First Fridays of the month; we've experience two of those already; the second one was much better because the weather was more conducive. So these are all positive things but again we got to look at our financial structure; we've got to make some tough decisions here and move on. We cannot manage all of these it's humanly impossible and they are correct; in some of the neighborhoods and I just went by today because of the complaint from an elderly lady there; it was a legitimate complaint; but I went up to see the park myself; the Parkdale tot lot; Parkdale (inaudible); one of the neighbors cut a lot of the grass there they just couldn't get up the hill part and it's probably about maybe 2 feet high; their concerns is are there snakes in there? Are there rats in there? And that's understandable so again we only have 2 people that are taking care of our ballfields that they're playing ball on; so these are all of the issues that we face here in this City but people want to live in the past; that past is gone. Mr. Villamagna couldn't of quoted it any better; I walked to Belleview Park from where I grew up; I stayed there all day then I came home or I walked to this park; today these kids got all kind of other things that they do and again that's what we have to look at; Martin Luther King that center when I first looked at this you could hardly see the gymnasium the majority of the lights are out now there's all LED lights there; we have roof issues that are going to be fixed there; we have replaced we worked on the gym; the workout center there; all these things take money; the biggest donation was \$10,000 and we ended up getting 5 pieces of equipment because of that donation from a resident that wanted to remain anonymous but they saw that there was a need there and they took the bull by the horns and said hey this is what we want to do. So you have people in this community that care and it will support that so my point of this whole conversation is we need to make a decision of what we're going to do here and we go on."

Mr. Timmons – "Jim?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes sir."

Mr. Timmons – "You said we have to make a decision but I mean the Rec Board is going to have the vote next week; I mean next month."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Next month"

Mr. Timmons – "So we really don't; whatever they say is pretty much; they are the; they have the authority."

Mr. Mavromatis – "They have a recommendation that Council can overrule it."

Mr. Timmons – "Okay."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Now again most of the times (all inaudible) Council has supported the Parks and Rec Board and that goes back to what ball fields are we going to work on with a little of funding that we had which they did this past year so again I'll have Council support it. But the bottom line is we'll see which ones they want and correct me if I'm wrong Lori; and this may have come out when you were there with Bob and Kimberly;

Devonshire and Linda Way there's a priority of people in those neighborhoods that want to adopt those parks so that's a plus there; that's almost 2; yes sir?"

Mr. Villamagna – "Jim; they said; the Park Board said 30 days to come up with a plan for volunteers because listen thank god we got volunteers I had volunteers do close to \$100,000 worth of work here but volunteers on Saturday when; and they are supposed to cut the grass and they have something to go to and that's what the problem was they; and the park board said they want a solid plan for volunteers to a; if someone wants to take it and the part that was troubling was it was all older people; that's what I found odd was it was 5 or 6 people that came to the meeting and I thought I would see young people with kids there and stuff (inaudible) meeting and it just wasn't; wasn't that way and then while I'm asking you and part; part of the problem was volunteers and Costa is probably more aware than any of us is liability also. If a City worker gets hurt he's on compensation but what happens when a volunteer gets hurt after this probably some laws maybe protect the volunteers I don't know that's a lawyer..."

Mr. Mastros – "Yeah there are and I would have to really research that again but yeah..."

Mr. Villamagna – "The point I'm going to is if we have a lawn mower; a blade breaks or a tractor somebody gets hurt badly and those are things that have to be thought out so; just a couple things that I wanted to point out because I want to see the parks but I'm also a realist and realize that we went from 38 to 17."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yeah absolutely."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Petrella."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Check on Devonshire Park I think that land is owned by a private; private citizen; the name LaRue. I don't think that's our property. I could be wrong."

Mr. Mastros – "I think you're right about that Mr. DiLoreto."

Mr. DiLoreto – "I'm right for a change. Okay thank you."

Mr. Mastros – "I believe you're right."

Mr. DiLoreto – "It's not our property. I think there's a big; I think there's a big water line in there too is there Costa? There's a big water line down there; underneath."

Mr. Mastros – "I'm sorry?"

Mr. DiLoreto – "I'm done. I'm finished."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Mavromatis; Mr. Petrella (all inaudible)."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Petrella wants to talk to you."

Mr. Petrella – "You know everybody talks about Weirton and their one ballfield. Right?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Uh huh."

Mr. Petrella – "Weirton has more than one field. They have Marland Heights which is privatized; they have Starvaggi's which is privatized; they have King's Creek which is privatized."

Mr. Mavromatis – "That's correct."

Mr. Petrella – "Okay so you know there; there are utilization of those other 3 facilities also in Weirton; I don't want to mislead anybody just thinking they have one park and everybody goes to that one park. Starvaggi Industries supports Starvaggi with the pool as well as ballfields and other items; a private group has Marland Heights; another private group has there so one avenue could be as privatize and I would like to know the utilization on Murphy's field is because every time I drive down Plum Street something; it's being utilized; it's either being utilized for little football, cheering, baseball, so on and so forth. So if it's utilized 50, 60, 70 percent I want to know the utilization of that before somebody says (inaudible) cut Murphy's we're just going to hit Belleview. That's all I have to say."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I'd like to request it's either Mr. DiLoreto..."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Yes sir?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Or Mr. Paul to go into executive session again tonight this has to deal with a personnel issue with wastewater/water, police department, and fire department. Yes sir?"

Mr. Villamagna – "(All inaudible) to say; Murphy's field is not on the list to be closed."

Mr. Petrella – "I understand that but..."

Mr. Villamagna – "Murphy's field and the Martin Luther King Center I didn't bring them up when I said (inaudible)."

Mr. Petrella – "I understand they're not on the hit list. What I'm saying is there's a lot of utilization in result of what we should be looking at; there's some benefactors that one takes on as oath; just like Starvaggi, Marland Heights, and King's Creek."

Mr. Mavromatis – "That; that's an option to do that (inaudible)."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Vaccaro Field."

Mr. Petrella – "(Inaudible) what we should be looking at..."

Mr. DiLoreto – "at Vaccaro Field."

Mr. Villamagna – "That's what they're trying; they're trying to do that as we speak; now they're trying to see if they could do it I don't know if they could pull it off or not but they are trying."

Mr. Mavromatis – "So I mean that is an option for a private company; I would probably figure what they would like to do is have the field named after their company; change the name of it but it's their responsibility to maintain it and that's why they have those additional fields in Weirton. The point that I made up that's the only one the city is responsible for so it makes a world of difference when they have one ballfield; that's all they have to worry about; that was my only point with that but you are absolutely correct on the other one and there are private entities that take care of them so. Yes?"

Mrs. Hahn – “I just wondered at the next Park and Rec meeting is going to be in July on the; on Wednesday the 13th and so maybe we should schedule a committee meeting with Parks and Recreation for Council the next Tuesday.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Next Tuesday (all inaudible).”

Mrs. Hahn – “So that will be July 19th. So why don’t we plan on a 6:30 meeting for Parks and Recreation Committee.”

Mr. Petrella – “Did you say July 13th?”

Mrs. Hahn – “July 13th (inaudible)...”

Mr. Paul – “The 13th is a Friday.”

Mrs. Hahn – “board...”

Mr. Paul – “July 13th is a Friday (all inaudible)”

Mrs. Hahn – “I apologize I’m looking at June you’re right. I apologize.”

Mr. Villamagna – “16th (inaudible)”

Mrs. Hahn – “So that will be what? The 11th? Is Parks and Recreation so July 17th will be the proposed committee; thank you; sorry (inaudible).”

Mr. Paul – “That’s okay.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Thank you.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “On the; for the executive session (inaudible) following the youth services.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Yeah.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I make a motion that we go into executive session after the meeting.”

Mr. Mastros – “Mr. Paul can do that.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Second.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes your Honor or Mayor; sorry. I didn’t want to interrupt Costa here. Mr. Mavromatis has brought something up and I would like; I make a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel in the wastewater department, the police and fire department as well.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Second.”

Mr. Paul – “Thank you.”

Mayor Barilla – “Is there a second to that?”

Mrs. Haley – “Mr. DiLoreto.”

Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Mavromatis – “You’re Honor?”

Mayor Barilla – “Yes?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s all I have and I have two of my department heads here.”

Mayor Barilla – “That would like to say something?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes.”

Mayor Barilla – “Let me; let me address Mr. Costa Mastros first if I may.”

Mr. Mastros – “Thank you your Honor. I have nothing tonight.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay. Alright. Lori?”

Lori Fetherolf – “It’s just how I always have to update you on the pool. So our swim lessons are going very well right now I have 8 in my classes right now; we got more signed up for the future so I look at that to grow it’s going very well. Nobody up testing not yet; Mr. Paul; on the water aerobics classes yet (inaudible) but once we get in. I wanted to say yesterday we had 64 kids there yesterday; today nobody’s out counting it was somewhere around 50 so when the hotter it is the more kids we have up there and we’ll say knock on wood no problems yet; (all inaudible) seems to be going well; we had had compliments on how (inaudible) the water is and how nice it does look out there so; the end of the season; I’m counting down how many weeks are left because it’s a small summer but you know it’s going well (inaudible) so I’m looking to increase (all inaudible) as we head into more hotter weather. One other thing we had a boy scout or eagle scout project; he built 6 benches; he did the dedication tonight; 6 (inaudible) benches they’re up on the clubhouse floor; the second floor which is really nice because people that rent that gives them somewhere to sit outside but you know we can’t do this by ourselves (all inaudible) and that’s wonderful that (all inaudible) have been contacted by Lowe’s today; wanting to do another project. What do we want to do? So actually I want to renovate the kitchen is what I want to do in our backroom so yeah that’s; it’s always everybody pitching in so it’s good and I do; you are correct so far Devonshire and Linda Way; I’m working out the details (all inaudible) but some of our two parks have been adopted by a couple people so that’s 2 out of 4. Thanks.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Lori?”

Lori Fetherolf – “Yes?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “When are those benches coming in from the county? For Beatty Park?”

Lori Fetherolf – “They’re on back order right now.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Okay.”

Lori Fetherolf – “They’re coming in; they’ll be in soon.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Don’t shift them.”

Lori Fetherolf – “Yep they’ll be in the ground so nobody can take them.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Good. Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “(All inaudible)”

Lori Fetherolf – “Yes.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Also talking about volunteers; you were here when all the stuff was going on with the pool and if it wasn’t for volunteers that; up there; the pool probably wouldn’t of been open at all if it wasn’t for volunteers who came forward and helped out (inaudible) problems (all inaudible).”

Lori Fetherolf – “Yeah; correct I missed some of it when we were going to close the pool.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah.”

Lori Fetherolf – “But last year; Mrs. Hahn what would you say 80? About 80 volunteers out there that helped clean up stuff. Franciscan we got another set up for next week; they come out once a month and do some stuff so at Belleview; got a lot of trimming to do; landscaping trimming is what we’re going to do next week so yeah we can’t do it by ourselves so a lot of volunteers.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Lori. Mr. Murphy? Are you speaking this evening?”

Chuck Murphy – “No.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “We had enough of him.”

Mayor Barilla – “(All inaudible) Mr. Mavromatis?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you.”

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor. Two things I want to bring up again since; since Mr. Murphy is here tonight; you received a letter also from Mr. Kenny from that church on Lovers Lane.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes I was out there today; I took a photo of it; I just talked to Chuck to see when they were out there; couple years at question but clearly the main one without; we own that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “And there was clearly construction work done.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah and it’s causing a real problem with services for people getting in and out of the parking lot. And that curb on Efts Lane; we broke that curb out in January; where the water is going over into Aberdeen; can we please get Mr. Baird to go there? This guy’s house is getting annotated with water I mean and it’s not coming in yet but it’s just a matter; now they opened the drain and that helped a lot; that alleviated a lot of it but it didn’t alleviate all of it if we; we got to get that curb fixed this poor guy; I mean it’s just a matter of time before water is going to find its way into that house and it hasn’t yet and he got small children there but I think from January until the plan opened April 15th; April, May, June; it’s probably time to put a 2 foot curb down. Will you please? And; what I’m talking about under miscellaneous I already addressed (inaudible).”

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – “Okay that; that includes our reports of miscellaneous. We’ll now move into public forum. We have 2 signing in this evening and we’ll start off with Mr. Mark Giannini so if you’ll please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mark Giannini – “Ladies and gentlemen good evening I’m Mark Giannini resident of Steubenville and I’m also a State certified residential real estate appraiser; I’ve been doing this for over 15 years and I would like to talk to you about (all inaudible) and the future of our City. All of you have in front of you this handout that I put together; I don’t want to read through the whole thing but I just want to quickly (all inaudible). I; you know study after study what research how provided and my own experience has shown me that homes located near residential; smaller residential parks increase home values. So it would be; a reason to conclude that if those parks were shuttered that there would be a decrease in home value. Now a decrease in home values translates to lower assets values for homes and less revenue for the City. So you have to ask yourself how much does it really cost to find the manpower and a couple cans of gasoline a month to run a couple of lawn mowers around a few of these lots. I’m amazed that we’re spending so much time on such a (inaudible) issue; it shocks me that we can’t come up with a City of a revenue of 11 million dollars; we’re talking about nickels and dimes for this I’m surprised; I’m truly surprised. The; I attended the Parks and Recreation meeting last week and it was enlightening to hear that our current playground equipment is grandfathered in in a way that would; that if that park would shutter and then we try to reestablish it at a later time when economic times were better that it would fall under a new category and it would have to be brought up to a much higher (inaudible) which would pretty much eliminate the need for (all inaudible) for this equipment to be brought in. Now last night I went around and I took pictures of every one of the parks that are in discussion and the equipment in each one of these parks is very valuable it looks like you have a lot of economic life left to me; some of its in need of some scraping around the edges, some paint, there are a lot of wear marks on it where children hang on the handles and swing around; for the most part it’s got a lot of economic life left to it. So one of the parks that Councilwoman Hahn brought up at the Parks and Recreation meeting was related to the installation of commercial grade playground mulch which she said came to over \$20,000 for installation; of proper installation of mulch. Now if we eliminate equipment and then at some time in the future 5 years, 10 years down the road you want to reestablish that playground that’s the sort of expense the that City is going to have to incur to reestablish a playground. I’d like Council to; to; run the City as if it’s a business with customers and the customers are the residents of the City and they’re the prospective home owners of the City. Now you know we can’t do things; we can’t do anything about people who packed up wanting to

move to California; or even Columbus or Pittsburgh; but I can tell you I've appraised hundreds and hundreds of homes in the Ohio Valley and at the end of this presentation you'll see a map with some of the locations where I've been; I feel like Johnny Cash I've been everywhere. There are a lot of people who used to live in Steubenville who now reside in Wintersville, Richmond, Weirton, Wintersville; what are we going to do to stem that outflow? Not to cross the country but down the road. I hope that; I hope that a plan will be established; I don't have all the answers; you know I do know that; from my reading of the newspaper and listening to television this is the first time I'm hearing about this in the last year; but I've been back for about 5 years now and I've got a lot of time away running my business perhaps I missed the other meeting but you know it's going to take time to raise public awareness and you can't use attendance at a park meeting or City Council Meeting by young; home owners in their 20s and 30s to be engaged as to their support for keeping these parks open; you know if you've got more children at home it's hard enough to find a baby sitter to get away for a couple hours depending on the town; who wants to come to a Council meeting? I've talked; I've spoke with people up and down the roads at a few of these parks it seems like there's; there's (inaudible) support for keeping them open. In this brochure you'll see I've got a couple of recommendations for a solution to raise public awareness. First of all let's get out some real signs making people aware that the park is in (all inaudible) closure and then let's see what sort of organic growth can be generated from that. We can also work with some youth groups, (inaudible) organization, civic groups, to try to take over some of the manpower for maintaining them; the parks and again you know I know that we've got a website somewhere for Parks and Recreation a lot of people don't know where that is; I think that if you can take advantage of some of the free advertising that you have on the back of the utility bill; putting out a little statement saying save our parks; learn how; go to this website; might generate some more interest that way. But it's like; you know 30 days is not going to be enough time to really do anything to solicit; significant support for; for what; you know; what Council is trying to do."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Giannini you've got one minute."

Mark Giannini – "All right folks. I hope; again in closing I just hope that you look at this as a business. I know times are tight but the incremental amount of money to keep these parks open is small. I haven't even touched on the possibility of people who are performing community service and how that might tie in to lessening the load on; on; on our city employees as well. Thank you for your time."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you; thank you Mr. Giannini."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mayor?"

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Villamagna"

Mr. Villamagna – "Mr. Giannini after hearing your comments; just a couple comments to you. We've been talking about this for 4 years; we've previously; myself and Mr. Paul we were on the recreation committee (all inaudible). This has been talked about several times and I think that every councilman that's in here has received; all of our complaints are on Belleview, Jim Woods, and Murphy's field because they're the ones that are mostly used for the sports the other ones are more for neighborhoods and; I travel every day; I check them parks every day just to see what's going on and I see some use at North end field; I see some; I called it north end field it's not a park; north end field and there's some use down there and Parkdale I see a couple kids once in a while but nobody; nobody has come forward in; to me yet and said Mr. Villamagna you've got to keep these tot lots open and I've got at least a hundred and I'm probably light; we get complaints about (all inaudible); that's where all; most of the kids are playing at and the community service; you can thank community service for what happened at; I think it was Devonshire and; they just took care of 2 parks the; flats; they took care of flats and they took care of Devonshire but that was from juvenile detention and he brought them up there but he made it clear that he; he can't do that all the time because he has other (inaudible) that he has to take care of so. We did it and the community service program that we do have for what Judge Mascio has done is a really good program he helped a lot of people; our lots that we can't; that we can't cut because we got several where we report houses now so they're doing a good bit and another problem with community service; I sat in here and I listened to it; he said do you want to go to community service or do you want to go to jail? The guy actually said jail. I went really? He wants to go to jail? You can't force them; in the 70s you could force them and say you're going to go up there and cut it without (all inaudible). But we don't take it lightly and this Council I think is trying to run it like a business; you know hopefully we can stay afloat that's; that's what our goal is; there just; we got a lot of things going against us I mean we really do there's a lot of problems that have to be addressed so we're not taking it lightly and that I wanted to assure you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Mr. Villamagna. I'm going to recognize our City Manager Mr. Mavromatis at this moment."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I saw this folder that was put here; I assume it was prepared by Mr. Petrossi. We had a phone call with the U-Haul representative at U-Haul International; the bid started yesterday; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and this is the bid on the Macy's building out at the mall and the starting bid was \$150,000 and what U-Haul has been doing with a lot of the malls that bought a lot of the Macy buildings and other buildings added; Penny's, Sears, and what they've done is two things; one; made them into a storage as well as a retail outlet for boxes, tapes, anything you needed to move you could come in there. So what they wanted to know is would the City be open minded to that? Which I assured him we would but we have zoning issues that we need to look at and our Council would have to be briefed on this so again until we know if they end up buying this Macy's but I made a phone call today to the Pittsburgh area where one was taken over; main concern has it caused any problems there and according to the manager of the mall it has not. Now they would park vehicles out in the back area there which was the rear entrance but they would have a retail side there that people would come in there and it would most likely block the entrance off that's on the inside of the mall but in some of the other areas it brought other businesses in there; where they bought a whole complex that brought other businesses besides U-Haul

international. So again take a look at this; this packet that has been given to you so you can get an idea of what some of the projects they've been doing and then we'll see what happens; this may be a (inaudible) point if they don't get the building here; Will be; to close the bidding is on Wednesday so we'll see where that goes."

Mr. Villamagna – "What was the bid Jim?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "It started at \$150,000."

Mr. Timmons – "I just checked..."

Mr. Villamagna – "Is there a minimum?"

Mr. Timmons – "I just checked the bid."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Okay?"

Mr. Timmons – "There's 18 hours left the bid right now is \$350,000."

Mr. Villamagna – "Is there a minimum?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "\$150..."

Mr. Timmons – "(inaudible) thousand increments."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yeah."

Mr. Timmons – "So 350 has been bid."

Mr. Villamagna – "350 can actually take that building?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes."

Mr. Timmons – "Yeah that's where it's at."

Mr. Mavromatis – "It supposedly started at 150; so alright thank you."

Mr. Villamagna – "Eric does it say who's bidding against who?"

Mr. Timmons – "Doesn't say names."

Mr. Petrella – "Mayor over here."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Petrella."

Mr. Petrella – "Is there a reserve on it Jim? Is there a reserve on the building?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Meaning?"

Mr. Dressel – "Is there a minimum?"

Mr. Petrella – "Is there a minimum?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "\$150,000 is what it started at."

Mr. Petrella – "No no."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Alright."

Mr. Petrella – "I mean minimum."

Mr. Dressel – "That is the minimum I think that's the..."

Mr. Petrella – "So that's the minimum?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes"

Mr. Dressel – "It'll sell for sure."

Mr. Petrella – "Thank you your Honor."

Mayor Barilla – "Next signing in for public forum is Mike Florak. Mike if you would please come forward state your name and address."

Mike Florak – "Thank you your Honor. My name is Mike Florak; 1235 University Blvd. I just want to give everyone on Council a heads up and your honor and the; Mr. Mavromatis that as Franciscan forges into the future with our signing strategic plan; part of that is a survey for civic leaders that we would like to hear your voice on how we can (inaudible); help out on where we live and not only that there will be you know many many other people involved and of course my area is the City in the surrounding area so within the next week I hope; we'll be sending you a survey that's 15 questions long it's all multiple choice; we definitely want to hear your input on it and it will obviously remain confidential so I just wanted to let you know that that will come later on via e-mail and thanks so much for all your cooperation and everything that you're doing for us."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mike that will go out to all Council?"

Mike Florak – "Yes."

Unknown – "Thank you."

Unknown – "Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you; thank you Mr. Florak"

Council Chambers were cleared for Executive Session.

Council Chambers were reopened for adjournment.

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

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR