

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 22, 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 and Paul.

Mr. Paul made a motion to excuse Mrs. Hahn from tonight's meeting, seconded by Mr. Timmons. It has been moved and seconded that Mrs. Hahn be excused by roll call. All ayes. Moved Kimberly Hahn is excused from tonight's council meeting

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Assistant Law Director Bernie Battistel, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Utility Director Chuck Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Finance Director Dave Lewis & WTOV.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mr. Villamagna for June 15, 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. Long – "Nothing this evening."

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Madam Clerk."

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2021-45 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE - 2st reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 3953 ARGONNE AVENUE, 1246 OAK GROVE AVENUE, 1300 OAK GROVE AVENUE, 1414 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, 1405 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, AND 1420 PENNSYLVANIA 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. 2021-46 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE TWO (2) YEAR WAGE AND BENEFIT CONTRACT ENTERED INTO BY THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, FORT STEUBEN LODGE #1 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – "You've heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-46. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-46, please step forward and state your name and address. Mr. Paul called question.

Mr. Lewis – "I thought it was a 3-year contract. (inaudible) union contracts

Mr. Paul – "No, because we waited a year, right?"

Mr. Villamagna – "It's retroactive a year right?"

Mr. Lewis – "Yes it's retroactive. With this one I thought everything took effect beginning of 2021 then there was an increase in 2022 and in 2023... I thought it was a 3-year contract. Same with AFSCME."

Mr. Paul – "Same with fire too?"

Mr. Lewis – "Yes, all 3 are 3-year contracts."

Mr. Paul – "Well if you look in I think it's Ordinance 2021-49 we're going to give back pay to AFSCME because they waited a year and police waited 6 months I think and then we waited until after covid. If you want we can amend this."

Mr. Mavromatis – "If you go for two years it puts everybody on the same sheet."

Mr. Dressler – "I thought they voted on the contract ending January 2023 so that's 2 years. So we have 2 years on those two and then (inaudible)."

Mr. Petrella – "I thought we extended the old contract one year and then a two-year contract actually it would be a three year because they extended it for a year. And then it would be 2 additional would make it three it would make it 3."

Mr. Dressler – "But we're not voting on the extension that's already been done."

Mr. Paul – "They waited until the covid they didn't know what our financial situation was all about at the time."

**all inaudible.

Mr. Paul – "I want to go into executive session anyhow to discuss something else. So if you want to do it now,

we'll go to Pugliese and come back.”

Mr. Dressler – “It’s still ending in 2023 so it’s not even 2 years since we’re already halfway into 2021. But it’s retroactive to the beginning of 2021....(inaudible.) Last year was already extended. When is Costa back?”

Mr. Battistel – “Monday.”

Mr. Dressler made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-46 until next week’s council meeting, June 29, 2021. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-46 is tabled until next week’s council meeting declared by Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-47 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE TWO (2) YEAR WAGE AND BENEFIT CONTRACT ENTERED INTO BY THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS UNION LOCAL NO. 228, I.A.F.F., O.A.P.F.F. ALF-CIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Paul made a motion to table Ordinance No. 2021-47 until next week’s council meeting, on June 29, 2021. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-46 is tabled until next week’s council meeting declared by Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-48 – BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Messrs. Dressel, Timmons, Anyabwile

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS THE LINCOLN BLVD. SANITARY SEWER EMERGENCY REPAIR PROJECT PURSUANT TO R.C. 735.051 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-48 declaring it an emergency. If anyone would like to speak please step forward and state your name and address.” Mr. Dressel called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-48 is duly adopted declared by Mayor Barilla and will take effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

NO. 2021-49 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/SETTLEMENT OF WAGE REOPENER WITH THE OHIO COUNCIL 8, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO, AND LOCAL 215 (AFSCME) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-49 declaring it an emergency. If anyone would like to speak please step forward and state your name and address.” Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-49 is duly adopted declared by Mayor Barilla and will take effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

NO. 2021-50 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING THE EXISTING TABLE OF ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO AND NOW ENACTING A TABLE OF ORGANIZATION FOR ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Paul made a motion to go into Executive Session on the table of organization. “If we could to the Pugliese Room it’s not going to take long - we’ll be right back. There’s a couple of questions I have to ask of Mr. Lewis and Mr. Mavromatis. It shouldn’t take that long.” Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion passed declared by Mayor Barilla.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Mr. Paul. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion passed declared by Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Paul made a motion to table Ordinance No. 2021-50 until next week’s council meeting. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion passed declared by Mayor Barilla.

NO. 2021-51 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Dressel, Hahn, Petrella

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE 2022 CITY STREET HOT-MIX RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS, CITY PROJECT NO. 2022-100, 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 AND MOST QUALIFIED BIDDER, AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREFORE AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

NO. 2021-52 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE - 1st reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION TO BE USED TOWARDS FUNDING THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE 2022 CITY STREET HOT MIX RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS, CITY PROJECT NO. 2022-100 AND TO EXECUTE

CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

NO. 2021-53 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE - 1st Reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION TO BE USED TOWARDS FUNDING THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE JEF-SR 7, TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES, PID NO. 113672, CITY PROJECT NUMBER 2020-131 AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

NO. 2021-54 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE - 1st Reading

Messrs. Villamagna, Hahn, Petrella

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE F.Y. 2021 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION THEREOF TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD), AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND URBAN PROJECTS DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR F.Y. 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS AS INCORPORATED IN THE ACTION PLAN

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Paul made a motion that Tuesday, June 29, 2021, next week's council meeting, to start at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll call. All ayes. It has been moved and seconded that next week's council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. declared by Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Petrella – "I just have a question. Jim or Dave if someone could answer. Did we hire our part time seasonal people for weeds and litter?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "We have hired some. I'm meeting with Bob tomorrow."

Mr. Petrella – "Ok because the weeds are growing higher and higher and it doesn't seem like we're making headway. We voted on it a long time ago and we need to get started and get some action going."

Mr. Timmons - "I have several things tonight. First off, I was on Oak Grove last night, the alley between Oak Grove and Arlington. I met with a couple gentlemen and they are here tonight – Chuck Burch and Nelson Miller - and they are concerned about this lot and I took a couple pictures last night to show you guys. But this lot I believe we had some demolitions there. We've had a couple houses taken down. It is in between 1319 Oak Grove and 1329 Oak Grove and these gentlemen have offered to take care of it. But as you can see by the pictures, they need some help to get started. There is some debris there that needs moved, a couple trees I believe; but they are willing to do that. I also had another group that contacted me and they will also help cut it. I guess your big issue is you guys don't want to get started on there and then be told you can't do it, is that correct? They want to go the proper channels. They just want to get this done. They're both concerned about keeping the neighborhood clean. I think Chuck you had mentioned some rodents that you saw living in there kind of becoming a hazard. You can also see that truck there. How long has that truck been sitting there?"

*Mr. Burch addressed Council stating his concerns about the state of the property and for 2 years he has been cutting the grass but feels like he is wasting his energy.

*Mr. Mavromatis asked the gentlemen to give him their phone numbers before leaving the meeting tonight for follow-up purposes.

Mr. Timmons – "...to make sure they don't get in trouble."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I can't authorize that because then they fall under our responsibility. I'm not taking this away from you two guys. The biggest problem is what we face here as a city, you gave up 2 properties. One somebody owns it or he's deceased so a family member does. We just can't go on properties. I wish it was that easy because this would be a no brainer then. If we see something's that not in code then boom we go in with our tractors and clean it up. It doesn't work that way. Unfortunately, they're protected."

Mr. Dressel – "I mow other property all the time. The only person that can go after you is the owner of that property. The city can't go after you either by the way. So the city can't charge you with trespassing. Only the owner can file a complaint for trespassing and the police will come and talk to you. (inaudible) but it's way over grown now so maybe we can get Community Service to help cut it down to get it started.

Mr. Timmons – "We've also had another group that contacted us to help get it cleaned up so that they can maintain it."

Mr. Dressel – "The confusion is, the city itself, is if city employees walk on it then that's a problem. So you can do it; I'm not telling you to do it either but I've done it myself. I think that no one's going to get mad at you for mowing it. But don't kill your mower. Let's try to get it somewhere that you can do it without killing your mower. If the city has to do it they have to do a legal notice, we have to publicate in the paper, we have to get staff to do it, agree to do it, find the time to do it, staff do it, scheduling. All that is 3 months work. Ask the judge if Community Service can do it."

Mr. Timmons – "I'll contact that group first."

Mr. Villamagna – "Do you want to contact Community Service or do you want Jim to do it?"

Mr. Timmons – "I'll contact that group first because they want to help out. They might be able to do it relatively quickly."

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I was in Indiana a couple of weeks ago and they would have these signs in their yards on a post that said if you don’t have your grass cut by such and such a time we’re going to cut your grass for you then we’re going to fine you and the city just goes and cuts the grass. So I don’t know we have so many legalities it seems like we have to go through in Ohio or this city but in Indiana they have people that just go cut the grass. I’ve driven all over Fort Wayne and they don’t have the problem that we have. For a small city, I just don’t get it, I don’t get it.”

Mr. Timmons – “A couple other things I want to talk about. I attended the Jefferson County Port Authority meeting last week. One of the board members brought up, well it was the director of the port authority, was talking about the tiff with Franciscan and what’s going on. And one of the board members said “I want to know why the city is dragging their feet.” And I assured him that we’re not dragging our feet. We are keeping up the communication lines. It’s my understanding that there’s going to be a meeting on June 29th. We’re going to get this figured out. I just wanted to state that and kind of reiterate that we’re not dragging our feet we’re just doing our due diligence. (inaudible). That’s all I have on that. I just wanted to say that. And my other question was for Jim. Lori you might know. How often do they pick up garbage at the marina?”

Ms. Fetherolf - “3 times a week. Monday, Wednesday, Friday.”

Mr. Timmons – “Someone contacted me about that and I guess one of them was overflowing and it was going into the river. So I don’t know if there was something...”

Ms. Fetherolf – “We have one can at each shelter. That’s all we have. Now it could have been overflowing and onto the road. That does happen, yes.”

Mr. Timmons – “So I will let them know how many times we pick that up.”

Ms. Fetherolf – “And we may change that. What we’ve been getting down there have been unwanted parties. Because what I’m finding down there is Twisted Tea cases and cases and cases and they’re overflowing the trash can and they’re on the ground all around. That’s the bottles and the glass and all of that. So I may change that to three times a week because at least that’s right now what they’re doing down there.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Mayor I’m waiting for Jim there. I need Jim to participate here.”

Mayor – “I can pass you up right now and go to Mrs. Anyabwile.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – No report.

Mr. Dressel – I just wanted to bring up an issue that Jim answered but I wanted everyone else to know. There’s an issue on Lawson Avenue with a bunch of kids harassing, I guess they are not kids they are adults but they’re young, harassing residents in the entire Pleasant Heights stretch and that is being worked on. If you saw the email I sent out yesterday. It’s not a good thing and it needs to stop before they really end up hurting somebody.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim I know you have an update for that building at the end of the alley.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes I do. Based on last week, Bob, you asked me about property that’s in violation of I believe it’s 4th and Adams and also at Court, between the two at half a block. I was able to find this goes back to April 5, 2020 the owner was cited and naturally that kicked off at covid and that could add to some of the delay. The current violation is scheduled before the court here on July 21, 2021 and there have been emails that have been sent back by our building department expressing what the issues are, so that’s where it’s at right now.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I know it’s 14 months; we sit here every week and talk about these buildings and 14 months is way too long to have a building that’s sitting there ready to fall in with a machine pushed up against it that’s on our property. So I’m hoping this July 21st hearing will solve the problem.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I’ve met with our building department so I have all the details on it. I explained to them wait for the court date and then we’ll go from there”

Mr. Villamagna – “And it’s not for their lack.....they did everything .. inaudible”

Mr. Villamagna – “And the whole judicial system was set back because of this covid and I do know building wise but there’s other court cases.. but that’s the bottom line; the newest court date is July 21st.”

Mr. Timmons – “How extensive is the work that needs done to bring it into compliance?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I think there’s a couple issues there.”

Mr. Petrella – “Shouldn’t that piece of equipment be somewhere else rather than hold up a building?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “There’s two issues there, dangerous structure or premise because there’s issues with the structure there clearly, and also exterior structure of the windows. So there are the two charges on that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “And Mr. Dolak I was talking to him the other way and he witnessed brick falling in the parking lot over there.”

Mr. Petrella – “Who owns the piece of equipment that is on our property? That’s our parking lot, right?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’d have to run it, if there’s any kind of numbers on it, we’d have to run it to see who owns it.”

Mr. Petrella – “Because it’s been there over 30 days it could be confiscated number one, and number two it’s been parked there for 14 months. They should owe us for parking.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – No report.

Mr. Battistel – No report.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORT

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Paul moved to adjourn. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll call. All ayes. So moved; meeting adjourned and declared Mayor Barilla.

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR