

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
January 22, 2019

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 Timmons, Villamagna, DiLoreto, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, & Petrella.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Utility Supervisor Lisa Knight, Wastewater Superintendent Chuck Murphy, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Sanitation Director Bob Baird, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for January 15, 2019. 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. 2019-1 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2nd 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 2019-1. It’s third and final reading will be January 29th which is next Tuesday.”

NO. 2019-2 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd Reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND URBAN PROJECTS DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE 2019 CDBG STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO SAID CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND MOST QUALIFIED BIDDER AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREOF.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2019-2. It’s third and final reading will be on January 29th which is next Tuesday.”

NO. 2019-3 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd Reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND URBAN PROJECTS DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE 2019 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RECREATION CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO SAID CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND MOST QUALIFIED BIDDER AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREOF.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2019-3. It’s third and final reading will be on January 29th which is next Tuesday.”

NO. 2019-4 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd Reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND URBAN PROJECTS DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR PROFESSIONAL/CONSULTING SERVICES UNDER THE STATE OF OHIO COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (CHIP), SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL SUBMISSIONS, AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO CONTRACT FOR SERVICES WITH THE MOST QUALIFIED SERVICE OFFEROR AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREFORE.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2019-4. It’s third and final reading will be on January 29th which is next Tuesday.”

NO. 2019-6 – BY THE UTILITIES COMMITTEE – 2nd Reading

Messrs. DiLoreto, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE WATER AND WASTEWATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE MOST QUALIFIED ENGINEERING CONSULTING FIRMS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREFORE.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2019-6. It’s third and final reading will be on January 29th which is next Tuesday.”

**NO. 2019-7 – INTRODUCED BY MRS. HAHN. SECOND BY MR. DRESSEL – 2nd Reading
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-88.**

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2019-7. It’s third and final reading will be on January 29th which is next Tuesday.”

**NO. 2019-8 – INTRODUCED BY MR. VILLAMAGNA. SECOND BY MR. PAUL – 2nd Reading
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION (B) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE 111.25.**

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2019-8. It’s third and final reading will be on January 29th which is next Tuesday.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Timmons – “I just want to say last year I was critical but; but I thought the road crews did a very nice job out over the weekend and I appreciate that. And I was also wondering is there an update on the mats at the MLK Center? Do you have anything Lori?”

Lori Fetherolf – “Yes I was going; Mrs. Hahn; yes the (inaudible) has been done. I contacted the gentleman he had some surprised orders so as soon as those come in. It’ll be done by next week.”

Mr. Timmons – “By next week okay.”

Lori Fetherolf – “Yep.”

Mr. Timmons – “Alright thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor. The only thing I had tonight was Port Authority meeting tomorrow; is it 8:00 in the morning? Excuse me. It’s on the second floor at the community building.”

Mayor Barilla – “Towers.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Towers. Yes sir.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “8:00 Willie?”

Mr. Villamagna – “8:00.”

Mayor Barilla – “All of Council is invited?”

Mr. Villamagna – “All of Council is invited including Mr. Mavromatis and yourself.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you.”

Mr. DiLoreto – No report

Mr. Dressel – No report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes I have a resolution proclaiming the week of January 27th to February 2, 2019 as Catholic Schools Week. I’d like to sunshine that tonight and then we’ll vote on the resolution next week.”

Mayor Barilla – “Yes.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Karly did you have anybody who would come and receive this next week?”

Mrs. Haley – “Not that I know of.”

Mrs. Hahn – “(Inaudible) call?”

Mrs. Haley – “That’s totally up to you.”

Mrs. Hahn – “See if I can find someone.”

Mrs. Haley – “Uh huh.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay. I’ll do that.”

Mrs. Haley – “Okay.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes I have two resolutions and an ordinance. First resolution is a resolution proclaiming the month of February 2019 as National African American History Month. Second we have and ordinance to approve and adopt current replacement pages to the codified ordinances and declaring an emergency. We do this every year as an emergency and I’m not sure why. It’s those big green books we have and but we do it every year as an emergency and then if we can’t talk to our Council Clerk to get them all in for us. She’s got enough work to last her 10 months but I do my own. That’s these pages that go inside those and I don’t know why I make it an emergency. Is there...”

Mr. Mastro – “Walter Drane recommends that.”

Mr. Paul – “Walter Drane recommends that.”

Mr. Mastro – “That’s our publishing company yeah.”

Mr. Paul – “We’re paying Walter Drane?”

Mr. Mastro – “We’re paying Walter Drane.”

Mr. Paul – “Well I’m going to go as is. As it stated here Council as a whole an ordinance to approve and adopt the replacement pages to the codified ordinances declaring an emergency. If we don’t want it we can; okay? And then my last one is the finance committee and it’s an ordinance to amend chapter 191 of the codified ordinances of the City of Steubenville regarding municipal income tax.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “Thank you.”

Mr. Petrella – “Nothing you’re Honor but I agree with Mr. Paul. I don’t understand why this is an emergency. You know maybe we can ask Walter Drane.”

Mr. Mastros – “The only reason I can; the only thing I can think of is just it updates the books; the changes that we’ve made throughout the year. The changes are there; they’re on the books; they’re enforceable; they’re legal. I think they just; they just want to get those into the books as; and our codified ordinances as the public consumption as soon as possible.”

Mr. Paul – “Also it might be on the computer because if you go on to the computer that’s where it might be; because you go to the website; you ever go to the website and read the ordinances? It’s a Walter Drane also. So it might be that he wants to get it updated as quick as possible. I don’t know.”

Mr. Mastros – “I think (all inaudible).”

Mr. Paul – “I don’t know.”

Mr. Mastros – “To the public at large.”

Mr. Petrella – “Here’s what I don’t understand as we’re passing these ordinances; on the website why isn’t Walter Drane constantly updating it?”

Mr. Mastros – “You know I’ve been dealing with Walter Drane for a while. They do one yearly update. They wait for all to be done and that’s when they do it.”

Mr. Petrella – “Are they the only people who do this?”

Mr. Mastros – “That I don’t know. I know (inaudible).”

Mr. Petrella – “Maybe we should be looking at somebody else.”

Mr. Mastros – “(All inaudible) in Ohio. The only thing else that I would say though is everybody knows what the changes are because you voted on them prior...”

Mr. Petrella – “I understand that but...”

Mr. Mastros – “I know. I agree.”

Mr. Petrella – “You know; look at; look at the definition of emergency. Come on this is not an emergency.”

Mr. Mastros – “No argument there. Not going to argue with you.”

Mr. Petrella – “That’s all I have to say.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Is it possible to pass it as a resolution to be resolved (inaudible from coughing) because we already approved all these.”

Mr. Mastros – “I think it has to be by ordinance.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. January 8th I was sent a letter from the Ohio EPA and this is from Susan Shale; and what this is is they reviewed our asset management program. They’re happy with it. It’s met everything that they need so our loan is progressing through. It’s on their radar there and they know to contact us if there’s any shortage of anything here so this is extremely good news. We’re almost at the end of the finish line. It just a matter of getting the last few T’s and I’s taken care of so I wanted Council to know that. This is where we’re sitting on that. So that’s going to be a great help to the City. I was contacted by the Jefferson County Health Department our time has come up and I’m meeting with them in a week and a half and I will brief Council on one; I did ask them I’d like to know what services they have provided to this City for the last 18 months which they’ll have prepared for me and then we’ll go from there and I’ll meet with Council to see; this is where we need to go so I’m going to give Council a heads up on that. I appreciate the comments from Council. I was able to go out a couple times to check on our people that were here for the last weekend. It’s not just M & R it’s our water people, it’s our sewer people but this just had to be the call for our street cleaning and again they were out there like troopers waiting but I think the best thing comes from I run into people that are from outside of Steubenville and they see our streets and the conditions and their surprise on how well they are. They understand the snow and everything but just to see how they are attended too. I think the citizens have been better. They have a better understanding that one we had an obligation to get our main arteries cleared first; our secondary, third, fourth, and fifth and they’re paying attention. I asked that our drivers; they are getting better to stay away from our trucks when they’re out there on the road especially when they’re in tandem because they might have to make a wide swing at any time and this stops any accidents from happening. But then again you know to all; all of them that were involved here again we pull drivers in from every department. We’re short drivers; CDL drivers and it’s not just us I’ve met with other business people today these are; they need CDL people; they can’t hire them. They’re just; there’s not enough available so we’re faced with that dilemma. So again we’re using our manpower to the best we can and hopefully we’ll have another individual that will be back on the books here within the next month. Water; 1:00 in the morning last Friday I was notified that we had a water break up on St. Charles; our crews were out there unfortunate we didn’t have enough people and we had to farm this out to get done. The bottom line is the job got taken care of and was minimal interruption to the people out there. We’re going to have this. This change in temperatures here is going to

cause us hiatic with our pipes. I had talked to Mr. Jenkins and surprisingly our valves were the issues last January; we're having breaks out on the west end, LaBelle, Pleasant Heights and you would think it would be more downtown because they are the oldest pipes; they aren't. So it's all over this weather causes problems there so again our crews are ready and they'll respond as they have too and that's all I have Mayor for tonight."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Mr. Mavromatis."

Mr. Mastros – "Thank you Mr. Mayor. Two things the City has been contacted by two business owners about the possible sale of land to them. One was the University; one was the (inaudible) dealership on the south end I'm going to ask that the proper (all inaudible) be forwarded to the proper committee and I'm not sure if it would be building and grounds. I don't think that's the right one."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Planning."

Mr. Mastros – "Maybe planning. We'll have a short meeting and we can brief you on that and we can take action for that. Whenever that will be either maybe; maybe two weeks from now maybe. It wouldn't have to be long maybe 6:45; maybe 7:00. Second thing is I know I have been taxing you all a little bit but I'm going to ask to go into executive session tonight for a very short executive session on pending litigation and that will be our OPEC claim and our workers compensation case and it won't be long. As I've been briefing you the last two weeks on both of those matters but there's some more information to report. Mr. Mavromatis and I and Mr. Lewis have a conference call tomorrow with our attorneys for the OPEC that is going to a head at least one front of it and I need to brief you on that tonight. Thank you."

Mr. Petrella made a motion to go into executive session following Public Forum to discuss pending litigation. Second by Mr. DiLoreto. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Mastros – "That's all I had Mr. Mayor thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you."

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now move on to miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening is Mr. Petrella."

Mr. Petrella – "Yes you're Honor. Bob I got a couple questions. I wanted to do a follow up from two weeks ago. Where do we stand on the garbage cans for Pleasant Heights and LaBelle?"

Bob Baird – "They are on order. I do remember speaking with you about it and I'll be honest I haven't done much with it in the last several days; our weeks we've been..."

Mr. Petrella – "Do you have an ETA on it?"

Bob Baird – "I would expect it within the next couple of weeks but I; let me call them and I'll get you the as accurate a day or days I can get."

Mr. Petrella – "Call the manufacturer let me know what a firm ETA is."

Bob Baird – "Will do."

Mr. Petrella – "And the other one is the (inaudible) doing some asbestos abatement at the M & R. Is that correct?"

Bob Baird – "It's actually completed. It took place yesterday when no one was at work."

Mr. Petrella – "Good."

Bob Baird – "And it's complete."

Mr. Petrella – "Good. Thank you. Appreciate that."

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now move onto Public Forum and signing in tonight we have two. First we have Maryanne Freeze signing up so Maryanne would you please step forward and state your name and address."

Maryanne Freeze – "My name is Maryanne Freeze and I reside at 136 Starkdale Road. I recently opened a business on N 4th street, and I'm excited to be downtown, as downtown spaces have a unique feel and energy, and when they are vibrant and prosperous, the effects radiate to the areas and neighborhoods. I have a somewhat unique perspective on shopping trends as my ex-husband's business was retail construction, specifically building stores in malls all across the country. There are definite trends in retail, malls trended strongly in the mid-eighties, beginning in the mid-nineties highly styled and more purposefully built outdoor lifestyle centers became popular. But, as the internet has gained momentum and become the preferred way for so many people to shop, retail has been struggling to maintain their enormous properties. And on top of that, big box stores and national chains are pulling out left and right in many areas because they find it much more lucrative to sell their products through their online presence and thus rid themselves of many of their brick and mortar locations. For them, it's about the numbers. But, more and more it's also about the ecology of areas, and many people are finding it harder to justify destruction of green spaces when there are so many viable downtown areas that can be refurbished and used for retail. So, what is the trend now? Ironically, it is the once abandoned downtowns being revitalized with unique small spaces. Revitalizing downtowns has been trending for approximately five to ten years; I've seen it in Birmingham, where I lived, as well as Carnegie, Lawrenceville, Wheeling, Moundsville, Marietta, Granville, and Cambridge to name a few. The common denominator of these popular downtown areas is the charm of their unique small eateries, art galleries, shops,

the small town affability and quaint atmosphere. People taking the time to talk and be a part of the community, not just mindlessly shopping, but having a shared experience. These communities, as a whole, enjoy an improved quality of life that is enhanced consistently with the upkeep, care, and attention given to their downtowns. There are things that could be done here, mixed use green spaces in the downtown area that can be used for parks, dog parks, gardens, which can tie into the efforts that are already being put forth by members of the community that understand that not only is it the financial benefits of having a bustling downtown area, but how the quality of life improves for everyone in turn. So, as I've listened over the past several months during city meetings, I find myself often confused by the nay saying, poo-pooing, un-cooperation, and occasional hostility of the city toward efforts being made by many people attempting to get Steubenville following the trend, taking advantage of the climate of the times of people wanting to come together and build a community. I myself have come up against negativity, an attitude of why would you even want to do this here? Because I want to own my own business and through that to have a positive impact on my community. Since I've opened, I have had so many positive comments by patrons who are happy to see things moving in a positive direction in the downtown. But, as I listened to the economic development plans at the meeting last week, it suddenly seemed that possibly this negativity and uncooperative attitude by the city is a systematic calculated plan to run out the few businesses that are here and discourage anyone else from wanting to locate in the downtown area in order for the city and/or someone to gain the freedom to raze the downtown area or part of it to build a shopping plaza with a large national anchor. Another national retailer that won't hesitate to leave the city high and dry if it doesn't work out for them, and in its wake leave a soulless structure blighting the landscape. And then to hear that council has promised cooperation and "whatever can be done to help move things along" for the new owner of the mall while people with strong ties here are rebuffed. It seems rather short-sighted to jump at this while at the same time, hindering those trying to bring about a prosperous and vibrant downtown. Many people didn't shop at the original mall, preferring to make the trek to Pittsburgh, and then the even easier drive to the Robinson area. Both of which are still there. But, look at the numbers of people coming downtown for the free summer concerts, and the First Fridays, people looking for more reasons to come downtown as well. Look at the young people who come here for college and find some worthwhile reason to stay in this town. The issue now is finding a way to improve the quality of life here for the people and their families who by circumstance or choice make up this community. The teachers that teach our children, the doctors and nurses who care for us, the police officers and firefighters who protect and serve us, the city workers who are trying to rebuild a crumbling city. It's not just about numbers, it's about having a community that people are proud to be a part of that is lovingly tended because it's a city that tends and cares for its citizens. Let's all be a part of something bigger than ourselves and see what great things we can do for our city."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Maryanne."

Mr. DiLoreto – "I want to thank you very much for that. I know there's a lot of negative in this town. I've been born and raised here. I think tomorrow they have the meeting with the Port Authority at 8:00 I plan to be there along with other Council members. I'm making a recommendation about two months ago I'd like for the Port Authority and them to take the whole downtown area and find out which property is available for usage and what property is not available for usage and leave City Council out of it because we seem to be getting the blunt no matter where we go like we have a target. We're here to cooperate and it's a lot of negative and very few people decide to go a good job and that's neither here nor there. And I think the downtown is coming along; people like you, Mr. Nelson done more for this town in the last 20 years than anyone else has. I still live downtown so thank you very much for coming down and trying to establish a business. I'm sure we're all here to help and (inaudible) some of us (all inaudible) to get them to do a little bit too because they're making; that's their primary job; Economic Development, Port Authority and the Chamber their primary job and they got a lot of (inaudible) buildings downtown some are safe and some are not safe and I want someone out to make that determination because we always seem to get the blame. Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you. Alright also signing in this evening for Public Forum is Sandi Rue. Sandi please step forward and state your name and address."

Sandi Rue – "My name is Sandi Rue and I reside at 803 Longford Drive Steubenville. I'm here tonight to address Council about an issue that happened to me at the City Council meeting (all inaudible) December the 18, 2018. I know you may be wondering why it's taken me so long to address this issue but Council did not meet for two weeks Christmas and New Years and then I was out of town for a week and upon my return I had an important meeting to attend that I could not cancel. So I'm here tonight to bring this matter to your attention. Council had adjourned the regular meeting to go into executive session which lasted for over an hour. I did not stay until you came back and once the members of Council left the Council Chambers I felt that after attending numerous meetings where they occasionally would adjourn to go into executive session I was free to move about and talk freely until Council called the meeting back to order. Well as I was speaking to Mr. Dolak about the traffic changes on Route 7 and University Blvd. I was informed from across the room by the Clerk of this Council that I had to take my seat. I did not hear it first but Mr. Dolak made it clear to me that she was talking to me. I did not fully understand the instructions but I complied with them. I felt that as long as Council was out of Council Chambers in executive session that I could talk to Mr. Dolak or anyone else of my choosing as long as they were receptive to my conversation. After taking my seat I then noticed Ms. Haley and the Director of Parks and Recreation Ms. Lori were having an extended conversation (all inaudible) all of everyone else in attendance. At this point I questioned in my mind why could the two of them talk and others in the room were having conversations but I was told to take my seat. Was it because I was talking to the department head or because I was out of my seat? I just did not know was it okay for Ms. Haley to speak with another (inaudible) city employee but I could not. I was a little annoyed and somewhat embarrassed by the whole situation but I

thought that I would hold my peace until I could gather some information concerning the proper procedure for the meeting. I was under the impression that as long as Council was out of the room that I could talk with whomever I please until the meeting was called back to order. After reviewing the City Charter and not finding anything specific pertaining to executive session I then had a conversation with Mayor Barilla who in turn told me he spoke with the City Manager and the Law Director in order to receive information about the correct procedure as it pertained to Council's executive sessions that I could be given correct information and not just hear what he thought to be true. The Mayor informed me that; that after speaking with both the City Manager and the city Law Director he was told that there are no restrictions to speaking to any person in attendance at the Council meeting while Council is in executive session. Now I must inform you that I was offered an apology on Friday after I dropped off my request to speak before this Council and I accepted that apology and I appreciate it and I also now understand that the Council Clerk was operating under instructions from the previous administration but I still feel since that I was told in public from across the room not nearly but across the room to take my seat that my apology should be made in public along with an explanation of how persons attending Council meetings should act once Council goes into executive session. I feel that I'm owed this public apology because of the way it was conducted and further that the Clerk of this Council and persons; all persons attending City Council meetings should be informed of the proper procedure that's followed during executive session so that we can all be on one court and I did take note that there's now a sign that says the City Employees only beyond this point was not there when I went over to talk to Mr. Dolak. So that's my concern tonight and I thank you for your time. Thank you."

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

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