

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 25, 2020**

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

Also present; Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Utility Supervisor Lisa Knight, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Sanitation Supervisor 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 February 18, 2020. 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. 2020-9 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH 2020 AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH.**

Mr. Dressel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-9 by roll call. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-9 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – “Yea one. Sun shining a resolution under utilities authorizing the City Manager of the City of Steubenville to make application for funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Ohio EPA’s Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) and any other sources on behalf of the City of Steubenville for construction of West End Water Facilities; and designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan. And Jim did you want to explain what this is about?”

Jim Jenkins – “Yeah this is just a resolution to allow us to apply for the grant and the funding from Ohio EPA. As it stands right now the loan interest rates are at 1.1%. We will probably qualify for a 0% and we may qualify for some principle forgiveness. However the EPA in the next two years is really focusing on the elimination of lead service lines so those projects that do eliminate lead service lines like pipe replacements and things like that they’ll bear more weight. But as it stands right now we’re applying for Water Supply Revolving Loan Account from Ohio EPA; that’ll be the loan and we’re also applying for a grant right now from ARC through OMEGA and we’re also going to look at SCEIG meeting which is Small Community Environmental Infrastructure Group. Last year Chuck and I think Kimberly went; Chuck and his engineers went up and actually got a good bit of money from the Army Corp of Engineers for one of the waste water projects so we’re also going to be looking at that. We’re also going to look at OPWC for funding as well for either a grant or maybe a loan. So that meeting we’ll get those answers from there but this is just to apply for these two and then in the future apply for whatever grants we also come across. So that’s it for right now.”

Mr. Dressel – “That’s all.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes a couple of things. So we have the Parks and Recreation Board meeting last week and there’s going to be a community meeting having to do with the North End Park the Miracle Field at the Sycamore Center on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and this is opened to the public. Anyone in the city is welcomed to come. They’ll be a presentation on what the Miracle Field is and what they hope it can do and then they’ll be available to answer questions. There was a Beatty Park clean up this past Saturday; people came and worked hard to continue to clear away the brush from the paths and get it ready for spring. Also they’ve been identifying invasive species and spring seems to be a good time to try to eliminate as much as possible. The vines that pull the trees down are one of them but there are other invasive species so they said we really don’t need to do a lot of planting; the biologist meeting with Flora; I’m sorry not biologist; what’s a plant person? Anyway so he was just saying if you get the evasive species out of there then the good things that grow naturally are just going to

come back. So I'll let you know; I don't think this coming weekend will be another clean up but it'll be soon. There will be a Marina Riverfront task force meeting next Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at Froehlich's from 4:30 to 5:45. It looks likely that the US Army Corp of Engineers is going to have Chris Shuster come over from Pittsburgh and he'll be available to answer questions and give us guidelines and then I'm hoping that the Coastguard may be available to help. That's it. Thank you."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mayor?"

Mayor Barilla – "Yes?"

Mr. Villamagna – "Kimberly that meeting at Sycamore Center; who's sponsoring this?"

Mrs. Hahn – "So Parks and Recreation Department and Thom Way with the presentation on the Miracle Field that he gave the board. So there will be photos; there will be material people can look at."

Mr. Villamagna – "Lori what's..."

Lori Fetherolf – "So we would like to put it in an inclusive which means a playground for everybody."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay."

Lori Fetherolf – "Not just for handicap kids for everybody. And then the make the ballfield a miracle field which means it has a rubberized surface on it so kids can play baseball. So he already went to the Park Board; there will be a couple community meetings; it goes back to the Park Board and then it comes to Council. That's kind of how the process works so the Park Board will end up; they will be at the meeting as well to get the community's feedback on whether this should go forward; whether the community feelings on this project."

Mr. Villamagna – "And this is for the North End Field."

Lori Fetherolf – "Correct. The Jim Wood will not happen until April."

Mr. Villamagna – "What day is this?"

Mr. Paul – "March 9<sup>th</sup>."

Lori Fetherolf – "That's a Monday."

Mr. Villamagna – "March 9<sup>th</sup>. What time?"

Lori Fetherolf – "We will have several of them; at 7:00. We will definitely have more than one."

Mrs. Hahn – "Did you want to say anything about seeing Miracle Fields over in Pittsburgh?"

Lori Fetherolf – "I can just tell you I went over to Pittsburgh and saw one and they had tons of kids playing both handicap kids and it is really just a nice big playground is what it is."

Mr. Villamagna – "Moon Township?"

Lori Fetherolf – "Yes and it's things that we would not; I would love to have at any of our parks it's just natural playground things that kids are deaf or blind or autistic can use. It would just be a nice upgrade for I think for that end of town."

Mr. Villamagna – "Did this same group put that one in at Moon Township?"

Lori Fetherolf – "No but he is working with them because when I went over I talked to the gentleman that did theirs yeah. It's very nice. Very nice."

Mr. Villamagna – "Yeah I saw the one in Moon Township."

Mr. Paul – "Yes you're Honor. I would like to call a Finance Committee Meeting next week at 6:00. Dave Lewis will go over January month end reports. I know we're into the next month but also we can spring board off that into talking about what the Chief talked about; discussed tonight and I know some people have some other ideas and somethings they'd like to bring up. So yes Dave will talk about month end report for January and then we will also discuss what the Fire Chief talked about tonight. 6:00 thank you."

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – "Yes I would like to call a Transportation Committee meeting. I'm not sure when the last one was but let's do March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 and I'll send it out so we can put somethings on the agenda. I know Councilwoman Hahn has something and Councilwoman Anyabwile has some stuff as well so I'm going to invite SVRTA and VHJ is who else we wanted. So okay. Thank you."

Mr. Villamagna – "Yeah Mayor. Just to let you know the Kay Jewelers is opened now out by Rural King. They finally opened up and also there's another store going in there right next to where H&R Block is. They started construction on the inside of the building and they should be finished; it's a shoe store so they should be finished there shortly and they'll be opened too. And there's 3 or 4 new stores in the mall that've opened up. Because the mall is slow but sure coming back a little bit maybe with little stores and they're also working with them on the rent so you know it's a positive sign anyways. And I always like to remind people that we have Hollywood Plaza; we've got 36 stores in there. All the property is filled; they're all going. Several businesses up and down Sunset Blvd. and Chris you put out a thing about the building; how much the fees were there and everything? How much money we brought in. If you can print that out again I want to give that to the news media to let them see it. Okay? Because there's a lot of stuff going on in Steubenville. You have to look for it. You can't just get on social media and Facebook and nothing's going on. There's things happening here. You just have to pay attention to what's going on in your city so that's all. Stay positive."

Mayor Barilla – "I think the Herald Star reported just recently that Steubenville Wintersville there's a \$143,000,000 that's been invested in both communities here recently."

## **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Mr. Mastro – "Thank you Mayor. Just one thing tonight. All of you should've received today by email the email I put together regarding the opioid lawsuit MOU. About two weeks ago Mr. Mavromatis briefed you on

the meeting he had attended in Columbus with the Governor and the Attorney General regarding the State of Ohio's lawsuit against the opioid manufacturer and distributors. They're encouraging all the local municipalities to join and ratify the MOU; vote to accept the MOU as to how the money will be disbursed if there is a settlement. I've outlined; I know Mr. Mavromatis did as well but I've outlined it in the email that I sent you and I'll just over them quickly. 30% of the settlement funds will be distributed directly to the local government for cost related to opioid abatement efforts. 55% will be sent to a foundation govern by a board made of local government leaders that will regularly vote to distribute the monies among the regions that are broken up in the State of Ohio and then 15% would be distributed to the AG's office for covering the cost related to the abatement efforts. They are requesting that we act on a resolution either accepting it or not. But if we are accepting it to act on a resolution prior to March 6<sup>th</sup> so we do have time to do this. We will be able to participate in the settlement if we do this. In the second email I wanted to point out to you what the Ohio Municipal League referenced and I'll read it. Both the Governor and the Attorney General have publicly urged local governments to agree to the MOU to ensure all local governments benefits from the settlement not just those currently in the litigation but we are not in the litigation we would be part of the settlement group. So on the off chance that we do want to do this I'm going to ask so we can have this prepared; I'm going to ask that we sunshine the resolution that I forwarded to you all and I'll ask someone to sunshine it tonight so we can get that on the agenda for next week if you guys want to vote for that."

Mr. Paul – "You're Honor may I speak here?"

Mayor Barilla – "Yes Mr. Paul."

Mr. Paul – "I would like to; for next week a resolution to accept the Ohio Memorandum of Understanding regarding the pursuit and use of potential Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds. And we'll bring it up next week. It'll be a resolution for this body. Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you."

Mr. Mastros – "And that's all I have Mr. Mayor."

## MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now going to move onto miscellaneous reports. This evening signing in is Mrs. Hahn. Mrs. Hahn – "Yeah. I just wanted to mention that I'm going to go to the Ohio Municipal League conference down in Mason, Ohio over the weekend and just wanted to remind Council members that we are expected to go whether you are elected or reelected you're expected to go to at least one meeting that goes through sunshine laws or make sure that you go online and take the course online. So I called the Attorney General's office and they said it actually is required for every time that you are elected to office and I don't know; Karly did you have any dates on the sunshine laws specifically? I know you sent that Ohio Municipal League. And I don't know if that counts because one of the sessions is on sunshine laws so I'll have to find out if that's sufficient. And Costa did you find out how we're supposed to report back that we've actually taken that training? Because the person I spoke to said it is a requirement."

Mr. Mastros – "No but I will find that out."

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay."

Mr. Mastros – "I remember we did talk about that. Yes."

Mrs. Hahn – "Yeah."

Mr. Mastros – "I think you'll probably get a certificate; I am assuming from the Ohio Municipal League that you participated in the course and you completed it. I think Karly will probably mail a copy of that certificate to the Attorney General's office. Got to get the right division."

Mrs. Hahn – "Yeah."

Mr. Mastros – "But I think that's the route."

Mrs. Hahn – "And I don't know if one hour counts as a; I mean the whole day it's 9:00 to 4:15 but only one hour covers sunshine laws but..."

Mr. Mastros – "Okay."

Mrs. Hahn – "But I'm hoping that's..."

Mayor Barilla – "What's the date?"

Mrs. Hahn – "So I'm going this Saturday but there are two more. I think there's one in March and one in April. Are you going?"

Mrs. Anyabwile – "I'm going in April."

Mrs. Hahn – "In April and that's the one in the Cleveland area?"

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Yes."

Mrs. Hahn – "And then I think maybe the March one is Columbus area?"

Mrs. Haley – "Uh huh."

Mrs. Hahn – "Yeah. So okay. Great."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay thank you Mrs. Hahn. Also signing in this evening under miscellaneous is Mrs. Anyabwile."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Well I just had a couple of things; one Mr. Timmons addressed so we'll bring that up in the Transportation meeting. When we have people from our audience come and you know give concerns I'd like to be able to at least you know give some kind of answer either we like okay we'll research it and we'll get back.

Mr. McLaughlin concern in case we do decide to have the Judge move down to the Justice Center his concern

was on safety and I'm sure that if that arises that we do decide to move the Judge's quarters down to the Justice Center that safety will be taken into consideration. I know Mr. McLaughlin is not here tonight but you know our minutes are available to the public and I do want him to know that we do take those concerns into consideration. The second is and I wanted to bring it up during the safety meeting however we kind of ran short of time is vacant structures that we have here in the city. They're not only an eye sore but they are a danger. A case in point I have; I've had a couple of the citizens come to me about vacant structures that are near their property. One such down on South 4<sup>th</sup> St. where a lady's children are or her grandchildren may be at risk (all inaudible) because next door she sees raccoons coming in and out of the house. They come to her back porch. They've even come and defecated on her porch; you know on her furniture on her porch. She's afraid for their safety. She also knows that people are coming in and out of the structure because she can see the shades being pulled up and down. We're talking a place with no running water, with no electricity, and no heat. That makes it a vacant structure. Okay so she's afraid that people are coming and staying there and she's really afraid that some harm may come to her children; her grandchildren. She doubly afraid because the house across the street from her blew up last year and her house suffered some damage. So she's really upset and she's really scare. I'm not quite sure how we're going to address these structures because there are other structures in the city. One up on the corner of Adams and Garrett. There's another one up on Park that is vacant but people are going in and out of these structures which causes you know fright to the community that surrounds these structures. The one down on 4<sup>th</sup> St. and I have an address; she's even got contact information for that person who left the structure; the people who do own it they live in Delaware now and they even told her if you can go in and find the paperwork we'll even transfer it to you but you know the place is such a mess she doesn't want this structure near her. So I hope we can address these types of safety issues and they are safety issues they're not just eye sores anymore. Okay? My second point is I wanted to thank everybody who gave attendance at Black History; African Heritage Month events. I want to thank churches, schools, organizations, Council members, the press and the general public for coming out and you know paying a tribute to this event during that month of February which is coming to an end and we'll look forward again to next year's Black History Month. Thank you."

Mayor Barilla – "We need the address on South 4<sup>th</sup> St."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "I have it. It's 439 South 4<sup>th</sup> St."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "And I have the name of the person who owns it and we can get phone numbers."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay I just want to drive by it myself on it. Thank you."

Mr. Dressel – "Since you added that can I mention something to that?"

Mayor Barilla – "Yes."

Mr. Dressel – "Since you wanted to talk about that. At last week's; I think it's last week the Economic Development meeting Chris handed out a packet of information; I think it was before you got here that's real thick. In that packet is the demolition list currently; that address is probably in that packet. If not it can be added. If you're not aware you know because you just started we have 900 vacant structures in town. All descriptively exactly like you just mentioned all over the place on every street; next to everybody's house. So I just wanted you to know if you go to Chris he's on top of that list so I would make sure he's aware too and then they can bump that up as we have funding. Generally they take down five to seven a year; some years when we've had funding we've taken down more but I don't have that packet with me to look to see if that specific address is on there but I wouldn't be surprised if it was. Just so you know it was there last week."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "I'll check."

Mrs. Hahn – "Could I mention (all inaudible)?"

Mayor Barilla – "Yes Mrs. Hahn?"

Mrs. Hahn – "Just one other thing for you to know that again I don't know if you know the County Land Bank doesn't have as many dollars for demolition but one possibility is if the people who own it and now live in Delaware would be willing to donate the property to the County Land Bank; the County Land Bank will take it down and then your friend could buy it for just the change of title which I think is still \$187.50. So she could go from having something that seems dangerous and you know and is a concern to actually increasing the value of her property and having a nice place for her grandchildren to play."

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mayor Barilla – "We do not have any one signing in under 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