

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 16, 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 Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, & Hahn.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for March 9, 2021. 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 – “Nothing this evening.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Madam Clerk.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2021-15 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd 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 STB STR LLC, LOCATED AT 227 SOUTH THIRD STREET AND 235 SOUTH THIRD STREET, STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM “B-1” CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TO “I-1” GENERAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

NO. 2021-16 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT, BIDDING AND SALE OF A 2009 DODGE DURANGO BY THE STEUBENVILLE PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT.

NO. 2021-18 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 1st 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. 2021-19 – BY ASANTEWA ANYABWILE – 1st reading

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-88 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND CREATE NEW RULES REGARDING THE PUBLIC FORUM PORTION OF THE AGENDA DURING COUNCIL MEETINGS.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Paul – No Report

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor.” Mr. Villamagna sun shined an ordinance under planning. It’s an ordinance repealing existing section 1195.04 and enacting a new section 1195.04 of the Zoning Code.

Mr. Mastros made a point of order regarding the rules that from now on when ordinances or resolutions are sun shined that there will be to a second following the sunshine just so we don’t run into any issues down the road.

Mr. Villamagna asked if the ordinance came out of the committee would someone from that committee have to second it. Mr. Mastros said that it could be any Council person that could second any ordinance or resolution.

Mr. Paul second the ordinance sun shined by Mr. Villamagna.

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes we have a couple of things. I wanted to give Lori a chance because we kind of ran out of time but did you want to mention anything about the dugouts. Where we are because we heard from different people how hot it was last summer and is there progress being made?”

Lori Fetherolf – “So the Steubenville Baseball Association raised all the money. We just backwardly did a memorandum of understanding last week for that even though one field is 99% done. They are working on the T-ball field now and that’ll all be paid for by them with the exception of we budgeted last year \$25,000 out of our capital money to put roofs on the existing fencing and sense we now offered that (all inaudible) that money is going so we’re paying \$25,000 out of our capital fund to help with that. Two fields will be done this year and he’s hoping to do the third field sometime in the near future and those are being done by Fort Steuben Maintenance.”

Mrs. Hahn – “And what are the details of the egg hunt?”

Lori Fetherolf – “So it is on the 27th at 10:30 at Belleview Park. I had to submit a health plan to the Health Department because of that health plan they want me to restrict it to a hundred people which I will say we’ve only once had over a hundred people so I don’t think that’s a big problem. The only thing I’m asking is that people call down the Rec Center and say hey my kid is coming and tell me how many so I know. What we don’t want to do is have; divide the eggs evenly and have 50 kids in one age group; I want to make sure they’re all distributed evenly so the kids get enough eggs so right now I have 4,000 eggs.”

Mrs. Hahn – “And as far as Belleview Park pool goes Lori mentioned at the Parks and Rec Board meeting last week that if anybody decided to take the class to be able to be a lifeguard if they are hired by the City of Steubenville and work all summer we will reimburse them for \$300 that they have to pay to get that certification so we really hope that that information is out there so if there’s people who want to have a summer job now is a great time to get that certification. Have people been in touch with you yet that they are definitely interested in working for the city?”

Lori Fetherolf – “So I have one application that was from a former guard. Ted Gorman called me last week and said he has 6 applications that have been turned into him from students that are currently taking the class.”

Mrs. Hahn – “And there will be more classes offered?”

Lori Fetherolf – “She’s running a class every week up until June 1st.”

Mrs. Hahn – “And then Beatty Park is having a spring walk this coming Saturday at noon. I assumed where we met before is right at the entrance. People have plenty of parking there and then they’ll just walk (all inaudible) different plants and features. So for anybody that is interested that is Beatty Park at noon and I’m sure if you want to come and volunteer they’ll be volunteers there earlier than that. That’s all I have.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. I just wanted Council to be aware we do not have a current lock on the problems in our city. Unfortunately I’m in Florida but I do watch the local news here Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Pembroke Pines other areas around there have water breaks too every day. So that’s the reason (all inaudible) so you get to see it so sometimes it’s easy for us to look at situations as is it always us? It is not. Other cities deal with this all the time so I just wanted Council to know that I do look at other cities when I’m away from ours to see if they have the same issues so I just wanted to let Council know we don’t have a lock on all of our problems. I know that some of the citizens think that it’s just us but it’s not. Other cities have the same issues and that’s all I had to report tonight Mayor.”

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “We’ll now move onto miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening we have Mrs. Anyabwile.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Thank you Mayor. I wanted to know if people are against or for having a Facebook page for the city. I see the advantages of a Facebook page one that it reaches those people who do not come on the city’s website, who do not read the newspaper, who do not go on Channel 9’s website. Number two that we can put announcements out and they can be like by themselves for instance the grant for people to start their own businesses for people that are economically challenged. Now if you go on the website you have to go down into the menu in order to find the information but if you went on a Facebook page that the city had the whole flier in its entirety can be posted right there. People as they page through things they see things; the city necessarily doesn’t have to respond to people; it’s free; it’s a time where the city needs to you know come to where the people are and people are on Facebook and people are on social media. So I wanted to know did anybody have a problem because last week we were able to make a decision on the program the alert and we’re moving forward with that. When we talked about Facebook it kind of just dies. I wanted to know if anyone has a problem.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah I have one. I don’t have a problem with it if it’s only for us to post stuff but there’s comments coming in I’m 100% against it because if you just look at WTOV’s Facebook page or you look at the Herald Star’s Facebook page myself personally I’ve been called a thief, an idiot, a bum, an alcoholic and I don’t even drink, and I know a lot of criticism comes with being a politician but to sit here and listen to that stuff

every day non-stop when you're trying to do the right thing here; if we could have a Facebook page where we can post."

Mrs. Hahn – "Right that's all I want."

Mr. Mastros – "Without comments. Shut that down."

Mrs. Haley – "It's not possible because it would be for the city so you would not be able to shut off the comments at all because it would be considered a city page. So yeah you cannot shut the comments off."

Mr. Mastros – "We did talk about that before."

Mrs. Haley – "Yes we did talk about that. You cannot shut the comments off so it would not be just posting any type of information. There will be interaction; actually there wouldn't be interaction because our IT guy wouldn't be able to keep up with it."

Mr. Villamagna – "We named the street after Mucci a couple of weeks ago and the comments on there were unbelievable. The rudeness and the vulgarity of it and I did forget about that because I asked the Sheriff about that. The Sheriff's Department has a Facebook but they post it right away and a couple guys that we know have stuff to say here and the Sheriff contacted them and said if you continue to do this I'm just going to shut the page down. So they stopped because he does put information out but I'm not for it. I forgot about that."

Mr. Paul – "I know we discussed this before but I couldn't remember. Remember we discussed this Kimberly and I think Scott or Eric wanted to try a Facebook page and this is where we came."

Mr. Villamagna – "There's videos of Council people here."

Mayor Barilla – "I thought we did that before with Cathy Davidson she started a Facebook page."

Mr. Paul – "I don't remember."

Mr. Dressel – "Yes there use to be one and it was terrible."

Mayor Barilla – "That's right and they had to take it down because of the comments. We did try though."

Mrs. Hahn – "Our Parks and Recreation Department have one so people can get that information."

Mr. Dressel – "So I have page on Facebook just for my City Council work and yes you get comments that you don't like. That's the risk of a political page because they don't allow you to ban comments so Asantewa can create her own page for City Council as well if she wishes. I know Eric and I share stuff as do other Council members but we've post all the water notices and trash notices all the time but if you really want to do it just do your own but the city itself if you lived through any of it and I know I lived through it before I was on Council because watching the original City Council Facebook page it was a nightmare. I agree with Bob people are obnoxious when they can say whatever they want without bounds and it was I rarely use the word violent and so asking the city (all inaudible) to perpetuate negative when you have a form that can be read by everyone who for example the Port Authority is trying to coax into opening a business here the last thing you want them to do is scrolling through a hundred miles of crap that no one really needs to hear. Not that you want to hide the truth but this (all inaudible) is not helping selling anything so we need to be more cautious of where we're posting, what we're posting; people can get the information on the website; they can get it from their Council person directly or you're allowed to have your own Facebook page but the city if they're going to put it out there they would have to constantly monitor that and then delete you know foul language, other abusive comments that you can sometimes block but on a political page they don't let you block much. So it's a (all inaudible) idea Asantewa but you really just might want to do your own."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Yes I have a Facebook page and I also have a political page I don't post things on it like that."

Mayor Barilla – "Also we have signing in this evening is Mrs. Hahn."

Mrs. Hahn – "I just want to make a comment and I'm going to keep it vague I sent out an email late afternoon I just got a document I did not know existed before yesterday and I just got a copy today so I let you all know when I got it probably within an hour – hour and a half and I would just ask that you read it before next week."

PUBLIC FORUM

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

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR