

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
July 21, 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 Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, Petrella, & Timmons.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Sanitation Supervisor Bob Baird, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for July 14, 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. 2020-44 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE F.Y. 2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND THE F.Y. 2020 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION THEREOF TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD), AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND URBAN PROJECTS DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR F.Y. 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS AS INCORPORATED IN THE ACTION PLAN.

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-44 by roll call. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-44 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2020-45 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF STEVE BOWERS, CAPTAIN NATHAN HOLZOPFEL, CAPTAIN DAVID SULLIVAN, FIREFIGHTER BRENNON MCGARY, FIREFIGHTER DAVID FORTUNATO, FIREFIGHTER JUSTIN BOLEY, FIREFIGHTER JOHNATHAN SCOTT, AND FIREFIGHTER DAVID COLADONATO.

Mr. Paul made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-45 by roll call. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-45 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Just one point about letting people know about the trash dumpsters that can be sent to; you know that can be sent to the homes for free of charge. Did we ever find out if that announcement could be put on the water bill?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “The short answer is yes. The cost we would have to look at. I have the Herald Star here and I have News 9 here so all three of those will be used. After that I don’t have any other idea other than it’s posted on our website and I can’t control if people read the paper or watch the news.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “But they get the water bill every month and just like they know they saw July 4th and other announcements that went across the bottom. I think people would pay attention to their water bill.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I have no problem and I’ll let you know what the cost is when I get it back from utilities.”

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes thank you. Alright so for Parks and Recreation the friends of the marina meeting last Thursday was postponed until August because we just had this new influx of cases in the county and so plans to go ahead and schedule paddle fest and the battle of the bands are at the best on hold and possibly cancelled so we’ll just have to wait until August to see where things are in our county and the state to see if we can even potentially plan either one for September. Friends of Beatty park will be meeting this coming Thursday 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse and I just wanted to thank the City Manager, I believe it may be Bob Baird and his crew

that got to Beatty Park and filled in pot holes and that's just a great step forward but there have been volunteers out there doing a lot of different jobs and anyone wanting more details about volunteer times can go to the Facebook page for friends of Beatty Park but they wanted me to express their thanks for the city taking care of those potholes. And then also Lori wanted me to mention that for now the MLK Center is still open but they are going to be monitoring how many more cases are coming based on that it could end up closed again so for now it is open and that's all there is to report on Parks and Recreation."

Mr. Paul – "Yes you're honor I have one. It's a resolution under finance it's a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor."

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. I'd like to brief Council on this; this is a decision that was made today but the reason I want to comment on it publicly the 2020 9th annual SGSA last blast softball tournament was to be staged this weekend. I talked with the President and I believe the Vice President and I reviewed what they had submitted on their protocols and procedures that they were going to do which was pretty thorough but what they didn't know and I did the work on it this is involving three states; state and county break down and it involved Jefferson County seven teams; Guernsey County three teams, Tuscarawas three teams, West Virginia Ohio County three teams, Marshall County five teams, Pennsylvania Washington County three teams, and Alleghany County three teams so with that you have a total of approximately 405 players and coaches minimum of 108 family people no way knowing the exact number that would come. But the interesting thing that I found and that I discussed with the President and Vice President out of all those counties and states involved there's over 8,210 cases that doesn't mean active cases right now. There's no way of knowing what's pending in all of those places but with that volume in number and no control of any of these people where they live and what they do it was the wisest decision between them and myself to cancel this project for this weekend. So I wanted you to know deep respect for these two gentlemen I know there was a lot of pressure that was on them but the first and foremost was the protection of the kids and playing softball so again my hat goes to those two gentlemen and I explained to them if anybody from the teams have any questions to call me I'll be more than happy to go over the statistical data with them. We've had an increase in cases in our county. We still have numbers that are still being tested so we're still going up. We won't know until later in the week where this county is if it changes colors. Orange is where we're at right now but we could possibly go into the red zone we won't know until the end of the week so I wanted to brief you on that right there. Right now and I already talked to Mr. Petrella crews are out on a water break that he brought to my attention. I was just texted by Jimmy Jenkins our Superintendent we have four breaks in Alikanna due to the failure of a pressure relief valve and our crews are out there now dealing with those issues so right now we're in two areas of the city dealing with water breaks. Ohio EPA a lot of them have been working from their homes like the majority of government offices in the State of Ohio I've been talking to Kelley Smith and her inquire was pretty simple wanting to know based on our consent decree that we have with them where the trust agreement is. I explained to her that we have the money that has been put into a separate account; it's being held in a Huntington Bank but it has to be in a trust account that they control. It does not mean that we can't access that money but the money is accessed based on the standards in the consent decree. So she sent us the contact person at Huntington Bank is where they have their trust account set with and for us this is where our account is set up with Huntington Bank so our attorney Costa will be working to get this set up and we will have that taken care of. Now just to give you a quick update we don't have to go into executive session I believe it was last January we traveled to Columbus, Ohio dealing with the consent decree on things we have to get done meaning the schedule of the Ohio EPA. There's been multiple changes on this we've been dealing with this for over 20 years; where we're at right now our attorney in Cincinnati is preparing a final draft to send out to their attorney. If it's blessed off by the attorneys and the Ohio EPA then we'll be in a position to sign it and then before I sign it I'll brief Council where we're at and what we're required to do. One thing that was made clear to them that based on the current situation with this COVID-19 and the fact that every municipality, village, township are dealing with financial short fall so there will be something in this amended decree that if something faces us like that that we can adjust the time table. So I wanted to at least let Council know where that's at right now."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "What are the finances for in this EPA account?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "The funds there are solely for the closure of our landfill. That is it."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "So it's still open?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "No it's closed but it has to be monitored every month they come and check it and any issues that come up there with the wetlands and we have to change something or add something it comes at a cost to us but we have that fund for that reason. The reason they have it in their trust fund they control it which means but unfortunately some municipalities used it for other services other than what it was intended for. They have total control. When we advise them of what we need; we have to correct something there then the money is released."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "I see."

Mrs. Hahn – "So when you say Costa is writing the trust agreement that's the trust that was supposed to be written years ago that we're now; that's tied to the trust fund and the closure of the landfill?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "That is correct."

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay and the consent decree that you’re working through that has to do with our downtown crisis a couple years ago in January?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes mam that’s part of it.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay so they are really two separate issues?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes mam they are. They’re two separate issues.”

Mr. Petrella – “Jim is that trust fund interest bearing?”

Dave Lewis – “Not right now. We’re not getting interest on anything right now.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Mr. Petrella – “Would it be interest bearing?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s a question we can ask the contact at Huntington Bank in Columbus when we talk to her.”

Dave Lewis – “Yeah you’ll have a new bank account so right now it’s not interest bearing but we can change it when the rates do go up here. It will probably a few years out before we start getting any significant interest again.”

Mr. Petrella – “That’s okay I just wanted to make sure that it is in an interest bearing account regardless and then there is a potential at generating something.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes and I’ll brief Council on this once we have a phone conversation with the corporate trust services manager we’ll know exactly what account and how it’s set up and everything. That’s all I have Mayor.”

Mr. Mastros – “Just a matter of not even clarification just to make sure that everybody has the issue straight. The consent decree that Mr. Mavromatis was referencing is for sewer system and that’s the one we’ve been negotiating for 20 years. It’s just not to confuse the two for the landfill there is a consent order out of common pleas court establish the trust fund and the moneys from the gas and oil go into the trust fund to service the closure of the landfill. Just so there’s no confusion and I don’t think there is I just wanted to make sure but that’s all I have Mr. Mayor.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Sorry so Costa your answer is actually different. You’re saying that the consent decree doesn’t have to do with our major waterline and then downtown being out of water for so many days. It has to do with the combined rain water/sewer water.”

Mr. Mastros – “I don’t think that’s 100% correct. I think it might have to do with it a little bit but it’s mostly regarding the sewer system and the consent order from common pleas court is regarding the landfill. Like it touches on it a little bit but with the water I might be incorrect but I don’t know. There is a little overlap there possible but I know it’s mostly our sewer system for sure.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Kimberly it’s a consent decree through common pleas court dealing with the landfill. That’s all that deals with period. The other consent decree which we have deals with the sewer system all of this the upgrades and the time table that they need to be done. It’s a completely different one.”

Mr. Mastros – “That’s correct I agree.”

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “Okay we’ll now move onto miscellaneous reports this evening and signing in under miscellaneous is Mrs. Anyabwile.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Two things one the JMHA meeting is tomorrow at 1:30 at the JFK Building if anybody wants to go and I also understand tomorrow evening at 6:00 is the Port Authority meeting. I want to go because I want to understand the city’s relationship with the county and the Port Authority with bringing in new industries and businesses here in the area. Does anyone know where the meeting is?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I believe it’s in the Ohio Valley Towers mam.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay I will call the gentleman tomorrow to make sure it’s you know where it is. That’s all I have.”

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