

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
July 14, 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 members Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, & Petrella.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Sanitation Supervisor Bob Baird, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for July 7, 2020. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Barilla.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Barilla – “Petitions and Communications Madame Clerk?”

Mrs. Haley – “Nothing this evening.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Madam Clerk.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2020-39 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd 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 – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-39. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-39 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I have a question. Jim I wanted ask travel’s insurance I thought was our city insurer (all inaudible).”

Mr. Mastros – “I can answer that. That was our prior insurance company and those are bills related to our lawsuit regarding our NCDs. Those are payments from our insurance company regarding our deductible.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay I also want to ask another question. How are we: \$15,000 to an individual; is that insurance costs or I mean is that attorney fees or is that something that she was awarded.”

Mr. Mastros – “No those are costs to the insurance company.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay thank you.

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-39 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. The ordinance will go into effect on August 13, 2020.

NO. 2020-40 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE RENEWAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES WITH THE JEFFERSON COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-40. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-40 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-40 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. The ordinance will go into effect on August 13, 2020.

NO. 2020-41 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A TAX BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2021 FOR THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2020-41. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-41 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-41 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. The ordinance will go into effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

Mr. Petrella – “You’re honor before I vote we talked about this ordinance in April of this year and or maybe even in March and at that time there was a discussion made about the emergency clause

again and that we could've had the ordinance and then if anything would've changed as of right now we could amend it and it wouldn't of been there because it calls for public hearing also. The public would've had time to look at the three readings. I did have a discussion with the Finance Director and the City Manager and I do understand because of the COVID and everything that the numbers will change but this will be the last time I vote on an emergency ordinance that is not an emergency. This didn't have to be an emergency. We discussed it. It didn't have to be an emergency and I understand the rationality of wanting accurate numbers so on and so forth because of the extenuating circumstances of the COVID that this transpired but I will make it perfectly clear I don't care anymore that if it's not a true emergency I'm not voting for it. But in this case I am going to vote yes but I just want everybody to understand my position. If it is an emergency and we've had emergencies recently in the past on ordinances but something that's in our control and the information could be put out there early enough that all of us could digest it and ask questions that I am not going to vote for it. That's all you're Honor."

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – "Yes Mayor two things. First off I'd like to sunshine a resolution adopting the F.Y. 2020 – F.Y. 2024 consolidated plan and F.Y. 2020 annual plan and authorizing its submission to the U.S. Department of housing and urban Development. And the second thing was I planned on calling a meeting for the weed stuff but then I see that their having a service meeting and that's going to be at 6:30. Do we think that from 6 to 6:30 is enough to discuss the weeds or I can make it for the following week or something because I don't want to be here at 5:30 and have everybody come down here for that long."

Mr. Dressel – "Mike has a pretty extensive list of things that he wanted to go through. Do you think he needed that full hour Jim? It was a pretty long memo."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Mike is usually pretty quick you know unless there's a lot of questions."

Mr. Dressel – "Well maybe we just tell him a half an hour and do weeds at 6:30."

Mr. Villamagna – "That's fine I just don't want to short the service committee and I don't want to short our committee either."

Mr. Dressel – "We're going to go over paving for the next two years. I don't think most people would disagree on paving."

Mr. Villamagna – "I'll call the planning/pride committee meeting for 6:00 and then we'll talk to Mike."

Mr. Dressel – "Okay and then we can adjust it if we want too."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay and that's all I have tonight Mayor."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "We're still continuing to make efforts to pick up trash and stuff for the pride committee."

Mr. Dressel – "Yeah we were actually discussing we wanted to call a service committee meeting for next week for 6:30 to discuss paving for the next two years and then Jim will check with Mike to make sure he needs a full hour or if not we'll move everything forward so we can tighten up the schedule if we need too."

Mrs. Hahn – "Yes couple of different things. The friends of the marina meeting is Thursday at Froehlich's at 4:30. I wanted to ask Jim has the Fire Department gone down and washed off the mud anytime recently? From different people going down it doesn't look like it's been cleaned at all from the spring rain and early summer flooding."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I would say no because normally they have the cleanup scheduled for I believe it's August 15th; in August JB Green Team they come down and pick up the whole marina. Chief I know you're on the phone have you been down there yet or are you waiting until August?"

Chief Capaldi – "You know what we have not been down there yet because really no one has asked for it yet and also we usually have to coordinate with M & R or Parks with some of the heavier stuff needs scraped off with a backhoe or a front loader before we actually hose it."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Alright thank you Chief."

Mrs. Hahn – "I'll let Lori follow up. Do we know when JB Green Team is going to do a cleanup?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes"

Mrs. Hahn – "Because they do the river sweep in June and that was not; that didn't happen."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Well August is what they told me they were going to do the river sweep."

Mr. Mavromatis – "And then Lori said the two trash cans there with the red lids were stolen."

Mr. Mavromatis – "They were stolen or thrown into the river."

Mrs. Hahn – "So trash is building up and we'll need to put two more there."

Bob Baird – "There's already cans there."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Apparently there's trash cans there. Mr. Baird is on the phone also."

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay wonderful."

Mrs. Hahn made a motion to accept the Mayor's recommendation of Eliza Kelley to the Parks and Recreation Board. Term to expire September 2021. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion accepted declared Mayor Barilla.

*Short speech by Mrs. Eliza Kelley.

Mrs. Anyabwile – "I have a question. When are the friends of Beatty Park meeting?"

Mrs. Hahn – "Next week. Thursday evening at the clubhouse at 7:00 p.m."

Mr. Paul – "Yes you're Honor. I have something I would like to bring up tonight. Last week July 9th at 12:36

a.m. out on Earl Drive; Earl Drive is a road off of Lovers Lane and its right across from the golf course at the Country Club. There's three apartment buildings in the back; the apartment building in question is 4309 on that night I had a report submitted to me from the Assistant Fire Chief Steven Bowers. 6715 arrived on scene; that is our fire engine; to heavy smoke in the parking lot. It was a chaotic scene with some residents already outside attempting to direct the crew to the unity on fire. Capt. Nathan Holzopf decided to make entry with firefighter Brennon McGarry rapidly with near zero visibility through the rear entry door. I was out there today and I don't know how they; it's hilly anyhow I'll get on with the story. 6713 arrived and firefighter Justin Boley joined 6715 in the interior attack. Firefighter David Fortunato operator and driver of 6715 established a water supply and ventilation to assist the interior attack. Simultaneously firefighter Johnathan Scott set up an extension ladder to the second floor balcony where four individuals and a cat awaited rescue. The reason why I went out there today; I talked to firefighter Johnathan Scott and he told me it's like a hill behind there. SO he had to have someone pull the ladder while he climbed up to get these four individuals and a cat down from the second floor. Capt. David Sullivan and firefighter David Coladonato arrived on 6721 and assisted firefighter Scott with the ladder rescues. When the individuals were out of harm's way, Sullivan and Coladonato completed a primary search for the additional victims of where there were none. Fortunately, all unaccounted for residents were not home. I need to point out that Wintersville FD assisted with primary and secondary searches. They also assisted in EMS operations on scene and transported one civilian to Trinity Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries. I guess all three ambulances came from Wintersville. All of these men deserve recognition for risking their lives to save other and extinguish the fire quickly to prevent further property damage. Their quick and decisive actions led to no civilians being seriously injured or killed. I recommend that these men are formally recognized for their actions. A quick note here Assistant Fire Chief Steven Bowers was sworn in July 2nd and this is seven days later. So it was his first major fire and Fire Capt. Nathan Holzopf it was his first fire at being sworn in the same day as Asst. Fire Chief Bowers. So they were relatively new to their positions and everything went well thank goodness. I know this is their job but I imagine the four people on the balcony are glad that they showed up and I know some people say so what that's their job; there's other things involved here. What I'm suggesting is that we sunshine a resolution recognizing these men listed above for the (inaudible) job they did at this fire. As I said I was out there today and it still smells of smoke; the interior and the back interior and there was fire inspectors out there as well. They risked their lives and they saved individuals trapped on the second floor of the balcony; they extinguished the fire quickly limiting to any further damage. All three buildings are still standing as I said you can smell the smoke when you go out there and you can see the charred (all inaudible). But I would like to adopt a resolution commending these gentlemen for the job they did that night. Okay? Secondly I know this is back on resolutions again; when I first got on Council they would always have resolutions for everybody. Mr. Timmons always brings it up for the kids; the athletes and everything which is a good thing. I appreciate everything he does but a lot of our city employees we do not recognize though. I'm suggesting somehow we form a committee and we'll need the department heads to help on this say Dave Lewis if Leslie Shaffer or someone was going to retire; someone with 25 years has been here and served a long time for the city we would recognize them. I know we've done it for several Councilman and you know they were only here for four years; twelve years but these other individuals they spend their life here. So I think we should probably set something up case in point Asst. Fire Chief Frank DeLonardis I talked to him the other day and he said he's wishes he could still go back to work. I think we should honor our employees and this is Council as a whole and this resolution tonight would be Council as a whole but I think we need as Council to thank our employees because I know we do a lot; Mr. Villamagna brought it up a couple weeks ago the sanitation department has done; some of the other things; Mr. Timmons brings it up a lot and I think we need to really acknowledge our employees and I think we need to set up something; I don't know if we need another committee. The big thing is the help we need from our individual department heads. Okay? We need them to let us know when someone is retiring in advance then that way we can get something put together so we can have Costa and Karly get something together. We can get a resolution together for these fine individuals who work for our city and every employee in this town or in the city from your clerical, your administrative assistant, all the way up to your sanitation, Police department, Fire department, ACSME, you all do a great job and I'd like to acknowledge them somehow so I think that maybe we should look into this a little further. I don't know what that would be under. Mr. Mastros do you have an idea?"

Mr. Mastros – "Let me think on it and I'll get back to you."

Mr. Paul – "Or if we need to just start something else; I could or Mrs. Hahn or somebody; Bob or somebody; Bob has been an employee here before maybe we can get Bob involved."

Mr. Villamagna – "We started it for a while and then it kind of faded off."

Mr. Paul – "And it went away yeah. We had some people that were kind of angry with us because we didn't acknowledge them. So I don't want to leave anybody out. I don't want to (inaudible) anybody. I think we need to acknowledge our employees. I really do."

Mr. Mastros – "When you did it in the past was there a special committee for that?"

Mr. Villamagna – "What we did is we brought it up and how it (all inaudible) and Willie is 100% right you need the department heads because we don't really know if somebody retires from M & R. I have no idea what happened today down there. Bob doesn't tell us somebody is retiring next week we have no way and we overlooked some people and it caused some hard feelings because I mean because I knew who a policeman was because..."

Mr. Paul – "And we did some officers and then there were some that we didn't and I feel bad because we didn't do that and I think there was a lady in finance; she passed away a couple years ago and I know she was kind of bitter towards that so I think we should."

Mayor Barilla – “Well those department heads could send that information (all inaudible).”

Mr. Paul – “Yes. We can talk to Mr. Mavromatis (all inaudible) and another one being Mr. Lewis in Finance he knows when someone is retiring right?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “On the retirement the paperwork comes to me for final signature.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “So what I can do whoever you want to designate from Council I will keep them apprised and I think that’s the smoothest way to do it. Because there are people that leave that don’t retire but they leave and go to another job. I still sign off on that. But I think that’s probably the best way.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Willie’s right you put in 25-30 years I mean and I’ll tell you the truth you know you’ll want to give it to your kids or something really.”

Mr. Paul – “Maybe one day we can sit down for 15-20 minutes and we can talk about it if you want to do that Craig. You fine with that Scott? Mrs. Anyabwile is that fine? Yes sir?”

Mr. Petrella – “You know you was in the mill; I was in the mill we had the 25 year club.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes.”

Mr. Petrella – “We were recognized for our service as an employee and I think it’s only right that we honor our long service employees that are retiring.”

Mr. Paul – “Yeah correct. I agree with you. I know we don’t give anybody the golden watch anymore like they use to get; key to the city and all that so I mean this is some way to let them know that we appreciate their service to our city.”

Mr. Petrella – “Absolutely. They put their time in. They did the service and every job is valuable.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay and I’ll work with Mr. Mastro to see what we can bring it under and as we said Mr. Mavromatis knows when someone is retiring. We’re putting it all on you brother.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Mr. Paul – “I have one other item. I received a letter from a lady and she lives on Braybarton; I know we had this before is Mike Dolak on the line?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay Braybarton Blvd. now that we’ve paved it; after we did the major upgrade with the water upgrade and it’s always been kind of; you live on that street they move pretty quick on that street. The young lady at the end of Braybarton and her house goes over down on Iva Way she’s concerned she’s expecting a child and she’s concerned about the traffic because when they want to start walking their child they’re afraid with all this and I know a lot of people have approached me before; is there any way we can get you know the sign we had Mr. Mavromatis attached to the telephone pole; I mean just to get some kind of reading and then they can go from there. I mean I know we’ve put it out there we did the same thing on Laurretta for me. I know we caught one guy going 71 mph going up the hill; not going down the hill; going up the hill on Laurretta and that’s a big steep hill. So get some kind of data and see because I remember it was about four years ago we did that and it kind of slowed things down but can we look into that again?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “We can do two things. We can do that; the surprising thing that I saw with the data we set it up with no sign at all to check the speeds then we put the sign on and the speed didn’t change that much but the answer to that is yes and then after that I’ll have the chief put someone up there with radar and we’ve had police in the past up there and the funny thing is it’s the people that live there.”

Mr. Paul – “She did say that and another thing she brought up the bikes and the ATVs.”

Mr. Timmons – “I forgot I had somebody ask about the 1600 block of Oregon the same thing Willie thank you for reminding me. I appreciate that. No I’m done. Same type of thing.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Speeding issues?”

Mr. Timmons – “Yes.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Chief McCafferty – “I don’t want to make light of the complaint but I live on Terri and I’m on that road a lot. Braybarton is not what it was 20 years ago. There’s a lot of families there and the on street parking in unbelievable and I watch my speed and 25; I look down at the speed limit; 25 that’s the speed limit that’s a good clip. Okay? So people might think they’re speeding but honest to go and the reason I know this is I have people complain to me about all the on street parking. I’m just saying anytime I’m on Braybarton it’s a zig zag because you have to pull over and you got to wait because there’s so many bigger families on Braybarton even 10 years ago.”

Mr. Paul – “You mean more vehicles is what you’re saying.”

Chief McCafferty – “Yeah but I mean I understand the sign will prove but I mean I don’t see; I mean the ATVs are another thing; I mean they go down into the woods...”

Mr. Paul – “I understand that.”

Chief McCafferty – “I’m just trying to say I know people think people are speeding but if you look at 25 mph in that residential area and I’ll give you an example the other day I’m coming up Terri and there was a lady; I had my daughter with me the dog has to ride in front and I look at Ireland and I say look at this. There’s a little girl about this tall and she’s on the side of this big SUV and her mother is on the other side. I mean you do have a responsibility to watch your kid and with all those cars parked like that and I know some people might (inaudible) driveways but you just got to watch because kids dart out. I really don’t see speeding speeding like they use I mean that use to be a good clip.”

Mr. Paul – “Yeah and if you remember the one lady she was a teacher down at Big Red she had brought it up to my attention and then she called me and said the same thing you just said. You look down and 25 mph you

think you're flying but you're doing the 25 and that's the speed limit is there is 25. She did say that to me after we had put that device there. Alright you're honor I'm done."

Mayor Barilla said a small comment about living on Braybarton."

Mr. Paul – "Could I say one more thing since I have the floor. If there's any questions or anything I know Chief Capaldi is on the phone; would anybody like to ask any questions on the resolution that I requested tonight or Chief would you like to elaborate on anything that I brought up tonight?"

Chief Capaldi – "No not at this time. I do agree the guys who were on scene that night did a really good job. I was out of town. It was Asst. Chief Bowers first major structure fire and people were trapped on the second floor and like you said it is something that we do pretty much every day that they come to work but every once in a while it's nice to recognize the guys on scene for doing a good job and for getting things done. Everyone in our department does a good job. They've all been faced with calls like that but like you said every once in a while it's good to recognize it and you know I would like to tell them in person that they all do a good job too and I do that."

Mr. Paul – "Something that Chief Capaldi and I were talking today about maybe when we do the resolution we will present to the Chief next week at the meeting and then the following week maybe he can go out in open air across the street to the Fort or somewhere and if they're families want to come up and you know receive the resolution that way we don't have to have our limit of 10 in this building. We can also do it across the street maybe at the fountain or something like that. I forgot to bring that up as well. Is that good Chief?"

Chief Capaldi – "Yes that's what we were discussing instead of bringing everyone into Council Chambers if you do the resolution and just present it to me to give to the guys I can notify the news media and we can have a little presentation ceremony and get it on the news."

Mr. Paul – "Thank you Chief."

Chief Capaldi – "Thank you all very much."

Mr. Petrella – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. To Council this Thursday at twelve noon we will have a swearing in of the new firefighter at twelve noon across the way if it's nice if it's raining it will be inside here. So I wanted to make sure that Council was aware of it and if you're available come down we'd love to see you there. Probably the biggest concern what I want to brief Council tonight is where we're at with the increase in cases of COVID-19 here in Jefferson County and make no mistake we have cases in Steubenville but it's increased drastically and just to give you an idea June 1st there was 66; June 11th 69; June 13th 69; June 19th 74; June 25th 75; the number just keeps growing. It's not an additional it's 75 it goes up to that. June 30th there was 80 that's what was here but the amazing thing is June 30th goes into the 4th of July activities 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, it went up 53 cases from that point in 14 days. That's the incubation period is a good 14 days anytime in between there. So again you have to sit back and look what was going on in our city, our county, we had people that went to Florida and came back here we know that through the back tracing. We had people go to Myrtle Beach come back here. We had people go to Tennessee and come back here. It's traveling to different areas and coming back here and basically the safest is you quarantine yourself for 14 days but they're not systematic so they figure we have no issues here. This is what we're dealing with. I just want this brought to Council so you are aware of this.

Council you make the decision on what you want to do as Council. If you want to continue coming here or you want to do it by phone at home that's clearly your call. My job is to make sure that you have the facts of what we're dealing with here. I'm waiting for the rest of the week here to see how our numbers are. If they continue to jump then I will go back to how I had this building closed down and we had people just coming into the foyer there. Right now the people can come in; they're masked if they don't have one we furnish one for them and we make sure they get to the people they need to see. But we've been blessed here we haven't had any cases at all involving our employees and that's the good news. They're out every day doing their job and so we've been safe that way but I wanted Council to be aware of these numbers again more testing does increase the numbers but it's the back tracing that's most important. Where have you gone? When did you go? Who did you talk to? And we've had different information come in; one they're honest and they've done nothing wrong criminally but it's a matter of being able to back trace where have you been that you possible could've gotten exposed to it. But the wild card is very simple if they are A. systematic you're not going to know. It could be anybody. And again there are people that are A. systematic that are positive but the A. systematic ones are also spreading it and they have no idea that they are. So that's my biggest concern that I wanted to make sure Council was aware of. I talk every day to the Health Commissioner sometimes two and three just to make sure where we're at. Is there anything we need to do here as a city and my responsibility is I look at it is for all of you here Council, our employees, and our city residents to make sure we have a safe environment here. The best thing we have going is educating our public and I realize it is extremely difficult what everybody is going through here. Basically shut down for over 90 days; opening back up; closing some things again and again it's difficult but it comes back to one thing self-discipline. You have to do that until we can either get a vaccine or it just dies itself out so that's where we're at right now. Next week I'll give you the briefing we're waiting until after tomorrow it's the 15th; Tax Day and see where we're at revenue wise so hopefully next week we'll have enough figures that I can give all of you an idea of where we're at financially and we're tracking this every day we're looking at things. Mr. Timmons Oxford and Estelle I've looked at that; I've had our engineer our there; the police chief has been out there; there is no issue with the can being there. It's been moved far enough away; I personally walked it off there's more than enough room. Now here's the wild card you can't control how people drive they're going to

speed but you're in a residential area you need to drive the speed limit. There's a bigger problem though but it's not every day. Last week I went there there was parked vehicles there just as you make the turn there was a parked vehicle which is going to cut that turn to go in to the people coming southbound on Oxford. It's a difficult thing. That can services a business; multiple businesses there. I would ask if you would get a complaint again please give him my number and have him call me. You have my cell give it to him and have him call me."

Mr. Timmons – "One other thing did you notice the weeds behind it?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes I did. We're tracking that down because I think that's going to be the property (all inaudible). Because I went there and you couldn't see the fire hydrant and that's my concern so but we're on that."

Mr. Timmons – "Okay thank you."

Mr. Mavromatis – "That's all I have Mayor."

Mr. Mastro – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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