

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 2, 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 Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, & Hahn.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Utility Supervisor Lisa Knight, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for January 26, 2021. Second by Mrs. Anyabwile. 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. 2020-95 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3rd 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.

Mrs. Haley – “I have two letters to read before the vote. The first letter is from Christopher Petrossi to William Hendricks the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission. It says 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 commercial and residential, with commercial land uses to the east, and north of the site; and residential land uses to the west and south of the site. 2. The proposed project includes development of commercial storage facilities. Existing land uses in the area of the proposed project are residential and vacant to the west and south; commercial, light industrial and vacant to the east; and vacant wooded land to the north. There is a mix of land uses surrounding this site, therefore the project 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. Sincerely, Christopher J. Petrossi. The second letter is to City Council from Teresa DiCarlantonio Vice Chair of the Planning and Zoning Board. It says Dear Members of City Council: At its regular meeting of February 1, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing regarding the above referenced application for rezoning. After comment and discussion, Mr. Snelting made a motion to send a positive recommendation to City Council regarding this matter. The motion died due to lack of a second. Mr. Thomas then made a motion to send a negative recommendation to City Council regarding this matter which was seconded by Ms. DiCarlantonio. The Commission voted 2-1 in favor of sending a negative recommendation to City Council regarding the above referenced application for rezoning. Attached for City Council’s consideration is a copy of the staff report prepared regarding the above. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Sincerely, Teresa DiCarlantonio.”

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading for Ordinance No. 2020-95. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-95 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Loren Cutri – “I live at 966 McKinley Ave. I can literally reach out from my front porch and touch the fence. I feel that it is not a good choice just because of the area it’s crime infested, there’s drugs down that way, I feel that if that storage unit got put in anything could happen; anybody could break into it and if they don’t get what they wanted then they’re going to scope out the rest of the area which is mainly older folks. There’s only about 20 of us that live on that street. We don’t have much but I feel like the crime is just ramped up down there a lot right now and I don’t think it’s a good fit. Also because of the traffic the traffic is a heavy area especially between 2:00 and 5:00. It’s a one way street down McKinley so I don’t know how they would get in there. I’m

saying it would be very difficult to have traffic come down that street or up the street at the same time. The crime obviously and just the neighborhood this has been a residential neighborhood since always and I don't feel that this is a good positive community thing to have right now. I'm not opposed to something going in that property I feel like a grocery store, a community store that we could go to. All we have is Dairy Mart. We have Beatty Park of course which is awesome and I applaud the people that are really going out and doing the work that needs to be done. It's greatly appreciated but I feel that would damper their issue; who wants to come down there to see all that. Who wants to even waste their time down there with something like that? Like I said a good community store maybe an ice cream shop where families can come and maybe some people have never been down there and would like to explore it and it would be a great thing to add. I'm not opposed to no there can't be a business. I'm opposed to of how big it is and how much of an inconvenience it would be for not only myself, the residents, business owners because there's also other businesses there's the plate glass store, there's the dairy mart, and of course there's the church right on the corner like I said I don't feel this is a good community fit for us. Most of us are older and we just want to enjoy our neighborhood. Thank you very much. I also have a petition everyone that lives on my street signed this petition. I have most of their phone numbers and then also other people like on Lincoln Ave. on Lincoln Heights also signed it. If you would like a copy of it or would like to see it I'll leave it here for you."

Frank Vostatek – "I am the owner of Pharmassociates LLC the owner of the property in mention and there are a couple of things that I would like to discuss. First and foremost we are not really going to be the only industrial business down there I mean if you look up and down Lincoln Ave. like she had mentioned there are businesses there, there's an industrial plate glass business there, there's a lot of traffic there already that the Dairy Mart brings in. If you've ever driven there when they are trying to load a tanker of gas or if they're trying to bring whatever produce and cold items they have that street is a little bit congested. I am (inaudible) of that. I am (inaudible) of the fact that there are neighbors there that are not businesses and are not industrial and I plan to follow all the current zoning and laws that are in place already that would prevent us being a nuisance there. There has to be certain things like a fence that you cannot see through so they do not have to see the large buildings. I have to deal with egress and ingress in and out of the storage unit and that will be done with a state of the art electrical fence as well as me losing a lot of space that goes back to where the apron will come in and flesh in with the street on Lincoln Ave. I'm well aware that there might be some opposition to this and I understand that and I intend to be a good community partner. I did attend the zoning board meeting last night and they gave a negative recommendation to Council and I would like to go over that a little bit especially with the letter that Ms. DiCarlantonio was nice enough to write and you were nice enough to read. Thank you so much. I think there was a little confusion on the motion and on whether or not there was time enough to look at the list of names on the petition and I think that created some confusion especially on the way Ms. DiCarlantonio second the motion. I know that she is the vice chair and I'm not very familiar with Council and proceedings I'm sure she does a great job but under further investigation I found that she hasn't been to many meetings lately due to certain things and then maybe she might be quote on quote a little rusty and I just don't want that because she also mentioned to me specifically she didn't really know where the area was. I think everybody kind of knows where the Circle K is in town. She also had this information beforehand so maybe she was a little unprepared and not knowing where the area was. She actually mentioned if you want to go back through the minutes she didn't know what to do in her role and that she had never done this before I had kind of replied back to her again just because this isn't verbatim of course but just because there's a little bit of lack of knowledge doesn't mean that I should be the victim here in all of this. We're really here for a zoning matter. I understand there's some heartstrings that get played on the citizens but I'm not requesting anything that is out of the ordinary and I'm not requesting anything that really isn't already down there and if you look hard enough on Lincoln Ave. and you go to the top there is already self-storage there so I'm not even asking to do anything that isn't already in that neighborhood. I also want to mention to that there are a lot of names on that petition I have a list of names and addresses of people that are within 250 feet of the center of the property on Lincoln Ave. many of those lots around there are vacant. They may be owned but out of the 14 property owners 2 of them are related to the city one is a Jefferson Metropolitan Housing Authority and the other one actually is the City of Steubenville and if you look on the Jefferson County GIS. That leaves 12 names. One building was dilapidated to the point where it was burnt down it's directly on the corner of that property. There was no person there. I just want to make sure that these names on this petition come into play that they are actual residents of that neighborhood and not family, friends, relatives, and what not because this petition I think played a large part in getting us to this point here tonight with a negative recommendation. Thank you very much."

Mrs. Hahn – "Can I ask him one question? The lady mentioned that McKinley is one way how are you; have you thought through your plan of how you're going to deal with a one-way street?"

Frank Vostatek – "Sure it's totally uninvolved. All the entrances and exits will be done from Lincoln Ave. It will not even go down McKinley and we won't go down the alley. The alley will remain in its current condition (all inaudible) current condition and state without any interruption. There's no further; there will be no blockages; I'm not requesting any type of stop signs or anything like that because all of the traffic will happen at Lincoln Ave. and like I said it's going to cost me a lot of space and real-estate that I'm not going to be able to develop in order to do that but I'm willing to do that because it's the right thing to do. Like I said I get frustrated myself when I go down there and Circle K; you get a bunch of gas and I'm sitting there for 5 or 6 minutes I don't want the headaches so I'm willing to go make that apron go back I think it has to be at least 30 plus feet back into that property so before you ever have to go you're going to have to have; it's going to be a great day for self-storage if I got traffic on Lincoln Ave. with 30 plus feet going back there. So those streets aren't going

to be impacted at all. There's not going to be any additional traffic on those streets from self-storage that's for sure."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "So why do you want a storage unit there?"

Frank Vostatek – "Lack of real estate anywhere else and desire and demand. Its supply and demand and you start to see storage areas going up in Wintersville. There's storage units actually in the south end of Mingo Jct. indoor and outdoor; climate controlled and non-climate controlled. You see the Palomino storage areas that are over across the river in West Virginia in Weirton hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of units going in over there. There's a high demand for self-storage in Steubenville. Things like boats we have a lot of people who are renters in Steubenville typically people who are in rental units do not have a lot of room for storage so this is something where they can safely place their goods while they're in-between or even if their long term renters a lot of times they don't have the space to put the things that they actually own."

Mayor Barilla – "Lighting I noticed on some of these storage locations you have intense lighting to light up the area how would that affect those people that live there?"

Frank Vostatek – "Well as long as the lighting is directed inward towards the buildings I don't plan on having very high buildings. Not at all. So my lighting isn't going to have to be 20-30 feet high. All of the lighting should be directed down in toward where the area where people are going to be driving number one and then number two where people are actually are going to need the lighting. You're talking about maybe 10 feet and down so there's no real need for me to throw up these 50 foot lights you know the ones that look like space shuttles that direct that down. All the light will be on the buildings and it'll be in coordination with all the security cameras that are on the buildings as well. 24 hour security filmed and recorded day and night. You know one of the biggest things with self-storage and having a successful self-storage is having a nice appearance and I said this last night you can't just have the guys of security you actually have to have safe and secured spaces. People will not want to rent if it's not a safe and secured space. It's not me being a good public citizen or a community partner that I want to have safe and secured down there it's good for business too. So I didn't bring the drugs and the crime and everything that is in that area but with all of the cameras that I'm going to have down there, the additional lighting which is going to be neighborhood friendly, and the additional traffic might get some of the drugs and crime and those things possibly out of that area."

Mr. Timmons – "You know a lot of my decision weighs heavily on what was presented by the zoning board but also I was wondering Asantewa I mean that's your ward what's the feeling like there and what are your thoughts? I'm just being curious since it is your ward."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "I actually walked the property a couple months ago and you're talking about taking 30 feet back I don't see you getting a lot of storage units in there that's really all the profitable. Next question that she added earlier I listened to her on the news; what if it goes belly up? Then you go no more security cameras. No more lighting and then you got dark roads of storage units just sitting there which is again like a yard for having folks come in with the crime and drugs and all that stuff."

Frank Vostatek – "Well it already is that. If you walk the property that's what it is currently. It's an empty yard for crime. Correct?"

Mrs. Anyabwile – "But it doesn't have the storage units where it can have empty rows where you can just; like people can hide in-between the empty rows. You've just got one big empty field. She can look over into the field and see something is going on and she can make a call but if you got buildings blocking then you know no one can see. That's if you don't have your cameras on or if you no longer use the property for storage."

Frank Vostatek – "According to the information that I have gathered over the past few months simple business planning, nothing too extravagant I'm not a master of self-storage and I'm not a master of real estate there is such a high demand for this type of service in this area I can't imagine that we're going to be going down that alley and me going belly up. My breakeven is to only have this place about 35% occupied. That's it and I fully intend to have it completely occupied as you have stated I'm only going to have enough room for probably 60 to 80 units and if I do the larger or wider units which would have people that would have boats in there it's going to be closer to that 60 mark. So you're correct this isn't going to be some (inaudible) of metal that's going to just rust away into the rust (inaudible). This is going to be a successful (inaudible). It's going to be done the right way. All of the facility is going to be brand new. You're going to have concrete; you're going to have all the water runoff; you're going to have good egress and outs I believe as from what I know but from the pre-planning meeting the city is going to make me pave that area. Pavement is not cheap. If that thing goes belly up between the pavement and the concrete that's going to be there you're going to have a flat fenced in completely ready land for something else to go in there."

Mr. Villamagna – "Just a question and then I have a statement. How many jobs is this going to create after this is built?"

Frank Vostatek – "Unfortunately not very many. Initially I plan on being the only job there until I get to my breakeven point. After that you're going to have a security person; after that there's going to be someone there 24 hours a day."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay not going to be many jobs."

Frank Vostatek – "No hardly any jobs. I wish it were a job type of producing but it's not."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mayor if you remember on Lovers Lane when we changed that where the roads were too industrial, the commission recommended that we don't do it. We over road their decision and that place has been a headache since day one. It was going to create 45 jobs it never created more than 10 to 12. Tractor trailers in and out of there damaged the Nuns property that's there, the next door neighbor's property; it was a mess. The commission said don't do it but we over road it and it turned into a fiasco and I wasn't here; none of us were here but it turned into a mess out there. My second point is that corner there; there's businesses there

and Mark Nelson has that Lincoln School which was an abandoned building; he bought it and turned it into a very productive business. You have Finlay Church there that's been around way before I was born. At one time there was three gas stations on that corner two of them are gone and one is still there but what we still do have and what that little girl said was we have a residential neighborhood where there's people still living and it's not a reach neighborhood McKinley Ave. and Harding Ave. and you have the projects there it's not a rich neighborhood and you also have Wilson Ave. and the glass shop has been there since the fort took over the property they had here so they've been there quite a few years. I wouldn't want to sit on my porch and look at these storage units with the lights and all that. It's going to be light down there. It might not be shining directly on those houses. I'm not against the business there and what she said is exactly how I feel. Dollar General looked at it and the property was too small but if we can get a business to go there that's going to benefit the neighborhood and it'll create more jobs. We owe it to the neighborhood and we also owe it to the commission to go with their recommendation. We have a right to protect that neighborhood for those people who live on McKinley, Harding, and Lincoln Ave. and the last point that I will make everybody has gone to the mall that way if you get that light when you go through that little bend there and there's a car turning left to the gas station; Chief there's been a lot of accidents there correct? That's another problem and I do believe that it's going to create a problem in that neighborhood. So that's my belief."

Frank Vostetak – "First and foremost I don't really know the other place that you're talking about but just because something happens at one place doesn't mean it'll happen at another."

Mr. Villamagna – "Oh I agree."

Frank Vostetak – "The current zoning there are you familiar? It's R-2 right now which means low density residential. We've already mentioned; she's already mentioned the neighborhood is riddle with crime. Drugs and other things she said and from what I know I understand that as well. Who's going to develop low density residential there? With the current prices; you got 2x4s that are seven bucks. You're going to build a \$100,000 house and sell it for \$60,000? If you're not going to change it to I-1 or whatever it needs to be for self-storage then I think it should be changed to something else. It should be maybe a little bit more friendly for a business to go there because currently right now it's not. Dollar General looked at it and they passed. I didn't. I'm here right now."

Mr. Villamagna – "You're not a business and I don't want to argue Mayor."

Frank Vostetak – "It's not going to generate revenue for the city? It's not going to generate taxes?"

Mr. Paul – "Can I say something? Okay well why would I want to put a boat down there or why would I want to put a car down there if it's such a high rated crime area?"

Frank Vostetak – "Because of all of the security."

Mr. Paul – "All the security yeah right. You got a camera on it. By the time you get your security guy down there which you don't even have yet you already told us you have no job to offer here yet. I don't really think it's a good idea. How's that?"

Frank Vostetak – "Sounds great."

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to accept the Zoning Board's recommendation. Second by Mrs. Hahn.

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. All no. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-95 has failed declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-1 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

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.

Mayor Barilla – "You've heard the third and final reading for Ordinance No. 2021-1. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-1 please step forward and state your name and address."

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-1 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on March 11, 2021.

NO. 2021-2 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

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.

Mayor Barilla – "You've heard the third and final reading for Ordinance No. 2021-2. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-2 please step forward and state your name and address."

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-2 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on March 11, 2021.

NO. 2021-3 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Dressel, Timmons, Anyabwile

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.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading for Ordinance No. 2021-3. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-3 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Dressel called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-3 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on March 11, 2021.

NO. 2021-4 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Dressel, Timmons, Anyabwile

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.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading for Ordinance No. 2021-4. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-4 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Dressel called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-4 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on March 11, 2021.

NO. 2021-8 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 2nd reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH JAMES MAVROMATIS.

NO. 2021-10 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31ST – FEBRUARY 6, 2021 AS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK.

Mrs. Hahn made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-10 by roll call. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2021-10 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-11 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 1st reading

AN ORDINANCE RENAMING STEELE AVENUE TO MUCCI WAY.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor. I want to sunshine two ordinances.” Mr. Villamagna sun shined an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1992-20, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Steubenville, Ohio by rezoning property owned by Steubenville City School District Board of Education, located at Lots 2, 3 and part of lot 4 of Stanton Boulevard, Steubenville, Ohio, from “B-2” Community Commercial District to “P” Public and Semi-Public District and An ordinance authorizing the City Manager and Urban Projects Director to advertise a request for qualifications (RFQ) for professional/consulting services under the State of Ohio Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP), subject to the right to reject any and all submissions, authorizing entering into contract for services with the most qualified service offeror and authorizing payment therefore.

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – No Report

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor. Yesterday several citizens approached me and they asked about the water bill did we raise the water rates? And I said no not that I know of but I know in October that we did then I was told about a flurry of messages and like I said before I heard on Facebook; I don’t know I don’t know anything about that Facebook or didn’t see them but I heard there’s a lot of conversation on Facebook. So in the meantime I called Mr. Mavromatis and spoke with him and he can interject anytime into this and I know we spoke about this morning and I understand that we have that 5th week but so many people came up to me and questioned me on this and they all said it was over \$50.00. That’s a lot of money and I think we as a City for water that half the time I get complaints about it and don’t get me wrong I think our water department and our

sewage department does a great job but there's a lot of complaints I get and (all inaudible) as well. I just feel and I think Mr. Dressel a couple weeks ago or a month ago had brought it that he was wanting to discuss with Dave about this 5th week I think it's called and I think Dave Lewis is there tonight correct?"

Mayor Barilla – "Yes."

Mr. Dressel – "I can clarify as well if you want me too."

Mr. Paul – "Yes please. Help me Scott."

Mr. Dressel – "Well there's an automatic increase that goes in every fall. The one mistake we made when we drafted the legislation was that it goes in on a given date as opposed to the given month of cycles so Costa and I have not gotten around to correcting that for next year but next year it will happen just once. In front of me I have the five water bills that I pay this is after the increase and they are February bills and the charge for water for one or two thousand gallons is \$34.19; the annual increase is like 1% or something it's not much; sewer is \$22.32, trash is still at \$20.99, infrastructure cost did go up from 7 to 8 for both sewer and water. So whoever had a \$50.00 increase is using a lot more than 2,000 gallons. I have one that somebody uses 6,000 gallons their water bill is \$90.35, their sewer is \$66 and their trash of course is still \$20 so you got to use an awful lot of water to get 50 but I think they're just noticing now the increase that went into effect in October/November. Okay?"

Mr. Paul – "(All inaudible)."

Mr. Dressel – "(All inaudible) that's all I'm telling you. \$34 is a flat 2,000 gallon minimum for just the water part."

Mr. Paul – "And I know you worked on this really hard Scott. I'm just; that's the word I wanted to use was cycle; that five cycle or that whenever that kicks in. (All inaudible)."

Mr. Dressel – "(All inaudible) it was well over a 100 on there (all inaudible) I didn't say a word for a change so that's unusual."

Mr. Paul – "As I said I'm not a Facebook guy but it was brought to my attention."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mayor could Lisa maybe shed a little light on this also please."

Dave Lewis – "We did get wind of this. We looked into it this morning."

Lisa Knight – "So what Mr. Paul was referring to is what we call a no bill week. So anytime there's five weeks in a month we have to skip a week of billing. If we don't do that it's going to cause every citizen to pay 13 bills a year versus the 12 so we have to skip and when we do that it causes everybody who would normally get billed 28 days in a cycle to go an extra week. So they get an extra week of billing. So out of those Facebook posts I looked up a couple of people that I saw posting on there and one instance her last bill she was right at; when she got billed for the bill prior to this one she was just getting ready to switch over to the next thousand, two days later she flips over. So most of that usage was billed what was used last month she didn't get billed until she actually flips over so two days into her cycle that's 1,000 gallons that she went over. Her normal usage she uses about a 1,000 gallons every week; there's four people there's two adults and two teenage girls in the house so every five to six days she using a thousand so we get five weeks that's 5,000 gallons. At the end of that cycle right before; the day before we pulled her rate to bill it she flipped to that other thousand so that caused her to be billed 6,000 and they were arguing that it went up \$50 and it did go up \$50 because every thousand gallons over the minimum is \$25.20."

Mr. Villamagna – "Every thousand?"

Lisa Knight – "Every thousand above that yes. So she did go up \$50.00. There's 4 people in that house so the national average per person is 2,000 so 8,000 gallons is not out of line for 4 people in a house she just doesn't use that much I mean you know people have different habits but because of that extra billing week and the holidays just caused her to flip and it was the day after her last billing and two days later there was a thousand. So two days in she's already getting billed. If she would've stopped her bill she would've got billed for a thousand gallons two days after into her new bill because of the way the readings are because we bill in thousands. Does that make sense?"

Mr. Villamagna – "It does but you might have to explain it to me about 5 or 6 more times. I do understand. I know what you mean."

Lisa Knight – "I guess sense I have the visuals so I can see it happening. You know and I do have them here if anybody wants to see them."

Mr. Villamagna – "The interesting thing that I found Lisa is because I called you about the one; I've been here 8 years and I just couldn't figure out why I got so many calls right now all of a sudden about it."

Lisa Knight – "Well because now it's \$25 extra a thousand. I mean \$50 is \$50 dollars more."

Mr. Villamagna – "Yeah that makes sense. Because I talked to Mr. Paul about it and I said I don't know why I said all of a sudden I just started getting call, call, call and that's when I called you and you tried to explain it to me."

Lisa Knight – "So we're going to have another one in April. There's going to be four more coming up through the year. So and it's going to happen quite often."

Dave Lewis – "Of course this is your first one so it's the increase."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay now I understand."

Mrs. Hahn – "And it's a helpful reminder you're just charging in the thousands so if you're going over you're really not even charging them initially for all the water that they have used. You never round it up which was a misconception before."

Lisa Knight – "Right we don't round up. Not until it actually flips over. So you can use 3500 and we're only billing you for 3. Then when it goes to 4 that's when you get billed that amount."

Mayor Barilla – "Mr. Paul are you okay on this?"

Mr. Paul – “Yes but I just don’t know how to explain it. We need a tutorial page.”

Lisa Knight – “They are more than welcome to call because we explain it all the time.”

Mr. Paul – “Because it’s tough to try and explain that to someone. (All inaudible).”

Mr. Timmons – “That’s exactly how; you know I got my bill and mine was higher too and I almost (all inaudible) on taking baths here in the house I mean I didn’t know anything about it either. You know I believe we do pay enough here. I still stand by we did the right thing and we (inaudible) had too but it would be nice to get that out before people start complaining so you’re not blind sided by this. That’s all.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Mayor I would like to say one thing to Lisa. I call her several times since she’s been here and I’ve also had people call her and she’s always explained everything. I know it’s kind of hard to cipher out here but I don’t know it would probably be a nice way if we could maybe break it down and explain it and put in on the webpage so somebody can understand it but Lisa has been very helpful with trying to explain it to people. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “I would like to thank Lisa and Dave and everybody and I’m not picking on anyone; I just don’t know how to explain it like Lisa did. Lisa did a great job but for me to pass that on it would be very well (inaudible) in conversation. But thank you Lisa I appreciate that.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. I’d like to let Council know and our public know that our Health Department is still continuing with their vaccine centers. Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. it will be at the Hibbetts at the mall and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Last week I had the ability to go to that one and I also visited the one that Trinity Hospital was running at Primetime. They were very fortunate they had a doctor there last Friday at Hibbetts Dr. Macedonia was there. The comments from the elderly they were very comfortable to see our paramedic; our ambulance service that the city has at those vaccine sites as well as our Police Officers being there. They felt very secure and they felt safe and if there was a reaction that they would be attended too quickly. These vaccines will continue at these locations on Thursday and Friday while the vaccine is being supplied to our Health Department. I also talked to the Health Department about having another pop-up testing which they are in support of it we just have to look on the manpower situation and then getting the assistance from the National Guard which I will continue to do that. Just a comment to Council I realize that you’re put in difficult positions when these citizens come to you and I will clearly tell you most of the time they do not have the factual information. I would recommend either have them call me or call our service department or billing and where the people there can explain what Lisa said tonight. I also agree with Council I can talk with our IT individual Zach Murray and have him put something on our webpage that can explain this but also knowing this everybody doesn’t go to our website so again any contacts that you do have with the public please direct them to myself or to the utility office. The other thing we deal with unfortunately and that’s life today you can’t believe what you read on Facebook because I have to say 70-80% of the time all the facts aren’t listed there or the actual information that you need. So again I’m thoroughly briefed on this I deal with these issues all the time and again if I clearly do not have the answer for them I’ll get it through our utility office because they do a remarkable job with what they have to deal with here. Mayor that’s all I have for this evening.”

Mayor Barilla – “We have a question for you Mr. Mavromatis by Mrs. Hahn.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes two questions. So on the vaccination how young are the vaccination going right now?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Last week they were finishing up on the 80 year olds and coming down to the 75s and I think this week maybe going down to 65 and up but also if there’s 80s, 70s that they have to deal with they will clearly get those vaccinated first.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay I have a follow up question. So a woman called me today she is someone who suffers from cancer and is over the age of 60 and she cannot even get on the list and her oncologist said this disease is going to kill her if she gets COVID because the cancer is in her lungs. So she’s really a critical person even though she’s younger than the age they’re doing. Can her oncologist request the vaccination? How can she proceed? She’s called the Health Department. She’s called Trinity and they said you’re not able to get on the list yet.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Is this oncologist part of the Trinity system?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Then my recommendation and I’ll be more than happy to call you when I get back to see what we can do to assist her because I know there have been things that have been looked at and the fact that he’s part of the Trinity system and there are underlying issues that they do have. There’s so many; you need a playbook to follow the rules like the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health of the guidelines they put out here. Again I’ll call you to get the particulars that I need and I’ll see what I can do.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you very much. Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I would like for you to convey to the department heads that they did a very good job during this snow storm.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Bob. I’ve had a lot of calls already and again I know our crews have been out there and these are the things a lot of the citizens don’t see but I know they’re out there working 24/7 when you have a storm and it comes in like this. I appreciate that very much and I will make sure that they get that message.”

Mr. Villamagna – “And last Jim if you remember we didn’t have a full-time IT guy so it kind of went by the way side I brought that booklet into you about once a month thing where they put a pamphlet on the internet and it explains all the activities for the city. You might not remember it because it’s been a while back but next Tuesday I’m going to bring it in and I want you to look at it and now that we got a full-time IT guy this thing with the water thing had me thinking about it. I still have the book I believe. It just breaks down different activities that the city has and it sends it to whoever wants it.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Absolutely.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I’ll talk to you about it when you get back here. Thank you very much.”

Mr. Petrella – “Jim this is Craig I have a question. All of these vaccination types do people have to pre-register?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes they do. This was last week there is a number that the Health Department has put out but it’s jointly attended by Trinity and the Health Department and you get registered through there and then they log you in and they have the number to call you when it’s time for you to come in based on your age.”

Mr. Petrella – “Okay because I want the public to feel that you know because we’re giving the 9 to 4 time that they can just waltz in from 9 to 4.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That is clearly by appointment.”

Mr. Petrella – “And I would like if Linda is down there and News 9 is down there tonight I would appreciate if they emphasize that it’s preregistered for the vaccine.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Does the city have an official Facebook page?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No. We have certain departments like the Parks and Rec Department have one. We have a website that you can go too.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I know but a lot of people don’t go to the website so why not have a Facebook page. It’s another way of advertising.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well there’s two things you can look at. Number 1 they go to our website they’re going to have accurate information. If we have a Facebook page it’ll be (inaudible) there. What I don’t have is the staffing to answer going back and forth with these people on Facebook because I’ll tell you right now if you want accurate information Facebook isn’t the place to go too.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I mean you can set up a Facebook page where you don’t have to have the response you just put the info out. Just like you would on the website. It’s just another way of getting information out. Like I said when we put out the information about the help for small businesses by the time I got to the office the next day people had already saw the announcement on Facebook and you know it doesn’t have to be back and forth. Just be announcements.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Again I have looked at that and I even talked to Facebook and again I have no problems at all with the city having a Facebook page and that we the IT technology person there who does an excellent job so we can work on that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I’m not a 100% sure about this Jim. I think I spoke one time here; I think I meant to say this murder case of Mytia Barker the reward was \$5,000 and it went to \$10,000. I think I misspoke and said 10,000 and it went to 20,000 I’m not sure but I wanted to make that clear that it was \$5,000 and another \$5,000 is what it was. I tried to find it in the minutes and I didn’t ask Karly to look. I just tried to look myself but I think I might have misspoke. I would also like to encourage people to search deep down inside their soul and try to help the Police Department. Thank you.”

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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