

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
September 15, 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 Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, & Villamagna.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for September 8, 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

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – No Report

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor I have several items here tonight. They’ll all be under finance.” Mr. Paul sunshine 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. The next ordinance was an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to advertise for bids in accordance with law for the purchase of necessary supplies for use in the Service Department, and to provide for a contract for the purchase of said materials for the year 2021, authorizing the right to reject any and all bids, authorizing entering into of contracts, and payment thereof. The last ordinance he sunshine an ordinance to allow the City Manager and the Fire Chief to spend \$241,438 from the Cares Act Fund to purchase the following items: \$105, 500 is the cost for a new Ambulance from 911 Fleet and Fire Equipment; \$ 71,693 is the cost for a cot, monitor and stair chair for that Ambulance from Stryker Equipment; \$ 64,245 is the cost for 3 Lucas Devices, 1 would go in each of the Department's 3 Ambulances. Also, from Stryker Equipment. “What it would do is it would supply us with a third ambulance; it’ll be a backup; it’ll also be used for special events and it is something I think we need to do. It needs to go under an emergency for the fact that we have to have the money appropriated or encumbered by October 15th from the Cares Act and we have to spend it by December 31st of this year so to do that; to get the ambulance and the other items that we need we would need to have this as an emergency because we have to have it by October 15th. Okay?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Now we talked about the Cares Act paying for the first two ambulances.”

Mr. Paul – “They’re already paid for. This is under another one. Mr. Mavromatis we had another round of money that came in right? Three hundred and some? Would you like to explain that?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well it’s approximately 350,000 in another load of Cares Act money. The whole purpose of these ambulances that gives us three ambulances. Crews change every 24 hours. There will be constant running of these ambulances so we can rotate them. Once we get the manpower which we’re hoping through the safer grant for the bodies we’ll have a two man crew for each of those ambulances that will be assigned for them to run every day on other needs. If we didn’t have access to this money and authorization of the guidelines there’s no way we could’ve done this and that’s why we’re doing this. Also I’ve tentatively located a place where we can house our extra ambulances and our extra fire trucks and we’re just working on a price right now. It’ll be somewhere around \$800 a month and it’s very close to the Northend Fire House so all this is starting to blend in together. All the equipment is coming except for the chest compression machines as you said but we will have one of those on each of the ambulances so we’ll be ready to go. Right now with our new people on board we have paramedics and we have EMS people so we have the capability to run an ambulance.”

Mr. Paul – “There was an article in the paper today Linda and she was talking to Chief Capaldi and it was very factual and it helped a lot into hopefully the citizens understand what we’re trying to do here. As he said this is why we said before in the very beginning when we started discussing this we would try not to do this with a levy so this is one of the things and this kind of fell into our lap. This is a way to take care of that.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s correct. We have the materials in place. We have some of the manpower in place and hopefully by October 1st we’ll be ready to roll with our ambulances.”

Mr. Paul – “And I want to thank everybody involved in this it’s been; we thought it would take next year 2021 but I think we’re doing it a lot quicker and I’m glad that we’re moving forward with this. So thank you and everybody that’s been involved in this.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “And I’ve met with several of the other communities with the fires that have ambulance services that have supported us and they’re grateful that we’re finally getting on board so we’re all going to work together on this so there is no one person that has control of all of this. So we’re going to work together as a team and we’ll accomplish this.”

Mr. Paul – “And last you’re Honor I make a motion that we go into executive session tonight to conduct a meeting about the NCDs.” Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Paul – “One more thing you’re Honor. I asked Karly to include in here the cost pertaining to the extra ambulances the Lucas Devices and the chair. Okay? So everybody if you want to look at it (all inaudible) I think it’s eight or seven pages its right here. Karly included tonight for everybody and as I said that it’ll be an emergency next week. Next week at 6:00 we’re going to start discussing the budget hearings and next week we’re going to discuss Mayor, City Manager, Law Dept., Civil Service, Council, Finance Dept., and Utility Billing. Next week the 22nd we’ll start the budget hearings.”

Mr. Petrella – “Yes you’re Honor I have one.” Mr. Petrella sunshine an ordinance amending codified ordinance 521.10(A) regarding the cutting of grass and weeds. “This is pertaining to the email that all of you have received from the Law Director about removing the date. Correct?”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Timmons – “Yes this evening it never cease to amaze me what Steubenville City Schools does for the community and the programs that they have; you know just something to be very proud of; I know as an alumni I’m certainly proud of it. So tonight we have Natalie Campana and she’s going to speak about SCS TV.”

Natalie Campana – “Thank you for having me. Steubenville City Schools due to the COVID we wanted to be able to educate and reach all of our students and that meant either at home or at the school or whatever (inaudible) programs so back in May we met with Jim and we spoke with opportunities of having an educational access channel. We work with Comcast and the FCC. Today Steubenville High School along with Steubenville City Schools and the City of Steubenville we have an educational access channel where we will place learning materials on TV for our students and eventually in a couple of weeks they’ll be able to use their iPads so if you have Comcast you can login with your app and you’ll be able to see what’s happening in Steubenville City Schools. So that is what is going to be happening here in our community.”

Mr. Timmons – “We talked previously and you were saying announcements from the city.”

Natalie Campana – “Yes we actually have a section so if you would go on Channel 15; right now we have our beautiful fountain that’s in the background; we have a couple of different images; we have a section for COVID that’s on there pertaining to social distancing and the masks those are in there for the city section. So once you have stuff that the public needs to know about we are ready and just send an email and we’ll get it on ASAP.”

Mr. Timmons – “So who would handle it? Jim we would have to have some designated to do that probably correct?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I would run this through our IT person Zach Murray. That’s the best thing. Anything that deals with IT like that; couple things I’ll bring up when I speak.”

Natalie Campana – “So we’re also working with Franciscan University offering a couple little online classes for the community to see and that’s through the communication arts department; we’re working with them; we’re working with other entities like Eastern Gateway and our library that’s another one so we’re trying to grasp all of our educational opportunities that are right here in Steubenville so they can be on Channel 15 for our public and our students to be a part of.”

Mayor Barilla – “When does that start?”

Natalie Campana – “It’s on now.”

Mrs. Hahn – “So it’s your platform; is this opened to all of the various schools?”

Natalie Campana – “Well what we’re doing is with Ohio we have the standards that all the schools in Jefferson County must follow and that being said we’re putting on Ohio standards for preschool all the way up to high school so that is what’s on the channel along with we have other entities that are going to happen within the district that we’re also; for families due to social distancing we’re hopefully going to have volleyball, soccer, basketball on so that parents can watch on the channel. That is our goal and that would cover other districts that we play also. So that’s our start.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Is this only courses that you are offering or I’m curious because I know that there are homeschoolers who use a lot of different material. Is it something that they can tap into?”

Natalie Campana – “Yes. A lot of our videos like right now we’re getting ready to load all of the SFA onto our TV station. Right now we have some kindergarten stuff that’s going. We’re slowly loading it because we have 24 hours’ worth of content that we’re working to fill right now.”

Mayor Barilla – “So the time is 24 hours a day?”

Natalie Campana – “Yes 24 hours a day? Yeah so right now it’s on a loop and we’re slowly when we get a little bit more we’ll have elementary in the morning, middle school will be in the afternoon, and then towards the evening will be the high school and then say after 6:00 on will be maybe sports that we can showcase due to social distancing that you can turn on 15 and you can watch and then it will cycle back through for another 12.”

Mr. Paul – “I don’t have Comcast. I have Direct and it’s not on Direct right?”

Natalie Campana – “Not yet.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Two questions. What are your call letters? And can children get credits for classes taken on your station.”

Natalie Campana – “We’re going to eventually get there. This is the first time really anybody has moved into educational access having online classes or not really online but they’re on the cable channel. So we’re working those out. This is a whole new entity for us due to COVID and we want to make sure our kids are getting the maximum education they can in Steubenville.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Do you have call letters?”

Natalie Campana – “Not yet. We’re just Channel 15 right now. That’s what our FCC is. SCS TV is what we’re branding it at. WSSCS but we’re channel 15. (All inaudible from clapping). We’re working on getting those videos; we’re working with Franciscan to help us to make those with the students so you’re building that bridge again with the high school students heading onto college to further their education so they’re seeing the beauty of our community right there on 15. Thank you for having me.”

Mr. Timmons – “Alright that’s all I have tonight.”

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “This happens every year when we have elections. I know a lot of you have been getting calls from your constituents about the election signs. It’s he said she said; basically what we’ve been doing if we get a complaint on an election sign or if we obviously see one then we will pull the sign. Most of the signs we had pulled had been in our right-of-way area. So again those of you that have called me but notified the people; the signs are pulled and are placed in the M & R lot and they’re there until after the election. Once the election is over then we throw them away. So that seems to be working out but I know you get calls just like I do and if I don’t get a call and it’s not a major hazard we don’t have the time to deal with that so I just wanted you to know that if you get the call let me know and we’ll deal with the issues as we have too.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Along those lines so when you say your right-of-way the city in a sense has a right-of-way with everyone’s property.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s correct.”

Mrs. Hahn – “So you’re not saying an individual home in the front yard; are you speaking about the intersections?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’m talking about where we cut our grass areas and that because if they have them out to where we have our right-of-way it’s 10-15 feet we can pull the signs all day. But we’re not going to bother those but we have some signs that exceed what is require we will pull those if those are brought to our attention. Now we don’t just pitch them away. We’ll call the respective person that owns them; we have your sign this is where it’s at. But after the election they’re gone. Okay? This is a subject because we’ve finally got our IT person Zach Murray; he’s been doing an excellent job so far. He’s on his 5th week and we’ve tackled a lot of major issues here. One of the things that I’ve asked him to do was see about Facebook because I mean there’s Twitter there’s all kinds of mechanisms but social media Facebook seems to be the number one area that people go to. So we have a Facebook Page now; it’s read only so what I want to do when we’re ready to get this really loaded and put in there then I will get something from each of the Council People; your pictures; a short bio on you and we’ll get that on there. If there are things that we need to get out there respective of our department everyday people can go there and see the latest reports that are on the city and we can set it to where it’s up for X amount of days and then we drop it off. So Zach has been working on this but it’s been way overdue. We tried to reverse 911; why it’s not as successful is you’re relying on participants to do that. Here if you want to know the issues in your city then you go to the Facebook Page and you’ll find out what’s going on. It’s read only because one we do not have the manpower to have someone sit there and monitor that Facebook input in and out. Again it’s going to be coming here. We’re looking at all kinds of different ways with this COVID act money. We’ve been very successful on a lot of things that we can have if we have to pull the trigger and have our people work from home then we can. They can get into our systems here at the city. We’ve ordered some additional laptop devices that they’ll be issued if they have to work from home. We have been blessed here. Our people have been working through this the whole time and god has graced us we haven’t had any problems whatsoever. We’ve had a couple close calls but there was no issues there so it’s worked out fine so we’ve been maintaining. These budget hearings that we’re going to have I need you to really look at them and understand them; Dave will be here with me. We have looked at all different ways to keep the costs down up to this point because for a variety of reasons. Not backfilling certain positions we’ve held off as long as we can. Now we’re going to have to back fill some of these positions. We’ve been blessed that we haven’t had any major problems in this city where we had to spend a lot of money. We still have a winter that we have to get through here. The other blessed part that we have we don’t have an extra pay period next year so that saves us quite a bit of money there. So hopefully by the end of the year we’ll have some great offsets here that we won’t be in a lot of financial problems that a lot of cities in this valley that are going to be in. I know several of them are looking for something to come out of Washington D.C. to help and I haven’t seen anything yet but I’m hoping with infrastructure funding something like that that can always help us. We’re very close it went out yesterday to the Ohio EPA on the consent decree. We finally had our draft done. We had our meeting with our attorney. It’s been sent to their attorney’s in Columbus, Ohio so once we see where we’re at with that this is something that the city has been dealing with over 16 years. We’ve got to put this to rest. The one thing that I wanted in there

that we need to have because nobody has a crystal ball is a clause in there that we can go back to the table based on our financial situation because Dave doesn't have a crystal ball and neither do I and you cannot lock yourself into something if something in a year from now; three years from now financially we're in a hole. We got to be able to stretch this out. So I'll be glad when this is done and over with. That'll take a load off and I think the Ohio EPA will be extremely happy once we can get this signed but before we do that Council will be properly briefed so you can see where we're at with this. And that's all I have for tonight Mayor."

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – "Next on the agenda is miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening we have Mr. Petrella." Mr. Petrella – "One of the issues I wanted to talk about under miscellaneous was sunshine tonight on the grass ordinance for the high weeds. I think that's a start but just like anything else as we go through if there's items pertaining to certain items like if we need to address those; look at the ordinance and keep adjusting ordinances to fit the situation that we're in. Another ordinance that I think we need to look at and Scott mentioned it earlier the Health Dept. doesn't handle certain issues on bugs and different things like that we need to look at that. You know if it's outside the realm of this legislative body then we have to look at who do we go to? Do we go to the Health Board to address it? Do we go to the County Commissioners to address it? But there has to be a solution to the problem for our citizens. You can't continue to exist the way it is today. You know we've been proactive right along we attacked the water issues. Jim just mentioned negotiating with the EPA who've done a lot of good things for our citizens and we cannot let them down now and drop the ball. If there is a problem there's got to be a solution to it and if it's not with us we will find who is the responsible party and hold them accountable to take care of that problem for us. That's all I have you're honor.

PUBLIC FORUM

Council Chambers were cleared for Executive Session.
Council Chambers were reopened for adjournment.

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