

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 29, 2021

The Meeting of City Council was called to order at 6:30 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.

*Mr. Dressel showed up a little while after roll call.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for June 22, 2021. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. Six (6) ayes; Petrella, Timmons, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, & Paul. One (1) abstain; Hahn. 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.”

Mr. Paul made a motion to go into executive session immediately to discuss the union contracts and personnel. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Council Chambers was cleared for Executive Session.

Council Chambers was reopened to continue the meeting.

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to come back from executive session to continue the Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

*Mayor Barilla called on Commissioner Thomas Graham to speak. Commissioner Thomas Graham presented Parks and Rec Director Lori Fetherolf with a check for \$10,000 to use towards all recreation. Council also had Mrs. Haley read a letter from the Commissioners about the money presented to Lori Fetherolf.

After the letter was read Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the letter and make it a part of the minutes. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla. Mr. Villamagna also wanted to make a note that Commissioner Tom Morelli was also present.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2021-45 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3rd 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.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2021-45. If anyone wishes to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-45 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-45 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on July 29, 2021.

NO. 2021-46 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE THREE (3) 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. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-46 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will take effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

NO. 2021-47 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE THREE (3) 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.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-47. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-47 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-47 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance 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.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-48. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-48 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-48 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will take effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

NO. 2021-51 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE – 2nd 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 – 2nd 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 – 2nd 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 – 2nd 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. Petrella – “Just a couple things. I see Jimmy is out in the audience and I want to thank you for Saturday and your quick response; nobody lost water and that’s a blessing right there because LaBelle, Pleasant Heights, Lincoln Heights would’ve all been out of water. I got to commend Jimmy and his department for making sure that all those areas that I just mentioned didn’t run out of water and everything was taken care of very quickly. Thank you for that.”

Jim Jenkins – “You’re welcome. I’ll let the guys know they are the ones that need the credit so I’ll let them know. Thank you Mr. Petrella.”

Mr. Petrella – “Next once again I want to talk about weeds and litter and Jimmy you and I have talked about this earlier this evening; we’re having problems hiring people to cut weeds and pick up litter but we got to get it done. I mean everything is starting to get overgrown and unmanageable. So do you want to elaborate on that?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes I will. Pursuing to Mr. Petrella’s request last week I talked with Bob Baird to verify that we’re like every other city at stake having trouble hiring people because the government is still giving money out there but we’re still trying. I also talked to Bob we have purchased some chemicals that we’re going to use here but I also looked at a couple contractors that we may be able to do for specific areas of the city and the one thing Costa that I need to verify with you we have a designated right of way to go on properties for…”

Mr. Mastro – “On our roads?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “On our roads. Right off our roads sidewalks and that so depending on where that goes we may be able to take care of some of this on the over growth that are on the sidewalks and by the street to clean it up.”

Mr. Mastro – “We do reserve a right of way on either side of the street and Mr. Dolak can tell you exactly where each street exactly where it goes.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “We’re going to approach it this way and cut it and spray it and these are primary (inaudible) are the vacant lots. When we get into lots that have people living there then they are going to have to be brought into court and you know what the process is on that. It’s never quick so that’s where we’re at.”

Mr. Petrella – “I understand that but on Euclid as soon as you turn on Bellevue Blvd. onto Euclid that block there on the north side of it there’s a tree that’s completely unpassable and it’s going out into the street.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “That’s the same way with Garrett and Adams there’s like if you come out of that turn on Garrett you can’t see and a car could be coming down Adams and you can side swipe them.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “On those; those are impediments in our roads that we have a right to cut down to clear it and have vehicle traffic to go through. We’ve done this on several streets already so I will have Mr. Baird look at those two tomorrow.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “What about when you have weeds growing across the wires from one side of the street to the other?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Depends on whose wires they are; as long as it is passable by vehicle traffic now if they are AEP wires that’s their responsibility to take care of that which we notify them.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So…”

Mayor Barilla – “Mrs. Anyabwile its Mr. Petrella’s turn to talk. Yours is coming up.”

Mr. Timmons – “I just want to thank the Police for their quick response on the murder that happened on Pennsylvania Ave. I was glad to see that they made an arrest in that very quickly and I do appreciate that so thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay so my question would be if weeds are growing across the wire can a citizen call directly to AEP or should they call the City?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “They can do either one. Whichever they want. If they call the City we’ll have to look and verify if it’s our line and if it’s belongs to the Phone Company or does it belong to AEP?”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So it’s better to call the city?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I would say so.”

Mr. Dressel – “So now just on the weed issue so I have hundreds of lots with weeds but I have a situation on Logan between the railroad tracks and 7th St. with one lot that isn’t being taken care of and I know who the owner is so I called him and so I’m going to give him a week and then I’ll give you his name and information and he can easily afford to mow the lot if he desires too. He chooses not to. That’s another one so looking him up sometimes you can actually call some people. Is that alright if I wait a week?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Sure.”

Mr. Dressel – “Because the neighbors definitely want it taken care of.”

Mrs. Hahn – “A couple of things. First of all there will be the pool open on the 4th of July but unlike the past years we are not going to be able to have that be a free day. So if you got a family pass you can still come and use your family pass. If not it’s \$3.00 per person we had over a hundred people there today; 106 today which is much more than our average in the past. It is such a blessing that people have that opportunity to go to the community pool and I’m so grateful that they found the equipment they need to repair it and then we’ll get the new pump in for next year. So and I have had calls from people; I don’t know if you all have but very grateful for the opportunity to go to the pool and cool off with their kids. I just had a quick question so when you talk about getting the chemicals at the end of Pennsylvania Ave. there are two lots that we have demolished the buildings and the last couple of summers the weeds have gotten very high and I just wondered is it possible for us to spray those two areas; it’s coming near Piece of Pie Park but it’s at the end of Pennsylvania Ave.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’ll have him look at it.”

Mrs. Hahn – “You know we have gone up there Eric last summer.”

Mr. Timmons – “It’s McDowell and Pennsylvania.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yeah and we now demolished two of those buildings and I don’t know.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “The city has demolished those?”

Mrs. Hahn – “Yeah and so I’m just thinking if; I mean I hate to kill the grass but if we’re doing the chemical spray I think the people who live around there would really appreciate not having that mess to look at.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Okay.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you very much.”

Mr. Paul – “Thank you you’re Honor. I have one ordinance I’d like to sunshine tonight.” Mr. Paul sun shined an ordinance authorizing and directing the approval of expenditures without a purchase order over \$3,000.00 pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Mr. Paul also called for a Finance Committee Meeting on Tuesday July 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. Tonight I have Mr. Jenkins here he’d like to introduce a couple people we are working for contracted to the City and explain exactly what work we’re doing.”

Jim Jenkins – “Thanks Mr. Mavromatis. As most of Council probably knows or don’t know we work with Arcadis Engineering with the Water Dept. projects. A lot of you guys knew Tom Hardwick he was our Lead Engineer and he has since retired from Arcadis; I think that was through the COVID portion of our lives to where when he retired we weren’t in session in the building it was mostly virtual. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce Council and the Mayor and the City Manager to our current engineers with Arcadis; we have Matt Boon and Bridget Finnegan they are working on our West End Water Tower Projects and a couple other projects that we have in the pipeline; the roof project at the old filtration plant and a couple other things looking at (all inaudible) at the filtration plant. Also our winter lows that we’ve experienced in the past Bridget is spearing that; trying to look at our options of what we can do whether it be adding a super pulsater or just a change in chemicals to help us out. So they’ll be looking at all that stuff and I just wanted Council to put a face to a name. They’ll be here doing presentations I’m sure in the future with me and if I refer to them in one of my presentations you’ll be able to put a face to the name and after council I encourage you all to introduce yourselves and talk to them a little bit about what we’re doing with the Water Dept. Also Mr. Petrella brought up a lot of you guys might not know but Saturday we had a 12 inch line break on our LaBelle pumping line at the plant; it was within the plant property. I was notified at 6:00 a.m.; went over and got the crew out; we ended up having a contractor help our guys also the line ended up being 10 feet deep and we replace 10 feet of a 12 inch line that broke. That was our pumping line to our LaBelle system. We did put out a boil advisory as a precaution for the LaBelle system in the event that we would run out of water from the storage that we had in our tanks. They did get low but we never did run out of water in that system so we were able to start our pumps again before the water ran out. So we were lucky and the guys did great as Mr. Petrella said. I ended up having to go out of town my son had a baseball tournament in Streetsboro so I was on the phone a lot. Mr. Mavromatis thank you for stopping in multiple times and helping the guys out. It truly goes to the guys they are the heart and soul of the Water Dept. and that’s who needs the thank you. Other than that again after council please introduce yourselves so these guys know who you are also. Thank you.”

Mr. Mastros – No Report

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Can I ask Mr. Mastros something? I understand that for weed lots that are owned by LLOCs”

Mr. Mastros – “LLCs”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Yes that we are not allowed to approach them.”

Mr. Mastros – “It’s not that you’re not allowed to approach them it’s hard to enforce it against an LLC because an LLC is an entity. You’d have to pierce the veil of the LLC which is a difficult process but it’s not like you can’t cite them in but it’s hard to first to get service on them a lot of the times because they don’t update their statutory agent and secondly you’re dealing with a legal entity not a person. That’s what makes it so difficult.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So how can we hold them accountable?”

Mr. Mastros – “The only thing we can do is what we’ve probably been doing in the past; to give them the notice we get service on them; we perfect the service; they don’t cut it in time; we probably cut it and put the costs against their taxes. That’s the probably the best way to deal with an LLC.”

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – “We’ll now move onto miscellaneous reports and signing in this evening is Mr. Villamagna.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor thank you. Jim that Alert Media whatever transpired with that?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “We’ve had meetings with our Department Heads; everything is set up; we need to do a testing; I think we have a meeting is it this week Jim or next?”

Jim Jenkins – “I think its next week.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Next week and it’s more training for our Department Heads and once that’s there then we’ll get out to the public where they can sign up for it.”

Mr. Villamagna – “So it’s still a go.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Absolutely. We’re ready to go and this would’ve been a classic time to use it had we had all the citizens we can send it out based on geographic areas. It would’ve been sent to LaBelle, Pleasant Heights, however we had it down so it’s there.”

Mr. Petrella – “Jim since Bob brought that up I thought we were going to capture a lot of the phone numbers that are listed on the (all inaudible)?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “We brought that up. It’s a matter we have to send it out; we can’t automatically take that and put them into the system. They have to sign up for this. We can send this out on their water bill; your

chance to sign up here this is all you have to do. That is their number and they get text messages on it and I'm not sure is there charges for incoming texts?"

Mr. Mastros – "There could be. Depending on their plans."

Mr. Mavromatis – "That's the issue there so we're just going to send it out on our regular water bill."

Mr. Petrella – "So everybody will be notified through their water bill?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Those are the ones we have (inaudible) numbers for. Yes. The other will have to do through News 9 and through the Herald Star. I just hope this is better than the reverse 911."

Mr. Dressel – "Well I just had a question then so as people sign up for water from go date forward can we have them agree..."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes. That's the best time right there. They're there and you know you explain it to them and they can sign right up. It's no cost for them to sign up they just need to be aware that they will be getting text messages from the City of Steubenville."

Mr. Dressel – "Will they be able to sign up on the city's website or some other link?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "We're going to set it up that way and I was in a zoom call yesterday with our newly developed website and it's coming around pretty good so once we get the final product then we'll do a briefing to Council so you can see what our new website looks like. They've done a pretty good job so far so we'll have a modernized website for the City of Steubenville."

Mayor Barilla thanked the Water Dept., Street Dept., and Fire Dept. for all their help with the Dean Martin Festival and Greek Festival last week.

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