

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 13, 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, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Parks & Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for April 6, 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. 2021-24 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE’S CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM REPROGRAMMING FUNDS.

NO. 2021-26 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND MAYOR TO SIGN A CONVEYANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE JEFFERSON COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TO EFFECTUATE THE SALE OF TWO PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE TO THE FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE.

Mr. Mastros made a brief statement that we could have the second and third reading of this ordinance but we might have to table this ordinance because he’s still in the process of working on the agreements with ourselves, the Port Authority, and Franciscan University. He’s hoping that he’ll have the first draft done soon and to give a copy to the Port Authority and Franciscan University.

NO. 2021-27 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE TWO CONCILIATION AGREEMENTS AND CONSENT ORDERS WITH THE OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION AND AMENDING CHAPTER 1175 OF THE ZONING CODE, THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT ORDINANCE, PURSUANT TO SAID AGREEMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Mastros asked Council to table this ordinance until after the Public Hearing on June 7th. Mr. Villamagna made a motion to table this ordinance until after the Public Hearing on June 7th. Second by Mrs. Hahn. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-28 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 100 HARDING AVENUE, 1228 TWEED AVENUE, 1317 WELLESLEY AVENUE, 1319 WELLESLEY AVENUE, 634 N. 5TH STREET AND 841 LINCOLN AVENUE TO BE UNSAFE STRUCTURES AS DEFINED BY SECTION 108 OF THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO AND DECLARING SUCH TO BE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND ORDERING THE REMOVAL OR DEMOLITION OF SUCH UNSAFE STRUCTURES.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I would like to make a suggestion that because of all the weeds and the litter and that we had discussed earlier at the last meeting to perhaps reinforcing fines and then having people do public service

and also putting their names in the paper as you know like when someone gets a traffic ticket how their name is listed that also that their names be listed because of trash and weeds in the city.”

Mr. Timmons – “I like that idea. Is that up to the newspaper to put the name in there? I don’t know how that works.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Normally the arrest we make the press comes down every morning and they’ll look at our reports over there. That’s where they get the information that was recorded so what they would have to do is look at the dockets of the court every day he has court and gives sentences out so the press would have to look at that. We don’t control that.”

Mr. Timmons – “Right. (All inaudible) I mean I like the idea. We almost have to put it on our website Asantewa saying who the violators are or something like that. We can’t force the newspaper but I do I like the idea a lot.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Yeah you know just a way of addressing and making everyone responsible to start getting the city cleaned up.”

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes the Parks and Recreation Board meeting is this Wednesday tomorrow night right here in Council Chambers and it’s opened to the public.

Mr. Paul – No Report

Mr. Petrella – “I do have a question you’re Honor. We were talking about hiring some part time help to do the weeds and litter or contract that out. Jim where do we stand with that?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mr. Baird has put out the request for part time people and as soon as we can get them filled we’ll get them filled. They are still down positions in his department and he just lost two that went over into the Parks and Rec Department so we’re trying to get our permanent people up and then our part time. But I am in full agreement with that. I think that’s the smart way to do it. We just targeted our target locations.”

Mr. Petrella – “Thank you. That’s all your Honor.”

Mr. Timmons – “Jim I received several calls from a citizen of Foster Place. If you could have or see if they could patrol that area a little more there seems to be a group that’s vandalizing and doing stuff in that area.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Is there a contact person you could give me.”

Mr. Timmons – “I could give that to you.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Will you send that to me?”

Mr. Timmons – “I will.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Because that will help us with other questions that we need to ask.”

Mr. Timmons – “Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. Yesterday morning we were able to meet, myself and the Mayor Barilla and several Council and Commissioners, the Governor was here. He made a special trip to see how the vaccine sight was going. Determined if we needed any assistance up here and we had a nice visit with him. It was nice that he made time to come up here and he’s been very pleased with the administration of the vaccines that has come out of our Health Department, Trinity, and our pharmacies in the town here. So the main thing that I asked him was to keep the supply with Ohio Department of Health make sure they keep the supplying us with these vaccines so we can get these out to our people and that’s all I have to report tonight Mayor.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Jim I just have a quick question. So I was watching the news report earlier and Dr. Fauci said out of concerns for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine they’re pausing a few people have had a very strong reactions with blood clots and I’m pretty sure that’s the vaccination that we offered up at the Urban Mission and I just wondered do we have any more information or is it just going to depend on newspaper articles? Because I know people are concerned.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mr. Petrella asked me this. This just came out. That is exactly what was set up for I believe the 21st. I’ll be meeting tomorrow with the Health Dept. and find out; the only option that they have to go too is the two shot vaccine until they rectify what they are going to do with Johnson and Johnson. So I would eventually say that will be their plan to go but I’ll verify that and let you know tomorrow.”

Mrs. Hahn – “So if the 21st is the Johnson and Johnson do we not or are we not sure?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Unless something changes right now it’ll have to be another vaccine. Something could come out; they change rules every day what they are going to do but the bottom line is if they pulled that vaccine what you have is what is on the market now and again my recommendation would be to still have the walk up vaccine center only again you have to explain to them you got to come back within a month to get the second dose.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you.”

Mike Dolak – “Council I passed out a little packet that has three separate items attached to it. The first one is a memo from myself and Mr. Mavromatis and it has to do with the recommendation for award for our 2021 City Asphalt Resurfacing Program. We opened up bids last Wednesday April 7th and we received two bids. Our engineer’s estimate \$532,000. The two bids we received was from one from NLS Paving for \$480,000 and one from Shelly and Sands for \$452,000. It’s our recommendation that we enter into a contract with Shelly and Sands out of Rayland, Ohio for approximately \$452,000 the roadways that are included in this project are Fairway Drive, Pine Valley Drive, another section of Pine Valley Drive, and Doral Drive those are around in the Country Club area. The only thing about this project is it’s tied with some grant funding. The grant funding

will not be awarded until July 1st so this project probably will not start until mid-July to late July. The grant is for 50% of the cost roughly 49% so about \$260,000 grant. Any questions on that one?"

Mrs. Hahn – "Just one. So is it possible to add just one more street?"

Mike Dolak – "No. The grant money is tied to just those. The next thing you have in your hands is you'll see a co-operation agreement. This is an agreement that we're going to have Jim sign to go in with the County; the County is going to pay the Jefferson County which we know as Wilson Ave. Wilson Ave. runs from Lincoln Ave. down by Circle K and our corporation limit runs about 700 feet so this is a joint venture with them and the whole project is about 3 miles long and our section is only 23 feet wide by 700 feet and it's approximate cost of \$26,000. We'll enter into a contract; Jim will sign a contract with the County and they'll administer that project and that project probably will not start until mid-July as well. Any questions on that?"

Mr. Dressel – "Do you need us to sun shine legislation?"

Mike Dolak – "I don't think so Scott (all inaudible). I saved the best for last. This is a press release hopefully you all received Norfolk Southern and railroad needs to do some work on the rail bridge that crosses State Route 7 and the marina road just north of the marina entrance and they need to do that on Saturday April 17th. They are going to start at 7:00 in the morning to 6:00 p.m. and on the back of the second page you'll see a detour route we've been working with them for the last six months to develop the detour route which will be Washington Street to 7th Street, out to University and down Route 7. This is just for the North bound lanes; just for north bound State Route 7 and they're telling me that they can get it done in 5 to 6 hours. Well you know how sometimes construction works so contingency day is Sunday as well. They'll be utilizing some of our Law Enforcement Officers at 5 different intersections to monitor traffic and to help (all inaudible)."

Mayor Barilla asked about an unimproved street to be put on the list.

Mr. Dolak said he could add it to the list but the list is set until 2025 as long as funding is available.

Mrs. Anyabwile – "When is Spring and Hill?"

Mike Dolak – "That is in our CDBG project we actually have a preconstruction meeting set for next week. I'm thinking you're going to see some activity out there the beginning of May. The asphalt plans just opened up in the last couple of days."

Mr. Villamagna – "Can you update on Dresden Ave. a little bit."

Mike Dolak – "Yes Dresden Ave. that's going to happen this year. The gas company needs to replace a gas line up there so right now up in the Lincoln Heights area you'll see a lot of activity going on. Since 2008 the gas company has been upgrading gas lines throughout the city upgrading from steel to plastic; upgrading all the meters and bringing the meters if they're inside the homes to bring the meters outside the homes because everything (all inaudible). So we're working with them diligently to get to Dresden Ave. Arden area done as quickly as possible so that we can do our unimproved section of Dresden Ave. That project may get delayed a couple months but we're working with them to get that done."

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now move onto miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening we have Mrs. Hahn."

Mrs. Hahn – "I had someone come up and ask me today whether or not it would be possible since the City owns this land to put; if the citizens themselves if the neighborhood itself raised the funds for it to put a nice sign as you're coming up Wellesley "Welcome to LaBelle" and possible before you go on the bridge to do a sign that would be "LaBelle to the left and Pleasant Heights to the Right" and have it be something attractive. I didn't even know where to begin."

Mr. Dressel – "I think Teresa DiCarlantonio actually presented this concept a couple of years ago for on each side of the bridge. I don't think Wellesley was in the mix then and I don't have any idea where that went. I thought they were working on raising the funds to put those signs up and I think they have gotten information from Chris as to where they could put it so it wasn't in the right-of-way so that wouldn't cause an issue with the road and you can still see it. So I would ask her but it's been a couple of years."

Mrs. Hahn also talked about an email that she received about an hour long that's from the State of Ohio on guiding the city on how they should spend the money they received from the State.

Mr. Paul informed Mrs. Hahn that all of Council had received that email from the Port Authority.

Mrs. Hahn also brought up legislation that Senator Frank Hoagland is working on called "Self-Help" and it's about citizens helping with fix/fill pot holes in their areas. They would be able to buy the materials to do the job and then they could apply the money spent towards their Ohio taxes. They would not be reimbursed and it would only be for the materials and not the labor that was done. Mrs. Hahn was wondering if this was an option. Mr. Mavromatis informed Mrs. Hahn that if it's a city alley then it's the city's property and they would have to follow their guidelines on how they patch it. He informed Mrs. Hahn if it passes what it says and if the city chooses to allow this then the citizens have to follow the guidelines that the city has to follow.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – “We’ll now move onto public forum and signing in this evening we have Michael McIntyre. Mr. McIntyre please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. McIntyre had to leave this evening. Bridget Jones stood in his place and said that he asked for the Board Committees and the times they meet. The Clerk of Council provided all the information to Mr. McIntyre and Ms. Jones thanked the Clerk for Mr. McIntyre.

Mr. Royal Mayo also signed up for Public Forum. Mr. Mayo spoke about the pay disparity among the City Employees and the City Manager informed Mr. Mayo that he would call him tomorrow to discuss this matter in further detail. Mr. Mayo also brought up about how there isn’t a grocery store in the downtown area for the citizens of downtown. Mayor Barilla, Mrs. Anyabwile, Mr. Dressel and other Council Members all informed Mr. Mayo that they have been trying for some time to try and get a grocery store for the downtown citizens and have been denied by several bigger chains but they haven’t given up hope and are still trying to contact smaller chains to open a grocery store in the downtown area. Mr. Mayo also brought up about police policies on arrests and discretion and told a story about how everyone should be treated the same no matter what crime they are being charged with or who they know. Finally he spoke about the lack of diversity in the Police and Fire Departments and Mr. Mayo was informed by the Police Chief that they did have a couple African Americans on the Police force but one quit and the other took a job in the Pittsburgh area. The Police Chief also let Mr. Mayo know that the Police Department had a female officer but she quit the job to rejoin the military because it was more money. Mr. Mavromatis informed Mr. Mayo that he sent an email to the NAACP informing them that the city would love to see more diversity in the city’s Police and Fire Departments.

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