

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
December 8, 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 Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, & Petrella.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Financial Accounts Jeff Yoder and Rebecca Dice, Utility Director Chuck Murphy, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Sanitation Supervisor Bob Baird, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for December 1, 2020. Second by Mr. Petrella. 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. 2020-82 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Dressel, Timmons, Anyabwile

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT, BIDDING AND SALE OF VARIOUS VEHICLES AND ONE CARGO TRAILER FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-82. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-82 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Dressel called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-82 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on January 7, 2021.

NO. 2020-83 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2nd 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.

NO. 2020-84 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2nd 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.

NO. 2020-85 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2nd 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.

NO. 2020-86 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2nd 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.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor.” Mr. Villamagna sunshine the following ordinance; 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.

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Is there an address on that?”

Mr. Villamagna – “1028 Lincoln Ave. I believe its right next door to that dairy store. At Lincoln and Wilson there’s that Dairy Mart I think its right next door to it; that empty lot.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “The Circle K?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah.”

Mr. Dressel – “This is where they want to put the storage units in correct?”

Mr. Villamagna – “I think that’s what it is Scott but I’m not 100%.”

Mr. Dressel – “Yep that’s what it is.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So they want to put storage units on the corner of Lincoln and Wilson?”

Mr. Villamagna – “In the empty lot there.”

Mayor Barilla – “It’s not on the corner. It sits back.”

Mr. Dressel – “It’s behind Steubenville Plate Glass.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Right.”

Mr. Petrella – “It’s on the other side of Circle K.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So people that have a contingency with this because I know some of the neighbors don’t want it there; what is the procedure of either...?”

Mr. Villamagna – “They’ll have a public hearing on this and they can come down and voice their opinion and their concerns.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So do we know when the public hearing is?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Chris will send it out.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah the Planning Committee will send it out.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah the Planning Commission will set it up and they announce it in the media.”

Mr. Paul – “We’ll get an email. It’s usually the first Monday of the month.”

Mr. Mastros – “Or they can come to a Council meeting too.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Or they can come to a Council meeting also.”

Mrs. Haley – “It should be February 1st.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – “I just wanted to mention that I’m working with Costa and Dave to make a correction to one of the Utility Ordinances that has our rate increases in it. Right now that ordinance states it in a way that actually the increase happens in over two cycle periods which causes them to have to do a lot of manual calculating and it should actually be going in by cycle on a given month for (inaudible) to see the little annual increases on your October bill and you shouldn’t see half of it on October and half of it on November so we’re going to fix that so it’s not happening that way. So we should have more on that probably after the first of the year. Thanks.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes Parks and Recreation there will be a Parks and Recreation Board meeting in this room tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. and Thom Way is going to present on the miracle field idea. Lori has found space at Belleview Park where this could be accommodating and he’s going to give some kind of explanation and perhaps the Board will be ready to make a recommendation to Council or they may need a little more time to think about it. All are welcomed.”

Mr. Paul – “First I have an ordinance that’s under Finance.” Mr. Paul sunshine the following ordinance; 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. “And these are the bills; like some are our attorney fees and Brooke Landfill; that’s something we do about every three months. The next item I’d like to bring up I discussed it earlier in the Finance Committee Meeting.”

*Mr. Paul made a motion to cancel the December 22nd and December 29th Council meeting for the Christmas Break. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

*Mr. Paul also made a motion to call a Special Council Meeting on Monday December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss the Budget 2020/2021. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Petrella – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. One I would like to thank Council for your tentativeness tonight; spending the time to go through the budget like you did but I would like for you to all understand too why we’re in a position where we’re at right now and that’s because of every one of your department heads, employees, everybody has sacrificed since this pandemic has started and it started off where it didn’t really affect us from the workforce but it’s come now to our workforce. There isn’t a department that hasn’t been infected or someone has caught the virus and we’ve had to deal with it which gives us shortage of people; some working overtime in some sections but we’ve been blessed here with what we’ve been able to do with our facilities here. I think closing down our City facility limiting the access has helped us here in this building but this room we’re sitting in here the employees that work around here have been affected; our administrative side has been affective and where we’re at today just so you we’re at a number of 2,121 cases that have been in Jefferson County. Now June 30th you were at 80 cases where we’re at today our average now is 12.6 cases a day that’s hitting this county here and it’s also affected by hitting out City employees so we have be blessed through this time frame. I want to complement our Finance Department these last 6 weeks have been horrendous; we have two new employees here that have been brought into this. They see exactly what goes on and I appreciate the patience of Council to let us get you the best numbers we can so you know what we’re walking into. There are a lot of cities up and down this valley that are far worse shape than we are but every employees has sacrificed within this city and again we’re going to get through this we just have to be smart in what we do and I think that if this has affected our employees are seeing this again this has affected our citizens also. Everybody has been affected by this. They have children in schools that haven’t been able to send them; both parents work if they have not been sent home to work from home they now have babysitting duties that they have to worry about now. So again as a city we have done fairly well dealing with this so I wanted Council to at least understand you’re going in strong to 2021 but we are not out of the woods yet. These next 90 days that we’re going to face are going to be crucial and that will also affect us in our 2021 budget for next year but right now we’re solid going in that we should be in the black but these next 90 days are going to be crucial and as these numbers are going up every day; I get notified every day by our Health Department of where we’re at here. Now I didn’t see the article I was told about it apparently per capita Jefferson County was #3 in the nation per capita on increases so that is not a good sign there but again I wanted Council to be aware and I thank your help and support to our employees and our city for what you do. I know a lot of you have been fielding phone calls from out there. I get them every day; I get them on the weekends; after hours; that’s the nature of the business but I want the citizens to understand your work force has been there every day out there providing the services to this city and that’s where we’re at so I thank you for your leadership and to my employees for always being out there and protecting one another and that’s I have tonight Mayor.”

Mr. Petrella – “I don’t know if this is going to be for Jimmy or Costa do we have an update on the ACSME negotiations?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I just got back. I have not; I had a phone call from one of the members unfortunately that member is off sick for the last two days. I will have that for you by next week. I’ll see where we’re at.”

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor thank you. Jim if you could check this out; do we have emergency meetings with; I don’t know if Carlo is still on there or not; preparedness meetings do we have those? Monthly or yearly? How does that work?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Normally they use to have meetings that; I have to attend at least one of them as a City Manager but I believe Carlo goes every quarter. Now we’re starting back up I believe Thursday with the weekly health meeting; representatives from different areas of the county so I’ll be attending that on Thursday. It’ll either be a zoom or it’ll be in person depending on the number of people.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I was told that there are no beds available at Trinity West.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “They’re almost at full capacity.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I was told that they are at full capacity. There’s no; now that’s why I’m asking this question there’s zero beds available and ICU is completely filled and they had to put them on another floor; if in the case of an emergency do we have a plan to go to other hospitals?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “When you say we you mean us as a city or the hospitals?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Right. Us as a city. Well or whoever the responsibility would fall do we have some plan that we can go somewhere else?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Normally the hospitals will direct; if they’re completely full then they will send people to Weirton because this takes us back earlier in the year when it hit the prison there; East Liverpool, Columbiana County eventually got filled they eventually started farming them out. Like drawing a circle and spreading it out more and more where they have openings.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay because I want to make sure because this came to my attention; I got a call from a physician who said that there are zero beds available at Trinity and he said to confirm with a daily census report that they make and that was the concern if there’s an emergency what would we do? I don’t know if Carlo is still on there.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I mean again who’s going to make that call? It’s going to be the hospital.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes hospital call.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Because I remember back early on when this was happening they were sending people over to Weirton and then eventually Weirton; then some went up to Pittsburgh some down to Wheeling. They have contingency plans or they’ll set up.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I just want to make sure; Chief you’re on there and Chief McCafferty is here just so you know what to do or you know in the event something bad would happen.”

Carlo Capaldi – “Yeah as the City Manager was saying so far we haven’t been turned away I mean our squad has been taking their people there daily. If there would be a case where they wouldn’t have any beds or that’s more of an admission thing like emergency room might have room but they don’t have a bed for a long term patient but yeah if their emergency room was full they would divert us to either Weirton or somewhere else but as of right now we haven’t been getting turned away.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay.”

Carlo Capaldi – “Yeah we’ll definitely look into that.”

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Paul moved to adjourn. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll call. All ayes. So moved; meeting adjourned declared Mayor Barilla.

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR