

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 12, 2021**

The 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 Dressel, Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, & Anyabwile.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Utility Director Chuck Murphy, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for January 5, 2021. 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 – “I have two letters. The first one is from Chris Petrossi to William Hendricks the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Dear Mr. Hendricks: I have reviewed the above referenced application for rezoning in conjunction with Section 1191.03(e) of the Zoning Code, “Guidelines for Evaluation of Application for Zoning Map Amendment”, and offer the following comments regarding same: 1. The City’s Land Use Plan, as established by the Comprehensive Plan, identifies proposed future land use in this vicinity as downtown commercial and traditional residential, with similar land uses to the east, west, north and south of the site. Downtown commercial is comprised of a mix of uses including retail, restaurants, medium to high density residential, civic and institutional uses traditionally found in a downtown area. Traditional residential consists of higher density lots of smaller size of an urban character in established neighborhoods. 2. The proposed project includes development of a religious retreat center with overnight housing of guests. Existing land uses in the area of the proposed project are residential and vacant to the west; mixed residential, commercial and vacant to the south; light industrial to the east; and mixed residential, commercial and vacant land to the north. The proposed project therefore appears to be compatible with adjacent uses. 3. The City has the capability of providing public services to the site, the location is served by existing public water supply and sanitary sewer facilities. 4. The proposed rezoning will not create or contribute to known unsafe or hazardous conditions. 5. The proposed rezoning will not create an isolated zoning district unrelated to adjacent districts since the “I-1”, General Commercial and Industrial District already exists to the east of the site; therefore this could not be considered “spot zoning”. In conclusion, based upon the above, I recommend that the Commission submit a positive recommendation to City Council regarding this application for rezoning. The next letter is from Chris Petrossi to City Council. Dear Members of City Council: At its regular meeting of January 11, 2021, a quorum was not present for the above referenced scheduled public hearing. Since State and Local law requires at least 30 days public notice of a hearing regarding a rezoning, there is insufficient time to reschedule the hearing and still comply with the 60 day mandate in the City Charter. The Charter states as follows: “Any matter so referred to the Planning Commission shall be acted upon by it within sixty (60) days from the date of referral unless a different period of time be provided by Council. If the Planning Commission shall fail to act within the time allotted, it shall be deemed to have approved such matter.” Therefore, as a result, in accordance with the Charter and past practice, City Council must consider this matter as if a positive recommendation was made. Attached for City Council’s consideration is a copy of the staff report prepared regarding the above. I request that City Council take into consideration the staff report regarding the above application for rezoning. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.”

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to make these letters a part of the record. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**NO. 2020-94 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 for Ordinance No. 2020-94. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-94 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-94 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on February 11, 2021.

**NO. 2020-80 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE AND BROTHERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, LOCATED AT 609 NORTH 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET, STEUBENVILLE, OHIO FROM “R-2” MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO “I-1” GENERAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.**

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading for Ordinance No. 2020-80. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-80 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. Six (6) ayes; Dressel, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile. One (1) abstain; Hahn. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-80 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on February 11, 2021.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Dressel – “Yes I have two ordinances to sunshine under service.” Mr. Dressel sun shined an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to advertise for bids for the 2021 City Street Pavement Marking Project, Project No. 2021-102, subject to the right to reject any and all bids and rebidding that may be required, authorizing the entering into said contract with the lowest and most qualified bidder, authorizing payment therefore and to execute contracts as required and an ordinance authorizing and designating the City Manager as the local official with the authority to execute the project known as the City Street Sign Replacement Phase 6, City Project No. 2020-144, 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.

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes I have a couple things. The MLK Center is now open again and they have some guidelines; masks are required to enter the building but can be taken off to exercise or play basketball. The basketballs are not going to be available people will need to bring their own basketballs. The hours on Monday through Thursday are 10-2 and 5-8; Friday 10-2 and 4-6; and Saturday noon-5 but some of the gymnasium hours are going to be limited because the little dribblers basketball league begins practicing again and they are in their second season but that’s good news that it’s able to be open. The second thing is tomorrow night is the Parks and Recreation Board meeting here in Council Chambers at 7:00 and Thom Way is going to make a presentation on the Miracle Field that is proposed at Belleview Park so the members of the Park Board were able to help figure out a good place for it and that should be a quite nice enhancement. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “I have one ordinance this evening your Honor.” Mr. Paul sun shined an ordinance to amend the table of organization regarding the Fire Department to increase the number of firefighters from 18 to 21 and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Petrella – Mr. Petrella made a motion to accept the Mayor’s recommendation of reappointing Lorrie A. Sullivan at 4510 Fairway Drive to the Board of Library Trustees. Term to expire 01/2025. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor several things here. First off before I get started here with what I have to do with the ordinances Chris Petrossi is here tonight and I would like him to get up and give us a little brief on this entrepreneurship that started through the grant. Chris if you would explain a little bit of what’s going on please.”

Chris Petrossi – “Sure. We’re getting ready to kick off our (all inaudible) assistance program; most of you know it’s a program to assist existing business owners with five or fewer employees or person’s with ideas to start new businesses. It’s an entrepreneurship development program and we’re tentatively looking forward to starting it within the next 30 days. We already have some applicants but enough space for more applicants and there is a virtual information session scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of January at noon where people can; people need to preregister for that and they can join the virtual session and learn more about the program and how they might benefit from it. In order to qualify they must be Steubenville residents and their business (all inaudible) propose must also be located in Steubenville and they must also income qualify meeting HUDs income guidelines so we’re looking forward to beginning that program like I said tentatively in the next 30 days and we have room for applicants. I do have an informational flier here which I’ll give to everyone and leave here in case anyone wants to pick it up and please if anyone knows of anyone, friends, neighbors (all inaudible) that might benefit from the program we do have space available.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Chris are you at liberty to say how many people are on the list now?”

Chris Petrossi – “There’s 8 right now.”

Mr. Villamagna – “8 people. Chris I’d like to thank you for working with this company as close as you did and I’m really excited about this program. I think it’s going to be a little bit of a catalyst; I hope that if it helps one person; we use to say that all the time it’s a good deal so thank you Chris.”

Chris Petrossi – “There’s one other thing that I would like to mention that the Urban Mission has partnered with us on this program providing office space and training locations (all inaudible).”

Mr. Villamagna – “I forgot about that thank you for reminding me.” Mr. Villamagna then sun shined an ordinance authorizing the City Manager and Urban Projects Director to advertise for bids for the 2021 CDBG & Hot Mix Street Improvement program, subject to the right to reject any and all bids, authorizing entering into said contract with the lowest and most qualified bidder and authorizing payment thereof and an ordinance authorizing the City Manager and Urban Projects Director to advertise for bids for the 2021 installation of adult fitness structures at North End Park and Murphy Park, subject to the right to reject any and all bids, authorizing entering into said contract with the lowest and most qualified bidder and authorizing payment thereof. Next Mr. Villamagna made a motion to accept the Mayor’s recommendation of Renita Lavender at 3041 Glendwell Rd. to the Port Authority Board. Term to expire August 2022. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Villamagna made another motion to accept the Mayor’s recommendation of Alan Hall at 159 Pembroke Rd. to the Port Authority Board. Term to expire August 2024. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Villamagna – “And the last thing that I want to bring up under safety is I was appalled to see that the Police Department is not getting that vaccine that they were scheduled for the COVID-19 vaccine. I think it’s the Governor and I know there was contact from the City with the Governor to get him to reverse that and get these people scheduled. That’s ridiculous to not have Policemen up in the front. Thank you.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I have more of a question did we ever decide about getting outlet outside of the building? Where are we on that?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “We’ll have to get a cost estimate on what it would cost and again we were going through the end of the budget here so. I’ll find that out for you mam.”

Mr. Dressel – “Hey Jim?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Dressel – “There are 3 or 4 outlets on the north side of the building that everybody is sitting in down there tonight. They were there for the tree that used to be there before they cut it down and they put the new building up. Might want to see if those are still operational and see if they would be useable for what you’re looking for.”

Mr. Villamagna – “They are Scott. Those are the ones we use.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “On our building here the old building. I think she was inquiring about our new building.”

Mr. Dressel – “Right well they can be used to run a string of lights all the way around the new building too.”

## **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. As I mentioned before last week about our pop-up test for the COVID-19 was conducted last Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup> at the mall. Before we started we had 95 people that preregistered and a total of 198 took the test. So far I’ve received back 166 results I may have all of them by tomorrow but out of the 166 there were 16 positive cases that were registered through those people that were tested. So I’m waiting to get the total results of the 198. What I don’t know and only the Health Department will know are the ones that were positive if they had any symptoms when they got the test taken or if they didn’t then we captured asymptomatic people which was one of the big goals to try to do. Some of the couple things when I say (inaudible) only from a planning stand point we didn’t have enough time; the hours of the day 10 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon the majority of people are working. If you looked at the demographics that showed up there you can see quite a bit where 50, 60, 70 year olds that were there. Which I’m glad they came because talking to some of them they had out of state visitors and they wanted to have some reassurance that they weren’t infected by their family members that came to see them. We had outstanding cooperation between our County Health Department and Ohio National Guard they contributed 12 people that actually did the test were the National Guard. The Health Department and the City of Steubenville employees did the registering and maintaining the traffic control which went smoothly there. We had cooperation with our mall out there and again everybody conducted themselves orderly and the State was happy with it; with the results that came out in the short amount of time before we could get this up and running and they’re very much interested in having another one and my recommendation would be that we conduct this on Saturday. Where we can get a lot more people involved here and see if we could have better results because the way we’re going right now with the vaccine being distributed it’s going to be a while before it gets to all the people here. I would recommend Council because I did an inquiry go to the website of the Jefferson County Health and you can preregister for the vaccine. They’re still finishing on 1A getting into 1B and again based on the Ohio Health Department and CDC those are what they’re going to follow before they issue the vaccines. There’s been a lot of issues and I’m not saying just Ohio but across this nation how this vaccine has gone out and they’re claiming they didn’t anticipate all the issues again there’s no surprises here. The only surprise should be is the number of vaccines that they are making available. They should have planned on how do we distribute this but also I want to point something else out from the facts that I’ve gathered there are people that do not want to take this vaccine here and you can’t force people to do that and I believe that’s a mistake they’re going down a rabbit hole they may regret later but again you cannot make people take this vaccine. So again that’s surprising a lot of the medical people. There’s a lot of other areas that they’re going to look to dispense this vaccine and as soon as I find out I will let Council know and the citizens know.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim I want to add one thing because I wanted to say it under the reports but I forgot. I went to that website which was pretty easy and I filled out the form I fall under 65 and older then when you go to;

then the second line says less than 65 with all these problems fill this in; well I don't have any problems so I didn't fill it in but I didn't read the whole paragraph. So I got all the way done here and I get ready to submitting it and I couldn't get through and I'm thinking to myself let me read this through all the way. If you paid attention to it it says if you are in the category of less than 65 with sever congenital developmental or early on set medical disorders please fill in the condition below so none of those apply to me so I didn't read the last sentence or type NA in there. So if you go to that site make sure that you put that in there or you'll be there all day long because it took me about 4 times before my brain kicked in and said read the thing like you should've in the first place."

Mr. Mastros – "Thank you Mr. Mayor. A couple things so I just want to put this back on your radar on January 4<sup>th</sup> our labor negotiator our attorney forwarded myself, Mr. Mavromatis, and I think Mr. Lewis the proposed TA from ACSME; on the 5<sup>th</sup> I emailed you all his email and the proposed contract so we're on the clock now. We have 30 days so I'm going to ask that we go into executive session next week. I can have Mr. Esposito available if you have any questions regarding that and we have to make a decision one way or the other. On the 26<sup>th</sup> I had asked you last week to go into executive session this week for the Zimmerman case however since there was so much on our plate I talked to my co-counsel and we agreed to move it to the 26<sup>th</sup> so then I will ask you all to go into executive session on the 26<sup>th</sup> for the Zimmerman case. That's all I have Mr. Mayor."

### **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now move onto miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening is Mrs. Anyabwile."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Thank you sir. Actually Mr. Mavromatis did address some of the questions I had about the COVID testing and it sounds like it was a success. As you know if you catch people in an asymptomatic time periods then you are cutting down the spread which will help cut down the spread throughout the County. One thing that I do want to mention is that when we got the fliers Tuesday night by Wednesday morning by the time I got to work because I work for an agency that deals with homeless, mentally ill, drug and alcohol; by the time I got there they had already got the information because they got it off of Facebook so whoever put it on the Facebook page I think is a good way to advertise. Just like if you put the announcement about the entrepreneurship you will probably get a lot of responses by going on Facebook because that's where a lot of people go for information. So I'm glad that what you said about having other pop-up clinics; the sooner the better; Saturdays the better because like you said people come out on Saturdays. Lowes had one out there. They had a good turnout in different places. The pop-up clinics are doing well so let's try to have as many more as we can. There's a gentleman up on Sinclair Ave. who is stating that he did contact a number of people here at the City about the number of trucks that are going up and down Sinclair now to the point where his house is shaking and he was promised that there would be more signs put up saying that that was not a truck route. He hasn't seen the signs yet and also I think he talked to; I don't know who actually deals with the construction of the road that there might be something going on with the road. It might be getting weaker. I have talked to you Mr. Mavromatis and a couple other people about reducing the truck traffic that's going up and down Sinclair. I have his name. I have his address and I have his phone number."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Can you send that to me?"

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Yes."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Are you saying Saint Clair or Sinclair?"

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Sinclair."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Okay yes then I am aware of that."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Mavromatis just a question on testing for COVID you had it at the mall and then maybe you said in the future of some other times; would there be a possibility of a location in the downtown area for those that live down here that don't have access to get up to the mall?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "The biggest problem with that is the maintenance of traffic and again we've had issues down here just as simple as when JB Green Team traffic jam was all up there. That's the difficult part is the traffic. Yes sir?"

Mr. Villamagna – "Can I make a suggestion to that? Mayor could we contact SVRTA and ask them if they would coordinate with us to have a bus to bring anybody to the mall area or wherever we're going to do it. It's got to be a pretty big area. I'm sure they would."

Mayor Barilla – "I'll look into it."

### **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