

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 23, 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, Ross Gallabrese from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for February 16, 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 – “Nothing this evening.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Madam Clerk.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2021-13 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

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.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2021-13. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-13 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-13 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on March 25, 2021.

Mr. Paul made a motion to put Resolution No. 2021-14 back on the second and for the resolution to be read in its entirety. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-14 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER MAYOR DOMENICK MUCCI JR.

Mrs. Haley – “A resolution honoring former Mayor Domenick Mucci, Jr. Whereas, service to others is the hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges as a community; and Whereas, Domenick Mucci, Jr. has been a lifelong member of the community of the City of Steubenville and has served his community faithfully for many years; and Whereas, Domenick Mucci, Jr. was first elected to the Steubenville City Council in 1982 and served in that capacity until 1992; thereafter, Domenick Mucci, Jr. served as the Mayor of the City of Steubenville for the next twenty-five (25) years from 1993 to 2017; and Whereas, during this time, Domenick Mucci, Jr. was CEO and President of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Steubenville Board of Health; a member of the State of Ohio Urban Revitalization Task Force and was appointed to said Task Force by the Governor of the State of Ohio; was the President of the Jefferson County Mayor’s Association for ten (10) years; was a member of the Executive Board and Vice-Chair of the Jefferson Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority, among other community board and service organizations; and Whereas, Domenick Mucci, Jr. donated his time and effort tirelessly to various community service organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the Steubenville Jaycees, the United Way of Jefferson County, the Steubenville Lions Club, the United Cerebral Palsy Association, and was the Steubenville Bicentennial Chairman and Coordinator in 1997; and Whereas, Domenick Mucci, Jr. also has been a member of his church, Triumph of the Cross for his entire life; and Whereas, during his many years of public service and community service, Domenick Mucci, Jr. was given many awards, including the NAACP Outstanding Achievement Award, the Sons of Italy Outstanding Citizen Award, the Lions Club International Foundation Melvin Jones Fellow Award, the Hometown Leadership Award from the Jefferson County Township Association, and the Franciscan University Founders Day Award; and Whereas, Domenick Mucci, Jr. has had a long and distinguished career of public service and community service as a member of the Steubenville community and who has exemplified the traits that define the City of Steubenville, which include service to your community at large and service to your fellow citizens. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio; Section 1: That this Council does hereby recognize Mayor Domenick Mucci,

Jr. for his exemplary service to our community and wish him health and happiness in his retirement. Section 2: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval by Council and signature of the Mayor.”

Mr. Paul made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-14 by roll call. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2021-14 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Paul gave a brief speech about Mr. Mucci.

Mr. Domenick Mucci Jr. said a few words.

Mr. Villamagna said a few words about Mr. Mucci along with Mr. Petrella.

Mayor Barilla gave a brief speech and informed Mr. Mucci that a plaque was being made in his honor to be hung in the City Building.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes a couple of things. Just a quick reminder that we’re still collecting donations of wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt and they can be dropped off at the MLK Center or at the entrance to the City Building and we’re just asking that people make that donation before March 22nd. The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 27th. There’s also an issue I just want to very quickly address and that is somebody in the city is deciding to drive over the park grass areas. There has been damage done at Belleview Park and at Beatty Park and at the Marina and it’s not someone that is slipping onto the grass but apparently someone’s been doing doughnuts and our people work so hard to have beautiful parks for us to go to. There are volunteers almost daily at Beatty Park and I would just ask whoever is doing this please stop it. We do not want to waste any time in the spring trying to get something back to the way it was we want to keep working our parks to be able to serve everyone. It could be someone out of the area we do not know who is doing the damage but we’re going to be looking at our cameras and you’re going to get cited so whatever the fun is you have please stop it and lets really take care of our parks. It’s a treasure for everyone to be able to enjoy. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul called for a Finance Committee Meeting on March 9th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss January 2021 month-end report.

Mr. Paul – “And just to further speak on what Mrs. Hahn brought up I noticed out at Catholic Central they are coming from the top of the parking lot down through and onto Johnson Rd. It’s like they’re sled riding in their car. They went around a sign not the concrete sign but the wooden sign and their tire tracks go both sides around it so they’re joyriding and they’re doing it everywhere. I wouldn’t be surprised if they were doing it out at Jim Wood. They’ll get caught I hope.”

Mr. Petrella – “The only thing I have tonight is a few weeks ago I talked about the weeds and litter and getting started with that and compiling a list and Jim where do we stand on that?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well I can tell you what they’ve been doing the last week and a half is the snow removal and everything.”

Mr. Petrella – “I understand that.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “The snow has been too deep to really focus on other than over on State by the park there because you can clearly see the growth of the ones before that.”

Mr. Petrella – “I understand that. What I was after is a comprehensive list and the Planning Department should have that so with that comprehensive list because it’s the same ones last year, the year before, and the year before that so on and so forth.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Are you talking about the people who had the violations in the past?”

Mr. Petrella – “Yes.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay. We do have that information.”

Mr. Petrella – “And if you get that list it’s easy to identify any new addresses that we can put onto that and we should have all the information on land owners or lack thereof so we start processing this again in a timely manner. I’d hate to see another year go by with nothing being done.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “If this is agreeable with Council I’d like to have them next week the people I want to bring in so they can brief Council. We have a lot of that information but I want you to hear from our inspectors who have gone out there and our code enforcement people and when they brief you you’ll understand the difficulties that we deal with there. Because they have dealt with a lot of these issues that’s like a revolving coming through here. They come in; the Judge is ordered; they’ll come in here whatever the violation is; if they’ve done a little bit on that they give them additional 60, 30 days whatever it is. It’s a cycle it just goes around in a cycle. They’ll fix that. I just sat in a meeting today with the Health Dept. and it has nothing to do with Steubenville it has to deal with out in the County basically it looked like a used car lot; it was violations out there and they’ve been dealing with this for almost 90 days. The laws are weak but again I agree with what you want to do here but I want Council to listen to our inspectors so you can see what they have done last year. I think they might answer the questions that you’re looking for.”

Mr. Petrella – “Because here’s what I’m looking at if we can identify these and if they’re absentee landlords or abandoned properties and if we can talk to the Prosecutors about this and see about getting these properties put up for Sheriff Sale or something that neighbors may want to buy adjacent properties.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “We’ve had residents that have done that. They buy properties on their right and their left and behind them and they maintain the lots they are all just grass areas and they maintain it.”

Mr. Petrella – “If we can get more citizens purchasing lots around them you know that’s less that we would have to maintain or have to chase through the courts.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Right.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Jim can I follow up with one additional question? Because this would be really great if they would come and speak with us. Would that fall under you Bob or Planning Committee?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah.”

Mrs. Hahn – “We talked in the past and I think Costa you said that a notice in the newspaper of five days like demolitions are six weeks but I think it’s five days (all inaudible) and I just wonder could you get clarity on that if you’re not sure so that we know that next week and then I really want us to figure out if the Herald Star how we can post that on the; maybe it’s once a month we post those five days in a row and then we get on the property and deal with it. I mean that front door is still open on Oak Grove.”

Mr. Mastros – “I have a memo and I think I distributed it to you all sometime ago. I’ll do it again so everybody has it.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay. Am I right remembering it was five days?”

Mr. Mastros – “I think it’s five but I just can’t remember off the top of my head. I know I had it looked up.”

Mrs. Hahn – “If we could know that fact before next Tuesday night that would be great and then maybe we can come up with some decisions on that. Great.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim just to touch on this also a couple weeks ago I brought in that report and I got it here somewhere these guys have wrote a lot of citations. The weak spot is the legal system and the law is the law and I’m almost positive that it is five days and then they do a little bit like Jim said; they do enough to get by the law then that gives them an extension and then it starts all over again because if you look at these citations you’ll see the repeat offenders. Just so and I know a lot of times and it is frustrating for all of us you have more in your ward than I have in mine but I still have them and Willie has them too. It’s the same deal; Parkdale Road I deal with them all the time and he says to me what do I have to do for you to quit harassing me? I said just do as you’re told. You’ve read the stuff. There’s tires stacked up all along the side of the house and it’s not normal behavior. I feel sorry for these guys because I know when I was a policeman you wrote tickets and you see a guy and he’s doing the same thing and the case was dismissed; people got rights. I want to make sure that we do understand what’s going on because these guys are doing what they’re supposed to be doing and they are doing a little bit more. With that being said Jim do you want me to call March 2nd for a Planning Committee meeting and you can have those guys here.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s fine.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay 6:30 p.m. March 2nd Planning Committee Meeting.”

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Mayor I wanted to ask the Chief a question. I still get all kinds of stuff from the Police groups and one of them came from the State FOP they were soliciting support for ammunition for the Police Officers. Could you find out Chief and then let me know next Tuesday and then we can draft a resolution up and send it wherever it has to go.”

Chief McCafferty – “Okay you’re saying because they kind of put us on the back burner.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah. I got it from the State President I can’t remember his name but he said that he’d like all City Councils in the State of Ohio to write a letter but I didn’t understand it and I meant to ask you to find out and maybe get ahold of Jimmy or something like that and then let me know next Tuesday and I can bring a resolution in to send.”

Chief McCafferty – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Thanks Chief.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. We finished up on Monday with the water break out on Sunset. The crews started on Friday night all the way into Saturday morning and worked all night. There were actually two breaks on a 10 inch line. It caused a lot of flooding on Sunset Blvd. it actually had a large stream going down onto Buchanan which would be the north of Sunset down in the valley there where the apartments are. Residents were concerned about their residents being flooded which thank god the way they design their driveway it went away from the house not towards it so they were blessed there. But what happened with the break it did undermined work of approximately 120 feet of our road system. They had at least six different areas that they had to dig up to look at what was broken up there and fix it and it’s a temporary fix meaning that when the spring gets here we’ll have to get asphalt and redo it properly with 120 feet of Sunset Blvd. all four lanes and also curb work but we have an old waterline system. I had several calls from citizens that couldn’t understand; one lady called and stated that she lived in Wintersville and they didn’t have these problems. Well I kindly explained to her that Wintersville is a village and we’re a city; we have over a hundred miles of water pipes through our city and that’s just for water it’s not counting our sewer system. Our roads we have 107 lane miles throughout of city and this comes in part with our snow removal so again she understood this and again this is what we deal with every winter we go through this. There’s breaks that come up and our crews go out every night and they do a remarkable job and again this is all tapped into your infrastructure that we’ve increased; it goes to your water rates all this works is parts in parcel. I tried to explain to a couple of other citizens that were probably more in their 20s and 30s year range and they couldn’t understand why our rates are so high and I walked them through it. I walked them through our charts of where it goes but the one thing that I

brought up to them and I asked them and it's pretty simple it's about your lifestyle too, it's about what you do every day and the question that I asked them was do you drink coffee? And the answer was yes so I asked them so what coffee do you drink? Well Starbucks of course. So do you drink it every day? Yes I do. Well you'll spend \$4.50 to \$5.00 for a cup of coffee every day and your water that you get every day tried and true you spend about \$3.00 for it. So it's what you want in your lifestyle. We're playing catchup as a city. Our city; that's all we've done here the five years that I've been here has been catchup. It's no fault to what's sitting here in this building right now but it's a fact of life and it's what we have to do and that's everybody in the city contributing and as Mayor Mucci brought up about our levies that are there that's all pardon parcel to the survival of this city so you have to focus on these things. We're not out of the woods. Another thing I wanted to brief Council on and we'll go into executive session probably after; it'll be our Council after May or excuse me March the 4th I will be going down to court to meet with our Counsel on a hearing before a new Judge of our OPEC HC suit that we have going. This has been going on for five years. Hopefully we may see a resolution this year but this is important to the citizens here and it's important to us where this has come about. So I'll be able to brief Council once we get back from that. Our street crews we had all hands on deck when this ice storm came in, snow came in and what I mean by all hands on deck every employee that has a CDL license was available to work and they were there. That's from every department and that's how you operate in the city is by utilizing every person in your arsenal and that's what they did. That crew did a remarkable job. I want Council to know this because sometimes it's easy (all inaudible) I look at everything I've been up and down this valley. I had a gentleman that worked a town south of us, a larger town our streets were better here than that particular city and again he was very pleased that he lives here and what we have here. So again we are getting better at what we do our crews are working together and that's what this is all about. We still have a lot of work ahead of us. I'm not going to sit and tell you that we don't but this Council is working better together and that's what we have to focus on. So I ask Council tonight I want you to think about this; you've been here long enough every one that is sitting in this room; I'd like for you to come to me with one item in your ward that you would like to get done because I can have all of you come with five different things; it may costs money for each of those that we may not have. The other thing you should be proud of yourselves that we didn't have to do; we didn't have to furlough one person and we're still on a very tight budget. My finance director has asked for a 180 days which I have no problems of fulfilling that to see where we're going to be financially for this year. Now you asked about Dave Lewis I can tell you exactly where Dave Lewis is at right now we have the auditors in now for the next week and a half they are here. They're in house. They're gathering everything that they have to do. We've given them information two weeks prior to review so we're on again and so far everything is going the way it should be. We're looking at other avenues here. We're having meetings where we might save some money by processing a different way with our credit card systems and they save us 20-30 thousand there so we're looking at every dollar that we can possibly save so we're not in at the end of the year where we have to furlough people. I just had a meeting today with the fire union we're starting our negotiations there and I mentioned this to the Police which I'm meeting with next but all of them are aware of the first year of their contract that there is no raise. We have to do that to maintain what we're doing. We just hired three new firemen today swore them in. They are all EMT certified. Our ambulance service has taken off and fortunately we're getting revenue coming back in here and there's three ways out of the four; you have your no pays which don't have any insurance whatsoever, you're not going to get anything. You have Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance and we are getting money coming in from them so again we were blessed with the Cares Act if helped us get this off the ground. Some things I'd like Council to think about for this coming year even it may not take 2 or 3 years but we need to look at a facility that will house our Police and Fire headquarters and a new court room. As you can see right here we're going to try and get this all fixed up here the best we can. This roof had to be done and it saved a lot of damage for the future. So once we can clean this up where it's suitable but you need a whole new facility to meet the standards that we've never required today for security but this is where we're at. So again if we watch what we're doing the Government is coming out with different laws and different grants and we're going to look at everything we can tap into and that's what we want to do. So we know where Dave is at right now I think that's good for March 9th is a good time frame. That'll give him some breathing room and he's getting prepared what he wants to come in and brief Council on. That's all I have to report tonight."

Mr. Villamagna – "Jim I just wanted to add something, you brought up that ambulance service and I meant to tell you this. If there's a brightside to COVID-19 it's that we did get these ambulances paid for." Mr. Villamagna tells a brief story of a friend having to call for an ambulance. "I hope the money keeps coming in the way we're thinking it's going to come in so we can put that other ambulance on."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Our biggest right now what we have to get prepared for is we need additional manpower and we need to get the Safer Grant this year. That is a big plus to get that. If we can get that then six bodies and that Safer Grant and we'll be able to supply the ambulance staff."

Mr. Villamagna – "Hopefully at some point when we get the money coming in we'll be able to stand on our own."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yeah we'll have a better idea it won't be until probably February of next year there you will have one full year of our revenue stream because it took about 90 days before it started coming in but then you'll have a good perfect picture of what's going on."

Mr. Villamagna – "Because they're busy and they are doing a good job."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes they are. The other thing with the vaccines it has been an issue that has come up Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the Health Dept. will be out at the mall they have a site there in the old Hibbetts; the mall has been super by giving them that facility to use. We've had it staffed with a Police Officer

and our ambulance. These are off duty. All of them are off duty our ambulance that is there is off duty. They are being paid by the Health Dept. through the Cares Act but they're there. The people that I have talked to who have been out there every week and they are very pleased that they have an ambulance there just in case. Twice they had to help someone there; didn't have to take them out but they were there. It gives the elderly a lot more comfort level when they are there they see that there's an ambulance. So it's everybody working together our Health Dept., the City, and the mall everybody is on board with these vaccines. Now talking to the Health Dept. they are getting a shipment in of Pfizer in now. They were getting Moderna. Whatever shot you get whether it's Moderna or Pfizer your second dose will be from the same manufacturer. So they went to Big Red today to vaccinate the teachers so it's getting out there but again I want to make it perfectly clear it isn't our Health Dept. they are administering the vaccines that they get allocated to them. Everything is being controlled through the Dept. of Health and its spread out throughout Ohio. Again do you have of other places having shortages? Other places have more and it's a tragedy in some places that allow those vaccines to expire. Its borderline criminal but we don't have those issues here. So we have everybody working together to get the people vaccinated but it's going to take time and we still have people that don't want to take it and that's their choice. They have every right to do that and you have to respect them for that. But the bottom line is if it's available take it. That's all I have tonight."

Mr. Villamagna – "Jim I just wanted; I found this while you were talking. Let me refresh your mind and everyone else's that's in here. This was as of January 1st; property maintenance code violations; inspections completed was 208; re-inspections were 506; there's 208 violations were processed; 90 cases were referred to the court and there's 118 in the Law Director's office because the court is backed up with all the cases. So I don't know about everybody else but to me that's a lot of violations. I think you were in law enforcement and so was I; people have rights and that's why they have laws to protect the innocent and sometimes the guilty use it to their advantage. I wanted to reiterate that so we know that they are out there doing what they are supposed to be doing."

Mr. Mastros – "Thank you Mayor. Just briefly as you all might remember at least a couple times by email and once at a meeting I briefed you all on the University's request for us to vacate the lower portion of Franciscan Way west. We've vacated the top part already and they are asking us to vacate the bottom half. They are also asking us to sell them very small parcels of property one is just a 10 foot strip of property next to Franciscan Way west and the other is on Franklin Street. I briefed you all by email and I mentioned it in here but they need an answer from us so with your permission Mr. Villamagna I'm going to have Joe McGurn come to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday and if we can give him 20 minutes he'll give you what he has given us and we met with Mr. McGurn it was last year but we went through it with him and they are requesting that we do that and we get that started for them if Council chooses to do so. So if that's okay with you we'll have him."

Mr. Villamagna – "Yeah absolutely. Costa I have a question for you about that. That doesn't impact the road that goes from Franklin over to University does it? In front of Capri."

Mr. Mastros – "No it will not. It's on; no it won't impact that road."

Mr. Villamagna – "Is this the portion where you come down Wellesley and you turn right?"

Mr. Mastros – "We have it already; there's a barrier there right now and I think it's that property located in the barrier."

Mr. Paul – "It heads east."

Mr. Mastros – "Yes."

Mr. Paul – "It heads down towards the old Post Office."

Mr. Mastros – "It's been a while but I believe that's correct."

Mr. Paul – "It's by those steps that come down off of LaBelle."

Mr. Mastros – "Yes and Mr. McGurn has maps and aerials for you all."

Mr. Villamagna – "I just want to make sure that it doesn't impact that road."

Mr. Mastros – "I don't think it does. No that connects Franklin and University?"

Mr. Villamagna – "Right. Right in front of Capri."

Mr. Mastros – "No it should not."

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