

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

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

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for February 23, 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**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes I have a few things. First of all our Parks and Recreation Director has begun putting out the word that we are looking for those who are able to be lifeguards for the pool. They’re going to be a lot of decisions that need to be made along the way but we need to find out whether or not they are people interested and available or those who are pursuing the correct kind of license to be able to do that and so if you are interested would you please get in touch with Lori our Parks and Recreation Director and you can call the City Hall number and you can get connected with her. We will have a Parks and Recreation Board meeting a week from tomorrow night and it will be in the Council Chambers.” Mrs. Hahn also scheduled a Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting for March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Mrs. Hahn also made an announcement that the Friends of Beatty Park will be working this Saturday if any volunteers would like to participate. “Under transportation we had our meeting on the phone the Mayor was there in person; Evan Scurti who is their mobility manager for the County has come up with a really great brochure and I think I have a file and I’ll send it to you Karly and you can print it for Council but I would love to have us even put out a few next week so that everybody can see. SVRTA is really trying to find ways to serve our community and so if you have any specific ideas about routes that you want to encourage them to consider they are open to adding routes and you know with the expansion at (inaudible) and some other places I made the request just to consider you know is there a way that we could have some transportation go out that direction so that some of the people who live here in town that don’t have transportation can get to and from jobs. They’re also trying to do that out in Robinson. So we want to keep that in mind again transportation can be one of those barriers for people to having access to the jobs that are coming available. Under planning we had the first meeting of the CDBG funds where we’re putting together the one year plan for 2021 and the process begins with everyone who is part of that commission and I’m on that; getting an assessment a survey of what we think the needs are in the community so if there’s anything that Council wants to communicate to me to be sure to put on that survey I would love to have any input from you if you want to give that. This is just the first process. We had the first public meeting Monday night and there will be several more meetings but by March 15<sup>th</sup> we’re to have our surveys complete so that gives you a week and a half to let me know what you’re interested in. That’s it. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor.” Mr. Paul sun shined an ordinance approving the Solid Waste Management Plan of the Jefferson Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority and declaring an emergency. “I had a couple questions on it being an emergency. Mr. Mavromatis and I were talking right when I came in. There is no fees to this I know that a couple years ago I can’t remember the gentlemen’s name that was the head of it. Now it’s Anita Petrella but a guy named Cliff; a good guy; but they had every property that you owned; if you owned property and you had a structure on it you paid I think it was \$10.22 fee or something like that and I think in time they cut that back maybe they cut that fee in half. There is no fees in this because Mr. Mavromatis told me earlier it’s a 196 page document. I really don’t want to go making something an emergency but I guess on their part they need this to get to the State is that correct?”

Mr. Mastros – “That’s what I understand.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “This has to be voted on us before the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. We’re the largest component there. If we do not vote on it then they take it as an automatic no.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay then you are going to; there’s a meeting soon for this?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well no they just need our ordinance passed and they’ll have what they need for their plan to pass. We’re the largest component here. We’re the largest city if we don’t respond to this then it’s considered an automatic no. Not a yes in support of it.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “What I have also given to Council this is a sebaceous of the plan. I will send all of you a link that you can hit and that will take you to the whole 196 pages. If you feel free to look at that.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay and that was my concern. I mean I have no problem...”

Mr. Petrella – “I can answer you. That fee is still in existence but they have dwindled it down since as you are aware of my company is one of the contributors there so what their attorney advised them even if it’s fifty cents to keep it on because you never know what the climate is. So there is a very minute.”

Mr. Paul – “I think its four dollars and some cents. I know that didn’t go away.”

Mr. Petrella – “They decreased that probably to less than a dollar because of our increase in volume.”

Mr. Paul – “Right because at the time it was APEX that was having problems.”

Mr. Petrella – “Right.”

Mr. Paul – “That’s correct. Alright I do remember. Yeah that’s how it went about and I know there still is a fee but I just wanted to make sure that there’s no fee attached to this. I’m not going to vote as an emergency and we’re going to put another fee on that no one knows about but when it comes out people are calling me and saying hey how come my tax bill; that’s all I’m asking. I want to do my diligence as a Councilman to make sure and I’ll read this 190 page article.”

Mr. Petrella – “And I attend those meetings as a representative of my company.”

Mr. Paul – “I understand and I know you’re involved.”

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor I want to sunshine two ordinances under planning.” 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 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 and an ordinance providing for the advertisement, bidding and sale of a 2009 Dodge Durango by the Steubenville Planning and Zoning Department. “That’s it Mayor. Thank you.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Just a couple of things. First starting this month is National Women’s Month. Second thing I was on the phone most of the Planning Committee meeting so I didn’t get a chance to input but it was mentioned when I got here that it’s more than normal with doors open and to these vacant properties cats and raccoons running in; children are outside playing; now when it gets warm the potential of snakes being around the properties because I get these complaints there are more of these properties on the south end then there are in the rest of the city. And I noticed when they said after so long the case just gets closed because they either can’t find the owner or the owner died the property just can’t be in limbo. Either I think the City is going to have to do something to go passed that after they tried to find the owner for instance I have one up on Woodland where the owner died four years ago and now the front of the house is literally caving in and children are playing out in front of the house. What’s the next step? So the house may get demoed can the city take it over at that point? Can it be taken for taxes or you know you get so many liens that it’s passed worth of the property. What can be done? Those are just some of the questions that I have you know that I am looking for answers too and we have to do something about these properties. It can’t just be well we closed the case and that’s it. No something has to (all inaudible) to be done about it. That’s it.”

## **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Mr. Mavromatis – “To Council what I passed out to everyone are two publications from alert media. We’ve talked about this several months ago; we have again myself and Mr. Jenkins we had several conversations with them about the cost of it but we have to look for a system that we can notify our citizens here that they can participate in. I’d like you to read these. We’ll discuss it more next week and I may even have their representative on the phone but I just did some basic on initial just so everybody knows we tried to do the reverse 911 we had a little less than 200 people sign up for it and that’s for 911. Everybody has a phone here and even the elderly have phones. We have a dedicated number that is given to us by alert media and it’s identified by the City of Steubenville so they know who’s called in or who’s texting and we design the messages that we sent there. We can geographically send them throughout our city, through the whole city, through parts of the city whatever the case may be. Every one of our department heads that may have issues whether it be the winter time, snow removal Mr. Baird can prepare a notification that needs to go out or if we have water breaks in a specific area in our city so I’d like for you to look at this. It’ll give you an idea for the initial three thousand you’re talking \$3.80 per participant that the city would be paying for this and that’s very reasonable to do. Now again we have approximately 6800 water customers that’s a possible starting point to get people to participate but the beauty of this is you can have family members that may not live here but their parents do that are not big on texting or even answering the phone they can be text with the emergency message

and call their relative here to let them know what's going on so there's a lot of different things that can be utilized by this program. So I'd like you to look at this and next week we'll discuss it more in detail. On the vaccines those of you that may not know the Governor has now extended the administration of it that include our Law Enforcement personnel also includes people with underlying issues. We're down now to 60 years and older so the other thing that we're trying to do is get the vaccine clinic set up for one day here in the city and hold it at our clubhouse at Belleview Park. So what they are waiting for now is to see is the allocations of vaccines because Johnsons & Johnsons just came out with their vaccine with approval to use under emergency and they will get their share based on what's allocated. I haven't heard anything yet from our Health Commissioner but he will notify me once he knows so again we're looking to try and get our employees vaccinated and the people that need to get this so that's where we're at with this. We just finished last week we had our auditors in here. They're now back preparing the report. Right now it looks pretty good; we have a pretty good audit. There may be a couple of recommendations minor things but the bottom line is it looks like our Finance Department has done another outstanding job here and that's all I have to report here tonight." Mr. Mastros – "Thank you Mayor. I'm going to ask for a short executive session meeting next Tuesday one will be for the sale of property for the University and second will be for the Healthcare litigation we had a flurry of activity last week; at the end of the week. We had some information that there were things happening in the case in Columbus which could have been adverse so I spent a lot on the phone with our outside counsel Thursday and Friday; took time over the weekend to go over all my notes; Mr. Mavromatis and I and Mr. Lewis had a conference call with our attorney today and at the end of the day actually things turned out really well. We're not done with it yet but an issued that occurred last week didn't resolve in our favor yet but it's very favorable; the outlook is very favorable but nothing is done yet. But I do want to brief you on that because it's been a long time and the property sale. It'll be short but I'm going to request that for next week. Thank you."

### MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

### 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