

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 27, 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 Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, & Dressel.

Also present; Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Sanitation Supervisor Bob Baird, Parks & Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for April 20, 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. 2021-26 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 asked Council to make a motion to table this ordinance for two weeks. The reason being is the deeds and the agreement between the City and the Port and the Port and the University were just finished. They are now in the hands of the Port and the University. There’s probably going to be some minor revisions when they look them over. Asks for it to be tabled for two weeks so they can iron out those details.

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to table Ordinance No. 2021-26 for two weeks. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

**NO. 2021-28 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 5<sup>TH</sup> 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.**

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2021-28. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-28 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-28 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on May 27, 2021.

**NO. 2021-29 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

### **NO. 2021-31 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 1<sup>st</sup> reading**

**Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2021.**

Mr. Mastros asked Council to make a motion to waive the second and third reading of Resolution No. 2021-31 because of the deadline issued to have the contract in by April 30, 2021.

Mr. Paul made a motion to waive the rules of the second and third reading of Resolution No. 2021-31. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mrs. Haley read for the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 2021-31.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Resolution No. 2021-31. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Resolution No. 2021-31 please step forward and state your name and address.

Mr. Paul made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-31 by roll call. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2021-31 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

### **NO. 2021-32 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 1<sup>st</sup> reading**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-88 THE “PUBLIC FORUM” ORDINANCE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 2.**

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Hahn – “Yes I do not have anything under Parks and Recreation but we had an opportunity I don’t know exactly if everybody got the notice but OML did another webinar and so that was available today so I watched it and took notes. I mean there’s limitation to what they can say because the rules have still not come out from the Treasurer but there were a lot of interesting things that they talked about and I didn’t ask if Dave Lewis would be here tonight.”

Mr. Paul – “I was just talking with him and I was going to address that but Craig and Scott had asked if maybe we can do something next week to address the pay increase for the part-time employees and Dave said Mr. Mavromatis wanted to talk to us. Mr. Mavromatis is away so I guess we’ll have to talk next Tuesday so I will call a committee meeting for the following Tuesday. So I called one for the 4<sup>th</sup> for safety the 11<sup>th</sup> of May I’m going to call one for what you’re asking.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Well this is a slightly different thing. One of the things that they said was a possible revolving loan fund which we’ve done before and that may be one of the things that this money is going to apply for and so their suggestion was make sure you have certain things in place like that revolving loan fund and then we’re working with the particular company on Economic Development for small businesses anyways. Bob do you know if they have pursued anything in terms of a revolving loan?”

Mr. Villamagna – “I do not know.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay so I think that would be really good to find out because if they kept all the mechanisms in place but it’s just not funded then we’re already a step ahead.”

Mr. Mastros – “I’ll check.”

Mr. Petrella – “Chris could you maybe answer that?”

Chris Petrossi – “They may have no revolving loan per say in place. I know they have met with several of our local bank that serve our community to talk resources but there is no revolving loan fund in place. We have had revolving load funds periodically in the past for various projects but we don’t have one. OMEGA does have a revolving loan fund for businesses that cover this area.”

Mr. Paul – “I saw in the paper that the County has already set up a special fund for that but I would rather have Dave Lewis talk to us about that and when he’s good with the particulars. But I know that Mr. Conn over across the street has set up some kind of a fund for that funding we’re going to get from the Government and they’ve already set up a fund; no not a revolving loan fund, no they set up like we have our wastewater fund, we have our water fund, our sanitation fund, they have already started the American Rescue Plan fund dedicated for that and the money will go out of there. We’ll talk to Dave and Jim and when we find out more.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay just one of the suggestions that I thought I would throw into the mix is you know we’ve talked about this street scape forever on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and so much work has been done for that and the possibility of maybe doing a TIF and I don’t know and maybe Bob you know this but with the Port Authority they serve the whole county so that does include and with Robert Naylor being a lawyer I didn’t know if it was possible for us to ask for their assistance in some way and if we wanted to go that direction to kind of outline.”

Mr. Villamagna – “My thinking is kind of like what Willie said I want to get with Dave Lewis and find out the particulars and then start from there. I don’t want to put the cart before the horse asking people to do this and that until we find out the particulars. I’m sure Costa, Dave Lewis, Chris and the City Manager when they get together because if you remember I said I’m going to call a special meeting so we can talk about this so that way; it’s probably going to be a lengthy discussion.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I was surprised when one of the two percenters from Montrose said that they’ve worked with Summit County and Summit County has hundreds of TIFs in their one county and I think we only have one in the city and that’s with the new hotel on University Blvd. So it could be that that’s something...”

Mr. Mastros – “Just a comment on the TIF, I know we engaged outside counsel for that I think it was (inaudible) law firm I did that as well at the other municipality that I represent as well. That’s a complex process to go through and we might have to engage outside counsel for that again but it’s possible obviously. It’s very labor intensive and there’s a lot of things you have to set up through the County Auditor’s office we have to pass certain legislation; it could be done though if that’s what we decide.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yeah I don’t think any of this is real simple and easy but I was surprised when they said there was one county had hundreds of them it like well maybe this is something that we can actually find out more about since and see how it could be a benefit.”

Mrs. Anyabwile asked what a TIF was.

Mrs. Hahn explained what a TIF was.

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor.” Mr. Paul last week called for a Safety Committee meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and he wanted to change the time to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Paul also called for a Finance Committee meeting for May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. “One other thing getting back to what Mrs. Hahn brought up and I think for most in our minds that we should always think about our Judge. We have to get; I mean anybody can walk in here and you know what happened to the Judge across the street so we need to find a better way to protect our Judge and the people that work here. That’s one of the things that Bob and I and a couple other people were discussing maybe a building or something with better security system. You know you got a lot of people coming in and sometimes they would find drugs in the bathrooms I mean a lot of that has changed since we went to the TVs but you still have some arraignments in here so that’s just to add onto what you were bringing up. I’m done you’re Honor.”

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor one thing.” Mr. Villamagna made a motion to accept the Mayor’s reappointment of Daycha Wade of 983 Sherman Ave. to the JMHA Board. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Yes I have a couple of things you’re Honor. First we always talk about the trash and the weed lots here in Steubenville every week you know I don’t know if we’re moving forward in hiring temporary employees you know hiring a possible youth program with the funds that we have in the litter fund. There’s a committee that’s called a pride committee and I don’t know if that committee was instituted in order to address some of those issues but we haven’t met on the pride committee since I been on Council and that’s since January 2020 and maybe as a committee we can address some of these problems that we have. I had gone on Summit Ave. yesterday and I just walked up and down the whole street and one half of the street is almost all weeded and trash lots except for maybe 4 or 5 houses. I started taking pictures of different places on south end like Garrett, Linden, down on South St. just everywhere in the south end you know all the weeded lots and trash lots we have down there and possibly try to come up with some solutions. Okay so I’m just stating maybe a pride committee needs to be more proactive with you know then not doing anything with the pride committee. Second point I thought it was a good idea of Mr. Mayo last week when we talked about a grocery store there are different ones of us that have tried to reach out to grocery stores and grocery chains to come downtown in order to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to the downtown area. So possibly I don’t know if we get together as a committee to address it because it’s always stronger in numbers because I think a couple of us have you know approached the same grocery stores a couple of times. If we come up with a joint effort and put our heads together and come up with an idea in order to attract even if it was just a small grocer to come to the downtown area and even discuss it during an economic development meeting possibly during that committee meeting so that we can move forward in getting a grocery store downtown.” The third topic Mrs. Anyabwile wanted to discuss was making an amendment to the Ordinance No. 2021-32 and changing the time from Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. to Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and explained her reasoning why.

Mr. Timmons made a brief statement on how the Mayor can call on anybody at any time.

Mrs. Hahn made a statement about how having the citizens signing up does guarantee them the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Villamagna made a statement about the Mayor being able to call on any one at any time and that Council has even called on any one at any time during committee meetings.

Mrs. Anyabwile made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 2021-32 to change the time of Section 2. Second by Mr. Dressel. Roll Call. Four (4) no; Paul, Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna. Three (3) yes; Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn. Mayor Barilla stated that the motion had failed.

Mr. Dressel – “Because we’re on this topic I just wanted to ask Mrs. Anyabwile did you want to not include any language about having the answer by the following week?”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “No not at this time.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay. The only thing that I wanted to bring up since Bob is here is to thank him for the mass spring cleanup. I don’t know if they still have one area or not but I know the North end got done and the south end last week and I was up on Pleasant Heights the week before and saw some piles that were many house yards long and taller than me and they all disappeared so thank your guys for working so hard.”

Bob Baird – “Thank you I’ll let them know. We have two more pickups.”

Mr. Timmons – “For the people that are over doing it because right now if you went on Majestic Circle it’s not so majestic right now. Would you be charging them a fee or penalty or some kind of fine for over doing it?”

Bob Baird – “It’s a grey area really. There’s not enough specificity in the language; it’s so open with trepidation over what’s too much and what’s not; what’s the charge? It’s just not specific enough. What we primarily look for are (inaudible) violations that are (inaudible) cut. Obviously material we can’t take. People who do not have an active account we’ve had a couple that (inaudible) over that this time around you know these accounts have

been vacant since 2017, no activity, nobody's been paying the bill and all of a sudden there it is. So working with our system and the Utility Office we're able to identify those vacant accounts pretty easily. We have some property owners that try to; with their rentals properties (all inaudible) rental properties throughout the city and clearly trying to; this is my opinion only and it's clear that they're trying to transfer that part of their business on the resident at large and I don't think that's right. But it hasn't been too bad. Have there been violators? Yes. Have there been attempts? Yes but it's been comparing to years past operating this way over the years (all inaudible) and I am preparing the total information to give to the City Manager so you guys can have it as far as what our numbers were. What are costs were? What kind of tonnage we did? Just off the top of my head just to give you a preview we are averaging about 60 tons of waste per collection."

Mrs. Hahn – "Have you noted how many households you kept the materials from? I know we didn't have time to gather ours and so I know there are houses like ours that didn't have any. Just to try to kind of compare between last year when people called in versus this time."

Bob Baird – "No unfortunately we are not tracking that. We are tracking our time, our hours, our equipment, our tonnages, our costs but not numbers of specific addresses. If that's something Council would like to do in the future we can cooperate that."

## **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Mr. Mastros – No Report

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

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

Mr. Petrella – "Asantewa kind of touched upon what I wanted to say. Chris have you compiled a list of all the vacant lots for weeds and litter?"

Chris Petrossi – "I believe the weed/litter control Officer Dorsey has that information."

Mr. Petrella – "Okay and I want to make sure that the weeds and litter lots that that list is a perpetual list and not a onetime shot list that we have to reinvent the wheel every year number one and on the second one was on the demolitions also we have (inaudible) list on demolition correct?"

Chris Petrossi – "Yes."

Mr. Petrella – "And then so we can start addressing that. It seems like every time we talk about weeds and litter and stuff like that it's always going back to ground zero. Since we took the time limit out of the ordinance I think it should be a perpetual list and that we start chipping away at that list and I'm sure within the next few weeks once we get our financial report and what money is available and the time frame that we can possibly hire seasonal help Bob could help us with that a little bit on that because I know there's a lot of juggling going around and a lot of advertising has to go through that and so on and so forth but I just wanted to make sure that we keep this at the fore front and we don't slide backwards like we've done in the past. That's all you're Honor."

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now move onto public forum and signing in this evening we have Mr. Royal Mayo. Mr. Mayo please step forward and state your name and address."

Royal Mayo – "Royal Mayo 544 Highland Ave. Steubenville, Ohio." Mr. Mayo spoke about the weeds of properties that the city own and the priority of those cuts and the policy of how the demolition go. How the list for demolitions is formed and are the houses prioritized? Lastly he talked about getting a grocery store in downtown Steubenville.

Chris Petrossi explained to Mr. Mayo how the demolition list goes and there are 76 properties on the list. The demolition are addressed on a first in first out basis but with the exception of fire damage properties or properties with serious structure issues those properties are moved to the top of the list due to the danger of these properties. Chris also informed everyone that there is a grocery store that is still interested in coming to the downtown area but they need an acre of property.

Mr. Villamagna stated how he contacted a few grocery stores but every one that he talked to says the market isn't that great here.

Mr. Paul explained to Mr. Mayo that he spoke with Chief Capaldi about the house he brought up that was torn down quickly after a fire on Braybarton and the reasoning to why it was taken down so quickly.

Bob Baird explained to Mr. Mayo how the process goes with cutting the city property weeds. They try to cut the properties a couple times a month but sometimes the lots get pushed back a week or so because of other priorities that they have.

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