

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
October 6, 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 Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, & Hahn.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Financial Accountants Jeff Yoder and Rebecca Colliflower, Utility Director Chuck Murphy, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for September 29, 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. 2020-58 – 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. 2020-58. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-58 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-58 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on November 5, 2020.

NO. 2020-59 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 3rd reading

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE 521.10(A) REGARDING THE CUTTING OF GRASS AND WEEDS.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-59. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-59 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Petrella called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-59 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on November 5, 2020.

NO. 2020-60 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

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.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-60. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-60 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-60 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on November 5, 2020.

NO. 2020-64 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION’S PUBIC WORKS PROGRAM TO BE USED TOWARD FUNDING THE UNIVERSITY BLVD. DISTRICT SEWER UPGRADE PROJECT, AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

Mr. Paul made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-64 by roll call. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-64 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2020-65 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION HONORING FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE ON THE RANKING OF #15 IN THE 2021 EDITION OF BEST COLLEGES IN THE REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES MIDEAST BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT.

Mrs. Hahn made a motion to table Resolution No. 2020-65 for one week. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor I just have one; it’s for next week. Mrs. Hahn how much time do you need? Do you need 6:00 to 6:15 or do you want 5:45 to 6:00?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Well I think Lori felt that it would only be 15 minutes.”

Mr. Paul – “Well we had 15 extra minutes today so we’ll go 6:00 and we’ll include it. Okay. Alright so next week you’re Honor I’d like to call another budget committee meeting together at 6:00. This will be for Parks and Recreation, Building and Planning, and CDP. Okay? And that will be 6:00 to 7:30 and we’ll throw Mrs. Hahn’s meeting in the very beginning. That’s all I got your Honor.”

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – “Yes I have a few things. I have an ordinance I’d like to sunshine; an ordinance authorizing and directing the City Manager to make application for a grant from the Appalachian Water Improvement Project to include but not be limited to a new water storage tank, pump station, and new waterline to connect the downtown to the west end system and to execute all contracts as required and declaring an emergency. And I’d also like to sunshine an ordinance authorizing and designating the City Manager as the local official with the authority to execute the project known as the West End Water System Improvement Project and complete all necessary functions that may need 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, rebidding if required, entering into a contract with the lowest most qualified bidder, and authorizing payment thereof. Alright an finally you know it’s my understanding we’re going to vote on Cynthia Lytle for Civil Service Board tonight and I’ll be voting yes. I think she’s perfect for the Civil Service Board; credentials are impeccable I mean it’s going to be a great addition but I do want to say I feel like Dolores Wiggins I want to bring her up; you know I understand and I only heard one side of it. I talked to Jerry briefly 5 minutes before the meeting but maybe this is a communication lapse but I heard that Dolores; she really wanted to stick with it and you know I don’t know if this is something we can look at in the future for board appointments; I’ve been adamant I’ve talked about it before about attendance and things like that. Could we look into attendance into that type of thing? Could we look at term limits something like that but Dolores has given I’ve heard 30 to 40 years on that board and I just want to make sure that we treat her the right way going out and that’s just my feelings on it. Like I said whether it’s a lack of communication I don’t know but that’s just my feelings on it. Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor couple things. Earlier this year there was a murder of Mytia Barker and a gentleman came forward with \$10,000 reward for the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of whoever murdered this girl. He contacted me today and he’s adding \$10,000 more to it for a total of \$20,000 for a reward for the arrest, conviction of the person or persons responsible for her murder. Next I just want to reiterate what Mr. Timmons said. I think she’s a perfect fit here for the Civil Service Commission and my vote will be yes but Dolores needs mentioned; she served this community faithfully for 30 years; been a personal friend of mine for close to 50 and she’s in hospital; she’s still in the hospital; been there for two and a half months. I wish this could’ve been done another way. I think it was owed her to be brought down here while she was able to come down but with that being said I will be voting and I want to welcome you ahead of time. I think everybody is going to vote for you so I’ll welcome you know ahead of time. Thank you and that’s all.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Thank you you’re Honor. Just to mention that I do see some improvement in cutting of the weed lots in the City as part of the Pride Committee. I know it’s a long tedious process but if we keep at it and I wanted to thank those persons who are involved with that and we just have to continue due diligent because we want our City to be nice. We want people to say oh yeah I know Steubenville. It’s a nice place to live and that’s got to be the theme it’s a nice place to live and you want your cities properties and your residents to look decent. So I know I’m diligent I know I keep giving lists to Officer Dorsey; I sent another list today to Karly to pass on and I’m going to keep on because we’ve got to have the city look great. And the second thing is I agree with both Mr. Timmons and Mr. Villamagna about Mrs. Wiggins she’s been a mentor of mine; she always talks about when we were little kids in the choir and she was our choir director; that’s how long she’s been in the community. She’s always been there. She’s always been in the (all inaudible) for justice for folks and I too wish that she were here and hopefully that we are going to do something to honor her for the work that she has done over the past 30 some years for the community of Steubenville and of course I’m going to welcome Cynthia for coming in and stepping up and you know a lot of the community persons need to do that; come in; step up; you know be responsible and she has always been one that I’ve known to do the job. So thank you Cynthia for stepping up. That’s all.”

Mr. Dressel – “I don’t have anything other than to say I think Cynthia Lytle will be good in that position and can we do a resolution for Dolores to present to her thanking her for all of her work?”

Mayor Barilla – “Absolutely.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay thank you.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes a couple of things. The friends of Beatty Park committee meeting is going to be at the clubhouse on October 15th at 7:00 p.m. so anyone is welcomed to come. The Parks and Recreation Board is meeting on October 14th at 7:00 p.m. and I didn’t get the word if it’s at the clubhouse or is it in Council Chambers. I’ll know by next Tuesday for sure. And for those who came out for Mid-Summer Night’s Dream the play it was really great at Beatty Park and they worked very hard at that. One of the performances was rained out but the other two I attended and they were just over a hundred people. So a lot of interest they worked hard getting the grounds ready; a lot of volunteers helping out with that and then the (inaudible) was great. Like everyone else I’m grateful for Dolores. She’s a newer friend for me just in the last few years but I’m grateful for all of her service. I had an opportunity to talk to her in the hospital and she is improving but it’s very slow and I know there are things in the works to honor her and that’s right and just that we would do that.” Mrs. Hahn then made a motion to accept the Mayor’s recommendation to the Civil Service Board of Cynthia Lytle at 2807 Cleveland Ave. term to expire September 2026. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

*Cynthia Lytle gave a small speech thanking everyone for this opportunity.

*Mayor Barilla gave a small speech about Cynthia and also Dolores Wiggins and all the work Dolores has done.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. The latest update for Council with a total number of cases for COVID 19 in our County is 367 and as I bring up June 30th we were at 80 so you can look at the climb that we’ve had over the last several months here. Again we’re going through our budget hearings right now. When this is all finished then I will address Council on some possible things that we may explore for next year and this will be based on what my Financial Team comes up with and what we’re looking at. We’re doing very well right now but we still have a little less than 90 days that we have to be concerned with and a lot of this is due to the loss of revenue and again we still have some of our small owned businesses that have had a very difficult time. I talked to several of the store owners and again because of the restrictions that have been put out but I think they’re trying to lift some of these. So again I ask Council and all the citizens in town try to support these small businesses if you can because they’ve been put through a lot right now. I’m not sure of the date but I think there’s going to be another round of money coming. I just hope that they loosen the restrictions that they have on it that will help these cities that are going through things and we’re part of that same group just not as bad. Our team and our Finance Department has done a remarkable job; our superintendents, Police Chief, Fire Chief, all the superintendents have done very well on watching their money and again what has helped us get through a lot of this is being able to hold off on back filling some of our positions but we’re at a point now that we have to fill these. We’re going into 2021; we’re going into the winter time; we need to have these positions filled but it has helped us immensely by being able the money that was budgeted for 2020 the fact that we’ve had this 27th pay period we do not have in 2021; all these things help and again there isn’t a day that doesn’t go by that I don’t check with Mr. Lewis or his staff to see how we’re doing financially. So again this is all positive but we have to follow our guidelines and stay true to that for the remainder of the year and I think we’ll be in good shape by the end and Mayor that’s all I have for this evening.”

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “We’ll now move onto miscellaneous reports and we have Mr. Villamagna signing in this evening.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor thank you. An interesting thing was sent to me on the internet; a clipping from the Herald Star in 1932 it talks about our parks. There was a total of 359,287 people using our parks in 1932. There was 43,357 people paying admission to our swimming pools. 56,935 people were admitted for free because of the depression so that totals it out to 100,000 people and they were glad because it was up a little bit from last year. Last year was 90,197 people used it. Golfing 20,000; tennis 1,500; Soccer; I didn’t know there was soccer here in Steubenville believe me I’ve never heard of it until later on in my life but I didn’t know it was here back in the 30s. Beatty Park had 601 picnics; 104 picnics at Belleview Park; 7,317 people participated in picnic activities the previous season and I read that and I just can’t get the numbers in my head; 359,000 people were in our park system in 1932. I thought it was interesting and wanted to share that fact. That’s all.”

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