

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 7, 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 Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, & Petrella.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, & Linda Harris from the Herald Star.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for March 17, 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 – “I have one; it’s a notice of legislative authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control; a transfer of license from Legacy Apple III LLC DBA Applebee’s Grill and Bar at 389 John Scott Hwy in Steubenville, Ohio to Neighborhood Hospitality Inc. at 389 John Scott Hwy in Steubenville, Ohio.. It says please complete and return this form to the Division of Liquor Control whether or not there is a request for a hearing refer to this number in all inquiries B TRFO 4745545-0010; please sign below and mark the appropriate box indicating your title.”

Mr. Villamagna made a motion that we make the letter a part of the record and a copy of the letter be given to the City Manager, Mayor, Law Director, the Police Chief, and Council.” Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Madam Clerk.”

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**NO. 2020-17 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 1<sup>st</sup> reading**

**Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER OVER \$3,000.00 PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.41.**

Mayor Barilla – “We also have this evening a proclamation declaring that April 6<sup>th</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup> be known as National Public Health week. I, Jerry Barilla, Mayor of the City of Steubenville, do hereby proclaim the week of April 6-12, 2020, as National Public Health Week 2020 in Steubenville, Ohio and call upon the people of Steubenville to observe this week during this declared pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities and to celebrate public health’s accomplishments in light of this year’s theme, “NPHW@25: Looking Back, Moving Forward. Thank you.”

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Timmons – “Actually I just want to say something under Park and Rec which I am on that committee. I want to thank the Steubenville Baseball Association; this past Saturday they came out you know we had all agreed upon this and it’s been in the works and we’ve done what we can to have this city and this new organization to work together to make this league prosper and the volunteers showed up this Saturday and of course they did keep the social distancing in mind and they abided by that but they did a really nice job on the fields and I just want to thank them and commend them for that service. They’re definitely keeping their part of the bargain. Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor I’d like to sunshine a resolution tonight designating the month of April 2020 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Steubenville.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes just a reminder that at this point the playgrounds, the basketball courts, and the MLK Center are all closed. The rentals for April have been cancelled and there will not be a Park Board meeting in April. The little league is on hold and they’re still very hopeful for a season but we’ll have to see how everything works out in the coming weeks to see what’s possible. That’s my report thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor. I had one it pertains to an ordinance that we passed a couple weeks ago. It was helping the City Manager and Chuck Murphy with CSO 003 line replacement project. This resolution is

Council as a whole and it's a resolution authorizing the City Manager and/or the Utility Director to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) agreement on behalf of the City of Steubenville for planning, design and/or construction of wastewater facilities; and designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan for the project known as CSO 003 line replacement project, phase two. And that's all I have you're honor."

Mr. Petrella – No Report

## **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. To Council first I want to report on our employees; our city services are running full load. We've had two employees that have had to be tested based on second contacts. The first test has come back negative and we're waiting for the second test to come back. This has to deal with basically their personal health conditions and right now as I said one has come back negative and we are waiting for the other one which should also be negative. What we've also done is this Friday is the Good Friday before Easter it's a half a day. I've had the employees here at the City Building either put in for four hours of compensatory time or those that can work from home work from home because I want the building closed Friday; we can get some cleaning done on it and we'll be ready to go back up on Monday. Anyone that comes into this building outside of our employees is registered at the front desk, appointments are made and they are logged into our computer banks here so we have an active list if we have to compare should someone break out. Now I talk if not once probably three to four times daily with the Health Commissioner to get an update on situations in our city. Right now we have 17 confirmed cases in the county. We have some of those cases are in the City of Steubenville and they are being treated. We've had several other tests that we're waiting for the results and I will keep Council advised of this. This virus is hitting all around us and not including West Virginia and these are the concerns I have of coming into the City of Steubenville unknown to not only our citizens here but also our employees and again I've talked with our press to let them know to remind the social distancing. That's the key right now until we get a cure for this and to minimize how it's hit our city. I can tell you right now we're in good shape as far as our city is and our employees and I'd like to keep it that way. So we're minimizing our contact and again we have redundancy set up in several of the departments. We have split crews and so Council understands I'll give you at least the tree right now as far as managing the city. If something should happen to me the Chief of Police will be the number two to fill in. If something should happen to the Chief of Police it will be James Jenkins will be number three and if James Jenkins for some reason goes then it'll go to Robert Baird. If we get down to four levels here we're not going to be in good shape as a city but right now we're as strong as ever and everybody is precautionary. We've got the resources that are starting to come in with masks; gloves; we've had great support from our stores here in Steubenville for the City of Steubenville. I just had a doctor get us an electronic thermometer which I will pick up tomorrow and have here at the City Building so we can check our employees that are here as well as anybody coming into our facility and that's all I have to report to Council right now. I greatly appreciate your responses to me when I send you out emails to let you know and again I'm glad that we're back here. I think that you are extremely wise to postpone the last two meetings so we can get a handle on this on how we're going to conduct business so again I thank all of you on your quick thinking there to postpone this and that's all I have Mayor."

Mr. Mastros – No Report

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now move onto miscellaneous this evening and signing in we have first of all Mrs. Hahn."

Mrs. Hahn – "Great thank you so much. I wanted to mention four items. The first one is the paycheck protection program that began on April 3<sup>rd</sup>; these onetime loans to cover for small businesses their expenses and mortgage interest, rent, utilities and the employee paychecks it is going to be very important that they maintain their payroll and I appreciate our public trying to get this information out. It not only applies to small businesses but it also applies to non-profits and to churches specifically covering these kinds of expenses and so it begins as a loan; it will be treated like a grant if they maintain their payroll. So this is real assistance coming to our area available now and if people aren't sure which local lenders are available to help assist with this they can go to the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce website and they listed who those local lenders are. In addition the Herald Star's Corporate is offering a million dollar fund of matching ad dollars for local businesses and again that's a great benefit to the people in our area. Hopefully we'll really be able to take advantage of that and assist our businesses with these opportunities. The next thing is voting. The primary is April 28<sup>th</sup> and people have to apply for an absentee ballot by April 25<sup>th</sup>. If they go to the website [voteohio.gov](http://voteohio.gov) it's the first step to get to absentee voting. They have several choices and they go to absentee voting Ohio Secretary of State; there's a specific form it's 11-A and if they click on that form they can print it at home or they can print it for other people around them that they know; neighbors don't have access to computers. There's a drop off box so people don't even have to go into the Board of Elections to drop off that absentee application and the Jefferson County Board of Elections will mail the absentee ballots and it will include an envelope to mail them back. So it is really important even though it seems a lower priority than you know getting our food or getting to the pharmacy it is important for people to be able to vote and so if they already voted then those votes will be

counted but if they have not had a chance to apply for an absentee ballot they need to do that. Under foods banks I think some people are not sure what they could possibly do. The Sycamore Center has a pickup in front of the Sycamore Center every day from 10:00 to noon. So if people are in need of food banking go and get it there and the Salvation Army also has food and they said please don't bring donations of food because all of those cans and boxes need to also be disinfected so if anybody wants to send a donation their address is 332 North 4<sup>th</sup> St. P.O Box 1226 and if you send in money they will; 100% of it will go for food that comes from their main office which has already disinfected the cans and the boxes. They will be dropped off the food and they will distribute that food to people and the last thing I wanted to mention was two very uplifting things that I'm sure there are more. I hope we can share more of these ideas with our people. The first one is the Harmonium Project changed from First Friday obviously to a first Fri-Stay with some very creative ideas. They put some of their concerts online and I just thought it was a great gesture to go ahead and try to serve the community with some joy since obviously we couldn't get together and also the Sycamore Center is offering 35 days of concerts and it's only 15 minutes each evening 7:00 to 7:15 they've gone from all local talent. So these are people; kids who have competed for the Valley's Got Talent contest and they can access them through Facebook at the Sycamore Center or under Bobby Jon Bauman or the specific performers they know who those are. So that's another very uplifting thing and the last comment I wanted to make was I'm really appreciative of the efforts that the Herald Star has made to help people be able to get out the word of meetings that have been postponed and events that have been postponed. These important pieces of information about how we can make different kinds of donations and I just think the Herald Star has truly been a great companion here as we're walking this really tough journey and I'm very appreciative so and I'm also; and I really want to say thanks also to the Mayor and the City Manager for all that you are managing and doing and all the outreach. I really (inaudible) deeply appreciate it. Thank you very much."

Mr. Petrella – "Yes you're Honor I have two items. One I know we're; the courts have not convened any civil suits however I think we still need to conduct city business especially when it comes to weeds and litter. If we do everything administratively right now on the weeds and litter then by the time this thing is over we should be ready to take them to court. That's number one. Number two I think all of Council has to start thinking about the 2020 budget during this time the City of Steubenville has and will continue to lose a lot of revenue. So we need to revisit the 2020 budget maybe put a couple items on freeze or move them to 2021. That's all I have you're Honor."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I apologize I should've brought this up. I've already met with my Department Heads and I've asked each and every one of them to go through their 2020 budget; look at the items that we've slated for this year and what could possibly be postpone until next year. Also the only people that we're hiring are the ones that we absolutely need. We've put a freeze on any new positions and we'll look at this as this comes up. I've talked with our Finance Director Dave Lewis and he's looking at the numbers and as he two weeks ago told me it'll be 60 to 90 days we'll have a better picture to see where we're at financially. So again Mr. Petrella thanks for bringing it up."

Mrs. Hahn – "Jim could I ask you one follow up question?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Sure."

Mrs. Hahn – "Can you let us know where are we in terms of the ACSME contract? Is it okay that we have not ratified something by the end of March? I'm not really familiar with what should be happening; what we need to do."

Mr. Mavromatis – "The answer is yes we're fine. We operate under the existing contract that we have and what we're in the process of doing similar to what we have just done here. There's a couple companies that we're looking at. I'm allowing our attorney and their attorney to set up a conferencing call situation where we can proceed with this. But there is no issue that we don't have a new contract; whatever we end up with and again this is also going to be based on finances where we're at for possible raises this year. We have to look at everything."

Mrs. Hahn – "Thank you very much."

Mr. Villamagna – "Thank you Mayor. I want to give a big thank you out to our city employees who are working. The Police Department, the Fire Department, the M & R, Sanitation, all the girls in the offices in the building; male and female in the buildings. I think what they're doing; I know they're under a lot of stress coming into that work environment. We get the reports that the water pipe broke; these sanitation workers every day they handle every garbage can in the city and god only knows whose hands are on those garbage cans and it's impossible for them to wash their hands every time they touch a garbage can. So I think our city employees have been (inaudible) and I am really proud of the job that they're doing and I want to make sure if you would Jim to pass that on to every Department Head that I can't be more proud of any of them. They're carrying on really well for what's going on. Thank you that's all I have."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I'll take care of that Mr. Villamagna."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Mr. Villamagna. On a follow up from Mr. Villamagna I also would like to thank all of those who are on the front lines dealing with this virus; the doctors, the nurses, the EMTs and the nursing homes and also a big shout out thank you to the workers that are in the grocery stores, drug stores, restaurant workers who prepare the take out and hardware store workers. And you know the charitable organizations that we have in town and I think Kimberly Hahn eluded to the Salvation Army, the Sycamore Center, the Friendship Room and also the Urban Mission. Urban Mission is also providing food for the needy and also the city schools public and private are doing a great job at providing food distributions for their students and I must say that our churches have also stepped up; the pastors and the priest are doing online services which is really commendable and we also have to remember the mothers and fathers now that are home with their children that have now

become school teachers as well so congratulations to them and good luck to them in dealing with the day to day basis with that home environment. And I want to also give a special thanks to Nicole Balakos of the Jefferson County Health Department for keeping us up to date. Tricia Maple at the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce who provides a daily update of what's happening in our area and also the volunteers out there that are doing work unbeknown to us but they are doing work. We have one gentleman Patrick McLaughlin who's outside this building every day and our parks downtown wiping off metal handles and railings to kill any virus that would be there. He's doing that diligently as I said every day of the week and I want to give a special thanks to our City Manager Mr. Mavromatis; being here every day and seeing what Mr. Mavromatis does. He's out there early in the morning visiting our grocery stores and our drug stores finding out what is available; what isn't available. He's on the rode checking out every part of our city to see if things are going well and he's putting in a lot more hours than you can imagine. I don't know how the man sleeps at night but I'm sure that's it's difficult to rest with all that he has on his shoulders so Mr. Mavromatis I commend you for your hard work."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor."

### **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