

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 7, 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, Hahn, Paul, Timmons, & Villamagna.

Mr. Paul made a motion to excuse Mr. Dressel & Mr. Petrella from tonight's meeting. Second by Mr. Timmons. 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, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Parks & Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, Linda Harris from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for August 24, 2021. Second by Mr. Timmons. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Barilla.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Barilla – "Petitions and Communications Madame Clerk?"

Mrs. Haley – "I have one. It's a letter of remembrance of 9/11. Whereas people of all ages and walks of life, across America, and around the world, collectively witnessed an event of immense tragedy on September 11, 2001; and Whereas the events of that day instantly transformed nearly everyone's lives, some through personal loss and many others through an unfamiliar sense of individual and national vulnerability; and Whereas an unprecedented historic bonding of Americans arose from the collective shock, unifying the country in an outpouring of national spirit, pride, selflessness, generosity, courage, and service; and Whereas many brave people heroically, tirelessly, and courageously participated in an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous rescue and recovery effort, in some cases voluntarily putting their own well-being at risk; and Whereas September 11 will never, and should never be just another day in the hearts and minds of all Americans; and Whereas September 11, 2021 will be the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America; and Whereas many citizens will memorialize September 11 by engaging in, or making a plan to engage in personal and individual acts of community service, or other giving activities, as part of a solemn day of remembrance and tribute; and Whereas on March 19, 2009, the United States Congress passed bipartisan legislation authorizing the establishment of September 11 as a federally recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance, which President Barack Obama signed into law on April 21, 2009; and Whereas all citizens of the City of Steubenville are encouraged to participate in this observance through moments of silence, the flying of the flag of the United States at half-staff, as well as community service and charitable activities in tribute and remembrance; Now, therefore, I, Jerry Barilla, Mayor of the City of Steubenville, Jefferson County, Ohio, by virtue of my office, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2021, as "9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance" in the City of Steubenville in tribute to all the victims of 9/11 and the many who rose in service in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and urge all citizens to observe September 11, 2021, the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, as a voluntary Day of Service and Remembrance and furthermore call all citizens and organizations of the City of Steubenville to consider joining in this observance and engage in activities of tribute, solemn remembrance and charitable service."

Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the letters and make it apart of the minutes. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved motion carried declared Mayor Barilla.

Mayor Barilla – "Thank you Madam Clerk."

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – "Yes I have a couple of things. One the Parks and Recreation Board will meet tomorrow night here in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. everyone is welcomed to attend and then I wanted to mention that the Blue Mass is going to be this coming Sunday at St. Peter's Church at 10:00 a.m. and it's an opportunity for our community to honor our Police Officers, our Firefighters, and our First Responders and I just want to make a comment that I really hope that the people of our community will keep all of them in our prayers as they go forth and serve our community in a lot of different ways and difficult circumstances."

Mr. Paul – "Yes you're Honor. I just have one item." Mr. Paul talked about how his daughter works at McKinley Stem and how they are having a small ceremony Friday morning for the First Responders to honor them and to remember 9/11.

Mr. Timmons – No Report

Mr. Villamagna – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. Last Friday was First Friday and I went down about 9:30 p.m. and it was pretty well packed. I initially check with our cameras to look at the whole streets and everything; very orderly; there were no issues and I talked with our Police Officer there and again you could clearly see that majority of the crowd was from the University. Again they were obeying all the procedures there. The Harmonium Group had asked three weeks ahead of time about putting the maze up which they put up and we had our Building Inspector look at it; we had our Fire Department look at it and everything was in compliance. So talking to a lot of the store owners they were very happy; I stopped at Yorgo’s and a couple other places there so again it’s a very positive thing for the City and again it’s difficult on First Friday when it’s football night because we had a big crowd up at the stadium too but again I’m sure after the game they came down so again that was very successful. We’re still dealing with COVID issues here and what they are finding out. A lot of the cases are people who have not been vaccinated. We have this variant out there even people that have been vaccinated can catch it but because of the vaccination it’s minimized to what they do get. Clearly elderly people it’s a different ballgame because of underlying issues they may have so it’s still prevalent here and we still have to watch what we do here in this city but everybody that has been good so far; our workers have been very good; Council was just briefed tonight in executive session and again I want to let the public know we just finished our audit and it came out outstanding again that this city has done this. We went through a very difficult year last year 2020 and with everything that was dealt with every city; our city came out very well and that’s because of our employees that we have here. All of the department heads, Dave Lewis’s shop, we watched what we did and what we spent and made sure that the money that was given to us was spent in the proper way so everything came out in this audit that was done so that was good news and again we’re working on things for this year. I found out today we’re looking at possibly mid-month to the end of the month that we’ll get a final ruling on how we can spend the money that we were given which was 14.4 million. We already received 7.2 million and again with the basic four things that they are listed we could spend the money right now on all of it just either on infrastructure, board band, take your pick we have so many issues within the city so once we get the guidance which will hopefully open this up that where we can look at some of the other areas we can maybe put some of our other money in there which we need in a lot of different areas in the city. That’s where we’re at right now. That’s all I have for this evening.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Jim question for you. Did you find anything about the booster yet?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Not yet from the Health Department. They’re still waiting. Right now Pfizer is the one that’s been granted the booster. They were the first ones with the vaccine to come out. I see Moderna and J&J to be the next ones. So now the one thing I did hear whether it’s accurate or not; you hear so many stories on the TV; whatever shot you had that’s the one you should stay with the booster. Now whether that has any (inaudible) I don’t know only the doctors would know that. There’s just so many things going back and forth. Pfizer is the only one that has the booster out and I’m sure what they’ll do is the same protocols with the high age people and work their way down. But every channel you watch and no matter what State everybody is preaching get the vaccination but again you can’t make people take it. That’s where we’re at. Thank you.”

Mr. Mastro – No Report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla had some brief words on his experience with 9/11 along with Mr. Paul.

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