

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
June 18, 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; Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty (Acting City Manager), Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Utility Supervisor Lisa Knight, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Utility Director Chuck Murphy, Sanitation Supervisor Bob Baird, 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 June 11, 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 – “I have one. To the Steubenville City Council: We cannot revitalize this city without dreams. Dreams are what allow us to look at our broken buildings and see them restored; to look at our empty streets and see them full. Dreams lead to plans, plans lead to action, and action leads to results. And there is one beautiful dream that has turned into one brilliant plan promising many, marvelous results: The Riverfront Development Concept Plan. As an organization dreaming of the revitalization of downtown Steubenville, we would be fools not to add our voice to the growing cry of the people -- that we turn this plan into action. The riverfront is one of our city’s greatest assets. It is a gift that we could never have made for ourselves -- not even with an army of bulldozers and a bucket chain from here to Lake Erie. Refusing to make good use of it is about as intelligent as refusing to make use of our knees, walking around Fourth Street, stiff-legged and silly. “We have a river!” What a wonderful thing to say. But other cities who can say the same are drawing tourists, campers, RVers, and rowing teams to their shores. Steubenville isn’t. “Down by the riverside!” What a wonderful song. But other cities who sing it are encouraging a culture of hikers, bikers, dog walkers, and kayakers to flourish along their banks. Steubenville is letting them float on by. “Put me in the river. Drop me in the water.” Other cities who can make good on that musical request have helped a whole garden of businesses sprout up to serve the fishermen, trail-enthusiasts, joggers, adventurers, swimmers, water-skiers and sight-seers who flock around accessible river-fonts. Steubenville’s riverfront is invisible, cloaked by weeds. Why are we missing out on the outfitters, breweries, ice-cream stores, and canoe-and-kayak rentals that flourish along riverfronts? Why are we missing out on increased business for bed and breakfasts, hotels, and downtown restaurants? Why are we missing out on increased traffic at historical sites and community events that take place along a well-kept riverfront? And beyond the businesses -- why are we missing out on the plain, simple, common good of the mighty Ohio River? We’re missing out because, up to now, we haven’t dared to dream. But now we have a chance to dream big. The state of Ohio recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to Steubenville for the improvement of our marina. This money can be used to leverage an additional \$300,000 from the Clean Ohio Grant and the Ohio Nature Works Grant, in order to turn some much-needed marina improvements into a welcoming marina, a riverfront trail, and a park by the water. This comprehensive plan would make Steubenville into a real destination for the many hiking and biking trails converging on our city -- like the Panhandle Trail and the Great American Rail Trail -- as well as making the city a more exciting, beautiful, traversable space for us all. Some of Steubenville’s problems are thorny problems: How should we reduce crime? How should we update our water system? And so on. The riverfront problem is not a thorny problem. It is a simple problem with simple solutions: Raise the money, purchase the land, blaze the trail, cut the weeds, trim the trees, plant the flowers, invite the businesses, call your Mom, put the kids in the van, and spend a day dreaming on the banks of the Ohio River. We support the development of our waterfront and urge you to hear the cries of your city and do the same. The Harmonium Project.”

Mr. Paul made a motion to make the letter apart of the minutes. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2019-49 – BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. DiLoreto, Dressel, Hahn

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT (A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED AND MARKED AS EXHIBIT “A”) WITH THE JEFFERSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND A CONSORTIUM OF AFFECTED JEFFERSON COUNTY POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHASE II STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AS MANDATED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2019-49. The second reading will be next week June 25, 2019.

NO. 2019-50 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Dressel, Hahn, Petrella

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION TO BE USED TOWARDS FUNDING THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE 7TH STREET ROADWAY RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS, CITY PROJECT 2019-122 AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Resolution No. 2019-50. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Resolution No. 2019-50 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Dressel called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2019-50 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. The ordinance will take effect immediately upon the Mayor’s signature.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

Mr. DiLoreto – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes. So following up on last week we’re going to schedule, Lori and I, a Parks and Recreation forum on Friends of the Marina and we’re inviting people that are interested in being part of volunteering, brainstorming, really expressing your interest in the marina and then seeing what events we want to have there. It will be on June 27th a Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. So this is the first friends of a particular park so Friends at the Marina at the Belleview Park Clubhouse 7:00 p.m. Thursday June 27th and I’m hoping within two weeks of that one to have a Friends of Beatty Park meeting. Just an open forum meeting. We’ll see how that goes. When we interviewed people at the booth on First Fridays so many people mentioned the marina (all inaudible from coughing) mention Beatty Park and that will be 7:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. on the 27th of June and that; I asked Lori if she would share something and I thought that we would probably run short on time so.”

Lori Fetherolf – “I know we just spent 45 minutes but I would just like as a department head to give my two cents on the Marina. I’m not against the Marina I’m for the Marina. However there are other needs at our parks I got playgrounds that are falling apart; I’ve got a pool deck that’s falling apart; I’ve got baseball fields that are bad so I don’t know where we stop but that’s why I felt we needed and I agree with Mr. Petrella we need to take a step back and get a committee together and saying what is the best need; what we want to do for the marina and then formally make a presentation to Council because I’ve heard everything from RVs, to tent camping, to you name it I’ve heard it and so if everybody (inaudible) come in with ideas are best bet is to come together with a plan for a group that’s interested in the marina rather than to me sitting here wasting time all the time and coming with a plan with what we think. I don’t want to tell the Council what to do with the \$100,000 but I just want to know that there are (inaudible from coughing) many; there are many needs in our parks not just the marina so (all inaudible). Yes?”

Mr. DiLoreto – “You think we ought to do is get this thing in and come up with a priority from one to ten or one to twenty-five.”

Lori Fetherolf – “I did offer.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “And bury it.”

Lori Fetherolf – “I did offer to Mrs. Hahn that I would be more than happy in fact I already started it to come up with what needs that we have at each of our parks so that it give us a bigger picture and there needs to be priorities.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Right.”

Lori Fetherolf – “As we go down the line. You are correct.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “You can’t have dessert all the time.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you Lori and that’s the end of my…”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor. I have three items. First one is under Finance Committee; it’s an ordinance no. 2019-51 an ordinance adopting a tax budget for the fiscal year 2020 for the City of Steubenville, Ohio providing for a public hearing thereon, and declaring an emergency. What this is we have to turn in our purposed budget to the County for next year. Dave do you want to elaborate or?”

Dave Lewis – “Yeah so the tax budget has to be passed by Council effective by July 15th. We in turn picked that and put it in a form of official certificate (inaudible) resources which has to be turned into the County by July 20th. So that basically; that document; those documents would match the catch (inaudible) pass that you’ll be getting later this week which we’ll be discussing at the upcoming finance meeting.”

Mr. Paul – “Gotcha.”

Dave Lewis – “So everything we’ve been talking about month after month it’s just put in a different format to let the County know that we’re planning ahead.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay. Thank you Dave.”

Dave Lewis – “You’re welcome.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay and that’s the first one. Second was also under finance as ordinance no. 2019-52; an ordinance authorizing and directing the City Manager to advertise for bids for the rehabilitation and replacement of the roof of the old filtration plant building located at 1575 University Boulevard, subject to the right to reject any and all bids, authorizing the entering into said contract with the lowest and most qualified bidder and authorizing payment therefore. That is something that Mr. Jenkins has asked for; a new roof. Okay and that’ll take three readings and my third item you’re Honor next the 25th I think is; yes next Tuesday I don’t know if we have anything scheduled do we Karly?”

Mrs. Haley – “No.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay I would like to have a Finance Committee; I’m calling for a Finance Committee and we will start it at 6:30. Dave will give us the month-end reports for May. Yeah May and I’m done thank you.”

Mr. Petrella – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mastros – “Thank you Mayor. Just two things I e-mailed you all today regarding another request for a TREX transfer of liquor license permit. This will be beer sale on premises and carry out. This is a request from Mrs. Angela Lombardo who is the managing member of Fresh-Twist LLC which is the new restaurant attached to Legal. You can see there was an investment of \$150,000 into the business. It was estimated the sales tax from the business would be about \$60,000; employment tax would be about \$12,000; withholding tax will be about \$8,000. Obviously there will be jobs created. We just did one of these not too long ago for Vocelli’s. I’m going to request that a voice vote be made to authorize or not authorize but authorize the City Manager to execute the transfer form. There has to be a municipal; we have to approve the TREX transfer so I’m asking for a motion to do that.”

Mr. Paul made a motion that Council take a voice vote on authorizing the City Manager to the transfer of the liquor license for the Fresh-Twist LLC. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “We’ll now move onto miscellaneous reports and tonight we have signing in Mr. Petrella.”

Mr. Petrella – “I defer to Mr. Villamagna.”

Mr. Villamagna – “No I would like to hear you first. That’s the way the order is. You signed up first.”

Mr. Petrella – “No I actually signed up last.”

Mayor Barilla – “Let’s...”

Mr. Villamagna – “(All inaudible from noise.)”

Mr. Petrella – “What’s that?”

Mr. Villamagna – “I’m probably going to be lengthy.”

Mr. Petrella – “Oh I figured that. But no I just want to follow up on a couple items I’ve been asking about. I understand Devonshire done now.”

Lori Fetherolf – “Correct.”

Mr. Petrella – “What about Jim Woods?”

Lori Fetherolf – “Jim Woods; was taking the swing off and a piece broke; I got a picture of it the piece broke so we ordered the piece as soon as it comes in it’ll be up.”

Mr. Petrella – “That’ll be it tonight. I made it short and sweet.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Mayor? Mayor I respectfully ask you to remain seated I had a procedure done on my knee again.”

Mayor Barilla – “So moved (inaudible).”

Mr. Villamagna – “Thank you. First off there’s a couple things that I want to clear up about some information. This comprehensive plan was on page 10 and I want to read it so it’ll be a matter of a record; matter of the minutes. The comprehensive plan that was presented was big ideas was page 11 through 19 but 10 was out of the way so but on page 10 Develop lands overlooking the river with scenic views along the riverfront - specifically west of Route 7 due to limited developable land and opportunities along the riverfront between Route 7 and Ohio River, development this narrow strip of land should be focused on at latter phases of revitalization. I just wanted to read that page into the letter on that. Second I have the deed from the Army Corp of Engineers when we received the property. Expecting and reserving unto the Grantor the perpetual right and easement to flood as may be necessary on account of the construction, operation and maintenance of the Pike Island Lock and Dam Project all those portions of the above described land lying between elevations 649 and 653. Provided however that the premises be used for public park and recreation or other public purposes as stated in the legislation authorizing this conveyance and if said land should cease to be used for these purposes, it will revert back to the Grantor. Okay and now to Andrea Irland report some of the things in there that are brought up are space constraints. Railroad, railroad, railroad; that’s her words not mine. City Engineers met with the Norfolk Southern Representatives and they are not interested in working towards this project. There’s also the possibility of railroad getting funding to develop tracks and transport from the cracker plants which

may increase their buffer and decrease their desire to consider any compatible use. They are notoriously difficult to engage in a partnership. Am I correct Mike?"

Mike Dolak – "They move at their own pace."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Slow."

Mr. Villamagna – "The environmental; the rail line to the riverfront are historically areas of industry and different environmental standards and the use of the property would require an investigation and determination of environmental conditions and subsequent compliance. Some funding sources require these determinations in action. If you would want to partner with the Ohio EPA for that process. The riverbank; special consideration would need to be given to the location of the proposed trail along the Ohio River. Any work that effects below the Ohio Watermark would need to be permitted through the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Any actions that impact flood plans, erosion, tributaries, and wetlands would be subject to evaluate. Other neighbors; there are other adjacent land owners and their uses that would need consideration. Vukelic possibly building a hotel so entrances in traffic would affect any placement of any future trail or facility. The concrete plant is firmly established and it's not going anywhere. Traffic safety and additional maintenance do to the operation would be a challenge. The jail is adjacent to the purposed alignment and that may require special accommodations. I talked to Mr. Vukelic he's not giving us or selling us any piece of the property. He will sell us the entire parcel. Access crossing Route 7 or any potential location would require cooperation with (inaudible) for safe solutions. You heard Mr. Price talk about some of the challenges there. Challenges; access to the marina is difficult from Route 7. The entrance road is narrow and in bad shape. The road is 18 foot wide; need the minimum of 20 to 22 feet. Access roads need to be improved, graded, possibly concrete from the plant; the problem is large equipment using the road. The wall is shifting. It has plants growing in it and it's not very useful. The launches are not in good conditions; steep drop off at the end of the ramp; there's no more (all inaudible) points. The waterline does not run to the shelter; \$250,000 to run the waterline. Many people in the city don't even know it exists. It's not perceived as safe. There's no events that take place there. The railroad is also close here and that may cause safety concerns. Attention needed for the marina wall in the river; thin and leaning in some places. The challenges are funding, limited staff to do maintenance, and lack of public support. There is a lack of public support."

Unknown – "I beg to differ. There is a lot of public (all inaudible)"

Few Unknown – "(All inaudible)."

Mr. Villamagna – "There is a lack of support from the public."

Unknown – "(All inaudible) public."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mayor I'm calling for a point of order. I've got thrown out for the same thing now either they're going to be quiet or you need to throw them out."

Mrs. Haley – "Yeah exactly they need to go. They have to go."

Mayor Barilla – "Please be quiet while this is happening."

Mr. Villamagna – "Now let me continue. There's lack of public support for the marina. That was proved with the paddle fest there was 10 waivers signed here that I had. Most of them were from one family and the other ones I don't know who they were. And caution; this is Andrea Irland's report not mine. There's no such thing as a no maintenance trail. You can't just take a bulldozer down there and start a project on city owned property. You should identify funding sources and then fit the project to it. You plan first then seek funding to fit. Shared information in partnership; communicate; things done in secret will come back to bite everyone and make no mistake about it. There's secret meetings going on about this marina. Work with the project partners to determine the scope and details of the project including the existing condition. So the potential challenges and opportunities these projects take time; lots of money. These projects take money and lots of money. We considered public and private partnerships and the need. Respect the process; discussion about the Market Street Bridge; that's all I have to say about the marina. Now last there's a lot of false statements; a lot of lies; flat out lies and rumors being perpetrated about this marina and how this council feels. I don't want to speak for everybody with this because I don't think anybody is against the marina. So I would assume that we are all for the marina. What I'm not for."

Mrs. Haley – "If you don't get the Chief and have them escorted."

Mr. Villamagna – "I thought it was funny too."

Mrs. Haley – "Chief?"

Mayor Barilla – "Continue. Continue."

Mr. Villamagna – "I thought it was funny that we were all for the marina but anyways."

Mrs. Haley – "This whole little section."

Mr. Villamagna – "But I don't appreciate on Council people going on talk shows and mentioning my personal affairs. Where I camp at; where I recreation at is no one of this Council's business at all and the same people that are doing this they own property at lakes too that they don't want anybody to know about and I don't want anybody to know about what I do on the weekends. When you go on talk shows leave my name out of it completely. I don't go on no talk shows with these people. I didn't appreciate it and if we're going to talk about personal things then we'll bring them up here publicly. So the lies on social media that were spread and the intimidation but one family; one family; one Christian family the lies that were being spread on Facebook about member of this Council is a shame and that's all I have to say. Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Let me ask you Mr. Villamagna. Andrea Irland would you identify who this person is."

Mr. Villamagna – "She is with..."

Mrs. Hahn – "National Parks Service."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay."

Mr. Villamagna – “National Parks Service Mayor.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay thank you. Alright we also have signing in this evening Mr. Dressel.”

Mr. Dressel – “Alright. (Inaudible) brief statement that I actually wrote so I’m going to read it. I look at the development of our parks and the city this way; we’re always going to have maintenance but our future is forever and if we want a better future then we need to be more attractive to those moving to the area and we need to plan and develop with that in mind and that goes for everything we do not just the marina or given park. Our waterfront, up until recently, has always been heavy industrial. Now we have the opportunity to start development and increase recreational utilization across the entire riverfront of the City from one end to the other. This would be more attractive asset to anyone moving here as it is in 1000s of cities across America and the world for that matter. We can create a better future, we can clean up the marina, and make it more usable, more used, attracting more people to Steubenville, Jefferson County, and Ohio and we can keep up the parks and we have and work on them as well. We need to start on this today. We are in a growth period here; might be kind of growth but we have growth in our income tax revenue. So let’s harness that growth and steer it towards greater growth. That’s all I’m asking is that we all work toward a better future. Thank you.

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Mr. Dressel. Also signing in this evening is the Mayor. I want to bring to Council good news this evening that OMEGA this afternoon granted Steubenville, Ohio \$250,000 for the improvement of the waste water/storm water sewer line on University Blvd. and a thanks to Evan Scurti for his help in this matter and also Mayor Mucci. So that was granted like I said this afternoon so thank you OMEGA.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “That’s the kind of news we want.”

PUBLIC FORUM

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