

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
December 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 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, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for December 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

NO. 2020-83 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 191.04(B)(2) OF CHAPTER 191 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO BY PROVIDING FOR CONTINUING THE WAGE AND PROFIT TAX OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM ONE PERCENT (1%) TO ONE AND THREE-TENTHS PERCENT (1-3/10%) PER YEAR, FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD, ALLOCATING THE ADDITIONAL THREE-TENTHS (3/10) OF ONE PERCENT (1%) INCREASE TO BE USED, EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT (85%) FOR SALARIES FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS, TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 4, 2021 FOR A VOTE BY THE PEOPLE UPON SAID ORDINANCE, AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, OHIO TO CONDUCT SAID ELECTION.

Mr. Paul made a motion to Amend Ordinance 2020-83 (three-tenths Levy), specifically proposed amended section 191.01 (B) (2) to reflect the length of time and date for the three-tenths levy for a five year period commencing May 4, 2021 to May 5, 2026 and the length of time and date for seven-tenths levy for a five year period commencing May 4, 2021 to May 5, 2026. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2020-83 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading – as amended

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 191.04(B)(2) OF CHAPTER 191 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO BY PROVIDING FOR CONTINUING THE WAGE AND PROFIT TAX OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM ONE PERCENT (1%) TO ONE AND THREE-TENTHS PERCENT (1-3/10%) PER YEAR, FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD, ALLOCATING THE ADDITIONAL THREE-TENTHS (3/10) OF ONE PERCENT (1%) INCREASE TO BE USED, EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT (85%) FOR SALARIES FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS, TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 4, 2021 FOR A VOTE BY THE PEOPLE UPON SAID ORDINANCE, AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, OHIO TO CONDUCT SAID ELECTION.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-83 as amended. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-83 as amended please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-83 as amended is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on January 14, 2021.

NO. 2020-84 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 191.04 (B)(2) OF CHAPTER 191 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO BY PROVIDING FOR CONTINUING THE WAGE AND PROFIT TAX OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM ONE AND THREE-TENTHS PERCENT (1-3/10%) TO TWO PERCENT (2%) FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD, ALLOCATING THE ADDITIONAL SEVEN-TENTHS (7/10) OF ONE PERCENT

(1%) INCREASE TO BE USED AS FOLLOWS: FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000.00) TO STREET IMPROVEMENTS; THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$300,000.00) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT; ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) FOR PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE BALANCE TO THE GENERAL FUND, TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 4, 2021 FOR A VOTE BY THE PEOPLE UPON SAID ORDINANCE, AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, OHIO TO CONDUCT SAID ELECTION.

Mr. Paul made a motion to Amend Ordinance 2020-84 (Seven-Tenths Levy), specifically proposed amended section 191.01 (B) (2) to reflect the length of time and date for the three-tenths levy for a five year period commencing May 4, 2021 to May 5, 2026 and the length of time and date for seven-tenths levy for a five year period commencing May 4, 2021 to May 5, 2026. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2020-84 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading – as amended

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 191.04 (B)(2) OF CHAPTER 191 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO BY PROVIDING FOR CONTINUING THE WAGE AND PROFIT TAX OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM ONE AND THREE-TENTHS PERCENT (1-3/10%) TO TWO PERCENT (2%) FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD, ALLOCATING THE ADDITIONAL SEVEN-TENTHS (7/10) OF ONE PERCENT (1%) INCREASE TO BE USED AS FOLLOWS: FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000.00) TO STREET IMPROVEMENTS; THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$300,000.00) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT; ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) FOR PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE BALANCE TO THE GENERAL FUND, TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 4, 2021 FOR A VOTE BY THE PEOPLE UPON SAID ORDINANCE, AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, OHIO TO CONDUCT SAID ELECTION.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-84 as amended. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-84 as amended please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-84 as amended is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on January 14, 2021.

NO. 2020-85 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINUING OF THE SEVENTH-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (.7%) MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX LEVY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION AT A PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE ON MAY 4, 2021, SUCH LEVY BEING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT, PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND GENERAL FUND.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Resolution No. 2020-85. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Resolution No. 2020-85 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Petrella – “The only thing that I want to say is over the past week or so I’ve gotten a lot of calls; people think that this is a new tax we got to reassure them that this is just a renewal. That’s all I have to say.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-85 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

NO. 2020-86 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINUING OF THE THREE-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (.3%) MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX LEVY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD, TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION AT A PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO ON MAY 4, 2021, SUCH LEVY BEING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING SALARIES OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND MAKING STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Resolution No. 2020-86. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Resolution No. 2020-86 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2020-86 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

NO. 2020-94 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 1st 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.

NO. 2020-95 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1992-20, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO BY REZONING PROPERTY OWNED BY PHARMASSOCIATES, LOCATED AT 1028 LINCOLN AVE. STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM R-2 MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO I-1 GENERAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – No Report

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor. I have seven items under finance; it’s for next year’s budget but first we have to close out this years.” Mr. Paul sun shined the following: An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2019-93 adopting a Revenue Tax Budget for the year ending December 31, 2020 for the purpose of providing that performance will be specified by plan and projection and declaring an emergency. An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2019-94 to make appropriation for the current expenditures of the City of Steubenville within the general fund, special revenue funds, capital project funds, debt service funds, enterprise funds, internal service funds, expendable trust funds and nonexpendable trust funds for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020 and declaring an emergency. An ordinance adopting a revenue tax budget for the year ending December 31, 2021 for the purpose of providing that performance will be specified by plan and projection and declaring an emergency. An ordinance to make appropriation for the current expenditures and other expenditures of the City of Steubenville within the general fund, special revenue funds, capital project funds, debt service funds, enterprise funds, internal service funds, expendable trust funds, and nonexpendable trust funds for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 and declaring an emergency. An ordinance adopting a capital improvement plan for the City of Steubenville for the periods of 2021 to 2025 and declaring an emergency. An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2019-97 and adopting the indirect cost allocation plan of the City of Steubenville and declaring an emergency. An ordinance amending the existing table of ordinance (Ordinance 2019-96) as it relates to the water department, wastewater department, and parks and recreation only and declaring an emergency. 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. 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. “Okay you’re Honor that’s it and I just want to remind everybody that we’re going to meet next Monday instead of next Tuesday; Special Meeting and then we will vote on all these ordinances that I just brought in today; next week at 6:00 p.m. next Monday that’ll be the 21st.”

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – “Yes I did want to talk about one item. I received a call this week from a citizen who lives by an abandoned property where they have a raccoon problem at the vacant property and I told her to call Jefferson County and she was told by them that they only handle dogs they don’t do any other kind of animals. So you know we can talk about this at the first of the year but I really think we need to hire our own Animal Control Officer again; we do have issues I have a problem with a person and their neighbor’s dog recently. Also we have some cat issues up on the hilltop but I do think it’s about time; I wondered what the rest of Council thought but I do think we need our own Animal Control Officer especially if the County isn’t providing that. So like I said we can revisit this at the beginning of the year but I definitely think that we need one sooner than later. Thank you.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. Just to give Council a quick brief on where we’re at in the County; today’s total is 2,635 cases in the county; our hospitalizations have been 170 inpatient have been 38; total deaths are 34 but again calculating our numbers from June the 30th where we were at 80 we’re now averaging 15.29 positive cases per day. Now again several of these days have been over a hundred but that gives you the overall average beginning July 1st until today and today’s numbers will be in tomorrow so where we’re at which goes to the 14th you’re averaging 15.29 there. Now when you sit and look at this we’re about 1% is our fatality rate here but again you don’t know what it puts everybody through. You have no idea what the health conditions are of the people here and we don’t have the absolute data. We have people that we know that are getting tested over in West Virginia and being reported back to their home of record not to our Health

Department and that's as far as it goes so there are some voids there. Clearly we're working with our Health Department I'm on a daily contact with them and they keep us apprised so again I wanted Council to be aware of this. This has affected our workforce too. We've had several employees that have tested positive; they've required their 14 days of quarantine and they are back to work so we've been blessed there. We have not had any of our employees seriously injured by this virus but that's a blessing that we have here so make no mistake our people are out there working everyday they're being subjected to this and again we've been blessed with the low numbers that we have had so again we're pretty good on our supplies for our employees so again Council as an employee if there are things that you need give me a call and make me advised of it and we'll go from there. We're getting ready to close out our fiscal year the 31st so again we're still in pretty good shape to be in the black and not the red which is a positive thing but again that's because of everybody working together; Council, all of my department heads, our Finance Department we've watched what we've done under these times when this all started it's paid off for us. There are a lot of cities that are in a lot worse shape but my concern is and I'm not being selfish but it's this city and again we're okay but we got to watch the next 120 days is what we have to watch because you don't yet where the Governor is going to with his next order after this 21 day that he asked for everyone to totally focus on this and again I'm seeing reports here that Jefferson County is one of the highest in the State on the increase so again that's all I have right now and I just want Council if there's anything that you need call and ask me but we're in pretty good shape supply wise and I thank God that we had the Cares money because that saved us in a lot of areas. I met today with the 911 Director he was very complimentary to our firemen; our EMS guys he said everybody is working well but naturally we got to try to get another ambulance up and running as soon as possible but he said everything is working well together and he complimented our people so I wanted to let Council know that Mr. Herrington speaks very highly of what's been going on and all of the cities around us have contributed to help us during our shortage here. That's all I have to report."

Mrs. Hahn – "Jim I have a couple of questions. So the vaccines do we know when the vaccines are going to come to our area and will any of our Police Officers or Firefighters be?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "The first group I've been told and it should be anytime within the next couple of days it will be the hospital personnel. Then it will go to the EMS personnel that are dealing with this and then it trickles down so there are several layers. The biggest problem is, is the shortage of the vaccine and how it's being administered but clearly they are focusing on our first line people which are our hospital people rightfully so. They are the ones that are in the battle every day and then it will filter down and then eventually it gets to your assistant living places; our elderly here and it trickles down but as soon as I get a more definitive answer I'll let you know."

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay. Are we spending a lot more on overtime because of some of our people being ill?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "We have with our Fire Department but we've been lucky we've been able to be reimburse with some of the Cares funding but again this is over this month which means we go into 2021 and we're starting there so again based on our budget and watching everything that we do and we are getting everything up to full strength again our next hurdle will be to get that safer grant next year that's going to be crucial to how we operate here."

Mr. Mastro – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – "Under miscellaneous I'd like to make a recommendation that Council in the month of January 2021 go to virtual meetings as opposed to in house meetings. I think it's a critical time and also with weather and what not maybe we should be on the safe side and go to virtual but you know you guys have to vote on that. It's just a recommendation."

Mr. Villamagna – "My opinion I don't think we should go to the virtual; I mean if you don't want to come here you don't have to come but we clearly have entertainment going on in this town and everything else and Council is not going to come to a meeting I don't; I mean if you want to stay home like several Councilmen have decided to stay home and that's fine. I don't think there's anything wrong with that. I don't think we should just say that we're going to cancel the meetings because there's too much going on in this town for fun and games to stop business from operating. We don't want to shut down small businesses. That's my opinion."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "You're not saying cancel the meeting you just mean going virtual?"

Mayor Barilla – "Yes like we did before."

Mrs. Hahn – "I would probably echo Bob's sentiment but people have the option of calling in but I do think there's an aspect to our giving people a sense of normalcy and that we are actually engaged in the process and I would be more inclined to continue to give the option of calling in."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "I think having the option is fine."

Mayor Barilla – "Okay. Alright well we'll stay as it is. Thank you."

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