

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 3, 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 Hahn, Paul, Petrella, Villamagna, Anyabwile, & Dressel.

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to excuse Mr. Timmons from tonight's meeting. Second by Mr. Paul. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Water Superintendent Jim Jenkins, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Utility Supervisor Lisa Knight, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for July 27, 2021. Second by Mr. Petrella. 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. 2021-61 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

**A RESOLUTION COMMENDING DAVID CHESTER POSTHUMOUSLY FOR DEDICATION AND DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE.**

Mrs. Haley – "Resolution No. 2021-61 a resolution commending David Chester posthumously for dedication and distinguished public service to the City of Steubenville. Whereas, David Chester was a lifelong member of Quinn A.M.E. Church in Steubenville where he taught Sunday School and served on the Men's Usher Board; and whereas, David Chester helped sponsor numerous fundraisers for Quinn A.M.E. Church; and whereas, David Chester graduated with an Associate Degree from Jefferson Technical Institute; and whereas, David Chester served honorably in the United State Air Force during the Vietnam War era; and whereas, David Chester retired from the Weirton Steel Corporation Tin Mill Lab; and whereas, David Chester was a member of the Kindred Spirits Social Club that provides annual scholarships to Steubenville High School students in memory of James Patterson; and whereas, David Chester served on the City of Steubenville's Fair Housing Practices Commission since 2006; and whereas, David Chester served as a Board Member and Treasurer of the Ohio Valley Fair Housing Center since its organization in 2011; and whereas, David Chester was devoted to his family, church and community; and whereas, David Chester was committed to battling housing discrimination wherever and whenever it occurred. 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 commend Mr. David Chester posthumously for his dedication and distinguished public service to the City of Steubenville. Section 2: The Clerk of this Council shall present a certified copy of this Resolution to Llana Chester, wife of the late David Chester. 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."

Mayor Barilla – "You've heard the reading of Resolution No. 2021-61. If anyone is wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2021-61 please step forward and state your name and address."

Mr. Villamagna made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2021-61 by roll call. Second by Mr. Petrella. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2021-61 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla.

Mr. Villamagna presented the Resolution to Llana Chester followed by a brief speech.

Mr. John Barnes also gave a brief speech.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay so sadly I have to let you know that Sunday is going to be the last day that the pool is opened this summer season. So many of our lifeguards are leaving to go get ready to go back to college and they informed Lori that they just can't work any longer so even though we have a lot of warm weather left; if you haven't gotten to the pool yet you got a few days; it'll be opened until Sunday. I wanted to follow up on something that we've had numerous conversations about and that was the Code Enforcement of the high weeds and grass and so I called the Herald Star today and got information about the legal ads and Costa is working on the wording and our hope is what we want to do we'll get from Officer Dorsey the people who have been sent a

certified letter that came back and we want to publish this into the legal ads Monday through Friday and then the following week move on going ahead on the property and get it taken care of. We will publish both the name of the owner as well as the address where it'll happen. Hopefully you know we'll encourage the people of our town that we are; we wanted to do this and we've just talked a lot about it and I'm grateful that we're going to get moving on it and my hope is that the list that gets published will also be sent to our M & R Department or the City Manager maybe to contact the community service people if they are able to help us and then by the end of the week we'll know whether or not they've been taken care of it because they will only have those five days to resolve it and it will fall on the heels of being cited; having five days; having the certified letter sent etc. etc. and then hopefully the following week we'll get action. I'm really grateful that Costa is helping with the wording we'll try to get it as clear and inexpensive as possible under the legal ads but it's only \$3.00 a line so running it five days a week is; actually name and address should only roughly be \$15.00 and then we can add that on the lien along with whoever does the (all inaudible)."

Mr. Paul – "Yes you're Honor I have three ordinances I want to bring up under the Finance Committee." Mr. Paul sun shined an ordinance authorizing and directing the Finance Director to establish a fund or multiple funds, as may be needed, for the creation of fund numbers for the funds received in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act and declaring an emergency. Second by Mr. Villamagna. An ordinance amending Ordinance No 2020-89 to amend the Revenue Tax Budget for the year ending December 31, 2021, to adjust for the change in revenue received as a result of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 and declaring an emergency. Second by Mr. Villamagna. An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2020-90 to make appropriations for year ending December 31, 2021, for authorization to appropriate and authorize the expenditures of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds and declaring an emergency. Second by Mr. Villamagna. "And these are all for the money we receive from the government and we'll discuss it next week. One other thing before we leave Chris I need to speak with you."

Mr. Petrella – "Yes you're Honor. Hey Jimmy just a real quick question, in light of the tornado we just had where are we with Alert Media?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "I believe its tomorrow we're having another conference call to do some testing on it with Alert Media. I emailed them today; on the 5<sup>th</sup> we're having a conference call with them at 3:30."

Mr. Petrella – "Okay I just want to keep this at the fore front."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Now what I'll probably do so Council can be aware I will do a couple test runs to you specifically so be prepared to look for them."

Mr. Villamagna – "Yes Mayor I would like to sunshine a resolution." Mr. Villamagna sun shined a resolution authorizing the waiver of the remaining undeferred amount on the CHIP Housing Rehabilitation Mortgage for Shirley Schalk, 1808 Oregon Avenue, and declaring an emergency. Second by Mr. Paul.

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Yes you're Honor I have a couple of things. One and I hate to bring this up is the weed lots; I went through like different lots in the South end and I noticed that a lot of lots are owned by just a few people and they are easy to find because they are in this County and they are in the City. So one thing I would like to do is to be able to; it's just a couple of landlords and a couple landowners who own like 20 to 30 to 40 lots; empty lots so I would like for us to concentrate definitely on those you know landlords and (all inaudible) are really abusing you know allowing weeds and trash to be on their lots and I'll talk to Officer Dorsey about you know (all inaudible) owns a lot of the empty lots. I wanted to ask Jim about the (all inaudible from coughing) because we said we did not have enough manpower or womanpower to cut the weeds on lots and that on one of the alternatives was to discuss contracting those lots out for cutting."

Mr. Mavromatis – "I've met with Mr. Baird; what I've asked him to do was to get me a team of four people and they will work from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the next 30 days and what they will go to is specific sore areas in this town. Some that are provided by Council and others by other departments to see how this works. And again whatever the condition may be whether if it would be potholes or cutting trees, whether it be trash issues, where we can legally go we will go and I've already dealt with two tree issues this past week and we will (all inaudible from coughing) they may not like how we cut them but they will meet the codes that we can get our traffic through. So then we'll have an idea how that works out. If it does when we come up with our next budget be prepared to get a team of four extra people to go to M & R or whatever; two in Streets and two in Sanitation whatever it takes to get that team probably focused on the problems in this city. But understand this these courts are not going to make criminals out of these people. You have to accept that. So the only thing left for us to do is go and pick up after these people; those that we can fine or bring into court we will, other we're going to have to absorb it and that's the bottom line. We've gone through this too many times. What do we do? We cite them; bring them into courts and it's a revolving door. They come in; I did this; okay you got another 30 days; our Code Enforcement Officer does a remarkable job in citing people in here but once it gets here it's out of our hands completely. That's the bottom line."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "So those jobs in M & R will they be temporary jobs or are we (all inaudible)."

Mr. Mavromatis – "No. If we can hire to keep our staff we are but we're like everyone else trying to get people on board. These will be current people that will work overtime from 3 to 7 and we'll see what the results are for the next 30 days. Then Council can make a decision where it wants to go with this."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Okay. My last point is I was thinking about last week when Mr. Mayo brought up about Board Appointments we had appointed somebody to JMHA the week prior and I had suggested someone I thought was very good for that you know that appointment so I was kind of disappointed that this person who has worked in housing and has worked with homeless people you know understands what's going on with it and what it takes to get into public housing I thought this person would be a very good choice and they weren't selected so I was kind of disappointed and I wasn't really sure that the person that the Mayor had recommended

would be a good person because I didn't think they had a background in housing so I said okay I did vote for that person although I wasn't really sure about the person but since then you know I had found out that this person has actually lived in public housing and does know some history about public housing. So I'm okay with the choice but what I suggest and what I suggested before is that if we see some I don't know resume before we vote because I didn't know that our vote had any weight. I just thought it was the Mayor saying this is who he wanted in and you know he's just coming with a sign with you know agreement with the City Council but now that I know we have even more weight I'd like to know who we are voting for in these positions. So if we could see resumes of the people who are coming to these positions you know I think that would help me make better choices in the future and that's all I have."

Mayor Barilla – "We'll make sure that happens. We normally do make sure that happens but..."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "No all we get is a name of the person you recommend and then you know then we see that and then we come that day or the next day to vote you know with your recommendation."

Mayor Barilla – "Our secretary has been out because of issues so that's why it slipped through the cracks. But we normally do that we normally give a resume prior to your approval."

Mrs. Anyabwile – "Like I said I'm a person I want to vote for who I believe to be the best job and not to just say one thing (all inaudible) and then leave something else and then vote some other way because I'm not that type of person. That's all I have your Honor."

Mr. Dressel – "I wanted to add something to what Asantewa said about the certain property owners owning lots of property. There are a handful of people that I know and I know exactly who you're talking about because they also own property in the North End and (all inaudible) few that own a hundred lots and I know who they are and I know where they live even and some of them I actually know and call them and say hey it would be really nice if you would mow this lot that you've left unattended for five years. It hasn't happened yet because I have one I'm working on Logan Ave. for example that's right next to a house that's always perfectly kept and then there's this crappy lot and then there's lots that the land bank is actually taking care of because they ended up owning it three years ago so now you got mowed jungle load mowed and it just looks terrible. So and these are people that can afford to mow these properties a bazillion times over so I don't know what we need to do to get that taken care of but it isn't happening. It hasn't happened in the entire time that I've been on Council. Seven years and not one of them that I'm aware of have been brought into court. And I have something to sunshine this evening." Mr. Dressel sun shined 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. Second by Mr. Petrella.

## REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you Mayor. I'd like to give my time to Lisa Knight which we ran out so Lisa if you could brief Council on your billing system."

Lisa Knight – "Well we started into looking at; for a new system; they are requiring reports on our servers technical which I sent over to Zach and he just got that back to me today. I also am working on a 28 page they want to know everything about what we have now. So I'm working through that and hopefully I'll have it complete by tomorrow and get it to them. Then they'll give it to their information team and then we'll find out more on how soon we can get this done."

Mr. Villamagna – "Lisa you said they but I don't know who they are."

Lisa Knight – "Software Solutions is doing our new billing program. We'll then incorporate the new system from Neptune (inaudible)."

Mr. Dressel – "Just to clarify this it would eliminate the odd week cycle right hopefully?"

Lisa Knight – "Yeah. Well that's what we're hoping to do while we switch over to the system then we can bring it all together to where we can eliminate that extra week."

Dave Lewis – "Down the road. Both systems have to be changed."

Mr. Dressel – "Okay."

Mr. Petrella – "What two systems have to be changed?"

Dave Lewis – "The billing system and the meter system."

Mr. Petrella – "Because this Council wants a 12 month steady bill without the spikes."

Lisa Knight – "Right that's what we're trying to incorporate. Right now we looked at trying to do that first but it's very difficult to get it done. So when we bring in a system then we're hoping to incorporate maybe even reduce cycles instead of having the four cycles maybe we can drop it to two. Those are still in the planning stages but we are working on some (all inaudible). We're still at the very beginning stages."

Mr. Mastro – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – "Costa you sent us an email a couple weeks ago about the property on N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. (all inaudible)."

Mr. Mastro – "Yes."

Mr. Villamagna – "Are we talking about this yet?"

Mr. Mastro – "We can. I have reiterated and I'll do it again but I need an offer from them."

Mr. Villamagna – "They haven't said anything yet?"

Mr. Mastro – "They expressed their interest and that's fine but no one has offered me an offer."

Mr. Villamagna – “Because they brought this up a while back and they still haven’t given you...”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct. So I will touch base with her attorney and I keep asking for that.”

Mr. Dressel – “I mean I’m in there every so often I could just mentioned that if they wanted too they could call you.”

Mr. Mastros – “They have counsel so I can’t talk to them.”

Mr. Dressel – “Because the reason this is a good idea is because there are two lots across the street that we do have to mow and M & R does mow them about every two months and there’s also a tree stump that’s been laying there forever that I don’t think is even attached to the ground anymore.”

Mr. Mastros – “I’ll get in touch with her lawyer tomorrow.”

Mr. Dressel – “It’ll just be one less problem for us. They mow everything else they own up there and it’s a lot.”

Mr. Villamagna – “And they are a good company up there.”

Mr. Dressel – “Yes.”

Mrs. Hahn – “I just have one quick question for Costa. I was driving through LaBelle and I haven’t driven through Pleasant Heights but they may have a similar problem but I’ve found 12 completely dead trees that have no bark on them. I mean they’ve been dead a really long time and there are all in the tree line closets to the street. Is there anything that is the City’s obligation to take care of those dead trees? Is it a combination of city and property owner? Is it completely property owner? Because I’m really wondering if we have another tornado come through those trees could easily get uprooted and hit cars and people. I mean I really wonder at what point does that becomes a safety concern.”

Mr. Mastros – “So it’s funny you mention that. So Monday Mr. Baird and Mr. Mavromatis and I had a meeting regarding those issues but also other issues regarding trees, our alleys, tree lawns, and the issues that we’re having with them so it’s; you would think it’s an easy legal issue; it’s not. I started doing the research and I’m slowly putting together a memo for Mr. Mavromatis and for Mr. Baird on the legalities of what we can cut. Where we can cut. Whose responsibility is it? Whose liability is it as it relates to our streets, the tree lawn and our alleys? There are numerous issues that; that’s one I really didn’t think of to be honest with you with the tornado issue but it’s not an easy; it’s a complicated legal issue. So we are working on it and I can get you an answer as soon as I can figure out all the answers to my questions that Mr. Baird and Mr. Mavromatis asked me.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Thank you.”

## MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

## PUBLIC FORUM

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR