

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
June 16, 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 Council persons Dressel, Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, & Anyabwile.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Municipal Court Judge John Mascio, & Linda Harris from the Herald Star.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for June 9, 2020. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Barilla.

Mayor Barilla asked for a brief moment of silence for the passing of Garfield Hayden.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Barilla – “Petitions and Communications Madame Clerk?”

Mrs. Haley – “Nothing this evening.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Madam Clerk.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2020-35 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EXISTING TABLE OF ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE 2019-96) AS IT RELATES TO THE WATER DEPARTMENT ONLY.

NO. 2020-37 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-96, THE EXISTING TABLE OF ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE REGARDING THE MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT ONLY.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you. We have several different things under Parks and Recreation. The MLK Center is not yet open; we are expecting it to open July 6th but then it will only be opened for weight lifting. At this point there’s no indication from the Governor’s office that basketball can resume yet so unfortunately it will only be opened for limit purpose of weight lifting as of July 6th. There will be no shelter rentals until there’s a change in the number of people that can gather. At this point Lori said the limit is still 10 people so the Parks and Recreation Board recommended that we not extend any shelter rentals until the State of Ohio adjust that number. The splash pad is going to be able to be open but they tried to open it today and there was an issue. They have to solve a problem before they can officially get it started but she said they are intending to open the splash pad. Because of the limit of ten people we will not have a city event for the free fishing days this weekend Saturday and Sunday. The general public is welcomed to fish at the marina on their own not as a city activity and both Saturday and Sunday in the State of Ohio you are not required to have a fishing permit so if it’s something that you thought about enjoying or sharing it with one of your children, nieces, nephews, friends this might be a nice opportunity to invite someone to come with you to fish and that’s this Saturday and Sunday. The new memorial bench program and I believe one of the first benches will be for Mr. Hayden. So there’s a cost of \$1,500.00 and it’s for 10 years and then whoever had the bench initially dedicated could renew that or someone else could take over sponsorship for someone else but it will be \$1,500.00 for 10 years. There are designated places in all of the various parks so if you might be interested in having a bench in memory of someone that’s now going to be an option. You can contact Lori through the Parks and Recreation about that. She has placed the order for mulch but it has not arrived so when we know when it’s coming if you’re interested in volunteering we’re going to need a lot of hands to get it spread around and we’ll communicate back to people who said they wanted to volunteer. This coming Thursday we will have two different meetings offered; first friends of the marina will be meeting at Froehlich’s restaurant at 4:30 in the basement and then 7:00 that evening will be the friends of Beatty Park meeting at the clubhouse and people who are interested in both are

welcomed to come to both and we'll hopefully get more information from Lori on both parks; specific to those parks where we are in the plans for the summer; what plans can be made. The last thing I had a question about there was new documents from the OML that said when the SB310 was just recently passed it was (inaudible) to another bill and so I think the bill that it actually went under with 481 but their statement was the legislature renewed funding for all of the capital projects and also all of the approved OPWC appropriations so I wanted to ask if that's that word that we received specifically Mike Dolak and does that mean that we can now schedule the waterline which was put on hold because both two appropriations were put on hold."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I'm not sure Mrs. Hahn. I'll check with Mike. We were talking about that I think it has been extended into 2021 but I'll get that verified for you and let you know tomorrow."

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay great. So that's all I have to report on Parks and Recreation."

Mr. Paul – "Good evening you're Honor. I have it's a resolution; Council as a whole and it's a resolution to apply and administer Cares Act Funds."

Mr. Petrella – "Yes you're Honor. Costa did you have any chance of looking at the ordinances pertaining to weeds and litter?"

Mr. Mastros – "I did Mr. Petrella. So if we look at the ordinances that are on book (all inaudible) 521.10 so the ordinance as it's written and we've talked about shortening the time which would give a person to cut the weeds it's already at five days. I don't know if we can go any shorter. I don't think; could you go to three? I guess but I don't know if three is reasonable but I know that was one issue and that's 521.10. I think it was the if my recollection is correct it was the time issue between the time we issue the notice to the time they have to cut correct?"

Mr. Petrella – "Well that and these absentee landlords or people who are deceased because you know there's ball games being played at Murphy's Field and those lots that are at the entrance of Murphy's Field from State to Cedar are so bad it's ridiculous."

Mr. Mastros – "So under the ordinance that was written; I'm sorry go ahead."

Mr. Petrella – "And I'm just looking at you know the absentee landlords or people who are deceased we need to do something with those lots."

Mr. Mastros – "So the remedy under the statute is again if there is a property around a resident and it's address isn't known or if they are deceased you still can use the noted procedure in the ordinance; it's sent by certified mail; if you can't find an address then we can put a notice in the paper and have that five days. Then after five days we can go onto the property and cut it and then we put a lien on the property with the County Auditor. I mean we can do all of that. Again if it's an issue of time I don't know; I think we have to give them some time I mean if we wanted to change that aspect of it to three days I don't know if that's unreasonable because it's been vacant for so long or because the landlord is absent and they're not attending to it. That might be a reason to change it but we have a mechanism in place we just have to execute and I'll say this; I didn't realize this part of the issue we're having is we lost some staffing; some labor force if you will from the Municipal Court Service Program and they cut a lot of vacant lots and high weeds for us. Grant it they can't do it now because of COVID but I think; I didn't think about that until Mr. Mavromatis brought it up last meeting but I think that's part of the problem and I might be mistaken on that but I got to think the absence of that labor force is contributing to what you're seeing probably. I don't know where else to go with this to be honest with you. The proceed is simple it's just a matter of execution."

Mr. Dressel – "So Costa as you may or may not know over the past four or five years we've given notice to all of these people probably once; what in the ordinance does that notice expire so that we have to redo it every time?"

Mr. Mastros – "I don't think there's in the ordinance that addresses that but if you kind of think about it logically; okay so we give them notice to cut their grass; they cut it; the violation is cured; they let it go again and it gets up above our six inch; actually it's twelve inches or higher under the ordinance."

Mr. Dressel – "I don't mean those. I mean the ones that never do anything that we end up cutting. Is there some reason that we can't give notice that says when we cut it that we're going to continue cutting it every two or three months forever."

Mr. Mastros – "That's a fair question. If they don't cut it; I have to think about that because my concern is this; yeah let's say we cut it; let's say we give this absent person; we give them notice; the certified mail goes through; so they got notice; we waited our five days; we go on cut it; lien it; the violation is now cured. So now it starts all over again because the violation is cured however that is at least something I can explore. I got to watch the do process issue there but I can kick it around with Bernie and I; it's an idea. I like it because you're right they are not doing anything and they haven't done anything for years but my issue is once that violation is cured does it start the cycle over again; does it start the due process all over again. I got to think about that to be honest with you."

Mr. Dressel – "Yeah maybe we should rewrite the ordinance."

Mr. Mastros – "Yes correct."

Mr. Petrella – "(Inaudible) rewrite the ordinance."

Mr. Mastros – "Yeah I can take a stab at it."

Mr. Petrella – "And also Costa these are lots that are not on the tax (inaudible). We got liens against them; they're probably; a lot of these especially on LaBelle they're right next to nice homes and I'm sure that somebody may want that lot for whatever next door to it. Can't we get with the prosecuting attorney and see what we can do to dispose of this property and put it back on the tax rolls?"

Mr. Mastros – "Let's just get a plan together. I think it's probably the easiest way to do it. If you (all inaudible) and we have to make sure that these are in some kind of tax foreclosure; if they are in a tax foreclosure and I

guess that's easy enough to check but if you all get me addresses; names would be helpful too but if you don't have the names the addresses will do and if you get me those lists I'll compile a list; I will then forward this with a letter to the prosecuting attorney to say hey please put these on the front burner; these are within the city; within the neighborhood; they are blighting the neighborhood and neighbor like you said may want to purchase them just to control their space and so that they don't have to deal with this anymore. If you all want to do that that's fine we can put that together. Just send me if you have a name great if you don't send me the address we'll make sure that it's in tax foreclosure."

Mr. Petrella – "A lot of these lots don't have addresses that's the point."

Mr. Dressel – "They're online."

Mr. Mastros – "Yes they should be online."

Mr. Petrella – "And also Chris should have that information already."

Mr. Mastros – "He might not have."

Mr. Petrella – "I think Chris has that already. I think we asked him a couple of times and he compiled it."

Mr. Mastros – "What I'll do then is I'll get with Chris tomorrow and ask him if he has a list. Are you referring to properties that are in tax foreclosure or just that we have a lien against them? (All inaudible) those are two different things for sure."

Mr. Petrella – "Well I guess both because we have torn down houses on these lots and you know because we couldn't find the owners or anything and you know we're never going to get the money. That money is gone. As far as I'm concerned that money is gone. I just want to put these properties back on the tax rolls and if they neighbor wants to buy and maintain it that's a plus for us. One we don't have to maintain it and two it's a little bit of extra revenue coming in."

Mr. Mastros – "Sure I can get with Chris to see what list he has compiled and then I'll report back to you next Tuesday to get you a plan on those and I'll start looking at rewriting that second portion of the high weed ordinance for absentee owners if you will to see if that's even feasible. Again I have my concerns but that's okay."

Mr. Petrella – "whose committee does that fall under? Because whoever's committee that falls under as soon as we get back into Council Chambers I'd like for that committee to meet and resolve this issue this year."

Mr. Mastros – "Let me figure that out too."

Mr. Villamagna – "Craig I believe that's under planning and definitely we can get a meeting together and try to get this resolved. I think everybody agrees it's a major problem."

Mr. Mastros – "Mr. Petrella I would say this in fact it's all of Council if there are particular lots in your neighborhood that are right in the middle of a residential section that are causing problems maybe we just prioritize those so please email those addresses or parcel numbers even the roundabout; even if you don't have an address for it just next to 424 Main St. whatever it would be we'll try to find it out. But if you want to prioritize things and prioritize those tax sales if you will just let me know and we can rank those first but I'll get with Mr. Petrossi to determine what list he has and then report back on Tuesday."

Mrs. Hahn – "And we might be able to appeal to the Health Dept. as well because in some of these instances one of the homes on Oak Grove you know the front door is broken down so the house is wide open and the neighbors have complained about animals going in and out and then coming into their yard and it does become a health issue. So it's not only Insightly and it's a continual problem and some of these weeds are over eight feet tall on two of the houses on Oak Grove so it did not happen anytime recently it's just been getting worse but I think there's true health issues involved as well."

Mr. Mastros – "One more thing I might bring up under the ordinance that we have 521.10 they have to be at twelve inches or higher; you might want to think about lowering it a little bit. I don't know if you need too. I don't know if you want too but you know it's a foot so I don't know it's your call but that just might be something you might want to look at when we meet in committee and go over that as well."

Mr. Timmons – "Yes I don't have a statement tonight about that you know this is a number one priority. You mentioned we have to get our priorities Costa the grass is number one for me. Councilman Petrella already brought it up I've already had two phone calls; messages just today. I received three over the weekend. I understand there's challenges; community service is a big help but they're not in operation right now and I think we owe it to the citizens. Craig I wanted to let you know that I did speak to a resident about 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. I know that's your ward but I told the citizen (all inaudible) I guess there's a TV that's been sitting in that yard for two years. Neighbors are actually trying to use their own bulk pickups to get rid of the garbage at that residence. There's no excuse for that and 2630 Hollywood you know like you said Costa I will go through my ward this weekend; I'll take pictures of each property and I'll deliver those to you Tuesday. I mean like Bob also said I think Council is pretty much in agreement that this is a major issue and you know we've dealt with more complex issues. This is just something that we need to take care of. The ones Kimberly spoke about on Oak Grove I've been up there; I don't want to sound redundant but I was frustrated; I'm frustrated about it and you know the people that actually live at these places there's no excuse but for the vacant homes we have to do something and I'm open to any and all suggestions. I'll do whatever it takes. Thank you."

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Yes matter of fact speaking of the weeds and the trash and the dilapidated homes myself and some volunteers we went on a couple streets just going up the streets and talking to neighbors about keeping their properties cleaned. We got good responses especially up on Rosswell where majority of the street is cleaned it's just a couple of houses up there that are really just tacky and then it's the alleys in back of the houses and I understand that there are people coming from other areas including West Virginia and dumping in our alleys. I also noticed down on the alley between 7th and 8th and Slack and Adams if you guys can imagine

that area down there; there's sofas and debris and all kind of other crap in the back of these places and you know we want to try to get those cleaned up. Also dilapidated houses and yes I know I'm reintegrating I think that we're all concerned and I'm tired of looking at it especially in the south end there's so many places that the weeds have grown up as tall as me and weeds are at my nose. There's a house down on the corner of Lincoln Ave. and Lincoln Blvd. I think its 341 and as I understand the city actually took over ownership of this house. The hill in back of the house is pushing the house outward to where it's getting ready to lean into the house next to it. So I don't know what can be done but the woman is getting to get her property taken of but you have a house that is actually like busting out and getting ready to hit her house. I went pass there today and I saw where some of the things on the roof is actually falling into the sides of her house. I also hope that you know we can address this issue also. Thank you.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. What I would like to do tonight we have Judge Mascio came in under my time I'd like to have him up first so we don't delay hi anymore and then I'll fill you in on some other things. Judge.”

Judge Mascio – “Good evening. Thanks for having me. Just real quick on this mental health court I had sent everyone an email and I appreciate Costa getting to everything in a timely manner and Dave Lewis had spent some time with me; several of you have reached out to me and I appreciate your support. I covered pretty much everything that I want to do with this program the only other thing that I thought I should add and I probably should've clarified for you this is a program for non-violent criminal defendants charged with lower level misdemeanor violations and it will be those individuals whose mental illness was a factor that led to the conviction of the crime in which they were charged. So we're not going to have violent offenders in the program. You're eligibility will be determined based upon a risk assessment tool that our probation department utilizes and based upon the results of that testing that'll help us better determine who is and is not eligible for that program. Did any of you have any questions about anything on that and if not I'll move forward with the discussion of property maintenance. Now with regard to property maintenance we had to suspend our community service program due to the COVID pandemic mid-March 2020. We just resumed that program June 1st our numbers are increasing; we're getting more and more participants on a daily basis. I can tell you that I have been inquiring the supervisor as to when we can resume cutting vacant lots throughout the city and they're aware that that's a priority. We just don't quite have the numbers that we need to do it in a proper manner but as soon as we get those numbers up that is certainly something that I attend to address. I do want to reiterate and we do have this discussion every year it seems community service in it of itself is not the answer to the problems of vacant lots. It certainly can assist in this problem but it's not the solution to this problem and the most of the individuals that participated in community service program the vast majority are working off unpaid fines and costs. They're poor people for whatever reason their fine costs were allowed to accumulate over the years. They don't have the ability to pay and this provides a vehicle for them to work those monies off and get on with their lives but they're not slave labor and it's pretty disheartening to individuals when we drive them to a lot or a house that's on Oak Grove and the weeds to that home are sometimes 10-12, 15 feet high in the air and then we don't even give them the proper tools that they need to clear the lot; we give them a weed whacker. I mean it's literally ridiculous what we expect these people to do with a weed whacker and it's amazing the job they do at those properties. I cannot believe how much work they do with a weed whacker. But I've always said this I think we need a game plan and I think the best solution to this problem is to have the city work in conjunction with community service; the city has brush hogs at its disposal I can't hand community service workers or allow them to operate a brush hogs; they're going to lose limbs and everything else but if the city would develop a plan where these properties are cleared by a brush hog we then have community service come in and clean up and then ultimately those properties are sprayed so they do not continue to grow. I think that would solve a big part of the problem now whoever is going to do the spraying would have to be certified and there's some things we'll have to do in that regard but I really believe that that's the best way to tackle this problem. I mean last year I think we cleared close to 200 lots but I will tell you that many of those lots were lots that community service had to go back and repeatedly address because they were never sprayed so we would end up clearing a lot on Oak Grove four or five times during the course of a cutting season. Many of these properties are abandoned and the owners cannot be located and Costa touched on something that I think is a very good idea and that is when you send the mailings to the property owners and those mailings come back unable to locate; unable to forward I think we should compile a list of; or the city not we; the city I'm the court; the city should compile a list of those properties and at some point run adds in the paper service by publication there's a statute that deals with how many times you have to run that add and once that ad is run five days later according to law we can then go onto the property; we being community service and clear that lot. I will tell you the ordinance we have is modeled after the revised code. The state law says five days; a municipality cannot give notice less than five days so five days is the minimum amount of time. Once a lot is cleared it is clear that you have to give notice each and every time that you're going to go onto someone's property so you're not going to be able to give a notice and say you know we're going to continually come on your property in the event that your property is in violation of the city code and I think that would be a good way to address some of these problems where we don't know where the owners are. There's also a prevision to that says any expense occurred by the municipality in terms of cutting these grasses and weeds can be placed on the tax duplicate as a

lien on the property and you're allowed to do that twice a year under the Ohio Revised Code and when the properties sell you will recoup some of the money that you spent. I do think that that is worth pursuing. I will tell you further Officer Dorsey is the Code Enforcement Officer he in my opinion does an excellent job for the city. He was citing a lot of individuals into court for violations of high grass and weeds but he was not able to make the referrals to community service because of the fact that the program was shut down. Now that has changed I saw a lot of complaints on the clerk's desk that are being processed for high grass and weeds for those individuals that have ignore the orders. As you know we having housing court once a month; violations such as high grass and weeds, garbage, litter we deal with those throughout the month. I don't want you thinking that those are all being scheduled one time a month and I'm giving everyone 30 to 60 days to come into compliance. Most of the individuals that come into the court and are found guilty of a property maintenance violation say for instance for high grass or weeds I will tell them I'm giving you seven days to cut the grass and if you come back and everything is fully complied and all of the portion of your fines will be suspended and we have had huge success. I can tell you I can't think of one individual that has appeared in court for high grass and weeds that hasn't cut their grass and that's the whole goal of property maintenance is bringing the property into compliance. The same can be said for garbage and litter and what we do is we continually work with people to try to address these problems in a timely manner. Housing cases are a little trickier and the reason for that is we try to put the (inaudible) on the home owner to resolve the problem but the problem often lies in the fact that many of the individuals that come into court are on very fixed and limited incomes. They might have less than \$800.00 a month coming in by way of social security and some of these expenses that are necessary to fix these homes are tens of thousands of dollars to tear down a home is tens of thousands of dollars and it's just money that they don't have. They don't have the ability to comply with the law and in that situation the court is mandated to find them not guilty. We do have laws on the books however that say if property is a public nuisance after sufficient notice which I believe in this instance would be 30 days that at that point the city can take action on its own; go on to the property; secure the structure; repair the structure or demolish the structure and once again any expense incurred can be placed as a lien on the taxes. That's my take on property maintenance I would tell you further if people don't come into compliance when they do at that point in time we don't just say thank you and no cost or fines those are people that we actually do impose fines. I can think of one case this was probably about a year ago where I had an individual who completely littered up their property; refused to clean the property; I found them guilty. I sentenced them to 3 days in jail. I let them out I told them I was giving them 10 days to clean up the property and I was bringing them back on day 11 and if they have not had the property clean they were going to go back to jail for 3 days and we were going to repeat that pattern until they either cleaned the property or I maxed them out at 30 days. They served the 3 days in jail and had the property completely clean by the next time that they came to court. So we are holding people accountable and you know just unfortunately a lot of these problems are not unique to Steubenville and we've had an exists from this town. People have literally just walked away from their properties and you have to realize to this is a poor community and many of the people that come before the court simply do not have the means or the ability to take care of these housing issues. I do agree with one thing anyone can pick up their garbage and I say it every day just because you're poor doesn't give you the right to have litter and things like that thrown throughout your property and I don't know what to tell you besides we're doing the best we can. We have housing tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. and it's always the third Wednesday of each month. You're more than welcome to attend. You're more than welcome to attend any session in municipal court which is daily at 10:00 a.m. and you can see how we do and deal with these violations. Now based on that do you have any questions?"

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Judge I do have a comment some of the people use this as an excuse but some of when people like just leave trash and garbage around their house; I've been in some of the houses as a mental health worker where it is even just as bad or worse which is a recession of some mental illnesses that are going around with some of the residents of the city. I don't know how that could be addressed but that is a problem also."

Judge Mascio – "Well if it comes before the court as I said the whole goal of property maintenance is always compliance and we do our best to bring those owners into compliance but I will tell you as far the garbage; the items on porches things like that you would be surprised but the numbers are very high in terms of the number of individuals that resolve the problem and come into compliance. I see the biggest problem with housing court quite honestly. When it comes to grass those individuals usually come into compliance as well and when they don't those are the folks that we end up sending community service up there to address but I see the problem in terms of even high grass and weeds being with these abandoned properties and that's when I come back to the fact that if we could coordinate some sort of game plan between the city and community service I think it would better address that. With that said I realize that resources are not what they should be or could be and you know it's not a perfect world."

Mr. Mastros – "Mayor if I may comment briefly. I'm just kind of (inaudible) on what Judge Mascio said and I appreciate all his efforts. He and I had discussion regarding this I think last year or the year before and it's always a persistent problem and it's with my other municipalities as well. If you recall I think it was two meetings ago Mr. Petrella had brought this up and I mentioned that how we model ours off of I believe we model our high weed ordinance off the Ohio Revised Code and we couldn't go below that five day floor and I didn't cross reference that in preparing for tonight. I should of but I concur with Judge Mascio the revised code is five days; we can't go below five; we can always go above it but we can't go below it and I appreciate his guidance the continuous violation if you will or the continuous notice if you will as it relates to absentee owners. So with that I think he's correct I think we have at least the beginnings of a plan regarding what we need to do so with that guidance and conceptually (all inaudible) we'll try to work in conformant with those comments that he made in mind."

Judge Mascio – “Municipality can never be more stringent; the municipal code can never be more stringent than what the Ohio Revised Code permits. So in this case if the revised code says five day notice you can have an ordinance that goes 6,7, or more like Costa just said but you can’t have an ordinance that goes four and below.”

Mr. Mastros – “And I concur with that.”

Judge Mascio – “That’s just the law guys.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah Mayor I just have a comment for Judge Mascio. Judge thank you for the job you’re doing for trying to keep up on this and I think you said a couple things that I’ve been saying all along. I mean I know we got a problem here but this is not the same town that I grew up in where there was 38,000 people now we have like 17. They left; the houses are still here and it’s an ongoing problem. We tear down houses and then next we have five more on the list and then we tear three down and then we got six more on the list but we got to try and come to some kind of grip with it but I appreciate the comments that you made tonight. Spelling it out I think you explained it a little bit than we do probably. Thank you Judge.”

Judge Mascio – “I would tell you to we’ve even worked with for example we’ve had habitat for humanity come some organizations like that some of these stories of the people that come before you are very sad. They want to do the right thing they are often times elderly people on fixed incomes as I said; they’re in tears and you know sometimes I feel more like a social worker than a Judge to be honest with you. Thank you for having me. I really appreciate it. Thank you for your support with our programs as always.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mr. Dressel your half of the lights have come in for North 4th Street project and as soon as we get the additional lights they’re going to start that but I wanted to let you know half of the order was sent in. We’re waiting for the other half.”

Mr. Dressel – “Thanks.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mr. Timmons on the graffiti you asked about it’s going to be subbed out to a company that does sandblasting but they feel that they can blast it light enough that just takes the paint off where it doesn’t have to be repainted so that’s in the process.”

Mr. Timmons – “Thank you.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mayor your Grant Street lot will be cut tomorrow morning. Friday or Monday then it will be sprayed so that will keep that from growing back.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mr. Petrella your State St. address we talked about those individuals are due in court on June 23rd of this year so we’ll see what happens at that visit with Judge Mascio.”

Mr. Petrella – “Thank you.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Alright this is a recommendation that I have to council; where we’re at right now with this COVID-19; my recommendation is we stay closed until July and our first meeting we open up July 7th for Council. If you want to continue with the direction we were going these are the rules you’ll have to comply by; six feet distancing, you must wear a mask, and it’s just limited to our people here. We can bring in no more than 10 people as guests but they will have to be masked so I put this out to Council. Weirton is opening up in July also but again my concerns are with our Council here and the safety. So what are your thoughts on this? The other thing is July 1st that’s when the order expires that the State had put out. It expires July 1st so they are either going to renew it or they’ll come out with a whole new order so we’ll have a better idea then.”

Mr. Dressel – “That’s fine if we’re careful.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I think Mr. Dressel we’re safe going to that distance based on everything that’s changing. They’ll be another conference with the Governor on Thursday. I’m going to make a call in tomorrow to the Health Dept. and try to get more definitive guidance so it keeps us safe here. I’m still going to have the place sprayed on Saturday a good cleaning there with antiseptic based on one of our vendors here but again my recommendation is we keep this until July 7th we’ll shoot for that date. We should also hopefully it will not change we’ll be able to have our 4th of July celebration.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I agree I’m fine with July. We got to be safe. We got to still not take it lightly but if that’s the recommendation I’m okay with it. I know we all want to get back but a couple week ain’t going to kill us. I’m fine with it.”

Mr. Petrella – “I agree with that.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay I’m going to take this as Council is in agreement with that. That will be my plans to work towards that the July 7th. I didn’t bring this up but we’re still trying to get the separations for the people that come in. Twice have cancelled the order on us so we’re trying a different vendor to get that. We are keeping our data up as people do have to come in and see our individuals here. They are logged in by sheet and we keep a daily log so we have a record of who has entered our building so we will maintain that until the building officially opens up. Right now the numbers for Jefferson County are at 71. We had a new case outside of Steubenville naturally but again we’re up to 71 and we’re being squeezed by the county north of us Columbiana and the county south of us Belmont and that’s all I have to report you’re Honor.”

Mr. Mastros – “One thing Mayor just to touch on what Mr. Mavromatis said in July; I confirm that as well. Through the State Board of Health we’re still at 10 people and that could change after July 1st. It could stay the same we don’t know yet. However if it is still under the 10 person rule for private or public gatherings what we will have to do is make sure that we provide the public with an avenue to participate if they sign up for public comment and it would be great if we could stream it still but we have to provide them the ability to call in to address Council under public comment. So with those two (all inaudible) we should be okay so hopefully they raise the limit a little bit so we can have some breathing room with the number of people in attendance and that’s all I have thank you Mayor.”

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “Alright we’ll move onto miscellaneous reports this evening and signing in this evening is Mrs. Hahn.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yeah just one quick comment and then a question. So my comment thank you Jim for getting that dumpster moved off of Pennsylvania. That has been there for months and I really grateful that’s it’s gone. So we’ll deal with the weeds but at least the dumpster is out of the way and I appreciate that very much. There was a notice from the Ohio Municipal League that referenced the Governor having established in 2015 the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board and the comment by the OML (inaudible) 79% of Ohio Officer Unit have voluntarily complied or are in the process of the certification and I just wondered is that something that our department has been engaged with? Is that familiar to you?”

Chief McCafferty – “I’m familiar with it. In our area there are no Police Departments that I know of that participate in this. It’s quite paper work lengthy. I express my dissatisfaction with the Ohio Chiefs of Police. All of our policies are still in effect and they are approved by the United States Department of Justice. If this (inaudible) wants to come in and look at them and say yes they’re good that’s fine but I can’t see doing a bunch of paperwork with people don’t have because I just have one secretary. Our policies are approved by the Dept. of Justice.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay and then the Governor mentioned he’s hoping to find some funding for Law Enforcement recruitment and so I thought we would put that on everyone’s radar because there may be some additional opportunities for grant funding that could help us as we reach out to minorities and women could see if we can have an increase in our Law Enforcement in those areas.”

Chief McCafferty – “Mrs. Hahn I wouldn’t get too excited about that to be truthful with you. I’m being quite frank they cut all of our funding for training and they shut down OPOMA and yeah we use to get reimbursed for training; cities no longer get reimbursed for training and they shut down OPODA they let go of the whole staff. That place is a mess it’s under reconstruction so I wouldn’t expect much from the state. I hate to be blunt like that but I have very little faith in them.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I just want to say just so Council is aware of this only because of the background that I have and I know clearly what can get us in trouble quicker than anybody. This department has had far more training that exceeds what OPODA has asked for every year and they have cut the funding. It’s through the funding that we’ve had out of our hide through asset forfeiture that we’ve been able to bring in a lot more training here that exceeds the OPODA standards and that’s what I pay attention too and our policies are solid. I’ve reviewed those and Justice has blessed off on them. Now one thing we got to be at watch for is what is going to happen when Congress comes out; the President has already started and the Dept. of Justice will come out with who knows what requirements that they want in the future but I will tell you our record keeping is good based on the Dept. of Justice had told this department several years ago on what reporting we needed and I pulled that already. So I would ask Council if any of you are interested in this then you contact me I’ll be more than happy to brief you on that.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you Jim.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim I’d like to add something too. I don’t know if people are aware of this or not but we have Police Officers on our Police Department who are actually qualified as teachers and they train other departments; members of our department train other departments personnel in some of these things that are necessary and there’s an ongoing program every year where it’s mandatory that our officers, sheriff’s dept., any local police department has to have these mandatory hours so there is training that’s incurred every year and unfortunately the state has cut back on paying for it but our officers still attend and I’m very proud that we have people who instruct other departments that’s from our department and I’m very proud of that Chief McCafferty.”

Chief McCafferty – “Thank you.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thanks for bringing that up Bob. You’re absolutely correct. Thank you.”

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