

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 5, 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 Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, & Villamagna.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for December 15, 2020 & December 21, 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 – “I have two. It’s a notice to legislative authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control; a transfer liquor license from Nick Tsouris; DBA Maryland Market at 1421 Maryland Ave. in Steubenville, Ohio to Sarandos Tsouris; DBA Maryland Market at 1421 Maryland Ave. in Steubenville, Ohio. It says please complete and return this form to the Division of Liquor Control whether or not there is a request for a hearing refer to this number in all inquiries B TRFO 9081642; please sign below and mark the appropriate box indicating your title.”

Mr. Petrella made a motion to accept this letter and make it part of the record and that a copy would be given to Council, the City Manager, Law Director, Mayor, Police Chief, and Fire Chief. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

“Also there was a letter sent to Council via e-mail and I would like for a member a Council to make a motion to accept this letter from Marlene Firgurski and make it part of the record.”

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to accept the letter and make it apart of the record from Marlene Figurski. 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 – 2<sup>nd</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.**

**NO. 2020-95 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2<sup>nd</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 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**

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – “Yes I wanted to ask if everybody wanted to still have a Utility Committee Meeting next week to discuss going back to spring and fall cleanups and to discuss that letter we received on Portland Ave. and her water issue at 6:30?” All of Council agreed. Mr. Dressel called for a Utility Committee Meeting next Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes so I have several things. There’s really been some good news and I think there’s other grants that Lori has also applied for but she just got word for a project at Beatty Park the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio is giving them a \$5,000 grant and that will go towards picnic tables and benches on the trails and I believe but I’m not certain I think the \$5,000 is part of the match that had to be raised; we have to have \$50,000 and what Lori presented to us was that the city would contribute 20,000 and the group needed to come up with another 30. Well they also got just under 20,000 from the Mary Jane Brooks charitable trust grant also for this project so between those two things and the donations that’ve been made through the fund (all inaudible) they should be with the city’s contribution right around 50,000. We don’t know about the 100,000 grant which would be 50 from the estate and so we’ll find out about that I guess sometime in the spring but that’s very

encouraging and also December 18<sup>th</sup> they had their holiday hike; they had more than 60 people come including three babies and they hike a bunch of trails and so they're just collecting ideas for doing a photography contest there (all inaudible) library to do another book walk where they do artwork to have a walkthrough while reading a story and there are just a lot of really fun ideas so I suggested whenever we schedule a Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting to have Flora come and present to all of Council the things that they've been doing and what they hope to be doing. There's great collaboration with the Parks and Rec Staff and Lori and I just think it's going very well. So a lot of great news. Thank you."

Mr. Paul – "Yes you're Honor." Mr. Paul called for a Safety Committee Meeting for next week January 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 to discuss hiring of more staff for the ambulance services and also about Animal Control. He also mentioned he would like to discuss during the Utility meeting about the position Chuck Murphy wanted for the Wastewater Department. "I also been getting phone calls about the Christmas Trees; are we going to place them on the curbs like we've done in the past couple years? I know they won't fit in the garbage can."

Mr. Mavromatis – "The answer is yes and I will ask Mr. Baird so you're briefed next Tuesday there's a date they will pick that everyone will know the date. It'll be in the papers, the news, and whatever we need to get it out and it's usually place at the curb and that's the only thing they pickup is the trees on that particular day."

Mr. Paul – "So we're just going to tell them to wait until this date. Okay."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes that is correct."

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – "Yes you're Honor this is some good news. I was approached by the Teramana family and they want to purchase one of the dogs. We set aside \$20,000 for the dog and they want to purchase the other one and they forwarded the necessary funds already to the City Manager and everything to purchase the dog and I can't say enough about them. They bought the last one. The family has always stepped up without being asked to do things for the city and they contribute a good bit. So I know we're going to need another vehicle also so I'm sure they'll give us a pretty good deal on a vehicle up there too. I just wanted the rest of Council to know that and I want the citizens to know that that family stepped up and we're going to end up with two dogs for the city through their generosity and that's all I have this evening."

## **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. What I have handed out and this has generated from a couple different places; this Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. will be what they call a pop-up testing site for the COVID-19 virus. It's being conducted; the actual test taking is being conducted by the Ohio National Guard but this project is in conjunction with the city; the Jefferson County Health District and the National Guard. It's been prompted by several issues one being as far as the city by our number in our wastewater that we've been tracking for the last several months and this is what prompted the state to contact us and see if we were interested; our County Health Department has been requested to have this test also for several months so it's come to fruition that we're going to have this this Thursday. You can preregister on the second page as you see here all you have to do is scan that into your phone; it'll pop up the site and you can go right into it register it and it'll give you a number and that's what you do when you pull up to our site out there at the mall by the old Macy's building we will be set up there. With that you will have a number that they will ask you for when you drive up; are you preregistered? And then you will move up right to the line wherever it's at; they scan it in there and you're accepted to get your test and you're out of there. So again why did that date come up? We tried to get a date that correlates with what we've just gone through the Christmas Holiday and New Year's holiday; a lot of family members come in; they stay for Christmas; they stay for New Years and then they leave. Well then you have a 3 or 4 time incubation period from all the people associating together so what we're trying to also get is what they call the asymptomatic people. These are people that have no symptoms at all that visited here wherever they came from and not knowing they had the virus hopefully and again you'll be notified via your email address that you provide so we're getting prepared for that. It's taken a lot of work by the Health Department, the City, and all resources are being put towards this to get this done smoothly and the best that we can do on Thursday. So this has occupied pretty much our whole manpower into this week so that's where we're at. I wanted Council to be aware of it."

Mrs. Hahn – "Jim could you just explain because it helped me to know that you know a lot of people have been told they have to have a prescription but if you could clarify that."

Mr. Mavromatis – "The question was asked do you have to have a prescription and the answer is no. We have a blanket prescription for this process here. All you have to do is fill out the paperwork if you didn't preregister or if you preregistered. The doctors authorization has already been put in and you'll see it when you apply online you'll see the doctor's; who's already prescribed for it so it's a blanket prescription."

Mr. Mastro – "Thank you Mayor just a few things tonight. First thing is during the holiday break you all received an email from me with a copy of a contract from APEX Environmental. APEX has approached the City in an effort to have the city treat their leachate. Leachate is the liquid that is generated from the landfill from the waste that gathers there and is produced from the waste that gathers. They have to collect it and dispose of it. So we had the ability to do that so Mr. Mavromatis and Mr. Murphy and I got together we prepared an agreement to treat their leachate; they will pay us. Mr. Murphy has talked to the Ohio EPA they strongly encourage this; it's an income stream for us. I really don't know how much it'll be. This is a trial if you will to be for 180 days; whatever income we generate is a good thing. It'll help offset debt service, supplies,

manpower and all that stuff. So I'm just going to ask you if there's no questions I'm going to ask you to authorize Mr. Mavromatis by voice vote to enter into the agreement and then after that I have one more thing." Mr. Villamagna – "Costa I have one question. To my understanding this is a 180 day trial period." Mr. Mastros – "Correct." Mrs. Anyabwile – "Didn't you say that they had a contract before?" Mr. Mastros – "We did years ago. We had treated their leachate before. I can't remember the exact dates but it's been a few years." Mrs. Anyabwile – "How did that work?" Mr. Mastros – "I think it worked well from what I gathered. I just don't know if there was a need for it at that point anymore." Mrs. Anyabwile – "So what happens to the water after it's treated by the city?" Mr. Mastros – "It goes through our system as treated and then it's disposed of as we do our other wastewater." Mr. Villamagna made a motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with APEX Environmental on the leachate agreement. Second by Mrs. Hahn. Roll Call. Six (6) ayes, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, Timmons, Villamagna. One (1) abstain, Petrella. (Conflict of interest.) Mr. Mastros – "The next thing I have is just to inform you that I have planned this with our outside Council regarding our house civil rights claim that we would request to go into executive session next week to brief you on the litigation. However and we still might do that I might ask you to do that still but I know next week might be a long meeting. We also might have to talk about the union contract that was forwarded to us that I forwarded you all this morning. We have 30 days to act on that so there's no huge rush but I still might ask you to do that but let me confer with my co-counsel to see if he would maybe want to do it the following Tuesday when we might be able to spend a little more time and have everybody's attention a little bit more. But let me look at his schedule as well but that's all I have Mayor thank you."

**MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now move onto miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening is Mr. Petrella." Mr. Petrella – "Yes you're Honor. One Happy New Year everybody. Secondly is that we had a very challenging year last year of 2020 and you know I got to commend the City Manager, all the department heads and the city workers acting responsibly and holding costs down and everything like that. We did change a couple ordinances and one of the ordinances that we changed was the weed and litter ordinance and it is January now we approved the budget, we approved the table of organization, we added a couple extra people to the payroll and while we have some down time so to speak you know I'm trying to encourage to see what we can do with these troubled lots. The trouble lot that I'm concerned about is the one on State and Cedar right next to Murphy's field. There's one on Oak Grove and these things; the one of State and Union I'll address it hasn't been cut in over four years; more like 5 or 6 years. Mrs. Hahn has been complaining about the one on Oak Grove and each and every one of us has problem areas in our wards with these weeds and litter so I think that if we can get ahead of it right now; find some way to talking to the Judge figuring out a way that we can get these troubled lots identified, listed, and start acting upon them now before the growth season in 2 or 3 months I think all of Council will be better off in 2021 addressing other issues than weeds and litter. That's all."

**PUBLIC FORUM**

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR