

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 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 Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, & Paul.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, 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, Utility Director Chuck Murphy, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Sanitation Supervisor Bob Baird, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for January 28, 2020. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. Six (6) ayes. One (1) abstain. 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. 2020-2 – BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Dressel, Hahn

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT, BIDDING AND SALE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 230 SOUTH SIXTH STREET AND DESIGNATED AS JEFFERSON COUNTY AUDITOR PARCEL NUMBER 07-03370-000 WITH THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.

NO. 2020-3 – 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.

NO. 2020-4 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF REAL ESTATE FROM MARY S. DRAZICH, WITH SAID REAL ESTATE PART OF LOT 12 OF MEARS ADDITION AND PART OF LOT 11 OF MEARS ADDITION.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Resolution No. 2020-4. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Resolution No. 2020-4 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-4 by roll call. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-4 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2020-5 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2020 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

Mrs. Haley – “Resolution No. 2020-5. A resolution – proclaiming the month of February 2020 as Black History Month. Whereas, each year beginning on February 1, an entire month of events are planned nationwide honoring the history and contributions of African Americans; and whereas, the theme for Black History Month in 2020 is “AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE” recognizes the struggle for voting rights among both black men and women throughout American history; and whereas, BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) which gave the right of black men to vote following the Civil War. It also marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women’s suffrage movement; and whereas, even before the Civil War, free black men first petitioned state legislatures for the right to vote, but it wasn’t until 1870 when the 15th Amendment was ratified providing that “the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on the basis of race, color or previous condition of servitude; and whereas, southern state legislatures immediately began undermining the protections found in the new amendment. Years of lawsuits and protests followed, but it wasn’t until the rise of the Civil Right Movement and Voting Rights Act of 1965 that the freedom to vote was enjoyed by a majority of southern blacks; and whereas, the important contribution of black

suffragists occurred not only within the larger women's movement, but within the larger black voting rights movement. Through voting-rights campaigns and legal suits from the turn of the twentieth century to the mid-1960s, African Americans made their voices heard as to the importance of the vote. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio: Section 1: That this Council does hereby proclaim the month of February 2020 as Black History Month throughout the City of Steubenville.

Section 2: That this Council does hereby call upon all the citizens of the City of Steubenville to observe Black History Month and to participate in appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities. Section 3: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval by Council; otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law."

Mrs. Anyabwile made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-5 by roll call. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-5 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Thank you. I'm going to present this to Mrs. Dolores Wiggins for her effort in promoting the history of African people here in the United States (all inaudible). Surprised I know. Thank you very much. We appreciate what you do. This is for you. Would you like to say a couple words?"

Dolores Wiggins – "I'd just like to say; I always give honor to my City Manager and to all the; the Mayor and to all the people that belong to the City Council. I think we're tremendous. I do. No one has the same emotion or the same anything that we had (all inaudible) but I thank you all for; slavery began in 1619 and it was through or finished in 1865 so we thank god that all the trials and all the (all inaudible). Thank you so much for this. I love all of you. Okay? Thank you so much."

NO. 2020-6 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26TH-FEBRUARY 1, 2020 AS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK.

Mrs. Haley – "Resolution No. 2020-6. A resolution proclaiming the week of January 26th-February 1, 2020 as Catholic Schools Week. Whereas, the theme for Catholic Schools Week 2020 is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed;" and whereas, Catholic Schools Week theme encompasses the core products and values that can be found in Catholic schools across the country; and whereas, not only are we teaching students to become future servant leaders, faith-filled disciples and enriched citizens in our communities, we, as educators, are growing with them; and whereas, in Catholic schools, we are all learners, servants and leaders. These shared qualities are what make Catholic schools work and they are what make Catholic schools succeed; and whereas, the observance of Catholic Schools Week began in 1974. National Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Schools typically observe the week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio: Section 1: That this Council does hereby proclaim the week of January 26th through February 1, 2020 as Catholic Schools Week throughout the Diocese of Steubenville. Section 2: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval by Council; otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law."

Mrs. Hahn made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-6 by roll call. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-6 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

Mrs. Hahn – "I would like to invite Principal Tom Costello of Catholic Central High School come forward. This is Jude Lucas. Please come forward. Thank you so much for all of the sacrificial work, (inaudible) labors, (all inaudible from door swinging); good leaders for them. Thank you very very much. We really appreciate your leadership."

Tom Costello – "Thank you. Thank you very much."

Mrs. Hahn – "(All inaudible)."

Tom Costello – "Thank you Mayor and thank you Council members for this wonderful honor. Catholic Schools are honored to serve the people of Steubenville and all of our students and anything we can do to help the city and our students that's what we're here to serve so thank you so much."

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – "Yes one thing under transportation committee. Costa and Jim if you could look into this I got a call today from a citizen he said he drives a tesla and the marking in front of the City Building the blue line supposedly interfered with the automatic driving and caused his car to swerve. So I looked into it a little bit and there are some; supposedly it's illegal to have that. The department of transportation has come out with that. I just wanted you to check and make sure we're not going to be liable in anyway if something were to happen because more of those cars get on the road and but I don't know how they work really and how they tell about the line but if you could just check into that I'd appreciate it."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Could you send me his contact information?"

Mr. Timmons – "He would not. He did not want to be contacted."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Okay."

Mr. Timmons – "Because you know he didn't want it to seem like he's against the police or whatever it was because that's what the blue line stands for but you know; I just don't want us to be liable if something were..."

Mr. Mavromatis – “Sure.”

Mr. Timmons – “If that’s the case so thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor two things. The first Chris could you; we have this about this 1438 Arlington Ave. Could you get up and explain that to the Council? What it’s all about?”

Chris Petrossi – “Thank you Bob. I was contacted by the land bank regarding the property at 1438 Arlington Ave. this is a lot where the land bank acquired a property that was tax foreclosure and demolished the house. The city and you all have a map showing the location along with the email from the land bank. The city owns the other half of the lot. It also owns the property to the west and the north of this lot and therefore the land bank thought we may be interested. If the city is interested the cost would be \$150.00 for the lot plus \$184.15 for preparation and recording transfer fees and I would just like to inquire from Council if there is in fact interest in acquiring this part of this lot that; at 1435 Arlington Ave.”

Mayor Barilla – “Chris the yellow triangle what is that?”

Chris Petrossi – “That is the lot that the land bank owns. We own the other part of that lot (all inaudible) the triangle there the other part of that lot as well as the property from the west and to the north.”

Mr. Paul – “All of 1435 is what you’re saying?”

Chris Petrossi – “Yes. You see now that yellow triangle is 1435. We own the rest of that lot and everything; all the other land around it.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Is there a building on it?”

Chris Petrossi – “No it’s been demolished by the land bank.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Any other questions for Chris?”

Mr. Petrella – “What’s the size of the lot?”

Chris Petrossi – “It’s a very small lot. I don’t have the; I don’t know the exact size but it’s only half of the lot. So it can’t be more than; the lot itself is 50; I believe 50 x 100 but (all inaudible). We own the other half.”

Mr. Dressel – “I have a question. It’s only; it’s not building then; the right and left is combined with something else?”

Chris Petrossi – “Correct by today’s standards it would not be.”

Mr. Dressel – “So if we bought it then we can turn it around and sell the entire thing if somebody wants to build there someday.”

Chris Petrossi – “If there was an interested party correct.”

Mr. Villamagna – “If we want to buy it what do we have to do now Costa?”

Mr. Mastros – “I think we should do an authorizing resolution; authorizing the purchase.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Can we do that now?”

Mr. Mastros – “We can do that or I can just create one; bring it to you next week to sunshine.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Is Council okay with doing that? Everybody is on board. Okay. Alright thank you Costa.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Villamagna – “And the second thing tonight Mr. Gentile is here the County Commissioner and I invited him to come down because a couple years ago we had talked about; Tommy approached and said it would be nice if we could get the Municipal Court down there where there other court rooms are because of the court system the way they were with the cameras and stuff. So we had kicked it around but at the time Judge Mascio didn’t think it was a great idea. So Tommy and the Judge kicked it around and myself and Tommy have also kicked it around and the Judge said since the Police have left the building he’s not really comfortable in the Court Room and feels it would be a good time to move now if we can down to the Justice Center. Which in the beginning when the building was built it was actually built for us and it never transpired so I was thinking maybe we could get some dialogue started because we had started with the security for the court and then everybody remembered how much it was; it was very very expensive and sooner or later the court is going to mandate; the Supreme Court is going to mandate that we do something for the security of the court. So if we could get a dialogue started with the commissioners; to kick it around to see if it’s a valuable deal for us; to see if you know it’s worthwhile looking into and if we can direct the City Manager to talk to the Commissioners about some kind of deal to see what the Commissioners want to offer and what’s acceptable to us and Tom is you would speak on it I would appreciate it.”

Tom Gentile – “Yeah first of all I’m not here to convince you of anything; to sell anybody anything; sell you on the concept just it’s been talked about for some time and Judge Mascio and I talked about it after like Bob said we talked about it several years ago. Bob and I have talked about it I even brought it up with other City Officials. The concept of possibly if the city desires to repurpose this building; the concept of moving the Municipal Court to the Justice Center where you have security already when you go into; we have a lot of space in the Justice Center because it was originally designed to accommodate not only the prosecutor but the Steubenville Police Department. So I’m not here to sell you on the concept but as I went back to the Commissioners and we talked about it and they were like well what does the city; they said basically what does the city think? So all I’m really asking is if the City has an interest I know Judge Mascio does I’ve talked to him this morning; it was the last time I spoke to John and I think he sent an email to the Mayor and to the City Manager; both possibly about this. All I want to know is if there would be support of the Council to discuss the options with the Commissioners. What we don’t want to do is start discussing it based on John saying there’s an interest and find out that you guys might; you men and women may have disagreement on that or not like the idea. It’s not; I don’t have a proposal. I don’t have anything ready and we’re no really going to go through those steps until we hear; we would like a letter from Council as soon as possible; you know I know Thursday is kind of soon if not by this Thursday hopefully by next Thursday so we can start to get the balls rolling to have some dialogue. I have spoken to some of the people who are already in the building about this idea and there seems to

be support on the County side to at least have a dialogue on utilizing that building. Now the building has some great advantages; we've had some issues with the building and we've worked through a lot of them. We're just going through a lot of HVAC upgrades. We're getting ready to do close to a million dollars in the roof and cooling tower and some other things but the building has backup generators; it's got backup water supply you know it's a 24 hour operation we have to keep it up and running and it's very secure so anybody coming into the building goes through the screening and the Sheriff is right downstairs so it would; it would give you a lot of those options. So that's the first thing (all inaudible) asking is maybe you all discuss it amongst yourselves and if you have an interest let the County Commissioners know and then our next step will be to work with whoever you say is going to be your representatives or group of representatives and they'll work with us. I will definitely be involved for sure on the County side. I don't know who else if the other commissioners; we started to work with the prosecutor and the people in the Justice Center to let me see what the options are. There's a lot of T's to cross and I's to dot before we would get this done but it starts with is there any interest. That's the first reason I'm here. The other reason we've talked; if I could Mr. Villamagna?"

Mr. Villamagna – "Yeah."

Tom Gentile – "We've talked about the Port Authority and I've had dialogue with Willie and I have talked; Bob and Eric and I know Mayor and Jim and Kimberly we've all talked a little bit about the Port Authority. The County is interested in adding two more seats to the Port Authority and one of those seats I would like to see offered to City of Toronto. Toronto is the only other city in Jefferson County besides Steubenville and they don't have any default representation on the Port Authority. I've spoken to the Mayor; I've talked to Mayor Parker about that; he hasn't taken it to his Council but he certainly likes the idea of Toronto being involved and may be able to come up with money. What I would ask quite honestly is even money per seat for what Steubenville is putting in right now. I think you guys are up to 50 is that correct?"

Mrs. Hahn – "40."

Tom Gentile – "40?"

Mrs. Hahn – "40,000 this year and 50 next year."

Tom Gentile – "Okay and that comes out to twelve five a seat or something like that. How many seats do you?"

Mr. Villamagna – "Four."

Tom Gentile – "Okay so it'll be 10,000 a seat. So; god I was hoping to get more out of Toronto but; it's in the math."

Mr. Villamagna – "Good try Tom."

Tom Gentile – "But anyway that would be the concept and then the other seat would be where we would try to get representation. We don't want to be limited on that other seat to a specific area because it gets very limiting and sometimes trying to get good representatives if you're targeted to only one area somebody might be outside that area so we'd like the flexibility to just add another seat."

Mr. Paul – "It'll bring us to 13 right?"

Tom Gentile – "Yes."

Mr. Paul – "Okay. I have no problem with that. I really don't."

Tom Gentile – "13; are we allowed; I can't; four; four and three. Yeah."

Mr. Paul – "Yeah."

Tom Gentile – "Yeah so..."

Mr. Villamagna – "(All inaudible) bylaw change Tommy (all inaudible)."

Tom Gentile – "And here's why I'm asking. We do want something official in correspondence from the City on that also because; Mayor have you worked with Tom Graham on the bylaws? Who's working with Tom on the bylaws? Somebody on the City side was working with Tom Graham who originated the bylaws but we're going to have to make some changes to the bylaws to do this and of course before we start going through that and making the changes we want to make sure that we have the city's blessing that they are interested in moving forward this way. That will give a little more money to the port."

Mr. Villamagna – "From the beginning it was Tom was working with Ed I think; Ed Florak."

Tom Gentile – "That's right. Dr. Florak. I'm sorry."

Mr. Villamagna – "And then he resigned so nothing has taken place like that."

Tom Gentile – "So if somebody; if you say yeah we're interested let's have (all inaudible) whether it be Jim or the Mayor or anybody at Council anybody who designates to sit down and go over the bylaws and we're really not looking for a whole sale change on the bylaws. Just a few things that would allow some of these issues; some things are issues that may have arisen since the bylaws was originally written and now that we've operated for an X amount of years but we're not looking for whole sale changes. We're looking (all inaudible)."

Mr. Villamagna – "Tom we can hook up with both Mr. Graham and Costa get together..."

Tom Gentile – "Whatever you guys; will do that. So again in both cases we're just asking you know for something in correspondence in writing to us that you would support that dialogue (all inaudible). Thank you so much."

Mr. Villamagna – "Now everybody is okay with letting them talk about trying to figure out how to get to the municipal court room down there? Everybody's okay with it? Okay."

Mr. Paul – "Yes I mean well us three over there and Kimberly."

Mrs. Hahn – "Yeah."

Mr. Paul – "I mean I'm fine with it. I think Judge Mascio needs to go down there and the security is utmost here because you never who can walk into this building now. Before we had Police present and we don't have any more everybody's in the other building so I think yes we need to have that dialogue. Are you good?"

Mr. Dressel – "Yeah I'm fine,"

Mr. Paul – “I know Bob’s good.”

Mr. Timmons – “I’m good.”

Mr. Petrella – “I’m okay but I’d like to hear from Judge Mascio.”

Mr. Paul – “We’ll talk with them but I’m just saying we want to go forward with this. Move forward.”

Mr. Mastros – “I think we’re just talking.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Well Judge Mascio was supposed to come tonight but he called me and he’s behind and he’s the one that started it.”

Tom Gentile – “Did he write you an email?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes.”

Tom Gentile – “Or did he (inaudible) both of you? He was in support (all inaudible).”

Mr. Villamagna – “He sent you something today? He was supposed to come tonight but something happened. I don’t know.”

Tom Gentile – “(All inaudible) he said well just let them know that you spoke with me today and that I did write an email to the Mayor and to the City Manager both in support of the issue so however you guys.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim can you; Kimberly?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Just a thought what we’re committing too is that we really want to see what proposals you all might come up with.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Right.”

Tom Gentile – “We were thinking maybe 20 to \$30,000 a month something like that in rent. (All inaudible).”

Mrs. Hahn – “So I mean to Craig’s point we’re just saying…”

Tom Gentile – “Absolutely.”

Mrs. Hahn – “We would really love (all inaudible from Tom and Mrs. Hahn talking at the same time).”

Tom Gentile – “No we really don’t want to start to go through the steps and the dialogue and looking at the possibilities if we don’t have a real interest on this side. If something in correspondence that we can document that says there’s an interest and then there’s a lot of work that has to be done to figure out you know if it’s feasible? What the cost would be? How (inaudible) it resolve? It could be a really nice thing for both the County and the City.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Just to start the dialogue.”

Mayor Barilla – “Mr. Villamagna so you need to make a motion to (all inaudible). Mr. Mastros make a letter to submit to the County Commissioners.”

Mr. Mastros – “That’s fine. We can do that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Make a motion?”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah.”

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to have the Council Clerk draft up a letter of correspondence to the County Commissioners asking them to enter into dialogue about moving the Municipal Court from the City Building to the Justice Center. Second by Mr. Dressel. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motioned carried declared Mayor Barilla.”

Mr. Villamagna – “And the other; also I; should I make a motion then for the Port Authority?”

Mr. Mastros – “No I’ll take care of that. I’ll start that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay. Anything else Tom?”

Tom Gentile – “No thank you. Kimberly I didn’t mean to be smart but if you come to Commissioners meetings we kid around a lot so that’s all I was doing.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Mayor one other thing too. It was brought to my attention; I received a call that there was going to be no more Dean Martin Festival. Well that’s not true so they showed me where it was on social media and it was on the Hometown Celebration; do you do that website? Who does that website?”

Mayor Barilla – “That’s through the Visitor Center across the street.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay and so I read it and the way it sounded it kind of sounded like there was no more Dean Martin Festival but then after I read it a couple of times I think what it meant was yins aren’t having one over there.”

Mayor Barilla – “At the fort.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Right.”

Mayor Barilla – “Correct.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Could you maybe specify that a little bit more.”

Mayor Barilla – “All right so last year; the Dean Martin Festival is a little bit of an issue because of the location of the Spot Bar and we down here on Third Street. We tried to make it a hometown celebration where we have more of a family friendly venue here at the Fort and then for those that wish to partake in whatever at the Spot Bar that kind of entertainment so we tried to collaborate together. Last year we spent a decent amount of money at the Fort to have I think we had the Beatles there last year. It costs a little bit of money but we lost money last year in handling it and at the Fort. I spoke with JoJo DiAlbert Saturday and he’s telling me that they have lost money ongoing throughout the years doing it at the Spot Bar. This year he’s only going to have one entertainer brought in. We brought in like I said the Beatles; we brought in an impersonator and as I said it got pretty caustic so the issue is with us at the Fort to actually not do anything at the Fort at that time. But that’s not finalized we’re still in the working stages on it.”

Mr. Villamagna – “But I didn’t want you to have to; I didn’t want to interrupt you but I meant on that website if you could put that it’s still going on at the Spot you know what I mean?”

Mayor Barilla – “I’ve wanted for years to be able to get the Spot Bar, South 4th Street together.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah.”

Mayor Barilla – “And have an Italian/Dean Martin thing on the street.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Right.”

Mayor Barilla – “Something like First Fridays happening. But I was; we were never able to get that going. The issues with; we didn’t want to interfere with the Spot Bar and their entertainment night and when we start to do entertainment at the Fort at the amphitheater in the evening we conflict with them and then it gets a little bit mixed up and you get bad feelings.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Alright Mayor.”

Mayor Barilla – “That’s where we are.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Thank you.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Just one thing. So Wendy is the swimming coach at Big Red spoke with Lori Fetherolf and (all inaudible) and they had a number of swim team people come up to Beatty Park. A number of other people joined them and Lori herself was there for about seven hours and they just; they’re breaking down the paths; they cleaned up debris; they’ve picked up some trash although there’s been a lot less litter; Sister Mary O’Conner was there; a lot of people are going and they notice more people coming in just walking the trails and it’s very interesting how success seems to be building on success. So we’re still trying to figure out how to solve the bridge. We can’t really redo that roof at the shelter until we have a plan (all inaudible) bridge but if you are interested in volunteering at Beatty Park at some point and you didn’t get any kind of notification about it. Please see me make sure I’ve got your contact information and we’ll let people know when things are going to happen. Alright and Lori is away at a National Conference. Depends on when she gets back (all inaudible).”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor. I have one thing that I want to bring up. Tonight I’d like to introduce Mr. Rob Herrington he is a Fire Chief and he also has the ambulance unit at the Village of Wintersville and he’d like to say a few words tonight. As you recall a couple weeks ago we had a discussion with Mr. D’Anniballe and his family. There’s an ongoing issue and we’re trying to address that and I think Mr. Herrington will provide some insight tonight on that subject. Thank you sir.”

Rob Herrington – “I think I know almost everybody here but if you don’t know me I’ve been the Fire Chief in Wintersville for 37 years so I am that old. I’m also the 911 director for Jefferson County and; that I have my uniform on I just came from work but I’m actually representing the Fire Department tonight. I’ve read with interest your comments from your meeting; the notes from your meeting two weeks ago and I think that even though I’ve talked to a number of you since then I think that it’s only right that I clarify somethings in public and kind of bring you up to date on what’s happened since then. First of all the City of Steubenville has a private ambulance provider. I don’t know anything about your contractual agreement. I know there’s some licensing things that use to exist and things like that but the bottom line is they’re a private company and so their purpose is to make money and how they do that and why they do what they do is really none of my business or any of my concern. But the problem is; is that in your city you have about 3,000 emergency calls a year and when I say 3,000 I mean 911 calls not (all inaudible). So how they choose to respond to those or how they are able to respond to those is based on their model of doing business every day. I know that Mr. D’Anniballe said that they have some issues with staffing. They’ve had problems maintaining staffing or you know keeping the right number of people of the rode every day. I get that. I understand that. I can tell you right now based on your current situation you are going to subsidize EMS in your city because if you don’t subsidize EMS in your city really soon you’re going to have major problems on your hands and when I say subsidize you are either going to subsidize his service to have people sitting waiting to go on emergency calls or you’re going to do it yourself with your Fire Department or with a third; you know some cities have third services or EMS only and why I say that is I’ve been in your city; my department has been in your city nine times in the last 24 hours. I can’t do this every day. Okay? Since your meeting I now have to appear at Wintersville Council on Thursday; I’ll have to appear at the township trustees meeting you know within a few more weeks; Toronto’s EMS has already been told by their board that they can’t continue to do this. Mingo Council got approached last week about this so this is a huge problem and unfortunately I don’t want to be the bearer of bad news but it’s your problem and you need to solve it. I want to explain a little bit about this. What’s the difference between a private and a tax base system? Well it’s simple we get tax money; our constituents our community supports us with tax money to provide that service. If my ambulances and my fire trucks don’t move all day we still have a source of income that’s coming into to us to support that operation. If we go out 25 times a day again we’re there to do that but we bill for services like all EMS agencies do. But we are not reliant on that billing to manage what we do every day to manage our organization. So the problem in your city is that because it’s a private company they’re; again I don’t have any; I can’t find any fault with their model of what they’re trying to do. I don’t really know enough about it nor do I really want to know any more about it. The bottom line is the demographics of your city are a lot of Medicaid; a lot of Medicare; not as much private insurance as you might normally see and I know Mrs. Hahn brought up the question of could you talk to Medicaid or could you approach that? The answer is that is no. You cannot do that. Okay? Those rates are set. Medicaid right now pays \$87.00 for an ambulance trip. If I take the \$20.00 off for my billing company then that’s \$67.00. So you can’t sell pizza for 25 cents a slice to some people and 5 cents a slice to another group of people and think you’re going to make a profit. It doesn’t work that way. So that’s why a large percent of EMS in the country is tax subsidized. In fact that number is about 90% and that’s either fire based or third party which would mean you would have an EMS agency within your city. You’re not really probably big enough to have that but like to see Pittsburgh places like that they have a third group that actually provides that service. What we’re doing right now is unsustainable and so by you having this meeting two weeks ago and by comments that were made it’s

created a fire storm in all of our communities to say enough and my problem in all of this is from a (inaudible) standpoint and an ethical standpoint I'm not going to say no; I can't say no; that's not you know that's not what we do. But at the same time I have to protect my own community. I have to protect the people who pay taxes for us to be there. So what we do is we limit how many times we'll respond based on what squad or what trucks we have available. I have three trucks on the road every day. Today I took a call in the City of Steubenville for a 2 year old. I striped my community of everything I had because I was already on a call in the city and I was on another call in my community. I took that third call in the city because it was a 2 year old. I don't want to see something happen to a 2 year old because there's obviously a breakdown in what's going on in the city as far as that service but again that's not sustainable. I can't keep doing that. Statistically last year about 15% of the emergency 911 calls got turned over to outside agencies. I don't know how that number compares for private companies across the country but last year my service rolled over 1% of what we did to other agencies. So my three trucks were tied up; I bring somebody else; 1%. Okay? Now maybe that's exceptionally good I don't know but the point being 15% from the whole year but in December it was 25% and in January it was 23%. So we're not treading in the right direction. In 24 hours I've been here nine times; from last night until tonight and I'm not the only one. Okay? Other squads were here as well. If you saw the video on TV today from the accident on Route 7 there was a squad there from Amsterdam. Why would Amsterdam be in Steubenville? Because they were at the hospital so they called them and that's what; we all do that every day but you can't have the level of outside response that we have right now and expect it. I'm willing to ask any questions that you have."

Mr. Villamagna – "When your loved one is involved and it's 22 minutes; 25 minute wait and you have a 2 year old and an ambulance is coming from Amsterdam or Hillandale or Toronto it's a long time to wait. I appreciate Wintersville, Toronto, and all the Toronto agencies because I know that we have a mutual aid and I know that you're not going to leave us hanging as long as you don't have too."

Ron Herrington – "Right."

Mr. Villamagna – "But if you have too; you have to protect your own."

Ron Herrington – "I think; yeah; I think the biggest thing Bob is really two issues here. Number one is if you look at our call information that; and we're still tabulated but we switched systems in the middle of last year so it's a little difficult for us to tabulate some of this and I know you asked for some stuff and we're still kind of working on it but one of the problems is that I don't have a reciprocal agreement or I shouldn't say agreement but a reciprocal relationship right now because if they can't handle the calls in the city they're probably unlikely to be able to come help me. Right? And that's an issue but bigger than that is that we're going through it; 911 a progression of a number of agencies before we get somebody to come into the city. So the other day Franciscan had a call and it was Brilliant that was there and then we went there and then Hillandale went somewhere else and so again that's not necessarily the first call that we placed to get help. Right? So normally it's us first or Mingo first depending if it's downtown or out west but then from there it's a progression through lord knows how many agencies."

Mr. Villamagna – "Well how does that work? Okay I need an ambulance right now. If I'm going to call 911 and where you live at (all inaudible)."

Rob Herrington – "So we give it to the city's provider and if they can't take it they obviously just tell us right back you know as soon as possible that they can't take it and then we ask them who they want because they're the providers so that's their call. Right? So they'll say downtown its Mingo or maybe if it's out the west end it'll be us right? And again you know it comes down to; so what if we're not available then it goes to the next and the next; next. Now here's the problem I looked at calls today from January where we went to five squads before we got one. Alright? Well that's not happening in one minute. Right? Because we're paging those squads. Those are all volunteer agencies. We're staffed. Majority of these other departments; Mingo is staffed but the majority of them aren't. So we're progressing through these and you know what's happening the clock is running. Right? So you know it's (inaudible) we talk about a golden hour being; you have an hour to resolve that traumatic injury to turn it around right? Where that person could obviously die. So again we're always worried about that. Right? We're always worried about how much time is elapsing until we get somebody there. And again the bottom line is you have to have people in your community; in every community that are willing and able to respond when you have an emergency and so you know out in the county we have a lot of volunteer agencies. Some of them have some paid personnel; they might have one person on duty or whatever but they're not doing anything else but that. So they're not going anywhere else. They're not doing transports. They're not doing any other kind of business other than being able to respond. You know and we do mutual aid with other departments. You know we might go to Richmond twenty times a year; you know Belvedere wherever but the problem now is this has escalated to a point that it's unsustainable. You know and so when I go to Council on Thursday night the first they're going to say to me is our citizens are paying for this and you're taking our people that we pay and our equipment and we're going and helping the city. Well you know if Carlo comes out with a fire engine into Wintersville every day; every day; every day; Carlo's going to be down here answering to you. Right? Or to the City Manager. If I mean would your Street Department come out tomorrow to do nine pot holes for Wintersville? You don't do that. Right? So again I know you're not in the ambulance business but unfortunately this is your baby and you guys got and I know; again I talked to some of you in the last couple of days but this is not something that we can say three weeks from now let's sit down and figure this out. We got to start figuring this out tomorrow morning because again it's trending in the wrong direction and I don't see any sign and I talked to the Operations Manager last night; I know that they're struggling and again I know; I get that but that's not solving the problem."

Mayor Barilla – “Is it because of a lack of personnel or is it because of demographics that we’re not being serviced like we should be?”

Rob Herrington – “I don’t know. I mean I know; I know they’re having difficulty getting people because he said that in your meeting. They’re having difficulty in staffing. I think the demographics is not; is a big of a deal. You have that everywhere right? You have that situation everywhere. I think the point he made was for a profit; for a private company to survive here they’re going to need subsidized. You know in one way or another. Whether it be shared staffing or whether it be an actual outlay per dollar amount. The City of Yorkville last week gave their ambulance business to the Fire Department in Yorkville. They took it away from a private supplier; a private company and gave it to the City Fire Department and the reason they did that is they were being under served. Right? So again they have the choice either subsidize that guy to park trucks and be available; I mean you know because again you can’t fault a business right? I mean that’s what; they’re in business to make money. They’re not going; you know and the model here has changed because the community has changed. I grew up; I’m old enough to know; I worked with Bob D’Anniballe. Bob D’Anniballe started that business here but it was a different world. Right? The building was different. The population was different. You know the number of calls was different but it’s become an animal now that is again in its current state in unsustainable. So you know and I; like there are answers and I know this business as well as anybody does and again I’ve had conversations with people in the last few days; I’m willing to do whatever you need to do but I have to go back to Wintersville tonight and I got to sit down with my board tonight and Thursday I got to answer to Council. We have a fire district so we get our tax money through a fire district which is the Village of Wintersville and Cross Creek Township. (All inaudible) they’ll call me next and say what are you doing? You know what are we going to do about this? Because we can’t be in the city nine times a day or you know and again we’re not the only one coming.”

Mr. Villamagna – “One more question for you Rob. Your paramedics run these ambulances; are they firefights or are they just dedicated to the ambulances?”

Rob Herrington – “Both. Yeah so in the fire based system and again there’s been a lot of questions about this; how does this work? Well you do whatever happens right? You take care of whatever happens so if we happen to have three EMS calls going on and during the day I have six people on duty; on daylight; four at night; six during the day. If I have six people on duty and I have three ambulance calls going out and I have a structure fire; I’m calling the guy right there. Right? I’m calling him; I’m calling Richmond; I’m calling (inaudible); we; there’s two things there’s mutual aid and there’s automatic aid. Okay? So automatic aid means it just does down. Right? If we’re not available he’s coming. Right? And so that’s how that all works so; so you do the same thing whether it’s EMS or fire right?”

Mr. Villamagna – “But you still have your ambulance running no matter what?”

Rob Herrington – “Yeah I mean you go; so and if we have a structure fire and we have an ambulance call during a structure fire then we’re going to pass that ambulance call off to you know whoever; whatever provider could take the call but we run about 3,000 calls a year. Which we run a similar number of calls that ambulance service does in the city in our district. Our district is about 14,000 people and so we run a similar number of calls between fire and EMS but yeah you just; you know; you basically just adjust to whatever is going on but that’s when that aid becomes you know critical to how we all function. So if your Fire Department was in that business we would do the same thing that Carlo and I do together now we would do it in two systems right?”

Mr. Villamagna – “That’s how it’s supposed to work.”

Rob Herrington – “Yeah you know that’s how we would adjust.”

Mr. Dressel – “So as far as I know unless it’s happened this week we have zero numbers from anybody that tells us how many calls we get; how many calls a day? How many are no pay? How many are paid? So if it’s 3,000 a year I mean we can figure out how to build a structure around that. If it’s 6,000 a year we can build a structure around that so obviously we need numbers and if we’re; and I think the city needs to take care of its obligation if we have other communities helping us but right now making a decision is impossible with zero data. So we zero data I mean I’ve seen zero data.”

Rob Herrington – “The only; well.”

Mr. Dressel – “None. Not one thing.”

Rob Herrington – “The only data you’re missing Mr. Dressel and obviously I can create data or provide data in the next couple of days; the only data you’re missing that you’re not going to get is billing data. Because I don’t have that and I doubt that a private company is going to give you that.”

Mr. Dressel – “Well they aren’t going to get help if they don’t give us the billing data.”

Rob Herrington – “Right.”

Mr. Dressel – “Unless we do an audit (all inaudible).”

Rob Herrington – “I mean that’s between you and them if you’re going to try and work something out but that’s for sure the truth. Everything else about data wise as far as making a decision and all that; everything else is available.”

Mr. Dressel – “Yeah.”

Rob Herrington – “The number of calls available. The cost to get into the business if you decide to get into the business is available. Whatever he proposed to you I’m sure that he; you know they probably got numbers in mind.”

Mr. Dressel – “They’ve proposed nothing to us.”

Rob Herrington – “So well I know they talked about something like what they did in East Liverpool. Which is kind of a cut off.”

Mr. Dressel – “(All inaudible) they may have talked to one or two but not me. So actually nothing other than saying they weren’t doing well. So I appreciate everything you’re telling us because it’s informative especially on the; if you were in the city nine times today or yesterday.”

Rob Herrington – “Last 24 hours.”

Mr. Dressel – “Today. That’s a lot.”

Rob Herrington – “And that’s just us.”

Mr. Dressel – “(All inaudible).”

Rob Herrington – “Other agencies in as well.”

Mr. Paul – “And the weekend as well. You were here this weekend as well.”

Rob Herrington – “But and I respect what you’re saying but the problem is; is that you can’t sit here for another week or two or three and wait for him.”

Mr. Dressel – “(All inaudible).”

Rob Herrington – “Or anybody else to come to you with a proposal. That’s what; that’s the point I’m trying to make.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Well here’s another question to you then I default. Who; where do we get the information of the startup cost and how much it costs in?”

Rob Herrington – “I think; Carlo we’ve had some preliminary discussions. Carlo has some people on his staff that know the business that you know have talked about it and stuff. I mean I think those people are more than capable of generating that information for you and there are plenty of people that would help them if you wanted to do that. That’s not a huge issue. I mean it’s fairly easy to accomplish.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay because I have no idea. I don’t think any of us do of the startup costs.”

Rob Herrington – “Well and I know going back a couple years I know you and I have had conversations four or five years ago about it. One of those Councilman is not here anymore called me one time and said hey if we get an EMS business would we make money? No you won’t make money. You don’t make money in the other department’s right? But you’ll provide a service but you will have; you will have; you will generate some income from it. It’s not like you know it’s going to be free. You’re going to bill the citizens for the service but you know is it going to be a breakeven thing? I would guess no because if it was I don’t think the ambulance service would be having difficulty like they are.”

Mr. Dressel – “Right.”

Rob Herrington – “So they’re not lying to you about the demographics and lying to you about the fact that it’s hard to provide a business that is not really even paying for itself.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Well they got too many irons in the fire. They have other obligations besides the city. If our Fire Department would be an EMS for the city; Steubenville only unless you need help.”

Rob Herrington – “Right.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Or Toronto needs help or somebody needs help. Other than that we wouldn’t be transporting to Pittsburgh.”

Rob Herrington – “Yeah it’s a different (inaudible).”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah.”

Rob Herrington – “It’s a whole different thing.”

Mayor Barilla – “Mr. Timmons?”

Mr. Timmons – “I guess my question is and Carlo too; so what if we decided to do this would; how long would it take us to get to where we; I mean because you know you’re saying this needs to happen very soon.”

Rob Herrington – “How long would it take for which?”

Mr. Dressel – “Ramp up.”

Mr. Timmons – “To ramp up; to get it going I mean do we have; I’m sure they have to go through training; all kinds of stuff or are they already trained for that? I just kind of want to get an idea.”

Carlo Capaldi – “It would be a long process. For us to get up and running yeah we want to be at a three month process.”

Mr. Timmons – “Okay.”

Carlo Capaldi – “But like I said; what he’s saying is we need to start talking about it quickly.”

Rob Herrington – “Yeah I mean it’s; it’s not; you’re not going to build; you’re not going to build what I have in a week right? I mean there are issues with it. You have to do; there are things about billing; you’ll have to get provider numbers and things like that. They have some EMS trained people already. You know you’ll have to buy some equipment. You’ll have to buy; you know you’ll have to do somethings right? But again how long that takes would depend on how many people are working on it and what your capabilities are to get work done and all that but again my point I think you understand this is there needs to be a conversation about it really quick because you know if I get the order that I can’t do this anymore; me alone; my department alone you’re in big trouble. You know I mean because I don’t know (all inaudible). I mean we’re providing the bulk of it.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Are you only addressing the emergencies?”

Rob Herrington – “Yes.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay so we’re not talking about medical transport at all.”

Rob Herrington – “No.”

Mrs. Hahn – “This is just emergencies.”

Rob Herrington – “Yeah just emergency 911 calls.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I’m just wondering and just throwing this out Willie if we need to go ahead and put that committee meeting back on the agenda next week and I don’t know how comfortable you want; if you really

want to discuss this in open session but can we go into executive session to at least be able to hear what you're thinking Carlo without it necessarily being out there for the whole public to have a conversation about?"

Carlo Capaldi – "Yeah."

Mrs. Hahn – "Because I don't want to put you on the spot publicly but at the same time I know you're thinking about it."

Carlo Capaldi – "Yeah it's something that we're thinking about. Yeah it's definitely something that needs to go through the committee process; the committee is where you're going to talk about it. Not at a Safety Committee but between the City Manager; the people that are actually going to be involved. Yeah it's; the public discussion has probably hurt us more than helped us up to this point. So that's what I would recommend."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Herrington. Providing more money to the private person doing the work would that seem to satisfy the situation?"

Rob Herrington – "I have no idea. I'm not them. I'm not the provider. I mean I don't know. But I know there's a discussion about like who can provide service here. I will caution you about one thing don't allow the city to be spilt up because if you tell me today that I can go ahead and provide service to part of the city I'll pick and choose. Right? I'll take the closest to me or the most (inaudible) tax based whatever right? You need someone to serve the city from one end to the other; every person regardless of where they live; how they are or what their economic status is because that's the way this works. What that person wants from you? I have no idea I mean Mr. Dressel said there's nothing really; wasn't really anything proposed. I just know; I know this business really well. I know it all over the country and you don't get a private service to sit and wait for emergency calls without there being something there to subsidize that effort. You know and again and it only makes sense right? If you're trying to make money you can't sit there all day and do nothing and get nothing right? It has to be some support but what you all have to do is get your heads together and say what are our options here? Is it the Fire Department? Is it some other agreement? Is it you know; I don't know; you know call me up and ask me you know we don't want to do it. I mean we can't do it but you don't have a lot of choices but again I only came here tonight for one reason and that is the fire is on right now. You need to turn it up because again I don't control what my people tell me right? And the Councilman that I talked too today is very upset about it. He wants numbers. He wants to know why. Why is your trucks going back and forth through the city? You know and I look on my phone and see the call activity you know the last 21 calls that my department went on nine of them were here. Right? And that's; and you're not paying us to do that. You know we're billing the patient sure but it's not; that's not going to cut it. I mean it's just not going to be supported by the people that we bill; you know that pay our taxes money to us."

Mr. Dressel – "So if we made some sort of statement; not today because I'm not the one but that we will solve this problem. Can everybody give us a few months to solve this without cutting service off so our; the city is not covered."

Rob Herrington – "(Inaudible)."

Mr. Dressel – "As long as we promise that we will solve it."

Rob Herrington – "That's not; I mean that's not my call. I mean..."

Mr. Dressel – "(All inaudible) that the city needs to say something so we don't leave this hanging out there."

Rob Herrington – "I agree. Again my point ethically and morally is I've done everything I can do. My staff is mad at me. My you know my political representatives are mad at me."

Mr. Villamagna – "Everybody is mad at you."

Rob Herrington – "Yeah I mean it's part of my job but I think that everybody needs to know when this meeting is over tonight that the city is on board with getting something figured out. I mean whatever that ends up being"

Mr. Dressel – "Absolutely."

Mr. Timmons – "I mean you know I've thought about this since Mr. D'Anniballe came in I think if we're going to go in we should; we're not going to throw money and solve everything. I'm tired of doing that. I'd rather just see what it is going to cost to get something started up by our department and go with it there. I mean and I want to take over everything I don't want to pick and choose where we're going to go because you know how that's going to work out."

Mr. Paul – "Okay. So I met with him yesterday. Alright? And we discussed that and we were thinking who would jump on board with us. So I hear it from every one of you in here now that you want to jump on board with this. We know we need to do this. I want the facts and I think I can get them from 911 right?"

Rob Herrington – "Yeah."

Mr. Paul – "Of the calls that he missed; not he that ASI missed; all the other; I can get all kinds of information off the 911 (inaudible)."

Rob Herrington – "Can I interrupt you one second?"

Mr. Paul – "Go ahead."

Rob Herrington – "I don't think there's an issue with anybody going out and proving that they're struggling to ambulance emergency calls. They admitted that right? They're not hiding that from you. So that; I don't know that that number matters. What matters is; is it getting worse and there's not a solution in site yet right?"

Mr. Paul – "As you showed me yesterday it went up. Just the bar graph you showed me."

Mr. Dressel – "But we need a total so we know what kind of department to bill."

Rob Herrington – "Right."

Mr. Dressel – "We don't have that number."

Mr. Paul – "And Scott had said something and I was going to; I talked to Jim tonight and I said I was going to make a promise; I've never made a promise as a politician but I am promising the City of Mingo, Wintersville, all the other little communities that are helping us here that we are going to work on this and I know that we

need to do it sooner. There's a lot of contractual issues I think we're (all inaudible) to our EMTs; first you got to find qualified EMTs. Second our (inaudible) is a little low so we got to talk finances. We have to talk other things but we are; we are definitely going to move forward with this and I agree 100% with you. I'm glad you came and put a little bit of fear in everybody because it's something that we all need to know. Just the conversation with you yesterday was very enlighten to me."

Mrs. Hahn – "Willie can I say one other thing?"

Mr. Paul – "Go ahead."

Mrs. Hahn – "I just want to make a comment and you have not been putting down ASI but I guess I want to say in clarification with the article that came out from the Mingo Council Member and the concerns that you've expressed I don't think anybody on Council felt like we don't care how this affects anyone else. We're just going to keep things the way they are. I did not know until two weeks ago that we even had a difficulty so we are committed to addressing this. At the same time I really want to ask people to watch what they put on social media because I think that the people who own and run and work for ASI have really come under attack and there are many ways in which they have served our city faithfully for almost 60 years. They've done many things pro bono and they've hit a wall and maybe they could've come to us two years earlier; I don't know but I really want to ask people to cease and desist from attacking anyone. No one is trying to create a problem. We appreciate all the help and we want to be a part of the solution and we want to leave with a solution. So as Scott said we need more facts laid out. We really need to know from the Chief and from the Firefighters and their union where do they stand? What is involved? How much training do we have? How much training do we need? And we need to crunch the numbers and address this as the major issue that it is and I thank you for coming because even though I think we were motivated you have definitely turned the heat up and we want to respond."

Rob Herrington – "Yeah as far as you know I felt like some of the statements were made two weeks ago were horrible and derogatory towards some of the other people on the outside of the city and maybe it was misconstrued or misstated or whatever. I don't have a problem within a company or the people that work there. I've been friends with the Operations Manager for 30 years. It's simply a matter of we're getting pressure because of this and so I had to come to you and say look its unsustainable. I mean and again we talked about that yesterday it's you know; and from yesterday to today you know we just had a horrible day right? Because we went nonstop and most of it was yours. You know and so that's not you know; it's not something we can keep doing."

Mr. Paul – "And one more thing I'd like to talk; I'd like to say if you recall Mingo went through really trying times several years ago but the whole time they kept their EMS staff on board. So it didn't break the city. I think it's something that will help our city. Right now we're getting a black eye on something that's not even in our control and I know other communities are mad at us. (All inaudible) like you said with the scenario that you put out there. If Carlo ran out to Wintersville every day with a fire engine you know we would ask you; you know ask Carlo why are you doing this? You know don't they have a fire truck out there? So (all inaudible) the way it put. I agree with you and we do need to look into this very deep and I'll keep in contact with you alright?"

Rob Herrington – "I think in response to what both of you just said I think the biggest thing that would help right now is for you to make the statement that you and Mr. Dressel have already said it that you're dedicated to working on this and again that's; I think that needs to be said publicly and I think we need to walk out of here with the understanding that we're all going to be hearing from each other and I'm sure you're going to be talking to the ambulance service as well; Mr. D'Anniballe you know that's expected I mean I don't care what your solution is. I really don't I mean I've worked with them for all these years and I've worked with the Fire Department. I don't care what it is. What I care about is it's got to be fixed. It's got to get fixed and it's got to get fixed soon or at least started to get fixed soon."

Mr. Villamagna – "Rob if I'm understanding what you're saying already; you're already working with Carlo on this problem."

Rob Herrington – "I mean we've had discussions off and on. How do you do it? What's you know; what's involved and all that. I mean."

Mr. Villamagna – "I think the point I'm trying to make is and I think; I was going to suggest this to Willie; nobody sitting at this table is qualified to build an ambulance service. Carlo; I know definitely you are and Carlo are. I've known you for years. I worked with you so we got to get some kind of group together that's experienced to get the numbers. Like Scott; we need to know how much this costs because listen that's a big thing and the only people that can do that are you; I could buy an ambulance but I can't (inaudible) the ambulance. I don't know what you need."

Rob Herrington – "I mean and I don't want to speak for the GPS or people on staff that have worked in the business they know it. You know there's people out there that you know his union President is a paramedic. I mean they know; they understand why. I think that's all; I don't think that's a problem. I think that's all doable. But again if it's you know if we're; if it's April 15th and we go mail our income tax and we walk in there and go (all inaudible). You know that's not going to work."

Mr. Villamagna – "But Carlo are yins working on it then now? As we speak?"

Carlo Capaldi – "I'm talking with the City Manager about what he (all inaudible)."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay."

Carlo Capaldi – "Yeah."

Mr. Villamagna – "You're not just sitting on it? You are doing something."

Carlo Capaldi – "Yes the City Manager has been keeping me appraised of what he needs from me."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay."

Mayor Barilla – “Yes?”

Mr. Petrella – “Rob. You and I go back more years than we’re going to admit too.”

Rob Herrington – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Petrella – “I think all of Council has already said very clear to the public that we are going to pursue this aggressively. We do have confident personnel you, Carlo; that can help facilitate this. Also that ASI made it very clear that at some time they’re going to walk away. At some time you’re going to walk away so we’ve gotten the message from both the private sector as well as the public sector that this is something that’s immediate; imminent we’re going to deal with. Last year we dealt with the water crisis. This year we’re going to be dealing with the healthcare crisis.”

Rob Herrington – “We certainly don’t have an intention to walk away from it. Our problem is going to be the people (all inaudible).”

Mr. Petrella – “I understand.”

Rob Herrington – “That’s what we’re fighting. Again if I can go to Council Thursday night and say I went and met with Council and it was very positive and they get it right? That’s something. That’s something more than I have right now.”

Mr. Petrella – “And I don’t blame the other elected officials. We’re elected to protect the citizenry of the City of Steubenville just as your Council member are for the Village of Wintersville. Same way with Mingo and Toronto you know this body gets it and we’re committed. All of us were elected. We ran to servicing. One of the good things is provide service to our community and also to make sure that our community is not only the City of Steubenville but mutual aid for Wintersville in case you need a fire truck or whatever. But we don’t like to abuse that privilege and we will definitely; we’re all committed here and we’ll deal with it. And it will be dealt with one way or another.”

Rob Herrington – “I appreciate that.”

Mr. Paul – “Any more questions for Rob?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Thanks Rob.”

Rob Herrington – “Thank you very much I appreciate it.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So I have a question so do you like say by next Tuesday whether if it be on a committee (all inaudible) dealing with the Fire Chief and the City Manager and whoever’s on that committee has something in writing what to propose? Some preliminary proposal. Not just saying we’re going to talk about it. How do we do that?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Next Tuesday I will present something to you.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “And then Council can make a decision. It’s going to be very simple. Its money and do you want to put it up now or do you want to pay it later? We do have funds to a certain degree but and I know full well about running the fire bill up. Here’s the bottom line there’s commitments morally to every city here and I’m not going to go through what this city has done for other cities around here. But just sit here and look at the politics that have gone here in the last couple weeks. Yes this is important and this is something that has been happening. Correct me Chief was it 2 to 3 years maybe? Yeah about 4 years ago they wanted a proposal what would we need to do to hold an EMS program up there? There’s a canned shell already proposal. The bottom line is how do we litigate this now and respond and there are some options and Council will get that next week. So if all of you feel this is a concern which it is then you make this decision next Tuesday on how we want to go. We only have two issues here. Do you partner with an existing company or do we now take a step and we run it ourselves? And that’s the bottom line but as the Chief said there’s a short way; a quicker fix but in the long thing there’s things we have to look at. Do we need to get safer grants in place? Do we need to get grants in place for equipment? But the bottom line is this and I understand Mr. Herrington sure I’m sure he’s going to answer to Council but I’ll be more than happy to give Mr. Herrington information on what we’ve had done for Wintersville over the years and the other things. But it’s a whole community here and he is right nine times in 24 hours; sure what were all these calls? I don’t know what they were. Some probably were needed but there are a lot of calls that called into 911 or are they really a 911 call. So there’s a lot of data that we don’t have here but the way I’m addressing this is what can we put together in a fairly quick fashion that’ll meet what our needs right now and that I will do with our Chief over here and the experts that we have internally here. Council will get presented some options and you can decide what you want to do. Yes mam?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Can we have the option and this is maybe a question more for Costa; can we go into executive session to at least hear what the options are so that we’re not having people discussing why are they going with this? Why are we going with that? When it will be preliminary for us.”

Mr. Mastro – “I don’t; I don’t believe so but I will double check. I don’t believe there’s an exception in the sunshine laws for a situation like this.”

Mrs. Hahn – “It would fall under personnel.”

Mr. Mastro – “No if you read the statute it’s not regarding.”

Mr. Paul – “It is what it is. We got to do it.”

Mr. Mastro – “That kind of personnel. (All inaudible).”

Mr. Petrella – “Hey Costa?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Really?”

Mr. Mastro – “Yeah. I will double check but I; my preliminary answer to you is probably not.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay.”

Mr. Petrella – “Costa. Under the sunshine law we’re probably going to have to end up going into some kind of discussions and or negotiations with our Fire Department.”

Mr. Mastros – “With our union maybe.”

Mr. Petrella – “Yes.”

Mr. Mastros – “Not the Fire Department. The union is what you’re referring too?”

Mr. Petrella – “Yes.”

Mr. Mastros – “The statue I believe states regarding executive sessions regarding negotiations with unions.”

Mr. Petrella – “Yes.”

Mr. Mastros – “For contracts; so if it involves that and we do have a contract coming up this year; I’m not going to say no.”

Mr. Petrella – “Well there’s a contract coming up and whether; you’re still going to have; either negotiate something this year with the new contract because I don’t know when it’s up. When is it up?”

Mr. Mastros – “I think they’re all up this year I believe.”

Few People – “(All inaudible).”

Mr. Petrella – “Is it at the end of the year?”

Mr. Mastros – “12/31.”

Mr. Petrella – “12/31 so prior to 12/31 you’re still going to have to end up talking to the union to at least amend that; their contract. There is some kind of negotiations. So that might be; we ought to going into executive session to discuss this.”

Mr. Mastros – “Let me look into that but again I will probably tell you at this point; (inaudible) my answer is probably going to be no but that’s an idea but let me take a look.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim? Question for Jim. I don’t want to put the cart before the horse either. I don’t want you guys to be rushed that yins have to present something; I want the information; I think we all want to make sure that we know what we’re talking about because this isn’t; we’re not starting; we’re not buying another police car or another fire truck we’re starting something that’s going to cost a lot of money; there’s going to be a lot involved. So I want to make sure that we have all the information. I don’t want to go halfcocked with it you know what I mean? So I don’t want you to feel that you’re rushed to get the information for us. That’s all.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “And I understand exactly where you’re going. I believe what you’ll have next week is some possible options. You’re not going to have a full fledge plan next week. There’s a lot of moving parts here but at least you’ll have some options here. You’ve heard from the private company. You’ve heard from 911 the firemen out there now the bottom line is how do we address our issue here? And there’s a lot of different ways you can go and that’s what I’m hoping we can give you and more information is what you need.”

Mr. Petrella – “If our short fall and I agree with Bob; once we get the data; and Scott; once we get the data is that short fall 10%? 25%? 30%? And then we’ll have to gear up to meeting the short falls.”

Mr. Dressel – “(Inaudible) 100%”

Mr. Mavromatis – “But keep this in the back of your mind you will not get a 100% of the data.”

Mr. Dressel – “All I know.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Alright just as long as you understand that.”

Mr. Petrella – “You’re not going; one you’re never going to get billing data because; and if you do get it it’s going to be (inaudible).”

Mrs. Hahn – “I just wanted to ask should we do this under committee Willie. Can we have a committee meeting? Do you think we should just have it be public?”

Mr. Paul – “Let the City Manager present something to us next week and then we’ll; I’ll set up another committee meeting after that. Let him; we don’t even know what we’re going to do yet. I mean I know we want to move forward. It could take us a half an hour to discuss. It might takes us an hour and a half to discuss. I don’t know. Let’s find out what Jim’s team can come up with and I’ll call the meeting the following week.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’m still in discussions with the County Health Department. I’m waiting for some statistical data that I can give to Council. We’re due for another year of a contract there. One of the issues that I’ve brought up on population naturally has gone down. It’s not that great of a difference from the previous one we (inaudible) but I want to see some of the data so Council can see just what we pay for. So once I get that then I’ll be able to say this is where we’re at; are you fine with this contract? Then we can go from there. The 18th I will brief Council on the 2019 year of all of our departments. My staff will be here so we can see how well the city did in different departments. Probably the biggest issue is naturally misinformation that goes out there. We’ve had a lot of good successes here. A lot of good things that Council has done but mainly my department heads and again when we say we had a \$600,000 to the good it doesn’t mean that we did a bad job there; our department heads did they manage their assets well. We were blessed by decent weather meaning we didn’t get buried in snow storms here that costs us massive overtime; salt; everything like that; water breaks; everything. We had a good collection in our Water Department. All these things contribute to the overall picture of a year. So it was a good year. We have a lot of issues in this city but its all not doom and gloom; it’s positive. We are moving ahead. Our work with the Ohio EPA and our attorneys in Cincinnati; we’re all working together to get this accomplished with this consent decree but again there’s certain things we need to do. We have some options to maybe get some good grants through the Ohio H2O program that’s come out. So all of these are being worked on but I’ll give a full briefing to Council on the 18th of this month and then next week I’ll give

you some possible proposals here but I'll be meeting with the Chief (all inaudible) the people in our department."

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – "We have no one signing up for miscellaneous this evening."

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – "We do not have anyone signed up for 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