

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 17, 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; Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Parks & Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins (Acting City Manager) , Linda Harris from the Herald Star, WTOV9, & WTRF.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for August 10, 2021. Second by Mr. Timmons. Six (6) ayes; Petrella, Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul. One (1) abstain; Timmons. 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. 2021-65 – BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Dressel, Timmons, Anyabwile

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW FOR THE PURCHASE OF NECESSARY SUPPLIES FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SAID MATERIALS FOR THE YEAR 2022, AUTHORIZING THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO OF CONTRACTS, AND PAYMENT THEREOF.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – Mr. Timmons mentioned how some of Council are wearing apparel from local schools to show support to the students going back to school and to be aware of crosswalks and buses.

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Just two points you’re Honor. First SVRTA is having a meeting tomorrow and we still have a seat that’s vacant for the City for someone to be appointed on that board. The second one is a question I have for our attorney; for people who are constant violators of you know weeds growing is there like a progressive fines say for instance a person who continuously violates ordinances and then a person who has a lot of properties and the properties continue to violate. Is there a progression of a fine?”

Mr. Mastros – “No not currently in our ordinance.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “And is it possible to look at that as a way of turning these people from continuously having weeds and garbage and everything on the property?”

Mr. Mastros – “Sure.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay thank you. That’s all sir.”

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “I have a couple of things this coming Saturday at First Westminster Church the Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a “Touch the Truck” event and there’s going to be all kinds of vehicles there (all inaudible from coughing) allow to go right up to them and climb on board with all being watched; there’s going to be arts and crafts; they’ll be some food; there will be food trucks there too. It begins at four in the afternoon and goes until six so the Parks and Recreation Department wants to advertise that and encourage people to check that out. Beatty Park is going to be having a special event Thursday; it will run Thursday the 19th through 22nd and then the 26th to the 29th. It is our second attempt at Shakespeare in the Park and this year it is Macbeth; I believe people need to bring their own chairs. So either bring a blanket to throw down with all the rain you might want to bring chairs to sit in (all inaudible from noise) and they’ll have some lighting on the steps even though all of this should happen in the light and everyone is welcomed.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor. I have one; I would like to call a Finance Committee Meeting for the 24th and discuss the new water tower with the ARP funds that we’re getting that’s next week on the 24th at 6:00 p.m. We’re going to let Dave open it up with monthly reports from last month and then Mr. Jenkins is going to discuss the water tower with us and some of the other needs that we need in our water infrastructure. So with that on the week after September 7th Mr. Lewis asked if we could have a seven o’clock meeting with Finance;

it'll be an exit conference with the auditors and what we'll do is we'll meet at seven, we'll go straight into executive session, everybody can stay in the room as we always do we'll go to the Pugliese Room and we'll talk to the auditors because we can't discuss that in the public until we sign off on the audit and then the media gets it and then we can go from there. He'd like to do that on September 7th."

Mrs. Anyabwile asked if we could change the meeting to a different date.

Mr. Jenkins explained that they need to have the meeting on the 24th because everything needs to be turned in on the 25th to try and get a grant for the water tower project.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mastros – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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

Mrs. Hahn – Mrs. Hahn introduces State Representative Ron Ferguson to give a brief speech.

Mr. Ferguson gave a brief speech on his opinion about Steubenville City School Board's decision on mandating masks in all the schools and felt that it should be the parent's decisions and not the school boards.

Mrs. Hahn – "I appreciate your work in Columbus and I appreciate you being here tonight. I am also very grateful that our School District is opening up I think our children have a much better chance of really making progress this year because they'll be able to be in class full-time and that's our hope and prayer that no other serious medical emergency is going to develop. Initially I thought I would bring a letter that I had written to reflect the fact that the Governor has not mandated masks and also the (inaudible) Department of Health has not mandated masks. Some of the things changed. Some of the elements there initially was going to be a difference of how children were vaccinated and those who weren't going to be treated and I was concerned about whether or not that could cause a kind of discrimination that policy as far I know was changed yesterday. It will be across the board masking for all of the children. One person mentioned that their child actually works at TJ Maxx and there are breaks for taking the masks off. What my hopes is that the School District will try to figure out how they may be able to give children breaks to have that fresh air and have less of the carbon dioxide but I think there's a lot of information and some of it you may have some of it we may have I think the most appropriate body is to go directly to the School Board. We do represent you and I'm grateful that you're here but as one gentleman mentioned to me today you all elect us and you also elect the school board. Like you I often don't even know who I am voting for when I go into the election for the School Board and I think hopefully that's changing across the country; that we're figuring out and will take time to talk to time so I think that's the most appropriate body to bring your concerns but certainly any of us are willing to talk to you afterwards and at this time I'm not going to put forth the letter for consideration of Council we will just continue to individually monitor the situation and make our own judgement and I hope to be in attendance to listen to the School Board next week. I think the Superintendent has worked very hard with many of her staff and teachers to come up with a number of ways that they can try to keep the children safe. Fundamentally my thought is no one will care more for the health and well-being of my child and no one is more ultimately responsible than I am and I also want to see parents in power to make these decisions. Thank you and thank you for letting me share my thoughts."

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Barilla – "We'll now move onto Public Forum and signing in this evening is Mr. Chuck Burch. Mr. Burch please step forward and state your name and address."

Chuck Burch – "1320 Arlington Ave." Mr. Burch discussed on how he would like to have street lights in the alley between Arlington and Oak Grove. Mr. Burch was directed by a few Council Members to speak with the City Manager when he returns because he would be the one to take care of the issue. He was also informed that he would need to find out if the lights that were busted out either AEP's or the City's.

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