

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 15, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of City Council was called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor Domenick Mucci, Jr. who presided. The meeting was opened with a silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Councilmen Chanoski, DiLoreto, Fortunato, Lalich, Metcalf, Perkins, and Stasiulewicz. Also present were City Manager Bruce Williams, Law Director S. Gary Repella, Health Commissioner Patty Reda, City Engineer Michael Dolak, Parks and Recreation Director Dwan Johnson, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Finance Director Mike Marshall, Accounting Administrator Alyssa Kerker, M&R Superintendent Joe DeSantis, Fire Chief Terri Kovach, and Police Chief Bill McCafferty and Patrolmen Marquis and Gotschall.

Roll call was taken. All present and accounted for declared Mayor Mucci.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Mr. Chanoski moved that the minutes of April 1, 2008, and April 8, 2008 be accepted as written. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Chanoski moved that the rule requiring all ordinances and resolutions to be read in their entirety be suspended and that all ordinances and resolutions be read by caption only with the exception of Resolution No. 2008-34. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved rule suspended.

Mr. Chanoski moved that we deviate from the rules and pull forward Resolution Nos. 2008-34. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved.

**2008-34 – BY THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.**

Mr. Lalich moved that Resolution No. 2008-34 be adopted by roll call. Second by Mr. Fortunato. Roll call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2008-34 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

Mr. Lalich presented to John Rodash of Children Services saying, “On behalf of City Council, the Administration, the Citizens, and especially the abused children we’d like to present you with this Resolution for your dedication and service to the community and to the youth. It said in there that 1,200 cases were reported, 600 were investigated, 258 were positive child abuse and that’s not including those that fall through the cracks, that’s just in our area, just imagine the United States and the world. When these children get abused they go to school, they can’t function, its hard for them to study, socialize with their classmates, and we all thank you for your work. Pray for the parents of these children because they need your prayers so that they don’t abuse these children. Thank you for your dedication.”

Mr. Rodash – “Thank you. I think this is my second year coming before the City Council I realize more and more the dedication of our City Health Department. I’m, happy to report that Patty and I work on a couple committees together and she’s a very good reference point for us when it comes to medical issues with children. Chief Kovach, the Fire Department, we serve on the Safe Haven program together. The Fire Department has done great things, they certify our children’s home with the safety inspections, they also come whenever the alarm gets tripped either accidentally or on purpose and we appreciate that. And everyone knows that the news since the weekend, I want to applaud Chief McCafferty and his staff, they are working tirelessly along with us in investigating a case of a child being badly burned so Steubenville, pat yourselves on the back. Its nice to work with you all and definitely you all do great jobs. Thank you.”

Mayor – “John without a doubt we want to take this opportunity to thank you and the agency. We understand that were here and our departments are here for support for your agency. You actually are on the first line and do the actual work for our community. Thank you and all the staff and everybody that’s involved with child abuse and children’s services.”

**2008-31 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1<sup>st</sup> reading**

**Messrs. Fortunato, Perkins, DiLoreto**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE No. 1992-20, AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO BY REZONING LOT NO. 1 IN WILLIAM R.E. ELLIOT’S ADDITION OWNED BY TLC PROPERTIES, INC., LOCATED ON STATE ROUTE 7 BETWEEN SOUTH THIRD STREET AND SOUTH FOURTH STREET, STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM R-3, HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO I-3, HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.**

Mayor, "You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2008-31, its second reading will be two weeks hence on April 29<sup>th</sup> and the Public Hearing by the Steubenville Planning and Zoning Commission will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the third and final reading before this Council will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>."

**2008-32 - BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Messrs. Fortunato, Perkins, DiLoreto**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR HOME GRANT ASSISTANCE UNDER THE STATE OF OHIO COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHIP) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Fortunato moved that the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2008-32 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection. Second by Mr. Perkins. The Clerk read the ordinance. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on Ordinance No. 2008-32 and there was no one. Mr. Lalich called question. Roll call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2008-32 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

**2008-33 - BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Messrs. Fortunato, Perkins, DiLoreto**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Fortunato moved that Resolution No. 2008-33 be adopted by roll call. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2008-33 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Chanoski – nothing  
Mr. DiLoreto – nothing  
Mr. Fortunato – nothing  
Mr. Lalich – nothing  
Mr. Metcalf – nothing  
Mr. Stasiulewicz – nothing

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS REPORTS**

Mr. Williams – "I passed out results of the bid opening for our CDBG annual street project this year one project. We did get one bid the improvement project is for Belleview Blvd. from South Bend to it's north terminus, I think essentially most of Belleview Blvd. will be paved under this project. Again, one bid, the engineering estimate was \$225,000. the bid from Shelly and Sands \$225,353. without objection I'll enter into a contract in the amount of \$225,353. The second page is the scope of work we'll be going through, take a look at all of the elements of work on that particular section of street."

Mayor – "Hearing no objections the City Manager is ordered to enter into an agreement with Shelly and Sands in the amount of \$225,353. for the road improvement of Belleview Blvd. Hearing no objections it is so ordered."

Mr. Repella – no report

**MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

Mr. Lalich – "Two of our citizens, Danny and Claudia Abramawicz moved back to this area approximately nine months ago, which they could have moved anywhere they wanted to in the country but they chose to come back to Steubenville to live and they were called by the President of the United States George Bush, to be at the White House to help welcome the Pope when he comes this week to the United States of America. I just wanted to put that out to the rest of the community. Thank you."

Mr. Chanoski – "I received several phone calls about Woodlawn Ave. apparently there's no parking on Woodlawn Ave., I wasn't aware of that till I got the phone call that said you can't park on either side of the street on Woodlawn Ave. There's been several complaints about the fact that that's a street where there's a lot of people have shared driveways, there's lots of houses up there that have multiple tenants in there and a lot of cars are jamming up the driveways and they want to find out if its possible to do permit parking on Woodlawn Ave. or how they would go about finding out how you would get some parking at least on one side of the street or maybe permit parking or some way to alleviate some of the parking situations on Woodlawn Ave."

Mr. Williams – “I think it was about three years ago, may have been the first of 2004 that Council received a petition from the neighborhood on Woodlawn to post no parking on both sides so it was actually an initiative of the neighborhood that created the no parking area. I would suggest and I think we had probably two years ago a similar request of the neighbors and the position was to have those who have an interest in removing the parking circulate a petition just like the original petition was circulated. Our recollection there was sixty percent, a large majority of the property owners.”

Mr. Metcalf – “Excuse me your honor, I don’t actually remember the actual percentage but it was more than a majority and if the Chief could remember I think part of the discussion was there were several car accidents that had occurred that precipitated the petition because the residents or non residents were speeding on Woodlawn there was cars parking on the side and pulling out of the drive way they couldn’t see that a car was coming up at fifty or sixty miles and hour and therefore the Chief got several car accidents that precipitated the actual petition brought down to Council and Council’s decision at that point was to leave it where it stands today.”

Mr. Williams – “There were a lot of hurt feelings between neighbors, it was initially split and then there was a majority that worked hard to get this passed.”

**Mayor**, “Before we move into Public Forum I would like to welcome Dr. Florak, the Interim Director of Progress Alliance and he wishes to address us this evening.”

Dr. Florak – “Thank you Mayor, members of the Council, City Manager Williams, Law Director Repella, and the Department Heads. As the Mayor indicated I am the Interim Executive Director of Progress Alliance. If you remember it was about ten years ago when I did my fair well term as I was finishing up my term as President of Jefferson Community College and tonight I feel like I’m doing a second fair well tour because I’m getting ready to retire from this interim position. But I thought it was important that I come down to Council tonight and just provide you with a couple of thoughts and observations about the position of Executive Director of Progress Alliance and about the work of Progress Alliance. First and foremost I think its important for us at Progress Alliance to thank the City Council for its support over the years. Economic development is by far one of the most challenging experiences I’ve had in my lifetime. There’s an old saying and don’t quote me on the exactness of this but its something to the effect that you never know what one’s life is like until you wear someone else’s moccasins. Well wearing these moccasins for the last three and a half months I can tell you that we live in a very competitive world and your support has helped this community and this county continue to compete. I have the good fortune of having one of our three sons, Mark, who was the quarterback on the 85 Central team serves as a lawyer for a firm down in Atlanta, Georgia and they do primarily work in real estate. He tries to keep me abreast of what’s going on and I can tell you that not only does he tell me this but I can tell you first hand, this is a very, very competitive field, even for someone like myself who loves to compete, sometimes its overwhelming and that’s why I think its important that all of you understand how important your support has been of Progress Alliance and how we have to continue to compete out there. And when you start dealing with some of these companies and organizations, which are coming in to look at our property that’s out at the industrial park you have to realize that these people by and large are living on corporate welfare. I say corporate welfare because they’re out there trying to get every nickel and dime out of any community, they’re going to go where they can get the best deal and of course at the same time they’re getting the best deal at the tax payers expense and that’s my expense as a citizen and as a tax payer you realize that they put a little less in of their own resources. As one of my colleagues at the college used to say, its kind of like being pecked to death by a duck. If you think about that it really is, its very challenging and I’m just pleased to report to you that were in the threshold of making decisions to bring aboard a new executive director and I hope that you’ll continue to provide him with the kind of support that you’ve given the previous directors as well as me as an interim director. The challenges are great out there we just have to keep our heads down and our fannies up as my former coach used to say and keep driving that sled down the field because it is a very competitive environment. If were going to survive were going to have to get out there and continue to just work harder then we have before. With your support hopefully we’ll continue and our new director will give us a kind of added impetus to continue to succeed. Thank you.”

Mayor – “Thank you Dr. Florak and I do want to add a couple of words personally and on behalf of our citizens to you. First of all thank you for taking on the challenge of interim director of Progress Alliance. As we all know we are facing difficult times not only here in our community but throughout the United States especially here in Eastern Ohio. The challenges are great as you have indicated and as you walked in those shoes as you described you know that economic development is not going to happen overnight, it’s a very competitive challenge out there but were ready and able to meet those challenges. Working together is a key aspect. I know for a fact that there is right now a plan that is being developed with a lot of players involved. The Chamber of Commerce leading the way along with Regional Planning and BHJ and Progress Alliance and all. That will be a strategic plan for our community and the County hopefully to be followed by a comprehensive plan that we can put forth and really show the State of Ohio and the rest of the nation we are serious about economic

opportunities. But let me just say that your work and you know we worked side by side through these times has been tremendous and you did a tremendous job so thank you for carrying the torch till we get a new Director.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “Ed I want to let you know that I’ve been here for three years and I think the City of Steubenville is the heavy hitter in this Progress Alliance, I think we give over \$50,000. a year to that organization and as far as I’m concerned the only thing I can see from it is Scott Lumber that they bought three year ago. So I’d like to see instead of everything going out to the Industrial Park what little there is have a little come back into the City. And I think we have a group down here that are trying to revitalize downtown and I’d like to see the new director get involved, maybe give him a couple of bucks and maybe we can take some of our money out and go down there. So nothing critical but I’d like to have a little share of the pie if its there.”

Mayor – “Your absolutely correct Mr. DiLoreto and I think we all like to think that way but one other accomplishment under the former director Tom Bayuzik we had the initial meeting of What’s Up Downtown and out of that came the Steubenville Revitalization Committee which continues to move forward and just recently announced about a master plan for the development of downtown.”

Mr. Lalich – “This afternoon I was at a meeting with Dr. Florak and Mr. DiLoreto referring to the Downtown Revitalization, Dr. Florak said that the new director has to work and be introduced to the Downtown Revitalization people so that they can work together and possibly create some new properties and some new businesses in our end of the City. But the CIC, that’s County wide, so that’s for the whole county, we have to think regional, the world is flat, everybody works flat now, not round, so everything that happens in Mingo, Toronto, or Winersville, were going to get something from it, somebody’s going to work there, somebody’s going to get a tax from that, so its just not one designated area but like I say, Dr. Florak did say that they have to meet with the Downtown Revitalization Committee. Thank you.”

Mayor – “Your also absolutely correct, what’s good for the City of Steubenville’s good for Jefferson County, good for Eastern Ohio and also good for the Northern Panhandle.”

Lisa Thomas, 416 S. 5<sup>th</sup>. St. – “I’m part of a community based organization called Basic Circle and we had two events that I was project coordinator and grant writer for minority health month targeting the youth. I’m here today about the Martin Luther King Center and its staff. To Dwan Johnson and his staff everybody comes up here and complains most of the time when they come in front of council, I want to say thank you so much. Your staff did an outstanding job for my first grant, we had a stellar turnout and when the State came down to supervise me they were more then pleased with the accommodations that we had at the Martin Luther King Center. We had over sixty teenagers show up for the violence and for the (inaudible) on Saturday we had over eighty. Your staff had no problem from Luke, Johnathan, Barry, Janet, and Simon, and Charlie helping me with anything that I needed setting up and tearing down, helping Trinity, Cline from Franciscan, the all were very pleased and so was the State when they came down to supervise our first grant. So I wanted to say thank you and I want to thank the staff at the center and the city.”

Mayor – “Ms. Thomas I might add that I was at the luncheon for minority health month and there’s a lot of activity. I did receive word from the State of Ohio about how many activities are happening within the City of Steubenville so our hat’s off to everybody that’s involved and I know there’s a whole big group. But if you can recall I don’t have the sheet in front of me, some of the activities that are left for minority health month throughout the month maybe we can get the media to continue to report on those activities. I know there’s a men’s breakfast later on this month.”

Ms. Thomas – “That this Saturday. There’s the men’s breakfast, there’s the Lupus Meeting, last night was a line dancing. I think there’s only three left but we figured that one and I did most of the set up for most of them and it was beautiful this was my second time coming. This year was really outstanding in the set up and I mean his staff has pulled out no stops. So I did want to acknowledge the staff publicly because I seen where over in Weirton they had something targeting the city and we had no media come out Saturday and that was my fault I was a little too much in too many places to oversee that and I forgot but it was a beautiful event. The kids did not want to stop playing. Franciscan had a beautiful layout and the kids are requiring more of that and we also had to stop when they was talking about violence and self esteem, which we need more of that. We were a blessing to the community we had to stop them and tell them we had to close so that was a positive response for people who usually won’t turn out for those events.”

Mayor – “On behalf of this council thank you and the rest of the committee, especially Sharon Kirtdoll and also Patty West who put a lot of time in making the events a success in our community.”

William Watson, 1618 State St. – “On Saturday at 9:00 o’clock on Mt. Carmel Church on Fifth St. the men’s breakfast will begin at 9:00 o’clock. Dr. Rex Crawley will be the speaker from our own area and also that

following Tuesday will be prostate and cancer screening at the Teramana Cancer Center for minority but everybody is invited to come. My question is to the Law Director, I asked this before about the property across Adams Street by the railroad tracks. I as a citizen don't want to go through a summer looking at that again. I know that we have some issues but I think they've had time enough and it should be cleaned up because I see house being torn down and that's a eye sore and a danger in that area and I think whatever the city can do to move on that part needs to be done. Secondly, I had to leave early the last meeting but Councilman Stasiulewicz said something that caught my ear because I guess the plan is to partner up with the Franciscan University in recreation. I'm standing here saying I'm not for that and he said something about his constituents were not for it and we should do as a city and for our kids and let the college take care of their kids and that is my mind set. But the question is he said that his constituents said that how many here have posed that question to their people to get the mind set to their people rather than coming in here as a councilman and thinking that you have the mind set of the people and what the people want but your not really giving the people what they want. We had the hearing all over the town and the people came up and said what they wanted and yet we ignored the people but were ready to partner up with the College of Steubenville. I'm not against the College of Steubenville we sold the stuff to them but lets have the recreation be for the people and the citizens of Steubenville who are life long people here, brought up here, our sons and daughters who have ate the dirt and the dust here, let them have the things and let the college do what colleges do for their people."

Dolores Wiggins, 1620 State St., "I'm interested in what Mr. Watson just stated. I read in the paper about the proposed agreement between the City of Steubenville and Franciscan University. I think we are talking about the six tennis courts and I think the baseball fields I'm not sure but I think maybe we don't have an understanding with that. I read in the paper what was proposed to do but I think a lot of us don't really understand what's going on. Personally I think it's a bad idea. We just allowed them to buy the Belleview Golf Course and I'm just concerned about our children, our city being able to go there and have some recreation. Like I said before we don't understand what's going on maybe someone could explain it to us. I was talking to Mr. Perkins earlier just before the meeting began so maybe we can get some understanding of the proposal and agreement between the City and the University. Also, I'd like to agree with Ms. Thomas and Basic Circle. I personally am familiar with what's going on with the black churches and so forth. I want everyone to know we have a Mayor second to none who has attended every African American event since he has been a Mayor in the City of Steubenville. He just attended a banquet, which I was present this past Friday night honoring Rev. (inaudible) Baptist Church. Everywhere we go that's something with the black churches you'll see the Honorable Mayor there and he do not leave early, he stays throughout. I don't care if its an event given in our black churches he's there. I know your not the Mayor, we only have one Mayor, but you read about it you know about it I'd like to see some of your faces there also. He has attended everything that has gone on in our churches whether it's the church or anything dealing with the community you'll see Dom Mucci there and my hat is off to him. Let's give him a hand. He's also since he's been mayor he has been very faithful to that. He's not deviated, he's not sat by the way side but since he's been Mayor he's been there. Also Mr. Fortunato I want to thank you also. If Mr. Mucci's not there you will find Dave Fortunato. Dave also attends some events himself. Thank you."

Mayor – "Thank you and really I didn't run for the office to hear praises, that's part of the duties of being the Mayor but as you know and I think a lot of people in this community understand I totally enjoy what I am doing that's why I don't make excuses and leave half way through any of the functions I attend. Thank you for those kind words but I just enjoy it."

Mr. Lalach – "I'd like to respond with Mr. Watson's remarks about take care of their children and we'll take care of ours and Mrs. Thomas was here just praising the Franciscan University for being down at the minority health center Saturday and saying that the children didn't want to leave and the Franciscan's gave up their time and they donated their expertise to help these children so therefore they do help our community its not you take care of yours we'll take care of ours. We'll take care of everybody together, we'll all pitch in and help for everybody. Thank you."

Mayor – "Just to answer Mr. Watson the property by the railroad tracks on Adams St. I believe a week or so ago read into the record was a letter from what we consider the Vapor Jet property Mr. Pestian's property, that is being discussed between the EPA office in Columbus about asbestos on the property and what they think was there or believe was there and also what their specialist hired by Mr. Pestian and all. I don't think any of us like to see that debris continue to stay there. As you know we have been very aggressive in our demolition removal and the clean up of our city I know Mr. DiLoreto worked day and night on the clean up of our community. We look forward to that also. Hopefully in the near future there will be a response and a removal of that debris. Unfortunately there was a fire and that's what we are left with now. But let me assure you that we will continue to follow up with the property owner and the Ohio EPA on that particular site that you are concerned about. Let alone looking bad its really a safety factor especially for younger people who are walking by that site."

Mr. Repella – “Mr. Watson today in the afternoon Bruce and I and the Building Inspector had a telephone conference call with a Steve Lowery from the EPA and we had a discussion with him for a good fifteen, twenty minutes in regard to the status of that. We are doing everything that we can to move that along however there are questions in regard to whether that goes to regular landfill or a asbestos landfill and those are the issues that the EPA is working through the inspection reports with Mr. Pestian and we’re trying to push that along as fast as we can.”

Donna Wells, 301 Murphy Ave. – “For the past two or three years I’ve made several phone calls to the City Manger’s office. I talked to the Chief of Police and I’ve also talked to a gentleman from the Street Department. To get to Murphy Ave. you have to turn on Plum St. and its right there at the ball field. There’s traffic that’s parked on both sides of the street, which is they’re parked front to front, back to back on both sides. If you’ve been up there, I’ve also talked to the Councilman in that area, can’t remember his name but I’ve asked them, when there’s a game or there’s football practice come by there. The cars are parked on both sides of the street and you can’t get through. Tonight I came home with my grandson and I was confronted by a lady that told me to go ahead because first she stopped me because she’s turning in the middle of the road that’s left there, backing up into a driveway so she can get turned around. I told her I said you go that way I’m already three fourths of the way through the street and she said I’m going this way and I said your not going to turn around in the middle of the street. I turned around turned on Murphy Ave. and there sat a police cruiser. I’m like thank God. Somebody can actually see what I’m referring to when I ( at this time there was a break in the tape and Ms. Wells continued to complain about the problem of parking on the street and said that the police officer did nothing to help the problem with the woman turning around on the street.

Mayor Mucci asked if anyone else wished to speak to Council and there was no one.

Mr. Fortunato moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Lalich.  
Roll call. All ayes. So moved meeting adjourned declared Mayor Mucci.

Pamela L. Orlando  
Clerk of Council

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

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