

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

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

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for July 13, 2021. Second by Mr. Timmons. Six (6) ayes; Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Petrella, Timmons, & Villamagna. One (1) abstain; Paul. 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. 2021-55 – BY THE FINANCE COMMISSION – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Hahn

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.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-55. If anyone is wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-55 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called questions. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-55 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on August 19, 2021.

NO. 2021-56 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 2nd reading

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

NO. 2021-58 – 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. 2021-58. If anyone is wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-58 please step forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called questions. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2021-58 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect upon the Mayor’s signature.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Yes sir I have two issues that I would like to talk about this evening. First I’d like to call a meeting for the Pride Committee and I’d like to invite Judge Mascio to really talk about how the courts can interact with us getting the help to help with the weed situation. Also talk about you know the Code Enforcement Officer can do to really manage the issues we’re having with weeds and gardens and everything else on people’s properties.”

Mr. Villamagna called for a Point of Order and according to the by-laws only the Chairman of the committee can call for a committee meeting and Mr. Villamagna is the Chairman of the Pride Committee. Mr. Villamagna explained to Mrs. Anyabwile that he’s had previous committee meetings under planning and has had the appropriate Department Heads there to talk about the issues Mrs. Anyabwile was bringing up. Mrs. Anyabwile asked Mr. Villamagna to call for a Pride Committee meeting and he said he will in the future when he is ready and informed her that Judge Mascio can’t discuss any ongoing cases with Council. Mrs. Anyabwile asked if it could happen as soon as possible.

Mrs. Anyabwile – “On the next issue it’s a good report. I actually went to the SVRTA Meeting on Thursday and the things that they have coming up are so numerous and so wonderful I wanted the staff at SVRTA to come

speaking on it themselves so I asked Jerry Thomas, Tim Turner, and Heather Dock to come and give us a presentation on a lot of good things down at the bus stop. Would you guys come forward please?"

Mr. Jerry Thomas and Mr. Tim Turner gave a presentation on what SVRTA has been working on and what we can plan on seeing in the future such as:

- Changed current routes to make them more suitable for citizens; also added an extra route and plan on adding another one in the future (Able to provide more direct transportation, less transfers, and minimal wait time)
- They have expanded the coverage of the routes (Robinson, Rayland, Wintersville; they do cover some of Pleasant Heights but they stated it's hard to maneuver through some of those streets so they stick to the main streets)
- SVRTA changed their hours of operations and even expanded the hours for certain routes
- They are working with other transportation agencies such as Eastern Ohio and Ohio Valley Transit Agencies to help get citizens to their destinations outside the city limits and also picking up citizens outside the city limits to bring them into Steubenville for their needs
- Refurbished all the Bus Shelters and designed brand new Bus Signs that are easier to read and to understand
- Plan on adding Bus Route signs at the SVRTA Headquarters and other places throughout the city
- There's a total of 123 dedicated stops; these stops are SVRTA's promise to the community that if you're there they will pick you up. They do discretionary stop but they could not list all the places to do these type of stops and as long as the place is a safe place to drop the citizens off they are okay with it but they leave that decision to the driver. The only downfall of these discretionary stops is that they take time away from the set schedule. (All of this is weather permitting)
- Updating their website and also in negotiation to develop an app with it to have a GPS location of the bus you're wanting to use (Will be able to provide any type of emergency changes to the routes if certain roads are closed for any reason)
- Changing their rules about how many bags citizens are allowed to have on the bus and planning to order canvas bags for the citizens to be able to put more of their groceries in one bag
- Have partnered up with new businesses in the City of Steubenville such as the Carriage Inn
- They informed Council that they have a wide variety of citizens that use the buses, from children to elder adults and even citizens that are handicap
- SVRTA plan on having everything ready to go by October 11, 2021

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – "Yes so usually the Friends of Beatty Park meet on Thursdays but they are going to meet tomorrow evening and it'll be at the Clubhouse at 7:00 p.m. and that is opened to the public and the people that have been working outside that Lori and Jim are going to be able to give them some assistance; some people have volunteered materials, dirt which is actually very helpful. So if you are interested in having a report of what they are doing and the events that they have scheduled you are more than welcomed to come."

Mr. Paul – "Yes you're Honor. I have one ordinance to sunshine." Mr. Paul sun shined an ordinance under finance; an ordinance authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute any contracts or purchase orders with Bearcom, for the purchase of Motorola Radio Equipment for the Police Department and Fire Department and declaring an emergency. Second by Mrs. Hahn. "The reason why this is an emergency is because our radios are obsolete. We cannot find parts for those. The quote is going to be about \$147,000 for the Police Department and \$837.00 for the Fire Department. This price will be good until the end of this month; that's why it's an emergency. Motorola is what we have our; is it our account with or are; we deal with Motorola exclusive correct? That's a State of Ohio deal correct?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Yes. It is on the State of Ohio (all inaudible) contract. The amount for the Fire Department is \$83,637. 50. The radios we currently have we're given to us based on an election; they were left over from a National Election that we were able to get them. The other thing that's been placed in that ordinance is this Friday is the last day for public comment on the American Recovery Act that was passed last March and after that we'll hopefully get final directions on how we can spend it and we're hoping with that we'll have some ability to capture the money there."

Mr. Paul – "Second I had a phone call today; not from one but three ladies who were kind of irate. We discussed this issue several weeks ago in fact we passed the ordinance that where we; it was the NCDs; it was brought to my attention that there's a house on Central Ave.; 3109 Central Ave. and the three ladies called me several times and today they called me and they were kind of very livid and irate; so I called Mr. Mavromatis and he had asked me to stop by and check the cars and license plates out. There were three license plates from Texas, one from Pennsylvania, and one from Indiana parked in front of this house and I've been told there's been a lot more than that parked in this vicinity. There was a Cadillac there but I couldn't see the license plate because I had to dodge a car flying up through that area and that's one of the reasons why the ladies are pretty livid about this. I told them I would bring that up tonight and hopefully you put this in the paper for me sir."

Mr. Timmons – "I want to add something to your comments on Central Ave. when you're finished."

Mr. Paul – "Okay. Would you please put something in the paper on this? Thank you because I told them I would bring this up tonight. I spoke with several people in our Planning and Zoning Department and hopefully

Mr. Mavromatis you can talk; I understand Mr. Petrossi is out but could you talk to the secretaries and asked them what we can do about this situation.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes.”

Mr. Paul – “Thank you.”

Mr. Timmons – “Okay so Central Ave. I got a call from a resident and they are asking if something can be looked at; you can park on both sides of the street on Central Ave. and they almost witnessed an accident and was almost involved in one because you have to watch cars turning on from different streets.”

Mr. Paul – “From Johnson Road.”

Mr. Timmons – “Exactly so I don’t know if that’s something Dolak can look at.”

Mr. Paul – “Well some cars are parked on the wrong side of the road anyways and I don’t want to get the Chief involved in this but if we have to then we can do that too. This is not a rental. They are using it as a rental and I brought it to Mr. Petrossi’s attention and he said he’d take care of it but he has personal issues going on so I understand that. That’s why I’m asking Mr. Mavromatis to maybe talk to the two ladies tomorrow and see if we can get the ball rolling on this. It was just purchased a couple months ago, maybe a month ago but before this guy starts collecting his money I wanted to put a halt to it. Second I would like to ask you Mayor have you talked with anybody about the memorial flags? I don’t want to forget about this because a couple years ago we brought it up and we just forgot about it.”

Mayor Barilla – “No I contacted the Councilman from Weirton that was involved with that; his wife was in charge of that and I spoke with him and he was going to get to his wife and have her call me which she has not.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay.”

Mayor Barilla – “So I’m going to reach out to her again. I don’t know who else we can get a hold of. Probably maybe Follansbee because they did the same thing so maybe we can go there as well. The lady from Weirton is the one we need to get in touch with.”

Mr. Villamagna – “And they were pretty excited about it too.”

Mr. Paul – “And there’s a lot of people that emailed me about this that they want to get their Grandfather or Father and numerous other individuals. I want to keep this moving.”

Mayor Barilla – “We’re good.”

Mr. Paul – “I have a website that someone from the Legion had given to me. I can get it again if you don’t get any response from this lady.”

Mayor Barilla – “Okay.”

Mr. Paul – “I wanted to get the ball rolling on this because pretty soon we’ll have to take them down because it’s winter. So maybe we can get it started for new year.”

Mayor Barilla – “Yeah for next year.”

Mr. Paul – “I had one other thing and I don’t want anyone to start “we’re going to spend money this way or that way”; okay we were talking about the American Recovery Act I would like to; I know we started; Chief has our new dog warden started yet?”

Chief McCafferty – “No I explained that I think last week you were...”

Mr. Paul – “I was off.”

Chief McCafferty – “We had two guys with two FDOs and they don’t count towards minimum manning because they are so new so you would short the midnight turn. So it’s like 12 weeks out.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay what I want to bring up for thought; it’s just for thought; I want everybody in this room to think about it; so we have the Code Enforcement Officer and we have the Dog Warden back, you got school starting okay? And I have nothing but complaints on Central, Pugliese West, and a friend of mine is the Assistant Principal at Harding and we went down and discussed this before if you can remember, I’d like to maybe have a Traffic Division again. Just look at that. I mean one guy for that, the Dog Warden; maybe the same department and then we have someone that; I know you’re not long for this job.”

Chief McCafferty – “You know the whole thing about this traffic division.”

Mr. Paul – “It’s just one guy.”

Chief McCafferty – “Yeah I know just one guy but it was shorted so bad when the old Council and City Manager cut my department; you have to remember 20 years ago when I first became Chief I had 54 guys so we can get by with 40 great. Okay? We figured that out. What nobody understands is the amount of work that’s put on my secretary because the whole traffic division accounted for what Bob? Four women?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Right.”

Chief McCafferty – “Four women so this is all nice talk.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I had four secretaries and three officers.”

Chief McCafferty – “Yeah and you know there’s only been one Karen for my past 20 years and who do you think picked up her work? I mean I’m just putting that out there.”

Mr. Paul – “We can figure that out. We’ll figure it out.”

Chief McCafferty – “You know everybody wants this, this and this but I have mentioned it over the years about a secretary. Okay I said enough. I’ll tell you what there’s not; there’s not anybody in this city that works harder than my secretary.”

Mr. Paul – “I never said that. I was wanting to give her a raise. So I’m just throwing it out there.”

Chief McCafferty – “I mean I agree with you. I’ll switch people around but as far as a traffic division...”

Mr. Paul – “I’m trying to get you more people.”

Mr. Villamagna – “We’re trying to get more people for you Chief.”

Mr. Paul – “That’s all.”

Chief McCafferty – “Well throw an office person in there somewhere.”

Mr. Paul – “Well that’s what Scott just said. I agree. And I’ll tell you what another person that needs a secretary is the Fire Chief. He needs a secretary but money doesn’t grow on trees we know that. But that’s something I wanted to throw out there Chief.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Hey Willie can I ask one thing?”

Mr. Paul – “Go ahead.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Is it possible to ask the Chief to include additional secretarial help in his budget proposal that we look at because I know you’ve been saying the same thing and I really would like us to consider that. Could we request that? I know we’ll start working on the budget probably in six weeks. I would like to ask you to do that.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes. Put it in their Chief.”

Chief McCafferty – “Thank you.”

Mr. Paul – “Thank you.”

Mr. Petrella – “The only question that I had is Jim where are we with alert media?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Jim Jenkins was on vacation and now that he’s back we’re going to meet back up hopefully tomorrow on a zoom call and all of our Department Heads have given us the information that we need. We’re going to do some test runs on it (all inaudible) send it out to the public. Again we cannot force them to sign up. This is the best avenue they have. It doesn’t cost them anything. Here’s the best part which would’ve been a classic to use it on is the Market Street Bridge being closed and Market Street and the railroad tracks being closed. News 9 has done a good job. The Herald Star has done a good job on it but still it’s not enough.”

Mr. Petrella – “Well the reason I was thinking about it is because of exactly what you said the Market Street Bridge, the railroad, when we have certain streets closed due to the striping; we could’ve alerted the public but during this period of time there’s going to be some traffic restrictions.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’ll let you know next Tuesday.”

Mr. Petrella – “I don’t want it to go on the back burner.”

Mr. Timmons – “Yes just one thing. Jim were you able to get ahold of anybody from the Health Department?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’m going to address that when I speak.”

Mr. Timmons – “Thank you.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor I have one thing.” Mr. Villamagna made a motion to accept the Mayor’s recommendation to appoint Lynnett M. Gorman of 2420 Alexander Manor to the JMHA Board. Term to expire May 2025. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. Last week we had a citizen come in and speak about a residence she had for rent; it was the house that was next door to hers that there were issues there. Wednesday and Thursday I had my inspectors go out, there were four violations found and that individual has been cited to come into court; the completion date is August 27, 2021. So those issues that they’ve found, our people, they cited them and there was a minor issue with the complaint but unfortunately she’s not here tonight so I will have to call her. Something that she needs to take care of but again we’ve done everything we can. I talked to the Health Commissioner Mr. Henry, he would’ve been here tonight but he had a conflict he had a prior engagement that he could not get out of as well as the Health Inspector. So both of them will be here next week. If you have questions for them please feel free to talk to them. I explained to them the situation that’s going on here so they advised that they will be here so I wanted to let Council know. Okay? Just to go on of what Mr. Paul brought up about this and again after researching this we had one quote from Motorola and it went down again, they gave us a better quote, they were able to do. Now it’s like anything else there’s back order but I talked to the representative today and he said due to the number of radios we have to order for Police and Fire that will move us up on the priority list and the price that they gave us. As I said earlier this Friday closes the response date for the public comments of the Rescue Act. What I’m hoping for once they get out with these guidelines that we will have, we might be able to use that money; I would much rather use that if we can do that and again the timing of this is why it’s being an emergency because if these radios go out today there’s nothing we can do. We’re out of radios. We have no spare parts. So that’s where we’re at with that so again I appreciate the support of Council for this and again it’s most important for our Fire Department as well as our Police Department. Again we will still follow up on this issue that is up on the address that’s in question on Oak Grove and our inspectors will follow up on that. So next week we’ll have the people that you asked for and direct that and I will also have one of our inspectors here for the meeting next Tuesday. And that’s all I had for tonight.”

Mr. Petrella – “Since we passed the ordinance for the three firemen where do we stand on this?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “The Fire Chief is on vacation; I believe we still have enough on our list to draw from so as soon as he gets back I will ask him how soon can we get these people on board.” Mr. Mavromatis also gave a brief update on the Parking Enforcement Officer who suffered a stroke last week. Hopefully will be back to work in 2-3 weeks.

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – “We’ll now move onto public forum and signing in this evening is Chuck Burch. Mr. Burch please step forward and state your name and address.”

Chuck Burch – 1320 Arlington. Mr. Burch asked Council to open up Piece of Pie Park again and to possibly sunshine a resolution tonight stating to do so. He believes that the kids in that area have nowhere to go and play and that possibly the Parks and Recreation Board can get grants to help put playground equipment back in.

Mr. Burch was informed by members of Council that he needed to go to the Park Board first and after they make a decision the Park Board will give a recommendation to Council and Council can then decide whether to agree with the Park Board or not. Mr. Burch also brought up how he would like to change the North End Park’s name to Lee West Park in honor of a student athlete that passed away a few years ago. The Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf informed Council that Mr. Burch was at the meeting this month and brought it up to the Board and the Board said they would go into executive session next month to discuss the matters.

Mrs. Anyabwile also brought up how the Mayor wanted to name North End Park after Moses Fleetwood Walker and stated how he’s getting more recognition for being the first African American to play Professional Baseball.

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