

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
October 2, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Roll Call.

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

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Water and Wastewater Supervisor Chuck Murphy, Paul Giannamore from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for September 25, 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. 2018-65 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER OVER \$3,000.00 PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.41.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2018-65. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2018-65 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2018-65 duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on November 1, 2018.

NO. 2018-70 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 2nd Reading

Messrs. Dressel, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE 2019 CITY STREET HOT-MIX RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS, CITY PROJECT NO. 2019-100, SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND REBIDDING THAT MAY BE REQUIRED, AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO SAID CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND MOST QUALIFIED BIDDER, AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREFORE AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor. Mayor this evening I under planning and also economic development invited Mr. Bruzzese down here to do a little (inaudible). I want to sunshine an ordinance but before I do that I’d like to have Mr. Bruzzese give a little background on that ordinance.”

Frank Bruzzese – “With your permission Mayor.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay.”

Frank Bruzzese – “(Inaudible) Mayor, the City Manager, Council people my name is Frank Bruzzese I’m here on behalf of the Louis-Berkman Company. On behalf of the Louis-Berkman Company on August 13 of this year I filed a petition asking the Council to vacate alleys that were platted on; the original plat of the City of Steubenville that alley that had been abandoned and not used since the 1940s. The Louis-Berkman; well Louis-Berkman is a name that familiar to all of us that grew up in Steubenville they know that Mr. Berkman started as a small boy working in the scrap yard on North 7th Street where this property is located and over the years developed; founded more than 30 industries including the Industrial Supply that became the heart of his enterprises the WSTV-AM radio; the WRKY radio; more than 30 television stations and over those years with his success he became a man that had lunch with various Presidents of the United States but he never forgot that his home was Steubenville and he always maintained this property that I’m here to talk about on North 7th Street as his headquarters until he died at the age of 104. After his death the Berkman Company started to invest itself on properties that they own here in Jefferson County and this is the last of them to be transferred. The Berkman Company entered into a contract to transfer this property to the Ed Littejohn family and as you know the Littlejohn family is one of our 21st century entrepreneurs that help contribute to the economic development of

this City and this (inaudible). This property you may be familiar with is along North 7th Street; it is all enclosed in a chain linked fence and has been so since 1945 when the Louis-Berkman Company was founded. It so happens that if you look at the original plat of the City of Steubenville there is a platted alley shown here on this map in green running through the middle of the property but since the 1940s buildings have been built on top of those platted alleys and the rest of it has been paved into a parking lot. There are no as I saw in the petition there are no abutting property owners who object because in fact there is no abutting property other than the Berkman property which abuts and surrounds these platted alleys on both sides. We believe from our research of this project that these alleys were in fact vacated in the late 1940s and early 1950s however when you search the courthouse records you don't find on record in the recorder's office the ordinances. We also know that under Ohio Law the alleys are vacated by operation of law in that they've been abandoned and not used ever since 1945 and they've been surrounded by the chain linked fence that encloses the complex. So I'm asking Council to pass an ordinance to vacate the alleys so that we can document that fact by recording the ordinance in the recorder's office and if you could see your way clear to do it; do it as an emergency ordinance so that we can close this transaction and turn it over to the next entrepreneurs that's going to make use to develop this property. I have here with me Mr. Ed Littlejohn who's heading up the project for the buyer and he might say a little word about his plans to develop the property and then if there's any questions we'll answer them but for now that's all I have. Thank you."

Ed Littlejohn – "I just want to say hello to everybody respectfully I just get excited when I just look at the opportunity we have in Steubenville, Ohio. I think sometimes (inaudible) kind of overlooked it but we got charts going up and down the road; oil and gas, sand, all different kinds of trucks. I want to try to figure out a way to get them to stop here; store some stuff here; develop some type of small industries I think we are in great position for opportunity but like I said I get excited about Steubenville. I got friends telling me why would you spend your money in Steubenville? They suggest that I go somewhere else but I'm committed to Steubenville because I love Steubenville and that's why I'm just asking you if you're willing to give us a chance to develop this piece of property. I mean Berkman's have been very patient organization because they just been; basically said go ahead and do whatever you want to do; you know to work with us; they've been real lenient but really we got to get it done seriously I mean it's real challenging because we want industrial; we want to stimulate the industry around here. We want to stimulate; you got; we got to see it first; I see vision I see opportunity but we got; if we're going to jump in and just make a decision and I'm willing to go in my pockets and spend money. So I hope that you guys see it makes sense. That's all. Yes sir?"

Mr. DiLoreto – "What plans do you have?"

Ed Littlejohn – "Yeah. (All inaudible) I'm looking at this industry and this manufacture and commercial storage. It just seems like it was (inaudible) for that; industrial; you know because we're talking about (all inaudible because Mr. DiLoreto started talking) right. I'm just checking; you know I like to put people to work my wife; you got to go can we put some people to work. I'd figured once we started putting people to work everything will get better. I mean people want to pay more taxes; there's opportunities. So what I'm saying is I don't have a lot of money I'll just tell you like that but the thing is I'm willing to put it in; I'm willing to put my blood in; I'm willing to put my sweat in; I'm willing to put my cash in so I'm just asking for the opportunity."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "What's the acreage on that? Do you have an idea on the acreage?"

Ed Littlejohn – "(All inaudible). I think it's; I think it's almost 3 acres roughly. I think I don't know for sure."

Frank Bruzzese – "If you want an exact it's about 3 but if you want to be exact. Because it's a bunch of different tracks so one is .69 so that's like three quarters of an acre; then there's another acre and a tenth so; we're getting to; two and then next track is another acre .14 so you're up to three and then another tenth or so; another tenth after that; so it's shy of 4 acres."

Mayor Barilla – "Is there another way; access to that other than 7th Street?"

Frank Bruzzese – "No. On this map; this is 7th Street here."

Mayor Barilla – "Yes."

Frank Bruzzese – "On the other side of our property is the railroad tracks."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay."

Frank Bruzzese – "So you're familiar with that and everything is chain linked fenced in here. So when you are coming from what; I'm old so I'll call it treasure island where the AutoZone is from Washington Street; you get to that intersection where they already have property reaches the fish store; the Littlejohn family already has both sides and you're in that next block you start the path; on your right side you pass these industrial buildings; they're all chain linked fenced in; then this big green area it's all chain linked fenced in so it's railroad, 7th Street, until you get to the next block. No access in here where the alleys are platted."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mr. Bruzzese all the utilities have been checked and there's nothing there."

Frank Bruzzese – "I believe Mr. Petrossi would confirm that. You were going to have the utilities checked and there's no interference with utilities as I think."

Chris Petrossi – "Yes we did contact all the utility companies with (inaudible) utilities of the City. There are no; no utilities that will be affected by the vacation."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you."

Ed Littlejohn – "Thank you."

Mr. Villamagna – "Thank you. Thanks. I'd like to sunshine and ordinance vacating unnamed alleys between North 7th Street and the railroad tracks located within the property known as 324 North 7th Street in DJ Sinclair's second addition and I would like to do it as an emergency to effect the economic development. So they can get started with the project as soon as possible."

Mr. DiLoreto – “Utility meeting next Tuesday; 6:30. Don’t forget.”

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes. Okay so Lori’s here and maybe you want to say something about the Halloween Party but if anybody coming to Council I think it’s next week and maybe one more week; if you want to just bring a bag of candy with you they are collecting candy to have the volunteers give to children at the Halloween Party and if you want to volunteer at the Halloween Party it’s going to be Saturday the 20th from 12-2; 12-2. Also the broken down wall at the pool is now under contract and so someone is going to be replacing that and we’re going to get that down this fall so that we’ll have that all cleaned up and no more caution tape at the pool when it gets time to swim so those are great accomplishments. Is there anything you want to add?”

Mr. Paul – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. I’d like to take the time to introduce our newest employee that will be starting tomorrow Mr. James Jenkins. If you could please stand up sir. He’s coming to us to be our Superintendent of water and this will hopefully take a load off of Chuck’s shoulders and he knows he has a challenge here but he has a good work history behind him and I look forward to working with him. Jim thank you for coming tonight.”

James Jenkins – “Thank you for having me. I look forward to working with all of you.”

Few unknown – “(All inaudible)”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s all I had.”

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “Moving onto miscellaneous reports. Signing in under miscellaneous is Mr. Villamagna.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah. Jim just a quick question. This bulk collection schedule.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Who came up with the idea for the ward instead of the way we use to do it?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mr. Baird did.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay. Council was not involved with that at all correct?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That is correct.”

Mr. Villamagna – “There’s a rumor going around that Council took over the bulk pickup and we demanded that that fact; be the way it is and that had nothing to do with us. No Council member had anything (inaudible).”

Mr. Mavromatis – “This is the first I’ve heard of this. This; you got notified like I did.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay.”

Mrs. Hahn – “It’s very confusing.”

Mr. Dressel – “It’s very confusing.”

Mrs. Hahn – “To people it’s very confusing.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah it is. I just wanted to double check it.”

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – “We’ll now move onto Public Forum and signing in this evening of course we had Mr. Bruzzese. Do you have anything else to add Mr. Bruzzese?”

Frank Bruzzese – “Not unless there are questions from the Mayor, the City Manager, or Council.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay thank you. Also signing in under Public Forum is Mr. Alvin Leonard. Mr. Leonard are you present? Please come forward and state your name and address.”

Alvin Leonard – “Name is Alvin Leonard from 1425 Arlington Ave. I have an issue with my neighbors they are totally infested with cockroaches. It’s starting to infiltrate my property. From what I’m understanding the Health Department can only order the property owner because these people are renting; which the property owner is in California; there’s no way of (inaudible) getting anything done. I’ve talked to several of you; really haven’t gotten any answers either so we need to change the books. I’m not being protected here. I don’t want to live in a house knowing that I have cockroaches. I don’t want to go to bed at night and think that they are crawling on me. Now I don’t have many in my house. I had Rose Pest Control come in and bait the house, spray, do whatever they can but as long as this house has the infestation I’m never going to have any resolution to my problem.”

Mayor Barilla – “How close is this house to your house?”

Alvin Leonard – “25 feet.”

Mayor Barilla – “25 feet.”

Mr. Dressel – “I just want to mention something since we brought it up. I have the same situation on State Street (all inaudible) property. I won’t give the address but it had a roach problem for 20 years. Everybody around them is dealing with it every day; I have rental property so it’s not next to me but it’s next to people I rent too and it’s

disgusting so it would be nice if we could figure out a way to get somebody in there to treat. It was my understanding the Health Department; now the Jefferson County Health Department could order them to treat and they use too; of course being in California they probably don't care. Maybe that's the point where we need to just like lock something up and make it uninhabitable or declare it condemned or whatever because I know exactly what you're going through. And that house that I'm talking about has 10s of thousands (inaudible)."

Alvin Leonard – "Not only roaches but they are infested with bed bugs."

Mr. Dressel – "Lovely so there you go."

Mr. Timmons – "I was there last week and Mr. Leonard takes beautiful care of his home and then right next to it; that structure it's not good. You know I did make a call to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department they can't really do anything because there's no children involved at this point so I agree with you those laws need to be changed but I think there's probably State Laws we would have to look into for anything like that. But yeah it is tough because I know how you keep your property and maintain it very good; it's ashamed so hopefully we could try to get..."

Alvin Leonard – "Thank you. Appreciate it."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay thank you Mr. Leonard."

Mr. Paul – "Could I ask (inaudible)?"

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Paul."

Mr. Paul – "Is it possible he could go to the County Commissioners? I mean since it's their Health Department now; well it's really not their Health Department it's the County's but it's; they're not; it's not under the Commissioner's jurisdiction. That's who has it. We; go ahead."

Mr. Timmons – "I think; I think the Health Department is involved correct?"

Alvin Leonard – "Yes. Yes I stopped (all inaudible because Mr. Paul started to talk.)"

Mr. Paul – "And it's because they have California residency."

Mr. Timmons – "That makes it tough."

Alvin Leonard – "Yes he's going to stop up and he's going to try and get photos of their garbage can. Its how I discovered probably because our garbage cans got mixed up and this has been since Memorial Day."

Mr. Timmons – "Right."

Alvin Leonard – "That I discovered this. He's going to try and get pictures of it. Send them order in California and that's all you can do."

Mr. Timmons – "It's frustrating because (all inaudible from someone moving in their chair) going to have their hands tied (all inaudible)."

Alvin Leonard – "I'm still going to have issues."

Mr. Timmons – "Yeah (inaudible)."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Petrella."

Mr. Petrella – "Yes. Why don't you call the director of health for the State of Ohio and I'd give the Attorney General's office a call since you're dealing with California; let his office deal with California."

Alvin Leonard – "Okay. Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Mr. Leonard. We also have signing in this evening Mr. Palombizio. So will you please step forward and state your name and address."

Ed Palombizio – "Hello my name is Ed Palombizio. I live at 113 South Bend Blvd. I got two quick things. One there's some dead bushes and trees blocking the sidewalk on Belleview Blvd. and then South Bend Blvd.; they've been there for a month. I would like to have them removed. That's like across the street from me but it's not my address. Two there is no denying the City must have a water increase and respond favorably to the concerns of State EPA requests that the City has ignored for decades. Today seven of you are faced with a difficult decision; next week the seven of you are faced with a difficult decision. You are wearing two hats each reflecting conflicting interests. One hat as a Council person with an obligation to protect the interest of the residents who rely on you and trust that you will do everything they need for their health and safety and to promote growth and a healthy future. With the other hat you are a number of the board of directors of water and sanitation authority and are charged with maintaining the financial integrity of the authority though for today and to assure that it will be there (all inaudible from coughing) tomorrow. How can you; what is the conflict between these two hats? The Steubenville resident's income is significantly lower than the average income for other communities in Ohio. But the current Steubenville (inaudible) utility bill is not and in most cases it's significantly higher; that's the current bill. Now you folks are faced with the decision is to what are you going to increase that? Again look at the income that the residents are making here; 33%; \$33,000 is the median income; 25%; 40% of the people living in this City make less than \$25,000. The median income for Ohio is \$50,000. The median income for Jefferson County including Steubenville is \$42,000; kick Steubenville out the median income there is maybe 45-46,000. The point is the people here don't have money. If you're going to start charging them increases and it (inaudible) utility bill one you do have to deal with the EPA; you're talking about having a tough letter from the EPA; you haven't talked to them in 19 years. What do you want them to do? Come and say please talk to us. They're going to put some nasty words in those letter. You have to negotiate that. You have to represent the people. The EPA you have to deal with them. They want water that's got to be clear (inaudible) there's no question about that but to just sort of assume that they are going to take control of the City; believe me they don't want to take care of a City or have to deal with a city that has the issues that we have here. I guess one thing I would say is if you're going to go I would suggest you go to EPA try to negotiate with them and look at the income and look at the significant differences that you have here that other places in Ohio don't fix. Field with that one and show the uniqueness on why we need special consideration; why we may need an extension with some of the stuff. Why we can talk about something now and if it's not working; we'll amend it later but why commit to something for 8 years now."

Negotiate from the strength don't negotiate from weakness. The other thing I want to say quickly because I know I don't want to take up too much time. There's going to be some sort of; we can deal with; the city has response to the EPA or the EPA is the expert regarding the environmental concerns and requirements but they have no expertise managing cities. The EPA with establish deadlines however those deadlines can be modified or extended under certain conditions as long as there is an agreed upon plan, the city is making measureable progress, the city is acting in good faith, but for matters beyond the control of the city undo or irreparable hardship will result to the City or its citizens or its businesses or its future. The City can request and then receive an extension or any modification. Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Mr. Palombizio. Mrs. Hahn."

Mrs. Hahn – "Jim I wanted to ask because I called you two weeks ago about the sidewalks being blocked by the limbs that a group had come and helped the woman who lives in the house by cutting all of that but then left three piles on the sidewalks. She had called and left two messages at sanitation by the time I called you and there has been no response to her and I was hoping that this was going to be followed up so can you tell me what the response is or what's going to happen?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Well again if they put it out there it's their responsibility that's the short answer. So now the other answer is would the City pick this up when they have failed to do that? See that's where this is at. But I'm going to have Mr. Baird go out there tomorrow to see exactly where it's at."

Mrs. Hahn – "Because Mr. Baird had said that if people called and had something that needed to be picked up they would schedule it. She left messages more than two weeks ago and I agree with Ed you know this is not good for our neighborhood to just have these piles there so how do we get the response from sanitation?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Well I'll have to check tomorrow to find out. I'm assuming she left a message?"

Mrs. Hahn – "Yeah."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Well then we'll find out tomorrow on why she wasn't called back."

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