

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
August 11, 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 Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, & Dressel.

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

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for August 4, 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. 2020-50 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS THE LOCAL OFFICIAL WITH THE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT AGREEMENT KNOWN AS JEF-SR7 15.93 TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES, PID NO. 113672, CITY PROJECT NUMBER 2020-131, AND COMPLETE ALL NECESSARY FUNCTIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE SAID PROJECT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES, RIGHT OF WAY SERVICES INCLUDING ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF WAY, UTILITY RELOCATION, CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION/INSPECTION SERVICES, BIDDING SERVICES, ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION, RE-BIDDING IF REQUIRED, ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST MOST QUALIFIED BIDDER AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREFORE.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes I have a couple of things. First of all of behalf of Lori I really want to give my thanks to Dave Albaugh he was at the cleanup group in Beatty Park and he got the graffiti finally off the large shelter and we are just really grateful for his efforts on that. There were a number of volunteers I know Flora and Linda were working on clearing weeds and working on the trails. There’s a gentleman named Ed who cleaned quite a lengthy ditch which is going to allow water to not have to cross the road there and it was a great effort and for anybody interested in joining them please look at the Facebook page Friends of Beatty Park and you’ll find out when they’re going to be there. Also tomorrow night is the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting it will take place at 7:00 p.m. which is Wednesday August 12th in Council Chambers and so if you have a rental that you’re hoping to have for a shelter you need to fill out that paperwork and come before the board for approval and I believe that’s all I have. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “I do have one item and it’s under the Finance Committee.” Mr. Paul sunshine an ordinance authorizing and directing the Finance Director to establish a fund or multiple funds, as may be needed, for the Steubenville Municipal Court Mental Health Court and declaring it an emergency.

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Yes thank you Mayor. Under Pride Committee I would like to report that the crew from 8th Street which consists of Terry Bickerstaff and his wife Maria and his nephew Oscar; Joan and Tony Workmen and also Mrs. Hahn came out this weekend on Saturday and we went through the street clearing out everything we could possibly see through the brush and through the weeds and we loaded it up. We went through Linden Ave. Garrett and Railroad and we stacked a huge pile of it on a corner of Linden and Slack. People have commented there have been things there like old sofas and chairs for four years. One of the signs that’s up high

on a telephone pole which says slow children at play is literally covered with weeds you can't even see the sign. So hopefully we'll have weed crews go down through these streets and you know clear the lots but I wanted to thank those volunteers who've actually come out for two weeks straight and still willing to do more to help clean up the south end. Thank you that's all I have for Pride Committee."

Mr. Dressel – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. I'd like Council to know we've had the bids that came in for the waterline and the lowest bidder was Border Patrol at \$86,711.94 so it's quite a bit lower which gives us some extra money that can still be focused on that waterline program and take it hopefully a little further than where this was originally planned to go at 650 feet. Barring any problems that we may run into upon digging that'll help increase the distance that we have so I wanted Council to know that that's been awarded. Number two we had the bid opening and closing and this is for the roof of the building and it went to Buckeye Mechanical at \$190,000 there was one other lower bid by the amount \$8,000 but when you looked at all the pieces that have to be done there was an increase in funding of \$75.00 per lineal foot compared to 27.90 per lineal foot that Buckeye Mechanical had so this made them the best qualified all the way over so that's been awarded there. Today I met with Superintendent Bob Baird, the Finance Director Dave Lewis we have done a very good job of holding in filling positions within the city during this COVID-19 crisis that we've been dealing with. We've been able to save several thousands of dollars to help offset some of our revenue losses but we're also at another loss with our manpower situation and we have to get prepared for winter meaning we need to fill the four vacancies in sanitation and our maintenance side; I apologize its four positions in our sanitation. The purpose of this meeting was to look at our staffing in our sanitation dept. which is down four positions and our M & R positions which is down too. We've tried to maintain by not filling these positions throughout the year so far because of this COVID-19 pandemic that we've been dealing with. We've been able to save a quite a bit of money to help offset the loses that we've been experiencing and we have this money already budgeted but what we have to prepare for is this upcoming winter; having the sufficient manpower to deal with the streets because when we have a heavy snow storm that comes in not only do we use our M & R people to clean the streets but we use our sanitation people who are also CDL drivers. I wanted to advise Council that we are going to backfill these positions; we need to have these in place prior to going into winter time. Is there any questions on why we're going in this direction?"

Mr. Villamagna – "I have a question. We have filled a couple positions right? We filled one in Finance and also an IT person is that correct?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "That is correct."

Mr. Villamagna – "Do we have vacancies on the Police Dept. and the Fire Dept. that haven't been filled?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "We do."

Mr. Villamagna – "Are we able to fill them at this time or no?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Not at this time but I check with my Department Heads every week to determine where we're at manpower wise. It's not that they're not needed but based on where we're at right now we can withstand with the numbers that we have now but we can't sustain that indefinitely so when it starts to get down to where it's being crucial then it will be the time to bring it back on. But each position that we don't fill Mr. Villamagna is money that is going against what we have lost in these last several months."

Mr. Villamagna – "Right so we haven't filled the one police and one fire is that correct?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "I believe there's two vacancies in the Police Dept. and I'll have Chief Capaldi; I think we're down three positions in the Fire Dept. is that correct Chief?"

Chief Capaldi – "Yes that's correct. We're down three positions one on each turn."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay and then the rest of the vacancies are in the M & R Department?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes M & R and Sanitation."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay."

Dave Lewis – "You're also down two in recreation and a part-time legal secretary."

Mr. Villamagna – "I'm glad you said that Dave Lewis because that secretary for Costa I think that's pretty important to fill that position. I think Costa needs a secretary or am I wrong Costa? Could you get along without her?"

Mr. Mastros – "Thank you Mr. Villamagna. So I've been updating Mr. Mavromatis bi-weekly at least I do need one however I can hold out until the first of the year to see how this all; how our finances pan out and where we are with this pandemic. My private secretary is able to fill the gap a little bit and she's very good but she cannot replace you know 30 years of institutional knowledge of Cathy and Cathy was very good in her own right as well. Yeah eventually we're going to have to fill that but I can hold out until the end of the year so we can save a little money and trust me I need one but I can hold out."

Mr. Paul – "I have a question. How many CDL license operators do we have in sanitation; I'd like this number next week; in sanitation, M & R, Wastewater, and the other areas where the guys repair the water line breaks. They all have CDL licenses correct? Anywhere we hire anymore is all CDL operators' right?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "That's what we're pushing for that they are CDL drivers. Have driver licenses for CDLs."

Mr. Paul – "And that is operating a snow plow correct?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes that is correct and other heavy equipment."

Mr. Paul – "Okay so how many did you say we need to fill in maintenance and sanitation?"

Mr. Mavromatis – “Sanitation is four; M & R is two. Is that correct Mr. Baird.”

Bob Baird – “Yes that is correct.”

Mr. Paul – “Well I need to know how many CDL operators we have. I know we’re going to need three firefighters for sure to do what we’re going to do in the future but I would like to see that number. Thank you that’s all I got.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “One thing I had a recent call with the Health Commissioner about 30 minutes ago we currently have 239 cases in Jefferson County. 30 are active again going from June the 30th 42 days later 159 more cases. It’s an average of 3.7 cases per day so it gives you the ground truth that this virus is out there and we have to use the precautions that have been put in place. We’ve been blessed here with our City Employees. They’re following the protocols and we’ve been healthy as a city workforce and that’s all I have.”

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “Alright we do not have anyone signing in under miscellaneous nor do we have anyone under public forum.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Sir can I make a comment I know I didn’t sign in but I’m still kind of upset that I forgot to sign in and just mention about the shooting that happened on Pine and Claire this weekend. About a young lady she was a resident here in Steubenville; she was actually visiting because she goes to school in college and she was about to enter Law School and unfortunate chain of events when they were having a visual for a member of the community who was killed there seven years ago to the day; they were having a candle light visual and somebody came up and shot into the crowd. Three people were hit and she died. One thing too is when she was hit I guess an ambulance was called and some of her friends ended up putting her into their car and taking her to the hospital. I had a question because we’ve had this discussion before about Police walking the streets it seems a little bit better because they can get up close; a little more personal. Is it possible to have that conversation you know again even if they just walked certain rough areas that we know are in this community such as Rosswell; such as Maryland; such as Pennsylvania; even if they walk down two or three blocks turn around and walk back you know that maybe it will be a Police presents may help the situation. I don’t know but I’m still upset about you know what happened in the community and what is continuously happening in the community. 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