

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 20, 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, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Parks & Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for April 13, 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 – 3rd reading
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE’S
CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
PROGRAM REPROGRAMMING FUNDS.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2021-24. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-24 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-24 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on May 20, 2021.

NO. 2021-26 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd 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.

NO. 2021-28 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd 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.

NO. 2021-29 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st 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
THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE, LOCATED AT 3100 ST. CHARLES DRIVE, STEUBENVILLE,
OHIO, FROM “R-1A” LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AND “R-2” MEDIUM DENSITY
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO “P” PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC DISTRICT.

NO. 2021-30 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st 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
THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE, LOCATED AT 200 ROSEMONT AVENUE AND 100 ETTA
AVENUE, STEUBENVILLE, OHIO FROM “R-1” LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO “P”

PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC DISTRICT.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Dressel – “I do have one thing I wanted to mention briefly before the meeting we discussed the fact that we aren’t getting the lifeguards we need to open the pool. One of the problems that Lori is facing is being stuck at \$9.25 an hour because the T.O. currently states 9.25 and she has no flexibility. We don’t have to make a decision now but I would like to propose that we maybe give her a range that would pertain probably to the pool and any other part-time temporary help that the Parks and Rec would hire in and maybe we should look at whether it would pertain to Bob Baird as well I have no idea what the T.O. says for his temp workers or even if there’s a rate in there. So anyway maybe we should get that to Dave Lewis and see if we can create a range and then sunshine an ordinance that maybe we can pass on an emergency because if she doesn’t have lifeguards we aren’t opening the pool and we are short six. We have two correct?”

Mr. Timmons – “We’re advertising for them now though correct? So we need to get that handled as soon as possible if you’re going to be able to get them.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Did you contact that number I gave you?”

Mayor Barilla – “When does the pool open?”

Lori Fetherolf – “First week of June.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay a couple of different things. We may have snow tomorrow but Thursday by all accounts is still going to be opening day for Little League. If you haven’t had a chance to see the fields they are really worth coming down and seeing and supporting the kiddos. The first game will be at 5:00 and they’ll run games at 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00. Also Thursday at 7:00 at Belleview Clubhouse is going to be the next meeting for Friends of Beatty Park so if you are interested in seeing what they are doing or what they are hoping to do and to volunteer that would be a great time to come to the clubhouse at 7:00 Thursday and be able to see that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “There’s over 230 kids in that program. They started out with a handful of kids and now have 230.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor I have two items.” Mr. Paul sun shined a resolution under Finance, a resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded in 2021. Second by Mr. Petrella. “Another thing I would like to thank Bob Baird; I would to commend them and thank them Bob Baird, Joe Marracino, and the M & R Department for the great job they are doing up and down Sunset Blvd. cleaning all the sidewalks, taking all the grass out, cleaning along the curb line all the stuff that accumulates over the fall/winter months. I think they are doing a great job and it’s a (inaudible) performance on the M & R Department and like I said it looks fantastic.”

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – “Yes I just have one thing to bring up. I received a call from a citizen and it seems like we talk about this every year under utilities it was decided several years ago that we no longer for people that fill in their swimming pools we use to not charge for sewage.”

Mr. Mastro – “That was years ago yes.”

Mr. Timmons – “Have we ever discussed bringing that back or what was the reasons we got rid of that? Was it not cost efficient?”

Mr. Mastro – “I don’t remember. That was before my time but I remember that rule being in place and people telling me about that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “A citizen came down here and he complained that he had to pay if he watered his garden.”

Mr. Paul – “He said he couldn’t afford a pool so why should you; I remember that.” Mr. Paul suggested to give Mr. Timmons the number for Water Transport and it’s cheaper to do it that way.

Mr. Villamagna – “Thank you. I want to reiterate what Willie said about the sidewalks they did a great job and it makes a world of a difference.” Mr. Villamagna also sun shined an ordinance along with Mr. Paul, Mr. Timmons, and Mr. Petrella amending Ordinance No. 2017-88 to amend Section 2 from Friday at 4:00 p.m. to Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. Second by Paul, Timmons, Petrella.

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I had a question about the dedicated officer for animal control. Are we still going to get a Policeman to be dedicated (all inaudible)?”

Mr. Timmons – “I brought that up a few weeks ago. I was up on Maryland Ave. just last night and there was a loose dog running around. I still think and I understand the pros and cons there’s nothing the officer can do at certain points but we definitely need to do something. We had that person attacked by PNC Bank about a month ago but I agree there should be something done. I don’t know which direction Council wants to go but I think we did talk about getting an officer dedicated solely to that.”

Mr. Paul – “Let me discuss with Mr. Mavromatis and the Chief. It’s so hard to cover all the bases on this and we should do it under safety.”

Mr. Timmons – “But if I’m understand correctly you can at any time call the Police and if it’s a dangerous animal they will take care of it.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes. Mr. Paul is it possible that you can call a safety meeting in two weeks?”

Mr. Paul – “I can.”

Mr. Paul asked to have a Safety Committee Meeting on May 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So I just heard Mr. Villamagna sunshine the ordinance that I too also have been working on so I was taking into consideration what was said last night about changing it to noon and some of us still believe

that we should have no sign ups. So I don't know what that protocol is because there were a couple things in the ordinance that I was trying to amend it you know that I still wanted to see."

Mr. Timmons – "With this ordinance that you sunshine Bob I think this gets the best of both worlds. If you want your question answered that evening you sign up before 12:00 on Tuesday. If not then it's a public forum because the Mayor as the Charter says has total control of who he calls on. He can call on anybody any night let them speak about anything so you still have that. It's what everybody wanted but it's going to be up to the Mayor to regulate but it's just like we had in the beginning except now there's a sign up if you want to get your question answered on that Tuesday night."

Mr. Villamagna – "And we've done that during committee meetings. You've called on people. I have, you have."

Mr. Timmons – "But yeah I think the Mayor just says is there anybody here for Public Forum; somebody raises their hand; he calls on them and they talk about anything they want. So you have that."

Mr. Petrella – "Hey Eric it has to be pertinent to City business."

Mr. Timmons – "Well yes of course but yes that would be exactly what we're looking for an open public forum. You sign up if you want questions answered."

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. Tomorrow starting at 9:00 a.m. on the 200 block of N. 7th Street the Jefferson County Health Dept. will have another walk-up vaccine set up there."

Mr. Petrella – "The question that Councilwoman Hahn and myself had was is this going to be the Johnson and Johnson?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "No this will be a two dose vaccine. Thank you for bringing that up. It is a two shot vaccine. Tomorrow will be the first day 30 days later will be the second one but they are setting this up tomorrow. Our streets department will be helping them with barricades for the area and then picking them back up later in the day."

Mr. Petrella – "To make this perfectly clear; one tomorrow; I walk up and I get my first shot 30 days later only the ones that received the first shot will be eligible to get the second shot is that right?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "That's correct. They can only give the second shot of the same manufacturer."

Mr. Paul – "Just have your card. Don't lose your card."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Even if they do lose it they have the records in their computers and they can pull it right back up. So now again hopefully they'll remember what day but we'll make a notice to News 9 and the paper of when the next one will be up."

Mr. Paul – "I think they said it's going to be awhile before they figure out about this Johnson and Johnson."

Mr. Petrella – "The clarification that I wanted to make Willie is when they come for their second shot the people cannot go that's never had one."

Mr. Paul – "Is this the second shot?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "No this is the first shot tomorrow. 30 days from then they'll get their second shot. Now I will tell you the concern they have nowhere near the numbers they had from the first time so again when the second times up depending on what they have they may do the second shots in the morning and anyone else in the afternoon. The other thing is I had a phone call from a pharmacist from Walgreens anybody that is interested in getting their vaccines please contact Walgreens because apparently they have the vaccines available and they are trying to get people so I notified several businesses in town here but the majority of them of the employees that wanted to take the vaccine have it already but again I wanted Council to know this just the general public."

Mr. Dressel – "Is that 7:00 a.m. again tomorrow?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "No 9:00 a.m. That's all I have for 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. Hahn."

Mrs. Hahn – "I have a few questions and I don't know who is best to be able to answer these. You might know Costa or maybe you Jim or it could be you'll have to get back to me. I'm seeing a lot more cars being parked in their front yards; that's not legal correct?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes. You're correct it's not legal."

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Do you have the addresses?"

Mrs. Hahn – "No but I can go back and get them. Do you need a photo of it?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "No I just need the addresses and I will forward this over to the Chief and our Code Enforcement Officer to handle that. We just need to know where to go."

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay I will call. Then there is a person pulling in a tractor trailer on Ridge and I've seen it three different evenings on Ridge. Are massive trucks with a personal cab; I'm not talking about a personal truck I'm talking about a tractor trailer; are they allowed to park in residential areas?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "No."

Mrs. Hahn – “Then I don’t know what the source of it is there is so much litter on Wellesley and on the hill side there are two mattresses; I’m not talking about (all inaudible) there are two mattresses up on the hillside, there’s garbage on both sides and I don’t know if we got some volunteers to bag it but with the mattresses can we ask the sanitation department to pick it up?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes.”

Mrs. Hahn – “It’s all over the place and I don’t think there’s a way to identify who did it but I’m really concerned it’s just going to continue growing because (all inaudible.)”

Mr. Paul – “It’s just going to be common practice because everybody thinks this is a dump site.”

Mr. Timmons – “It’s like the tires up on Maryland.”

Mrs. Hahn – “And Wellesley a really beautiful drive up.”

Mr. Timmons – “I think I turned those in and I got the pictures. I would be hesitant though to pick up some of those mattresses because of bed bugs and what not.”

Mrs. Hahn – “They are like in the woods. They’re not on the side of the road.”

Mayor Barilla – “Is it vacant property?”

Mrs. Hahn – “No it’s city property. The one side; I don’t know does the city own both sides of Wellesley?”

Mr. Paul – “There’s an easement right Costa?”

Mr. Mastros – “On the road yeah we have an easement.”

Mr. Petrella – “Hey Jim wouldn’t that be handled through JB Green Team as an illegal dump?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “It could be. I think they’re focusing; at the last meeting they are focusing on trying to get an officer supplied by the County to focus on several dump sites but we can forward that to them also. We’re a part of JB Green Team.”

Mrs. Hahn – “If they would be willing to pick up the two mattresses and then I can get a couple of people and we can pick up the trash.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Coming up from University is this going to be on the right or the left?”

Mrs. Hahn – “The two mattresses are both on the left coming up the hill and then the trash is scattered.”

Mr. Paul – “Yeah you know that’s a good idea what Craig said about JB Green Team because we are the biggest contributor to their efforts so yeah let’s see if we can get that code enforcement officer to help us out with this. That’s a good idea. I like that.”

Mr. Timmons – “Jim is there any way that we can get after the bulk pickups are finished; can we get a report of the amount of garbage we picked up as a comparison to other years. Is that something we can do?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Absolutely.”

Mr. Timmons – “I drove around the locations and I saw just it seems like more people are abusing it this year than in past years. There were some really bad locations so I’m just curious.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Just a general statement to what’s happened if you look at the last year people have been home more than they ever have and they have spent time cleaning out things so that’s contributed to some. That’s part of it but not all of it. You still have individuals that bring garbage from outside of our city and you have people here that just throw things to get rid of it. But to answer your question yes I’ll let Mr. Baird know that when he’s done with all the bulk pickups he knows exactly what’s picked up and what’s taken over to the landfills so I’ll have a report for Council on that.”

Mr. Timmons – “Thanks.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I got two more questions. One there was a house demolished on Wellesley and when you drive by I don’t know what they didn’t quite do correctly on the hill; it’s just a hill in front of the house it’s not a big hill but there are two very deep trenches and now that they’re formed every time the water comes down it just rushes down and it’s making it deeper. Can we go back to the person that did the demolition and say hey you got to fix this.”

Mr. Paul – “How long ago was it? Do you remember?”

Mrs. Hahn – “I think it was just last year. That’s in our ordinance you have to backfill a certain amount of aggregate so that doesn’t happen because if you notice some of the older foundations through the city you see those big pot holes so to speak and we put that in whoever bids to do the demolition is supposed to use an aggregate You don’t put the building back into it like what happen to us on Grant. That screwed us up because they put block back in; they are supposed to put some kind of dirt and it’s only smaller particles. It can’t be huge items. You have to tamp it down. That’s in our ordinance.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Where’s this at?”

Mrs. Hahn – “It’s on Wellesley. I can get you the address on either side.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “One of the addresses will work.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I mean it was a house that really had to come down. It’s great that it’s gone but now we got this issue. Then there’s one more there’s been a dumpster on Oak Grove for at least six weeks. It is packed to the gills and because it’s sat there now even longer a lot of neighbors are coming over they are throwing extra stuff on top and now that’s spilling out so the Bonar’s who had to put up with two houses; two houses up from them and across the street the door is opened and these weeds that are 12 feet tall now they got a dumpster it seems like someone was really getting serious and clean something up but now it just sits. So is there a limit to how long a dumpster can sit full on a city street?”

Mr. Paul – “Is it our dumpster or is it one of those really long ones?”

Mrs. Hahn – “I don’t think it is ours.”

Mr. Timmons – “It’s private.”

Mr. Paul – “They should get that out of there because they’re paying for that.”

Chief McCafferty – “Actually anytime you order a dumpster you’re supposed to call my office and request permission from me but for some reason all over the city people don’t do that anymore. I mean I’ve driven past Iva Way and places and I’ll see a dumpster and I’m thinking well nobody called Karen or I about that dumpster. But that’s happening a lot and it just started because people use to call all the time. Now a lady called two weeks ago which is fine and I always ask how long is that going to be there? But nobody has called about that. Very few call and I believe that is in the ordinance somewhere.”

Mrs. Hahn – “So should we communicate with all the dumpsters? Do we know which companies are doing the dumpster service in town?”

Mr. Petrella – “They should have a name on the dumpster.”

Mrs. Hahn – “So should I get the information off the dumpster and call your office? I don’t know how to follow up.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “No it’s on Oak Grove do you know approximately where?”

Mrs. Hahn – “At the end of the 1200 block right before the 1300 block.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay I’ll have Mr. Baird go up there with his people.”

Mr. Petrella – “Jim if they can just get the name off the dumpster and call them because it’s their responsibility.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay thank you very much.”

Mayor Barilla – “Next we have Mrs. Anyabwile.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “It’s funny that I have a second point about what Mrs. Hahn said about finding mattresses on Wellesley this has been an ongoing process and problem on the south end especially on the street of Linden, Mears, Summit, the alley between 4th and 5th and Market, Railroad Ave., the alley between Rosswell and Oakmont, it’s just continuous garbage, litter, mattresses and stuff all over the south end so whatever agency you have looking at Wellesley if you could please have those same agencies come and look at all those streets I just mentioned. Because if you remember we had crews going out there last summer and I still have a picture of what we cleaned up and then Linden Ave. there was a pile so many feet wide and so many feet high of just trash and people came and helped and we took a truck and went from one end of Linden to the other and just a whole massive amount of garbage and trash.”

Mr. Petrella – “Are those mattresses still on Oakmont because they just did bulk pickup on the 16th?”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I didn’t go up there I just know when I went up there to give fliers to remind people of bulk pickup which could be something else too. I’m trying to get everybody you know this past year people were using the dumpsters and a lot of people didn’t get a dumpster so they don’t know that it’s changed back to a city pickup so I’m going door to door and telling people you know you can put your trash out especially this Friday is south end and you know a lot of people are getting fliers and they didn’t even know. You probably will see a lot more trash this year too. The point I signed up for miscellaneous was when we get these ordinances and the diocese wants to change properties from a resident to a public or semipublic, it doesn’t say what the property is going to be used for and I noticed that in a lot of the ordinances so when do we find out or when does the public find out what that property is going to be used for since it’s changing from residents? Can someone answer that for me?”

Chris Petrossi – “Yes the Planning Commission holds a public hearing on every rezoning request and so a public hearing is scheduled for most of those as well and I believe for those two it’s the first Monday in June.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So they get the ordinance passed first and then they...”

Chris Petrossi – “No. The ordinance after the second reading is tabled until after the Planning Commission hearing. It’s like that with all rezoning.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “And then they say what they want to use the property for.”

Chris Petrossi – “Well in their application they’ve already appeared in front of the Planning Commission so the Planning Commission accepts the application and at that point the Planning Commission is told what they would like to do and then the Planning Commission schedules a public hearing for 60 days later. In the (all inaudible) the Planning Commission places an ad in the Herald Star informing the public of the public hearing and also Council gives the ordinances of rezoning its first two readings. The Planning Commission has approximately 60 days later to hold a public hearing and makes a recommendation to Council. Council then after that recommendation gives the ordinance its third reading.”

Mr. Dressel – “So the Planning Commission; the Planning Commission meeting is open to the public as well so if you want to know those things just go to the meeting once a month roughly unless there’s nothing on the agenda and then you would know right now what that was.”

Mr. Mastros – “Chris didn’t you say in the application they put their intended use?”

Chris Petrossi – “That’s correct.”

Mr. Mastros – “So it might be easier for you to just get a copy of the application.”

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Daycha Wade representing JMHA and lives on 983 Sherman Ave. Steubenville, Ohio. Ms. Wade explained how JMHA has a little over 800 people in the Jefferson County Area that need a place to rent. They have plenty of money and vouchers to give but there aren't enough houses available and also some of the landlords will not accept the Section 8 vouchers. She and her colleagues explained to Council that the NCD might have had a little effect on having places available to rent. Ms. Wade did mention that JMHA do hold their tenants responsible for upkeep of the properties they rent and that they do inspections on the inside and outside of properties.

Mayor Barilla – “Next on the agenda we have Mr. Royal Mayo.”

Royal Mayo of 544 Highland Ave. Steubenville, Ohio. Mr. Mayo brought up about pay disparities within the city employees by sex and race. Mr. Mavromatis informed Mr. Mayo to call his secretary and schedule an appointment and they would discuss this matter. Mr. Mayo also talked about the overgrown weeds and grass in the city and how it needs to be cut. Mr. Mastro, the City Manager and Council explained to Mr. Mayo what the State and City laws were about these issues and the procedure that they had to go through to go on private property to cut the weeds and grass. Mr. Mayo also brought up about the hours of the MLK Center and was wondering why they were the way they were at the moment. He also had a couple questions about the demolition of dilapidated houses.

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