

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 30, 2021

Mayor Barilla revealed the plaque that is honoring Dolores Wiggins.

Brief speech by Ms. Wiggins.

Brief speech by Mr. Villamagna.

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 Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, & Petrella.

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

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for March 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

*Mr. Dressel made a motion to table Ordinance No. 2021-19 indefinitely. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. Five (5) ayes; Timmons, Villamagna, Dressel, Paul, Petrella. Two (2) no; Anyabwile, Hahn. So moved motion passed declared Mayor Barilla.

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Well I would just like to make a comment. There has been some discussion regarding different people in City Council who may or may not want this to pass I will be willing to go back and make some amendments to try to get approval because I strongly believe that our constituents here in the city have a right to approach City Council. It doesn't say in the Charter that they have to sign up before they come to City Council. I do understand that there has been issues in the past when some people have show boated or said things that were inappropriate and there have been shouting matches between Council and the audiences which should have not of taken place with that there should be some respect between City Council members among ourselves and also those who approach City Council so I don't believe this is a dead issue. Again I will go back and I will try and if anybody else cares to try to get an ordinance passed where our citizens have a right to come and speak. Again we are the ears and the voice, we're supposed to be, of our city and that's my comment.”

Mr. Dressel – “Yeah I wasn't sure if I needed to but the reason I made that motion is because the ordinance was going to fail. It didn't have enough support. This way we have an opportunity over time to come up with one that will work for everybody. If it failed the odds of bringing it back up again would be even slimmer so it's not gone, it's on the table so that means you can have a committee meeting on it, you can debate it forever until we find something that everyone can agree too but at least this way it's not failed and gone.”

Mr. Villamagna – “What Scott said is 100% right. I think that we should discuss this as a Council not individually. I think we should have some type of meeting for this alone and I'd like to point out in the audience there's not one person here for that ordinance to be read at all. Nobody called and signed up about public speaking and nobody is in the audience to support it. So this is not something that's so important to the citizens that they decided to come down here on a Tuesday night to argue about it and I'd also like if I may I'd like to have the Chief comment on this for a second.”

Chief McCafferty – “Like I said I've been here at Council meetings for over 20 years and I've seen people verbally attacked and I know the Mayor can pound his gavel but once those words are spoken you can't take them back. You have News 9 here you have the Herald Star here and once that person is slandered in public it's pretty much done and that's all Facebook will be talking about the rest of the week; nobody gets to tell their side of the story because I've had officers slandered and I don't have a report in front of me and I'm not going to make a statement unless I can make an intelligent statement of the facts and I mean citizens have been down; nobody is losing their right to speak. Any other meeting that I know of if I want to go across the street to a Commissioner meeting I have to sign up and tell them what I want to talk about. If you go to a Board of Education meeting; nobody is being spiteful it's just everybody here doesn't want to get caught flat footed by some outrageous statement that we can't at least have a response too and I mean I think it's just a good idea. Like I said anybody can come down here all they have to do is sign up and say what you want to talk about but to have somebody walk in and I really question somebody's state of mind in a couple of people that I have seen over the years what state of mine they are in when they came here and they just made outlandish accusations but

once they were out they were out and Mucci was here at the time; like I said once the horse is out of his stable it's out."

Mr. Villamagna – "The Charter says you have to give everybody; you have to give them an opportunity to speak for five minutes. You have to give them an opportunity to speak. It's been researched by Costa Mastros it's been researched by Gary Repella and we are giving you a time to speak but you have to sign up though so we're not violating the Charter either. It's already been researched when we first brought this up and in the beginning like I said we had also you could only speak at every other meeting and we did away with that so you could speak at every meeting so this is no attempt to stifle anybody to make them quiet. It's to have order here because like the Chief said headlines will be Council erupts in confusion or the heated debate an arguments going on. That's it. Thank you."

**NO. 2021-23 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE
A RESOLUTION HONORING THE FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE MEN'S
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM.**

Mrs. Haley – A resolution honoring the Franciscan University of Steubenville Men's Cross Country team. Whereas, the Franciscan University of Steubenville established a men's cross country team this past year. The cross country team competes in the President's Athletic Conference (PAC); and Whereas, in their first year of competing, the men's cross country team, consisting of Liam Galligan, Mark Borek, Miguel Daez, George Kaftan, Austen Duggan, Nate Tokarsky, Michael Sobus, and Aidan Kay won the President's Athletic Conference Championship in cross county running on March 20, 2021; and Whereas, this was the first PAC Championship in the history of Franciscan University in any sport and was accomplished in the first year of competition in the conference; and Whereas, Franciscan University was the only team to have five runners place in the top ten of the conference championship; and Whereas, Senior Liam Galligan won his fourth straight conference championship individual title and was also named as PAC runner of the year; and Whereas, the team was coached by Mr. Daniel Kuebler and Carlo Fabian. Coach Kuebler was named PAC coach of the year; and now therefore, be it ordained by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio Section 1: The Council of the City of Steubenville hereby congratulates and honors the Franciscan University of Steubenville Men's Cross Country Team on their championship season and wishes them the best of luck in next season. Section 2: This Resolution shall take effect at the earliest time allowed by law.

Mr. Timmons made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-23 by roll call. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2021-23 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-18 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd 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.

Mayor Barilla – "You've heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2021-18. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-18 please step forward and state your name and address."

Mrs. Hahn – "What was the Mansuetto Roofing for? Looks like it's almost a hundred thousand dollars."

Mr. Dressel – "The roof on this building plus all additional work done like trimming, painting, gutters, downspout, the doors, etc."

Mr. Dressel called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-18 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on April 29, 2021.

NO. 2021-19 – BY ASANTEWA ANYABWILE – 3rd 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. (This ordinance did not have its third reading due to the motion of it being tabled.)

NO. 2021-20 – BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION – 2nd reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING SECTION 1195.04 AND ENACTING A NEW SECTION 1195.04 OF THE ZONING CODE.

NO. 2021-21 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE.

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to table Resolution No. 2021-21 for one week. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-22 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE THREE-TENTHS (3/10) AND SEVEN-TENTHS (7/10) LEVIES FOR PASSAGE BY THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Resolution No. 2021-22. If anyone would like to speak on Resolution No. 2021-22 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-22 by roll call. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2021-22 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on April 29, 2021.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Timmons – “Yes what I would like to talk about is you know over the past week I heard about another incident where somebody was bitten by a dog, eleven punctures to her leg, we have to do something about this. I’ve heard three other stories where one citizen was cornered in their garage by a couple of loose dogs you know we just have to do something before somebody gets really hurt specifically a kid. Bernie I think you even know one of your relatives was attacked I don’t know when was that?”

Mr. Battistel – “In the summer.”

Mr. Timmons – “Okay so yeah this is an ongoing issue. I’m not sure where we go from here I would love to see us hire somebody with animal control as soon as possible. That’s all I really have to say about it.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yeah just a point of clarification I’m glad you raised this because someone else told me this week that her dog was chased by two very large dogs. The people here need to understand that there’s a law on the books that every dog is to be on a leash when it’s not in an enclosed yard and that’s just law. It is illegal for you to allow your dog to just walk beside you without being on a leash and the Police can stop you and cite you. We need people to be aware of that. It is (all inaudible) and please report loose dogs and they would call out to the county or they would call the Police and the Police would call?”

Chief McCafferty – “If it’s a vicious dog; if it’s a stray dog you call the county if it’s a dog that you believe to be vicious call the Police Department we’ll send an officer to assess the situation.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay but I’m glad Eric mentioned it.”

Chief McCafferty – “The other thing that a lot of people don’t understand is a few years ago Ohio got rid of the vicious dog law. At one time pit bulls and their relatives the State of Ohio had a (all inaudible) they were labeled vicious dogs and you had to have \$100,000 insurance and you had to have a fence with a tarp on it so these vicious dogs could not get out. Well people who owned pit bulls took it to the State and the State got rid of that law and to my understanding we can’t have a law that contradicts that. But a lot of people still think that law is here and it’s not. It’s been gone for several years.”

Mr. Battistel – “It’s now a case by case basis. If that dog does something the court can oppose it but you can’t do it before an incident.”

Chief McCafferty – “Correct any time somebody is bit they go before the Judge; we cite for dog at large and then he goes by; he reviews it and he goes by the severity of what happened so he can deem a dog vicious. If you want to keep the dog you have to go get a \$100,000 insurance, you have to get the proper containment for the dog. But Kimberly you are absolutely right it’s all simple if you keep the dog on a leash this doesn’t happen.”

Mr. Petrella – “Yes you’re Honor I agree with Eric. I don’t know what committee it would come under. Bernie you can figure that one out and then take it to the committee and then have the committee come up with whatever recommendations as Council as a whole.”

Mr. Battistel – “That’ll be under the Safety Committee.”

Mr. Paul – “You’re honor if we go and get to bringing in our Dog Warden back I would want it to be a full fledged Police Officer if we’re going to go that route. I’d rather him be a Police Officer than just a Dog Warden. It would add another Policeman to our department which I think we would need and I think that’s something that we should look; (all inaudible) go that way. I think rather than just getting a Dog Warden out there he would be a Police Officer as well.”

Mr. Timmons – “I agree with that. I would be all for that. We need to act sooner than later. If we didn’t do everything we could to stop this type of stuff and a child gets killed or something by one of these vicious animals.”

Mr. Dressel – “You know the North end of 4th Street is changing and a lot of families with little children (all inaudible) be able to walk yet. My granddaughter is not allowed to walk her dog out of my yard because every time we do the neighbors which is never chained ever (all inaudible) and when I ask the language is typical response you get so I’m so afraid that dog is going to run across the street and eat this baby that she’s pushing in the carriage because it’s little and sometimes she walks she has a toddler as well but I just see her all the time on my security cameras. There’s all kinds of loose dogs out there. Oddly enough we have some loose cats that aren’t very nice either but they tend to run away though. But the dog situation around teeny children is terrifying and my granddaughter will be ten now but I still don’t allow her to walk the dog out of the yard because she isn’t strong enough to grab that dog and run when these dogs come and I just don’t want to go through the horror of it again. So I’m sitting here on City Council and I can’t make this happen either. I will say that sense the dog warden is gone but it’s worse because there’s nobody to call and I don’t know how this works with 911 priority but this is not a priority call from what I can tell and I just don’t think people are going to call 911 when they’re getting attacked by a dog. Maybe we should but we need to educate as well and the leash thing by the way it pertains in Beatty Park as well. (All inaudible) running up in there with their dogs loose running around because they’re having fun which they are in the water. Have them on a 25 foot leash so at least they’re not attacking the next dog that comes along so that’s my two cents worth.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Let me just point out a couple things since I’m familiar with this latest dog attack that occurred out at PNC Bank on Sunset Blvd. It wouldn’t of mattered if you had ten dog wardens here the event still would’ve happened. What the dog warden does is he’s a specific individual that can enforce these things such as going to parks and watching people letting their dogs run loose and not having them on a leash like they should or responding after the fact. I just wanted to make sure Council doesn’t have a false set of security. If we get a Police Officer that the strongest way to go they have full arrest authority and can deal with the issues there. I can tell you this because I hear the calls that are dispatched loose dog and our officers have responded. I have no problems at all with that the only issue is they are responding to a loose dog and I got someone being assaulted in the same area. You can’t control that but again I know what you’re looking for here and that’s fine. I just want to make sure you have a clear understanding because I’m well familiar with this last bite. I just wanted to make those comments so you understand that’s all.”

Mr. Timmons – “And I appreciate that. The issue and I don’t know; I don’t know if this is true but I’m hearing the dog is still at the house?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That is correct.”

Mr. Timmons – “Okay and there’s another issue I’ve been dealing with since last summer where; this is on another street where this and we’ve talked about this actually where the dog is on a leash that is longer than their yard and it goes to this person’s window and wakes them up at 7:30 barking in their face basically. They put up a fence and it really doesn’t do much but curb the actions but (all inaudible) but I think if we had somebody for that kind of situation they could take care of that. You know personally I would feel better if we had a dog warden but I do understand your point. That’s fair.”

Mr. Petrella – “That why I want it deferred to a committee to have a committee meeting so that not only can we establish if it’s a Police officer or a dog warden and put it on the T.O. and everything like that but also look at any existing laws that are on the books pertaining to dogs, cats, and other animals that if we want to promulgate some rules and regulations that’s not in violation to state code we can do that for our citizens in order to be proactive than reactive. So that’s why I referred this subject to a committee.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor one thing.” Mr. Villamagna sun shined a resolution adopting amendments to the City of Steubenville’s Consolidated Plan and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program reprogramming funds. Second by Mr. Paul.

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Yeah I have a couple of things. One is a question if a dog does attack someone with it being provoked should that dog automatically be removed from the house?”

Chief McCafferty – “I don’t believe the Police have the power to take the dog. That’s done by the Judge. Everybody get their day in court. You can’t just seize dogs.”

Mr. Battistel – “That’s correct.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “And the other thing from the Health Department stand point they can order to have the dog quarantined for 10 days. But that’s the Health Department that has to do that and the reason I know that is people that have been treated at the hospital for a dog bite gets reported to the Health Department. They are concerned about rabies is the issue. This is why the dog has to be quarantined for 10 days. If they believe that they can’t quarantine the dog for 10 days then the dog (all inaudible).”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So a person would have to file a lawsuit in order to have (all inaudible).”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well that’s a civil matter where a lot of these things end up is civilly for the damages. That in case that it was your dog that bit somebody and it wasn’t (inaudible) they weren’t being provoked (all inaudible) that’s a civil matter against you for not having your pet controlled. That’s completely out of our hands.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “My second point was about abandoned houses and abandoned lots. I have mentioned before that when a person leaves their home and they no longer you know pay taxes and that house sits if the person cannot be located or say the person died what is the recourse and do we follow the recourse? For instance the house up on Oakmont 741 Oakmont it’s on the corner I just found out that the lady that owned it was in a nursing home and I now understand that she has died so now that house sits and it’ll sit until it dilapidates. What’s the next course?”

Mr. Dressel – “I can answer you. The next thing that happens if she’s been paying her taxes the entire time she was in a nursing home which she probably was or somebody was it has to sit there empty for three years before it becomes delinquent and so once that happens then they can put it on tax sale. Now the County will put it on tax sale and it’s not a city function that county and it’ll go on tax sale I think two times maybe it’s three and then it’ll go to auditor’s sale when it’s really cheap. However any liens that are on that property like a mortgage or somebody bought a car and put a car lien against it they are all on there but when you buy property at a tax sale you want to have a title search done so you know what mess you’re getting into because those liens aren’t going away. So yeah it sits there and rots but if you look at all the vacant property in town; go on the county website and bring the address up and look at the ownership you’ll see that and then whether if it’s delinquent or not is recorded about a third of the way down the page right in the middle it’ll give the year that it went negative. If you have property that you want to buy and you know that is delinquent like that one by the way because I know several people who have looked at that house that are interested in fixing it up. It looks awful but it still structurally salvageable you can the Prosecutor’s office and ask them that they make sure to put it on the sale because they don’t always put everything on the sale because it would take forever to get through the sale of every vacant property was on and there’s 900 it would take forever. So you can buy it that way and once you buy it then you can fix it up so that’s what you need to do if you want someone to fix it up have them buy it. But the property is County issue I don’t think the city has any authority other than if we can declare it

condemned and unsafe we can tear it down. It gets plugged in at the end of the list. I actually think 741 might be on the list if not then you can put it on there. Have them inspect it and put it on the list.”

Mr. Timmons – “If they’re deceased wouldn’t you have to add going through the estate on that too during the time?”

Mr. Dressel – “You could.”

Mr. Timmons – “So it would be more than the three years.”

Mr. Dressel – “It would still come up on tax sale but then you would have to deal with the estate issues.”

Mr. Battistel – “The nursing home could have a lien on it also.”

Mr. Dressel – “Right so it may be worth nothing.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So the new owner would have to pay for someone else’s liens?”

Mr. Dressel – “If the liens are current active on them then yes.”

Mr. Petrella – “If you want to check; check with Chris Petrossi to see if it’s on the demolition list.”

Mrs. Anyabwile also called a Council as a whole committee meeting for Tuesday April 13th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the ordinance that was tabled today.

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – No Report

Mr. Paul – No Report

Mr. Petrella – “Yes you’re Honor.” Mr. Petrella sun shined a resolution as Council as a whole declaring April 2021 as Minority Health Month. Second by Mr. Villamagna.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. A few weeks ago I asked Council to pass for the support of the solid waste authority plan and I wanted to let you know the results of it. The population in Jefferson County is 66,465 and the population that approved that plan was 50,046 or 75% that approved it. They needed 60% of passage and they were well over it so I wanted Council to know that that came through. Last Friday March 26 we had all of our remaining employees that have not received their vaccine it was given to them at the Health Department and those are the ones that wanted to have the vaccine so that was their first shot. We’ve had several employees vaccinated Police, Fire which was a little bit earlier (all inaudible) again not all of our employees wanted it again it was made available to them so we had a good success rate there. Now their second shot has been arranged for it to be like the first one was on a Friday so if there are any adverse reactions they’ll be able to deal with it Saturday and Sunday while they’re off. I checked with Mr. Baird today he had two employees that didn’t feel well I guess on Monday so they were off on Monday but that’s where we’re at with that so I wanted Council to know that we took care of our employees. Now the Health Department is going to have a mobile clinic at 260 N. 7th St. at the Urban Mission and it’ll be a walk on. You can park but you will walk up to get your vaccine there and it’s going to be on April 7th and April 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and that’s being set up by our Health Department. Again that’s all I had to report for that.”

Mr. Petrella – “Any criteria for that?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No. Right now the last I heard it was down to 16 years old so just walk up there and give them the necessary information which will be your name, birth date, phone number to reach you and there’s paper work that you fill out there.”

Mr. Dressel – “What building will that be at?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I believe they’ll have tents in the parking lot.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay so where they do the food distribution in that area.”

Mayor Barilla – “Where Kroger use to be.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay I get it.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I just wanted to thank you because we raised the issue of trying to get something downtown so people weren’t trying to drive and it seems to come together well with the idea that April is Minority Health Month and it won’t only be minorities it’ll be available to everyone. I think that’s really great and thank you very much.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well the city has been very supportive to the Health Dept. as they are to the City of Steubenville and I talked to the Commissioner almost every day and so he’s been very good to us; suggestions were made to him and they were able to accommodate them so I will tell you all of the employees at that Health Dept. since this pandemic started has worked long hours to make this happen and to get people vaccinated. I’m just grateful we were able to get our employees taken care of. A lot of them have worked without the vaccine but they’ve done their job every day.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I’ve been there four times now twice with my wife and twice for me and every time I’ve been there I know there’s a lot of volunteers that are working there. It’s so orderly and they are so pleasant and helpful it was unbelievable you know for that amount of people to volunteer their services and I’m sure there was some people there that were paid everybody was very professional and it went off like clockwork with a lot of people there.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I appreciate that and I will let them know.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes please. Thank you.”

Mr. Battistel – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “We’ll now move onto miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening we have Mr. Petrella. Mr. Petrella – “Yes you’re Honor. I know I’m starting to sound like a broken record once again it’s on the weeds and the litter and structures and everything else. You know we were talking earlier about maybe hiring some people to cut lots and see about designating a couple of city employees to do it. Where do we sit and stand on that? You know spring is here now. We were talking about it in the winter and all but spring is here things are going to start happening real quickly so do we have to go to a committee. What do we have to do to start organizing this? To making this happen?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well you’re going to get hit with snow Thursday and hopefully that’ll be the last snow of the year and with that being said I’ve talked with Mr. Baird about this I have no problems with putting five requests when we get five part time people on with one full time employee supervising that and going to the hot spots within the city and again we should have the money for this based on everything that is happening. The other good thing until we get the final guidance on this American Act we may have additional funding that we can use for that.”

Mr. Petrella – “Now our sore spots up and around Murphy’s Field I’ve been complaining about for the last two or three years you know you’re a pretty tall guy Jim and there’s weeds higher than you there and you got children at the ball park and everything else and before we start getting other (inaudible) coming into those weeds I’d like to get them cut and cleaned up. Let’s start where we have a lot of people going. We have ballparks, dilapidated structures, we have high weeds let’s start there and get those areas where a lot of people congregate and then we can move on to the hot spots.

Mrs. Hahn – “So it could be we need to call for whoever is on Health and Safety both for the dog catcher and if you want to do anything specific about the weeds. I do have one quick question to follow up because we talked and Costa said all we have to do is put a notice in the paper and five days later we can go on that property and cut the weeds. Okay that door is still open and we’re talking more than a year and four months on Oak Grove and the weeds and bushes are taller by far than anyone in this room and I guess I thought once we had the conversation that Costa was going to direct for that to go out to the paper and we were going to move on that. So do we need to take action beyond that or I didn’t even think we had to pass another ordinance. I thought we said that’s the way the Ohio Revised Code goes and so we post it in the paper and five days later we’re taking care of it and lien the property. Does anybody recall?”

Mr. Dressel – “Well yeah I mean we did make all those decisions. One thing we didn’t do is hire anybody yet. So I think we need to have a committee meeting and make sure that we insist getting hired and try and make it happen. This is the fifth year I’ve heard the same discussion and (all inaudible) data base needs to be maintain with all these addresses because it never changes. It gets worse every year as we tear things down.”

Mrs. Hahn – “The very least I want that door secured. It’s been a year almost a year and a half.”

Mr. Dressel – “Whatever we need to do let’s talk about it so Jim has a clear direction and get it going because we all know it isn’t happening and it didn’t last year or the year before etc. and Willie knows and Bob knows.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Does anyone know who would be the one to just know and be responsible and notify the newspaper?”

Few People – “(All inaudible)”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Law Director’s office. You want a legal notification that’s going to come out of that office.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim I know we was going to hire some people here but we haven’t hired anybody on board yet right?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No. Are you talking about the part time employees?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No we have not.”

Mr. Villamagna – “But is it in the process? Are we trying to get them now?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No we will be. There’s nothing in the works right now.”

Mr. Villamagna – “When will we get them do you know?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’ll meet this week with Bob Baird and see what we need to do to get this. If Council has to do an amendment to our T.O. but I believe he already has something in there for part time people for summer help. It’s just a matter of what time you put them on.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I’m hoping that’s where the problem is because Scott is right we’ve been talking about this for a long time.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well there’s problems all over this city and it’s getting worse because of the people you have living in this town that have no discipline whatsoever. And again we got to have the right laws in place or all we’re going to be doing is cleaning up here every year. I mean constantly. There has to be accountability here.”

Mr. Dressel – “I agree but that’s our job to clean it up.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I understand. We can get the people but it’s the money.”

Mr. Dressel – “I understand but we never do it.”

Mr. Petrella – “I think; did Chris compile a list?”

Mr. Dressel – “He has a demo list.”

Mr. Petrella – “I mean of the lots. Have we identified the weeds and lots and the homes. Eric and I stopped I think it was two weeks ago up on Pennsylvania Ave. it was horrible and that property was in bankruptcy I guess what Chris said. So I mean we need to contact whoever is handling that bankruptcy to get that cleaned up. Because the front lawn was just a big trash can that’s all it was and the two houses side by side on Pennsylvania Ave. all they were was a garbage dump period. It was all illegal dumping. Let’s call it what it is. I don’t know if

JB Green Team can help us on that on some of those illegal dumps or not but you know we have to explore all the avenues now.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So even putting the properties in the newspaper actually some of the properties that have weeds are even owned by the city. There’s two properties down on the corner of Garrett and Linden that are owned by the city and the weeds are taller than me. Different properties in the city that are owned by the city as far as running list I know Chris has a list of abandoned houses. I’m not sure who has the list for the weed lots but I keep a list of all the south end ones whenever I go by or whenever somebody tells me I have a list of what the address is and what’s going on with the property and the date I reported it and the officer that handles weeds he sends me an email when he sends them a citation so there are lists of these properties that are in Steubenville that are in disarray. One thing we do have money in the litter fund I guess that’s what it maybe can be used for is to maybe or have the youth; I don’t know I talked to Costa about this about having youth go on the lots and paying them from that fund or whatever fund we can use in order to get these lots cleaned up because it’s not getting any better. So I would like to see some action done also.”

Mr. Timmons – “One thing about the youth and that’s a good idea but I’m curious who would you have supervise them?”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “We could maybe get a city employee or even let’s say for instance one of the youth organizations. For instance the Fisher Council or Bobby John or Labelle Neighbors who care and you know someone that’s already working with youth. Just a suggestions.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim one thing I’ve been here all my life. I ride around these neighborhoods and they’re not getting any better. They’re getting worse so I always try to figure out what the problem is and there’s definitely a problem. The problem is when the neighborhoods were good; I have the 1976 roster from the city and I can’t remember off the top of my head but I want to say there was probably 60 employees and I could be wrong in the M & R Department. Today our population is dropping and they are claiming around 16,000 by the end of the year I don’t know if there really is a solution to this but it’s been going on forever because you can’t make me be clean. I don’t know if there’s a way out of it besides to stay on it and maybe get some part time help just dedicated to that because if you don’t have employees dedicated to doing this. Like when we brought up the dog warden he’s going to be a Police Officer but majority of his time will be dedicated to the dogs and then he’ll do police work and its happened a hundred times when I was on the Police Department you have a detail but then you start getting calls and then you can’t do the detail and it never gets caught up. You got to stick up for the employees a little bit. I don’t know what the answer is.”

Mr. Timmons – “Remember Jim when we first started attacking the delinquency with the water bills and people stealing and by-passing and we pretty much made an example out of when we caught somebody doing it and it seemed like everybody else fell in line. We don’t have the problem anymore we’ve taken care of it. I just think it we make an example of some of the worst offenders and locations people will see we’re not going to put up with it and starting falling in line. That’s just one thing.”

Mr. Petrella – “Here’s one of the problems and Lori can attest to it because it’s in the alley right behind Murphy’s Field. The garbage guys come in and they go through that alley and there’s two houses on Union Ave. they collect the garbage the very next day it’s worse than what it was the day before they collected it. Am I correct Lori?”

Lori Fetherolf – “Yeah.”

Mr. Petrella – “And I mean once again its right near a ball park. So I mean you can’t produce that much garbage. I’m sorry. And the neighbors around there call because they can’t even get into their garage because of how much garbage that generate by these two homes and I agree with Eric if we make an example.”

Mr. Dressel – “I think Asantewa bringing up the point of getting some of the kids and youth groups involved and helping clean and that is a solution if we can get enough of them used to doing it then they’ll grow up doing it because clearly we have to be examples and create examples of whatever it is that we want to happen. So I think that’s a good solution and when you see some of the groups on the Hilltop do that they do have some success but if you don’t get the kids involved and the kids parents never get them involved then we’re perpetuating the same situation over again. So maybe we do need to figure out some way to create some sort of interactive summer involvement for the kids to help clean Steubenville up and give them more pride in the city.”

Mayor Barilla – “Do the schools have some type of program?”

Mr. Dressel – “There are some. We should ask if we can create some sort of thing because it doesn’t matter how old they are but I know we don’t want teeny kids out there potentially picking up something hazardous but there are lots of ways to teach people how to keep their yard clean.”

Mayor Barilla – “I think the University has somethings that they have to do community service and I believe the high schools as well.”

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