

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
May 28, 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 Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, & Dressel.

Mr. Villamagna made a statement that Mr. DiLoreto was going to be a couple minutes late.

Mr. DiLoreto appeared at 7:36.

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

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for May 21, 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. 2019-44 – BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. DiLoreto, Dressel, Hahn

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CHAPTER 951 AND ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 951 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the second reading of Ordinance No. 2019-44. The third and final reading will be next week June 4, 2019.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Hahn – “Just a comment. We have the fliers out for the first Paddle fest which is going to be a week from Saturday and there’s some people that expressed interest in seeing if it’s possible to have a food truck down at the Marina so we’ll follow up with that. Okay great (all inaudible) and the Parks and Recreation people; people aboard and some of us are going to have a booth at First Friday a week from Friday so we hope to have the details next week but we are thinking of maybe offering a discount if people want to get a pool pass there. We want to advertise some of the many events that are going on this summer and get more people signed up so that they can get the concert comment the newsletter so if you have any other ideas that you think that we could to represent the booth (all inaudible from coughing) that would be great. Thank you so much.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor. I have one ordinance and I have something I would like to bring up about the Parks and Rec meeting we’re going to have on the 11th correct? The 11th? Okay. Alright the ordinance is under the finance committee and it’s an ordinance authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a settlement agreement for a property owned by Lukaba Holdings LLC and declaring an emergency. What this is is out on 4419 Sunset Blvd. it is the corner property and it’s something that we need to do for Mr. Dolak to finish his project out there; well not finish but help him finish his project out on Lovers Lane and Sunset Blvd.”

Mr. Mastros – “That’s our last appropriation case.”

Mr. Paul – “It’s our last appropriation case okay. Did you want to say more on it?”

Mr. Mastros – “No sir.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay. You sure?”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Paul – “It’s alright. You know more than I do. I’m just (all inaudible). Right.”

Mr. Mastros – “(All inaudible).”

Mr. Paul – “Okay and secondly Mr. Dressel I’m glad to have you back. I miss you. I do. I do. I do. And getting to him he brought up a good point on the e-mail he sent out the other day. I would (inaudible) on the money going to the marina because Mr. Dressel brought up a good point. Is it possible to have is it the Army Corp of Engineers or is it the Coast Guard? Whoever we have the one (inaudible); remember how we got that property back? It was ours then we gave it or the Army Corp of Engineers had it or the Coast Guard; whoever has it can we have them come talk to us what we can and what we can’t do with that property? I mean we may be doing things that; we might be able to put a hotel there which I know we can’t but I’m just saying is it possible to get them to come to that meeting on the 11th?”

Mrs. Hahn – “I will contact them for sure.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay whoever it may be. I don’t know if it’s; I think it’s the Army Corp of Engineers correct?”

Mr. Dressel – “It is.”

Mr. Paul – “It is? Okay.”

Mrs. Hahn – “The Army Corp of Engineers and it might also be helpful with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.”

Mr. Paul – “Right.”

Mrs. Hahn – “(All inaudible) earmarked and maybe the Jefferson County Sewer and Water because they’re doing some recreational things in the county maybe there’s some way this fits.”

Mr. Paul – “And when I first became a member of Council back; awhile back; there was something; there was a grant and it was from (All inaudible) in fact I think the gentleman just passed away who was a long serving congressman on the Senate or he was a Senator I can’t remember but they had money out there for fishing and things like that on water ways. I think our river really doesn’t apply to it because we checked into it but I think there’s something else we can look into also to help us and I agree with making you know trying to refurbish the dock, the boat ramp, and everything like that and I know we have no money there to bring that water down there but I mean I want to make sure we have all our ducks in a row if we’re going to do this. Okay?”

Mr. Dressel – “Right.”

Mr. Paul – “You brought up a good point the other day. I’m glad you’re back. I am.”

Mr. Dressel – “(Inaudible).”

Mr. Paul – “That’s all I have your Honor.”

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah Mayor two things please. More for Jim I guess. Jim or Mike is the 100 block of Aberdeen they put a fire hydrant in there and they put small gravel in there; you know where I’m talking about Mike?”

Mike Dolak – “I’m not familiar with the 100 block.”

Mr. Villamagna – “You know where.”

Mike Dolak – “(Inaudible) check. Pokey.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah right down from where Pokey lives.”

Mike Dolak – “Right down from Pokey in the dip?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Almost to the dip not to the dip. It’s on the right hand side. I wrote the address down but I can’t read what I wrote there.”

Mike Dolak – “Right hand side going (all inaudible).”

Mr. Villamagna – “It’s like 120 something like that.”

Mike Dolak – “(All inaudible) Okay.”

Mr. Villamagna – “It’s on the right hand side going down the hill there’s a fire hydrant and there’s some small gravel. Well one of the residents put big gravel in there to stop it from flushing out but the rains have flushed through the rock and they’ve got the little rock coming through. If maybe we can go and take the rest; there’s not a whole lot that’s left in that one corner. Take that out and put some of the big river rock in there will solve the problem because I was over there today all the gravel did wash straight out on the road and it’s going into the driveway down there where these guys have those sewers and; it’s not a real big job. I was there looking at it there’s river gravel; one of the residents dumped a load of river gravel the big stone and then they; but some of the little is still left there. And the other thing is the roundabout; the guy that takes care of that roundabout for us for free; Russell Hunt he contacted me today and he said that a lot of the bushes are dead they have to come out and he said at his cost it’s around \$200.00 to replace the bushes that are in that roundabout and he’ll put them in for free. The cost of whatever that is. So I told him he’s going to give me the exact price and then I’ll get that to you okay?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Mr. Paul – “And can we donate to help him out? I mean the guy is taking care of it for us.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah he takes care of that for free. He takes care of the two entrances which he just told me that he got overwhelmed with the weather so he hasn’t got to the entrances but he went to the roundabout and a lot of the shrubbery is dead in there; he said a lot of it.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Mr. Paul – “Give me his number”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay. Mr. Paul asked if he could.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “If he’s short we’ll donate. I will anyway.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay. Alright. Thank you very much that’s all I have.”

Mr. DiLoreto – No Report

Mr. Dressel – “One quick thing. I was asked to call a service committee meeting for June 11th at 6:00 for Mike. What the topic? You sent an e-mail out I think but I don’t remember.”

Mike Dolak – “All I asked was to discuss the 2020 combination community development block grant street resurfacing project combine with 7/10 reconstruction project. We’re grouping a bunch of roads together and we just need some; we just want to review the projects and the roadways more or less with everyone.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay and that needs to be at 6:00? Do you need an hour and a half or is there another meeting?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “There’s another meeting.”

Mrs. Haley – “There’s another meeting.”

Mike Dolak – “Yeah I just need a half hour.”

Mr. Paul – “(All inaudible) the other meeting.”

Unknown – “It’s 6:30.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “It’s 6:30. Mr. Jenkins.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay.”

Mike Dolak – “There was attached to that e-mail there should’ve been a drawing.”

Mr. Dressel – “Yeah.”

Mike Dolak – “Which shows everything.”

Mr. Dressel – “Yeah I saw it.”

Mike Dolak – “Okay.”

Mr. Dressel – “(Inaudible).”

Mike Dolak – “Okay.”

Mayor Barilla – “Was that it Mr. Dressel?”

Mr. Dressel – “That was it thank you.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. I wanted to report to Council a week ago today and the early evenings around nine o’clock in the evening three individuals did approximately \$1,600.00 worth of damage to our kiddie park at Bellevue. Today two of them were arrested and we’re looking for the third one. No specific reason was given why they did it but we clearly helped get them identified and one News 9 stepping forward and putting on our video out there; our police officers reviewing the video here through our camera we have set up here its lead to the people getting identified. So again the cooperation of the citizens that called in, News 9, and our police officers were able to apprehend the individuals responsible. Three of them actively participated in the damage. The two that have been interviewed and arrested gave no reason why they did it. While doing so in contacting these people I believe it was in March the tennis court we had the cable that was stolen. Well and behold it was found at the one residents that they arrested the person in so we had that recovered and our Prosecutor is looking into charges but the good thing about this when you do damage to a City property that is a class five felony; doesn’t matter the amount of what was destroyed. It takes quite a bit on a destruction to make it into a class four so it’s a class five felony that they will be charged with on the destruction of the property belonging to (all inaudible). So again my compliments are to our department, News 9, and the citizens that called in watch that video (inaudible) so it does pay off. Yes sir?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Were they adults Jim?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Two adults. We’re looking for one more adult. One adult was arrested and one juvenile. So we have one adult that we’re looking for.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Put their names in the paper.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Alright anything? Mayor that’s all I had. I’m sorry I apologize. The last thing I would like to bring before Council tonight is do a vote; it’s to extend a contract to our Prosecutor Mr. Steve Lammatrice. He’s three year period is up. I can clearly tell you he has saved this city thousands of dollars by the bills of information that he has been able to do. In fact two of the years he acceded the bills of information; one attorney there compared to all the attorneys that were in the County Attorney’s Office so that says a lot about the amount of work he’s done here. The only one that I can clearly tell you is Mr. Villamagna and myself clearly know the value of having a full time Prosecutor and he’s paid his wages more than a number of times. This will bring his contract to 2024 after that it’ll go to one year (inaudible) so that I would like to bring to Council and have them vote on it.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes sir so...”

Mr. Mavromatis – “So I can sign this. The County Attorney has signed it; Jane Hanlin and then from there it’ll go over to the Commissioners.”

Mr. Mastros – “So we can do this by voice vote. We don’t need to amend the T.O. via by contract so you can do a voice vote tonight and authorize the City Manager to sign it. The Prosecutor has signed it and...”

Mr. Mavromatis – “My apologies the total increase is 3,300 and we’re splitting that right down the middle just like we do with the original contract and that’s worked out well. He’s paid by the County and we just reimburse the County for our share.”

Mr. Petrella – “What’s the original contract?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “95,000 was the original contract.”

Mr. Mastros – “No. No. I believe it was 90 if I’m not mistaken; 90 or 80; I wasn’t here when that happened but he; the new contract will be for 95; our share will be \$1,650 that will represent the increase to get into that 95,000.”

Mr. Paul – “(Inaudible) paying 13.”

Mr. Mastros – “I beg your pardon?”

Mr. Paul – “We were paying 13 before that. You’re saying we go to 16 which was...”

Mr. Mastros – “No.”

Mr. Paul – “Anyhow he’s worth it. He’s worth it.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah.”

Mr. Paul – “And it’s under finance so.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Paul – “Do you want me to do it? I’ll bring it up. And if we don’t like it; yes I’ll make the motion. Let me see that Mr. Mavromatis.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Jim I think you also told me he’s not getting a raise. Is that correct?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No he’ll get a raise for this.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Oh there is? Okay.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yeah. That’s why County gave their attorneys a raise across the board so there’s a raise into him to keep him up to par.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Okay. I got no problem.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s why the increase is there.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I was misinformed then. I apologize.”

Mr. Paul – “\$1,650 right here in red.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s our share.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay.”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct that’s our share. And there will be a small increase before his PR is reimbursed but that’s small.”

Mr. Paul – “And the County agrees to pay for 50% of the funding.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes.”

Mr. Paul – “It’s all right here.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah it’s spilt down the middle.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay this is a five year contract. Okay.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Paul made a motion that the City Manager enter into an agreement with the County for the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office of Jefferson County in the City of Steubenville Municipal Court; organized and entering into the law of the State of Ohio where we entered into an agreement with our Prosecuting Attorney’s Office Steven Lammatrice. The agreement will continue for five years which is until May 11, 2024. Second by Mr. Villamagna.

Mr. Paul – “Now do we need to vote on that now Costa or can we bring it up next week?”

Mr. Mastros – “It’s up to you all. You guys can do it tonight. You can do it...”

Mr. Paul – “We’ll let them read it. That way they see it.”

Mr. Mastros – “I can forward it to everybody. That’s not a problem.”

Mr. Paul – “He’s not going anywhere. The crimes aren’t going away so we can do it next week.”

Mr. Mastros – “We can do it whenever you want.”

Mr. Paul – “Maybe we can do it as an emergency correct?”

Mr. Mastros – “It’s a voice vote. You don’t even need to do an ordinance because you don’t need to amend the T.O.”

Mr. Paul – “I think maybe they want to see what’s going on.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah that’s fine. I can forward it to everybody this evening. Not a problem.”

Mr. Paul – “We’ll bring it up next week. How’s that? Okay?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Alright.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “I think what you just let me read like (all inaudible). So let them see it.”

Mr. Mastros – “Okay we’ll take care of that.”

Mr. Paul – “Mrs. Hahn has a question.”

Mayor Barilla – “Mrs. Hahn?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes I wanted to ask; you met with the Ohio EPA last week.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yeah.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Is there any update you can give us on where we are with the negotiating for the consent decree on the...”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yeah my apologies. Wednesday I met with the Ohio EPA Erin Sherer. She’s responsible for the side of the shop that deals with Chuck Murphy’s; with the wastewater side. She’s well aware of we’re diligently working on getting this fixed. She’s aware of the changes based on the phone conversation the week before we had a conference call. So she and I have agreed to keep each other posted to make sure that it is not dropped anywhere. Right now it is sitting in the hands of our attorneys; Mr. White down in Cincinnati; once he blesses off our new proposal it’ll be sent down to the State Attorney’s Office. I assured Erin that I would keep her posted with this and there’s no question in her mind; she knows the City of Steubenville is working hard to get these resolved. The other thing I asked her to do I was greatly appreciative of the money that the Ohio EPA has given us and to please look for any other type of funding source that we can use because again unfortunately we’re getting in a lot of bad situations that are coming up with waterline breaks, sink holes, and she’s well aware of it because of this whole region here. Now she deals with the whole State but again we have surfaced to the top and we’re clearly on her radar and she knows we’re trying to meet the deadlines here but she also understands I could not sign any document unless I can reasonably believe that we can meet those deadlines. So before I sign anything Council will know exactly what we’re looking at and there’s; everybody knows what we’re faced with. Thank you.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you.”

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “Next on the agenda is miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening we have Mr. Petrella.”

Mr. Petrella – “Yes you’re Honor. Before Council Chris and Jim both informed me that in the next couple days that building on Adams St. across from the Second Baptist Church is coming down forever. Okay the next thing on my agenda is weeds; I brought it up last week; Union, Ridge, and Pennsylvania these lots have been constant year in and year out and I don’t understand why don’t we start like in March. We know which lots they are and just start the process; that you have to wait for Council to complain about it. Now we’re complaining about them and they’re about three foot high. So do you handle that Chris or who handles the high weeds?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “The high weeds would go to Mr. Baird. Are they private property or do we own the property? If we own the property it’s clearly our responsibility. If we don’t own the property then we have to go take the legal process to cut it.”

Mr. Petrella – “Well a lot of them are ours.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Mr. Petrella – “Because we tore down the houses.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “But do we own the property?”

Mr. Petrella – “I don’t know.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Mr. Petrella – “So I mean but these are the same lots that year after year after year complaining about so everybody’s aware of it. You know it’s not a stranger to anybody but yet we still wait till the weeds get three foot tall to do anything about it. Now it’s; and if we have to go through the court system we’re looking at another what six weeks before they get cut?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “At a minimum.”

Mr. Petrella – “At a minimum and the two that are on Union Ave. I can tell you they’re taller than Yonk.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Do you have the addresses?”

Mr. Petrella – “I’ll get you the addresses they’re right next to Pasquerella’s. But if you go down Ridge Ave. the same way. If you go down Pennsylvania Ave. the same way. I mean but my problem is the City knows about these; these are the same lots year after year after year we should have the addresses; we should have all the information on this and that they should be automatic. When the grass starts growing in March; bam we should be getting on this. It shouldn’t have to take Council to bring it up and complain about it. That’s it you’re Honor. Go ahead Yonk.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “(All inaudible). I’m glad you’re chirping in and for the past three years I’ve had the same problem and the answer is to hire a contractor to kill the weeds then you won’t have that problem. These people will clean the same lots three or four times a year. All the way down from Lincoln Ave. from all the way down from the Library all the way to 4th Street; 75% of that property is owned by the City. All I’m asking is the City cut it one time; put some weed killer on it and I’ll go down there with a tractor that’s going to cut the grass for me. I got personal (all inaudible) got the grass cut for me; three lots you can cut them and you can kill the weeds. That’s what we need. We need the grass to be cut and killed because it’s going to grow and grow and grow and it’s the same problem I’ve been on this Council for 15 years it’s the same problem year in and year out and I’m tired too Craig because they come to my house. (All inaudible). That’s the only answer because they’re going to grow and grow and grow. We got to have some sort of system and (inaudible) exist.”

Mr. Paul – “Can I say something on that? I agree with you 100%. I do. I do. I hate weeds. I have none in my yard but with this thing going on with “Round Up” and you actually; you put something down there and you get that resident that owns that house and he comes up and says hey I got cancer because the City of Steubenville put the “Round Up” down and he might not even got cancer. Maybe he never got cancer from what we did but he’s going to use that as something and we’re going to get a lawsuit. I agree with you 100% we can do that but it’s not our property to do that.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Some of it is.”

Mr. Paul – “Well if it’s our property then I think we got to get Costa and the City Manager to look into it. Now what Craig is asking I’m not sure; Karly can do some research for us; I’ll ask Karly she’ll research any kind of property I want. She’s always doing anything I ask her. You guys can call her and ask her.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “She does (inaudible) for me. State of Ohio.”

Mr. Paul – “I had a little problem behind Holy Family Church. I went to talk to Monsignor; Monsignor took care of it okay? I had a problem with Holy Rosary Church; Father Now took care of it okay? You have to go speak with the pastors’ okay?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Oh yeah right.”

Mr. Paul – “Now you have something with the City we go come to our City fathers okay?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Right. I understand.”

Mr. Paul – “But I think that you got to research it first before you do anything. I would not go putting down some kind of weed killer where they’re going to come back and say they have cancer because of us putting something down. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I understand.”

Mr. Paul – “You’ve been around longer than I have. Well a couple more years than me. Craig’s over there going like this.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I broke the rules too.”

Mr. Paul – “I know. I know and I understand and I agree with you. I think we should do that.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “When there was grass at the high school I’d put grease on it. I didn’t care.”

Mr. Paul – “It wasn’t a lawsuit happy; now everybody wants to sue you. You understand and that’s all I’m trying to get at.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “You got a point.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay. Mrs. Hahn signed in as well.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Right I just wanted to bring this to people’s attention the Ohio Valley Frontier Days this coming weekend. It’s going to be on Saturday and Sunday and there’s just so many activities that are great for families. Great if you’ve got kids visiting; grandkids and I just really wanted to encourage people to come down. Thank you so much for a wonderful concert on Monday and then the weekly concerts are starting on Thursday. So we’ve got some great opportunities to really enjoy Steubenville not only fix it; we need to fix it. We need to fix these problems but also to really enjoy each other and enjoy these events. So if you get a chance come (inaudible).”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Mrs. Hahn.”

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – “We have no one that signed in for public forum. But before we adjourn Mr. Petrella has decided that we please remain seated until we get roll call so that we can do it properly.”

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

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR