

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 11, 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 Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, & Paul.

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

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for May 4, 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 – 3rd 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 that this ordinance be tabled again for two more weeks to fix more language.

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

NO. 2021-32 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 3rd reading

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

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-32. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-32 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I will. Asantewa Anyabwile. I do have a few points before this goes to a vote because I have been the one this time around who is speaking out for a no sign up before the City Council Meetings. You know I tried; we tried; it didn’t happen this time so you know I’m sure we’ll bring it up again in the future but I just wanted to say that I still believe that people who come to the City Council Meetings should have the right to speak because we are like the first line of government when people have issues and questions they you know they voted us into office. Now I believe we have an obligation and a duty and I think that people should be able to come and speak and speak respectfully. I don’t believe that we are here for you know our own selves or our own egos but that we are here to serve the people who put us in office. If I was on another City Council or if I was on a commission or I was on a committee that had this rule I’d still be fighting for people to be able to come and speak. Okay I’ve learned a lot these past 16 months since I’ve been here and I really learned a lot in the journey of trying to get this ordinance passed so as it stands now if this ordinance passes tonight the only thing that’s going to change is the time the people you know come; the time that they have before they can come and speak at the meeting. There were some other issues that I had presented when I had requested an ordinance change; one is that people come and be respectful but again I noticed in the signup sheet that when people do sign it up that they are supposed to be respectful so maybe when they phone in a request to speak or they email in that they’re reminded that you know these are the stipulations that are adhering too. Which is definitely (inaudible) but that also City Council is respectful to one another and to the people who come and speak. Another thing that I addressed is that those who did not sign up and you have stated it before that even though they didn’t sign up before a meeting that they may be allowed to speak you know if it was prudent to city business that the Mayor can make that judgement so I’m hoping that we do keep that in mind. The third thing is that we continue to address people in a timely manner. When they come and ask a question or have an issue that it just doesn’t get skated over that we do take the time if we have the answers that night to answer them. If not then someone takes it on their responsibilities and it’s usually the City Manager that we get back to them you know in a timely manner. So those are the things you know that I wanted to address when we take this vote from changing the time of signup for City Council Meeting’s for Public Forum. Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. Six (6) ayes; Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Dressel, Hahn, Paul. One (1) no; Anyabwile. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-32 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on June 10, 2021.

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to bring Ordinance No. 2021-19 back on the table. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. Six (6) ayes; Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Dressel, Hahn, Paul. One (1) no; Anyabwile. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to withdraw Ordinance No. 2021-19. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. Four (4) ayes; Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Paul. Three (3) no; Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-19 is withdrawn declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-33 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE’S PARTICIPATION AND RATIFYING ITS PRIOR PARTICIPATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS, IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS THE WEST END WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACT FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY IN EXECUTING, ACCEPTING, OR OTHERWISE APPROVING ALL DOCUMENTS, AGREEMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR OTHER NECESSARY PAPERS, REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-33. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-33 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-33 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

NO. 2021-34 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE 2021 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION (CHIP) PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A PY 2021 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION (CHIP) PROGRAM APPLICATION WITH THE STATE OF OHIO ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE.

NO. 2021-35 – 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 BETH AND PATRICK WARNER, LOCATED AT 117 S. 7TH STREET, STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM “R-3” HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO “I-1” GENERAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

NO. 2021-36 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2021 AS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH.

Mrs. Haley – “A resolution proclaiming May 2021 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Whereas, spring is in full swing and around the country, motorcyclists are returning to the road after a long winter. But with a sudden spike in the number of motorcycles on the road, it's a good time to remind all motorists, whether on two wheels or four, to keep a special lookout for motorcyclists; and whereas, that's why May is recognized as NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH, a time for drivers to be reminded to share the road with motorcycles, and riders to be reminded to make themselves more visible to others; and whereas, motorcyclists travel the roads, streets, and highways in their regular work and school commutes, and in their weekend adventures and vacation rides; and whereas, motorcyclists have all the same rights and privileges as any motor vehicle driver on the roadway; and whereas, motorcycles are fuel efficient, reduce urban traffic and parking congestion, and tread lightly on the overworked road system and transportation infrastructure for which they help provide funding; and whereas, the vast majority of the members of the motorcycling community are genuinely committed to upholding safe and sane policies and procedures for themselves and their passengers, and certainly also for their fellow motorists with whom they share the highways and roads of our city; and whereas, since motorcycles lack the protective armor of trucks and automobiles which increases the risk of serious accidental injury and death for motorcyclists, all motorists need to operate with caution near motorcycles; and whereas, the month of May enjoys special status as MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH at the national and state level. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio: Section 1: That this Council does hereby proclaim the month of May 2021 as MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH. Section 2: That this Council urges all our citizens to be aware of and support the various motorcycle awareness events throughout our state during the month of May. Section 3: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval by Council; otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.”

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-36 by roll call. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2021-36 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-37 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 15, 2021 AS PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY.

Mrs. Haley – “A resolution proclaiming May 15, 2021 as Peace Officers Memorial Day. whereas, Peace Officers Memorial Day is held annually in the United States on May 15, 2021 in honor of federal, state and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty and it is observed in conjunction with Police Week; and whereas, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards and sacrifices of their law enforcement agency, and that members of our law enforcement agency recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression, and whereas, the men and women of the law enforcement agency of the City of Steubenville unceasingly provide a vital public service. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio: Section 1: That this Council calls upon all citizens of the City of Steubenville and upon all patriotic civic and educational organizations to observe the week of May 9 -May 15, 2021 as Police Week with appropriate ceremonies and observances in which all of our people may join in commemorating law enforcement officers, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in doing so, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens. Section 2: That this Council does further call upon all citizens of the City of Steubenville to observe Saturday, May 15, 2021 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes. Section 3: That this Council does hereby designate May 15, 2021 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, with federal law (P.L. I 03-322) directing that all flags be flown at half-staff on that date in honor of fallen officers and their families. SECTION 4: That the Clerk of this Council shall present a certified copy of this Resolution to the Steubenville Police Department.”

Mr. Villamagna read a letter by Kathleen Diaz “A letter to the American Public. Why you must decide what you want from cops.

Officer Jim Marquis also gave a brief statement.

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-37 by roll call. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2021-37 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-38 – BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Messrs. Dressel, Timmons, Anyabwile

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR ROBERT DISCH AS THE CLASS IV OPERATOR OF RECORD FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-38. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-38 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Dressel called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-38 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah maybe a couple things. Just to let you know that there’s a few things that are going on with development and one of them is because I know everybody when I mention anything about demolishing anything everybody has a coronary but we had a developer that contacted the City to put up a strip mall downtown someplace in the North end. He needed 24 acres and obviously we don’t have 24 acres so that’s one thing. But the other thing is there’s a negotiation going on right now for two developments in the west end a retail store and something similar to a restaurant but more like a coffee shop and another development in the west end where they are trying to build a mini strip mall but they are negotiating with the owners of the property. So there are people looking here and that’s why it’s important we have to have something to give them. We have to have the property if we don’t have the property to do it I mean Dollar General I mean we got to be the only place in the world to fail to get a Dollar General and we have to be able to produce the property to have it. I’ll be gone probably but we need to get some land available and the only way to get land available is to tear some of these things down that are completely destroyed and they need gone. That’s all I have under Economic Development.”

Mr. Dressel – “Quick question do you know how many acres are available where the paper mill use to be?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yeah 5.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I don’t have a report but I have three questions because I said I’m still learning about things. Is there a difference between communications and correspondence like when you say no communications but what about when people have correspondence they sent to us or emailed to us or how does that work?”

Mayor Barilla – “Communications would be like by phone something of that nature. Correspondence would be by paper.”

Mr. Mastros – “You know usually correspondence is by letter and other communications it could be I don’t know...”

Mr. Paul – “Like a liquor license.”

Mr. Mastros – “Something along those lines like a petition from a person to transfer a liquor license so it’s usually letters and petitions.”

Mr. Paul – “Or a recommendation like when Teresa DiCarlantonio gave us the letter of recommendation for something that we rezoned last week I think. Do you remember that? And Mr. Hendricks sometimes will write a letter but it’s usually a letter we receive or it’s something in your ward you know like a liquor store or some kind of store that needs a permit something like that.”

Mayor Barilla – “I think it’s like a catch all in those terms.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah and communication is usually by letter or paper.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So what if a citizen writes a letter to us does that get read or no?”

Mayor Barilla – “Yeah.”

Mr. Dressel – “That would get sent to you. You should be getting them.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “And then we read them if we build a (inaudible)?”

Mr. Paul – “It could probably be read under miscellaneous.”

Mr. Mastros – “Yeah.”

Mr. Timmons – “Does it have to be signed by somebody?”

Mrs. Haley – “Yeah I read nothing anonymous.”

Mr. Timmons – “Right that’s what I thought.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay nothing anonymous. Say if we decided to bring up to no signups before ordinance you know before public forum does it get another number then because you took what was presented off.”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “And as far as bringing new officers and you said we’re doing background checks have they instituted to do any national background checks to make sure that we get high quality officers?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “To focus on what you just said mam background checks yes everything is checked nationally, locally, and state and we do a complete background check. That’s what they call a full field background check. That is done on every applicant.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Thank you. That’s all.”

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Okay I have a couple things.” Mrs. Hahn sun shined a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for financial assistance for Public Recreation Purposes through the State of Ohio Natureworks Program. Second by Mr. Paul. “And then also the Parks and Recreation Board meeting is going to be tomorrow night here in Council Chambers at 7:00 and all are welcome. And then that was very good news to hear that we have enough lifeguards to have the pool open. So we want the people to think about making plans about coming to the pool and I will be in late May I’ll be able to help out with landscaping and so if anybody wants to join me please let me know. I’d appreciate it.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor I have two ordinances to sun shine this evening under finance.” Mr. Paul sun shined an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to advertise for bids for the Public Works Building Roof Replacement Project, subject to the right to reject any and all bids and rebidding that may be required, authorizing the entering into said contract with the lowest most qualified bidder, authorizing payment therefore and to execute contracts as required. Second by Mr. Petrella. Mr. Paul also sun shined an ordinance to amend the table of organizations for the parks and recreation department specifically the part-time pool employees. Second by Mr. Villamagna.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. Since Ms. Wiggins is here and mam I appreciate that you’re here now last week I was finally able to reach the manufacturer for your plaque and he assured me that we can place this plaque on our drywall with the bolts that he sent so that’s what we’re going to be able to do is place it inside our building and not outside. Either place would’ve been good but I prefer for it to be on the inside for a variety of reasons but I wanted to let you know once that is completed I will call you and I would like for you to come down and take a look at it personally. Thank you mam. First Friday; we had our First Friday last Friday the first Friday of the month and we had the 100 block North and 100 block South; I came down personally in the evening to look at the participation again weather was a factor there was very minimal activity on the 100 block South. I talked with the Harmonium Group on Monday and they agreed with me so next month for the First Friday we will only have the 100 block north blocked off for them and see how that functions and how the participation is. I was able to view it in person as well as on our cameras at our Police Station again a lot of people were in conformance with the distancing; a good part of them were not wearing masks again not knowing if they were vaccinated or not but this is what you deal with here. We only had one incident there and I thought they did a relatively good job on breaking it up. We had some rowdy people there and they advised them that the police were coming and they dispersed. They later came back at closing and again they advised them that they were going to notify the police and they decided to leave. So that was only the real incident that happened there. Our lawsuit depending with the Ohio EPA on the consent decree we are getting close this has

been over five years dealing with this. Our attorneys for us as well as the attorneys for the State are agreeing to meet and go over the language of it. I talked with the supervisor that's responsible for a good part of it with Ohio EPA she is excited that we might be finally coming to a resolution for this so I will keep Council advised once we talk with our attorneys and see what (all inaudible). Saturday May 22nd between 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Dock Street will be closed at Steubenville Big Red they are having a function there following the prom for attendees. This is for photos for the families they are expecting about 300 in attendance of family members but they will be standing there will be no seating out there so just in case a fire truck has to come through they can clearly move and get our vehicle through. Last night Chief McCafferty and myself attended the Wheeling Law Enforcement Memorial by the Wheeling Police Department. They put on a very nice memorial there. We are not the only city that deals with issues they had planned that to have that down by the river but unfortunately it was flooded so we had it inside Wesbanco Arena so it was very nice. Chief (inaudible) was very pleased that we drove down and he repeatedly said please invite us to ours which we will when we have it in November but it was a nice turn out and that's all I have to brief to Council."

Mr. Villamagna – "Jim I need a favor from you. I thought Dolak was going to be here. Could you have him check the condition of Keagler Drive? I've had some calls about it."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I will do that."

Mrs. Hahn – "Jim I had a couple statements so first of all please thank the sanitation department for me they did come and get those mattresses and collected a lot of the garbage that was on that nice drive up. Honestly I really appreciate that. And also I'm assuming there was action because three of the four vehicles are gone from that lot. There is still one there but it looks significantly better."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you mam I will let them know."

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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

Mr. Petrella – "Yes you're Honor. I just want to say a big thank you to all the citizens in the City of Steubenville for overwhelming voting yes on issue one and issue two to support us. I'm going to take that as a nice sign that we're doing a good job and doing what is right not what's popular for this city and they are recognizing the improvements that we have started; not avoided but started. I want to thank all the hard work that our employees have done in promoting the levies but in addition to that their everyday work out there especially during the pandemic and hopefully we're winding down on the pandemic but they were soldiers out there every day doing their jobs. That's all you're Honor."

Mayor Barilla – "Let me just say a special thanks to Karly over here that distributed door hangers for 7 miles that she put in on one day. Thank you."

Mr. Paul – "I didn't know that. Thank you Karly."

Mrs. Haley – "You're welcome."

Mayor Barilla – "And Mrs. Hahn thank you for up on the hilltops there 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