

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
January 22, 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 Fortunato, Lalich, Metcalf, Perkins, and Chanoski, DiLoreto. Also present, Law Director S. Gary Repella, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Health Commissioner Patty Reda, Parks and Recreation Director Dwan Johnson, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Finance Director Mike Marshall, M&R Superintendent Joe DeSantis, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Rocky Augustine, and Engineer Michael Dolak.

Roll call was taken. All present and accounted for with the exception of Mr. Stasiulewicz declared Mayor Mucci.

Mr. Lalich moved to excuse Mr. Stasiulewicz from the meeting. Second by Mr. Perkins. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Mucci.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

No minutes.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk had no communications to be read.

Mayor, "We do have one piece of communication sent through my secretary to the council clerk's office from our city manager and hearing no objections I would like the clerk to read the correspondence. Hearing no objections it is so ordered."

The Clerk read into the record a police report dated Friday, December 14, 2007 with regard to Serena Jett and her family. (On file in the clerk's office).

Mayor, "Hearing no objections the communication will be accepted into the record. Hearing no objections it is so ordered."

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. 2008-06. 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 No. 2008-06. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved.

Mr. Perkins moved that Resolution Nos. 2008-7 and 2008-8 be tabled for two weeks. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved.

Resolution No. 2008-6 – BY THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A Resolution proclaiming the week of January 27 – February 2, 2008 as Catholic Schools Week.

Mr. Metcalf moved that Resolution No. 2008-6 be adopted by roll call. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved Resolution No. 2008-6 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

Mr. Metcalf presented to Chrissie DiMichael of Aquinas School saying, "On behalf of all the citizens in the city, city administration, city officials, were glad to present you this resolution to take over to Aquinas. I understand there is a spelling bee to kick off all the work that's going off for next week, there's a spelling bee going on with all the children tonight so hopefully that's going well. We appreciate you coming down to get this resolution and I know you have a lot of activities going on next week maybe you can let us know what's going on in the Catholic Schools next week and thank you for all that you do for our children."

Ms. DiMichael, "Thank you."

Mayor, "Thank you for attending this evening and as Mr. Metcalf pointed out there's activities."

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-1 – BY THE BUILDING AND GROUNDSS COMMITTEE

Messrs. Fortunato, Metcalf, Stasiulewicz

An Ordinance declaring the building and structures located at 446 Spring Avenue, 363-365 Summit Avenue, 1411 Plum Street, 1244 Sinclair Avenue, 1437-1439 Pennsylvania Avenue, 503 Mears Avenue, 326 South Commercial Alley, 509 Mears Avenue, 960 Potter Avenue, 712 Slack Street, 716 Rear Slack Street, 309-311 South Seventh Street, 702 South Street, 704 South Street, 721 Highland Avenue, 475 South Seventh Street, 751 Highland Avenue, 263 North Ninth Street, 607 11th Street, 423 North Fifth Street, 319 South Seventh Street, 314 South Seventh Street Rear, 417 Smith Avenue, 419 Smith Avenue, 253 Terrace Avenue, 339 Mears Avenue, 473 South Seventh Street Extension, 626 North Fifth Street (Garage in Rear Only) and 1528 ½ Rear Euclid Avenue, Steubenville, Ohio to be unsafe structures as

defined by Section 108 of the Property Maintenance Code of the City of Steubenville, Ohio, and declaring such to be a public nuisance and ordering the removal or demolition of such unsafe structures.

Mr. Fortunato moved that the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2008-1 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection. Second by Mr. Metcalf. The Clerk read the ordinance. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on Ordinance No. 2008-1 and there was no one. Mr. Lalich called for question.

Mayor Mucci, "Before we have roll call I would like to make a very brief remark. This is a really amazing piece of legislation, the first one in 2008 that is titled as 2008-1 for the City of Steubenville, removing twenty-nine structures within our community. It's coming not inexpensively to the tax payers and to our citizens. Although we do put liens against the property to try to recoup these dollars that we have invested in clearing and doing land banking in our community, it does come at a price to our citizens. We need to continue to do code enforcement so these structures won't get to this plight in our community and it really a shame that government needs to intercede and do what is really the property owner's responsibility."

Roll call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2008-1 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-2 – BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Messrs. Lalich, Metcalf, Perkins

An Ordinance authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute Task Order Agreement Number 3C with MWH Constructors, Inc. and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Lalich moved that the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2008-2 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection.

Second by Mr. Metcalf. The Clerk read the ordinance. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on Ordinance No. 2008-2 and there was no one. Mr. Lalich called for question.

Roll call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2008-2 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-3 – BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Fortunato, Lalich, Perkins

An Ordinance designating the City Manager as the local official with authority to execute the project agreement known as the Sunset Boulevard (S.R. 43) and John Scott Highway Intersection Safety Upgrade Project (City Project Number 2006-131, JEF-43-3.45, PID 82135) and complete all necessary functions that may be required to complete said project 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. 2008-3 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection.

Second by Mr. Lalich. The Clerk read the ordinance. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on Ordinance No. 2008-3. Mr. Lalich, "I believe, correct me if I'm wrong Mike (Dolak) money's coming from the State for that project." Mr. Dolak, "Yes, that's a Federally funded intersection upgrade project its funded, we get ninety cents on a dollar." Mr. Lalich called for question.

Roll call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2008-3 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-4 – BY THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Messrs. Fortunato, Metcalf, Stasiulewicz

An Ordinance authorizing and directing the City Manager and Mayor to enter into a purchase agreement for property owned by Diane Renforth in the amount of Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) Dollars 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. 2008-4 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection. Second by Mr. Metcalf. The Clerk read the ordinance. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on Ordinance No. 2008-2.

Royal Mayo, 544 Highland Ave., "Where is this property located and what's it being purchased for?"

Mayor, "It's being purchased for a new salt storage bin." Mr. Mayo, "Where's it located?" Mayor, "Off of Route 7 between Leavitt Iron Metal area and Wheeling-Pitt area, I'm not quite sure, the plot number is indicated in the exhibit "A" that is attached." Mr. Lalich called for question.

Roll call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2008-4 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-5 – BY THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

An Ordinance establishing a Video Service Provider Fee to be paid by any video service provider offering video service in the city; authorizing the City Manager to give notice to the Video Service Provider of the video service provider fee and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Lalich moved that the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2008-5 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection. Second by Mr. Fortunato. The Clerk read the ordinance. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on Ordinance No. 2008-5.

Mr. Perkins “ I understand this ordinance is so we can receive the money instead of it going to the State. When my father saw this in the paper last week, that we were bringing it in, he pointed out to me that his cable bill just went up and every time he turns the T.V. on he has more blue channels, blank channels, then he does actual channels to watch. So I checked it out before I came down and between 2 and 62 there’s ten blank channels. Comcast does nothing for this community, price goes up, we ask for Ohio Sports net we can’t get it, we ask for ONN we can’t get it. Were stuck with junk out of Pittsburgh that we have to watch because they get that for free they don’t have to pay for it. What I would urge you as Mayor, Bruce Williams when he returns, to contact AT&T. They’re getting into the cable business, they don’t have to establish new lines, they’re running those lines through their phone lines. We need to contact them, we need to see if we can get them here to this community and give Comcast competition because its really ridiculous that our citizens have to pay for the system they’re getting and its really not worth the money.”

Mr. DiLoreto, “Perkins said the same thing I said I got my bill rates going up so I suggest maybe these people here in the community cancel part of their subscriptions and let them know were not satisfied with them. It’s not our responsibility it’s the federal governments so contact Charlie Wilson.”

Mayor, “Mr. Perkins, Mr. DiLoreto, and to all concerned, a couple of times this year has spoke about the quality of service that we are receiving from Comcast and some of my concerns. Your absolutely correct, from 2 to 63 really, counting the game show network station, there are nine blank stations that we are now receiving. We have always received channel 55 and 56 and they are blank right now. There are several other blank ones, its been a concern of ours I think you can recall during the Ohio State/Michigan game they weren’t even going to broadcast it here locally until the local people got together and purchased that particular game. It is a concern of ours, we do not, and this Council knows, because they’ve tried over the last year and a half or so to negotiate with Comcast unsuccessfully. But part of the problem is they have the cable rights, the cable lines, within our community, its expensive for another cable company to come in to lay out that capital or to buy their lines, so that’s part of our problems that were experiencing. However, there is some light at the end of the tunnel, House Bill 117 was approved by our legislators the latter part of last year which will allow not AT&T through the phone lines to provide this service and I understand that will be coming in the near future. At what cost or what price I don’t know, but there are some but Mr. Williams and I will stay on top of this and continue to report to the members of Council.”

Mr. Fortunato called question. Roll call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2008-5 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Fortunato – no report
Mr. Lalich – no report
Mr. Metcalf – no report
Mr. Perkins – no report
Mr. Chanoski – no report
Mr. DiLoreto – no report

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS REPORTS

Mr. Repella – no report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mr. DiLoreto – “I have to agree with you on those house those ordinances there’s twenty-nine of those houses and twenty-one are in my Ward, the previous one was fifty and I talked to the Judge I said we can solve this problem very easy have some of these landlords or these people that own these properties live there they’ll clean it up pretty fast. I know some of them are dead and some are out of town but there’s some people that are here and they can afford to tear them down and live there. There’s an article in the Herald Star this past week on the Social Security office since I live in the Downtown and that’s my Ward I’m a little concerned everybody wants the Social Security office campaigning for it well I’d like to know where everybody was when they put the EPI Center’s in, public housing in, all the Section 8’s, troubled juveniles, scattered housing, and the homeless. They didn’t ask anybody anything they just dumped them in my Ward. As far as I’m concerned this federal government they are in the violation of the federal law. They must have inclusion and main stream these people you can’t put them all in one little group, they can’t learn a criminal cannot learn from a criminal.

People that don't like the Downtown I suggest they take some of these projects where they live and they should be going out all throughout Jefferson County not just the First Ward. Thank you."

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor, "Is there anyone wishing to speak to City Council on City business please come forward and state your name and address."

Rick Doran, 2700 Block of Cleveland Ave. – "I come in front of you this evening we need more how I want to say this, more patrolling up in that area it's a nice neighborhood but the speeding in the area is ridiculous. I was standing out in front of the house the other day I have a dog there's numerous children on the street and I'm telling you this guy was going at least fifty-five miles an hour down Cleveland Ave. A dog was hit and killed the driver kept going. I own a dog. I was out walking my dog the other day I stood walked off the street here comes a car flying down the street I took my dog sat him in my car and I stood right in front of the street with my hands going like this I wanted the person to stop cause I wanted to talk to him. Swerved around me he went up over somebody's curb and just continued to go. I think a speed limit sign needs to be posted or something. Also on that same matter there is a leash law I talked to officer Minifield several times there's a couple of larger dogs in the neighborhood just walk through the neighborhood do their business in anybody else's yard. My dog is a little dog she's petrified of these dogs will not go out if they are around and I'm more concerned about the speed on those streets it is ridiculous and somebody, there's a number of kids, somebody's going to be killed."

William C. Watson, Jr., 1618 State St. – "The Social Security building I have come to ask if we would promote it for the Downtown area as a faith act for the development of the downtown area. I heard at last meeting someone talking about making up their minds. I hope that you do make up your minds and downtown area has suffered greatly and needs a boost and the Social Security building would...I know that you can't tell them where to put it but your efforts to talk to them you'd have more input than anybody else. I agree with Councilman DiLoreto on a lot of these things like EPI Centers it's a gang place whatever it is need to be in other areas other than the downtown areas because for those an ID of that area of being such as anything that can go on and we need to respect as well as everybody else in the area of the downtown area. Also I was reading the paper and I assume that your going on with the money that was gained from the selling of the property of the Belleview Golf Course and the center on Franklin Ave. and I just want because I was reading in here how part of it was geared to setting up the College of Steubenville. I just want to know, are we responsible for the recreation for the College of Steubenville and the Tennis Courts that they would play and at the same time we are denying our kids in the inner-city of upgrades and spending all of that money there. I've been here for over a year and I keep hearing the College of Steubenville and many occasions the golf thing they put in Beatty Park they say the College of Steubenville kids would like. What about our kids that are lifelong citizens here? What about serving them and giving them something? If we were willing to bend over and give to the College of Steubenville or Franciscan University however you want to call it why can't we give to our kids here. We say we want them to trust us we say we want them to grow up in peaceful neighborhoods and yet when it comes to variety for them they are putting no second class but third class citizens. I understand the third class and second class citizen I grew up in Steubenville when I couldn't even go to Belleview and go swimming or Beatty Park and go swimming. I'm not saying that to bring an indictment against anybody but that's the way it was. My sons they went to the places but we came up where we had neighborhoods Grant School Washington and they were taken care of with summer teachers and different things. We played our ball in the neighborhoods and we enjoyed but our neighborhoods are looked over now. North End now we got the Pleasant Heights looked over and even Beatty Park is looked over for the preference of one place and again like I said it's a place where I was once denied."

Royal Mayo, 544 Highland Ave. – "To go along with what Mr. Watson was saying, I remember my grandmother telling me stories about my grandfather when he was ten years old in 1955 and being part of the YMCA not being able to go swimming at Beatty Park they'd have to go nature hunting because blacks weren't allowed in the pool. Now you fast forward, we have \$3.million dollars. Dwan told me there's twelve parks in the City, large parks you have the North End, Murphy's, Beatty Park, Martin Luther King Center area, you also have Belleview and Jim Woods. I don't know how we can justify spending \$3.million dollars in two areas and giving the other I believe the letter sent to Charlie Wilson said we have \$100,000. ear marked for those other areas. That's ten parks your putting \$100,000.in, that's nothing, that's absolutely nothing. We want our fair share in this community to go to our parks. I'm not talking about the eighteen, nineteen year olds or the adults who can get in the car and drive I'm talking about the four and five year olds who may be able to walk to a park if you live in Market Square over to the Martin Luther King Center or the kids who live on the North End who live over in the North End Projects they can come around the railroad tracks right to that park or the kids who live on Pleasant Heights who can walk right over to that park. I'm talking about those kids who won't have a way to get to Jim Woods or Belleview and that's going to be a state of the arts park spending over diving over \$3.million dollars between two parks and giving the other parks nothing I still say we started getting signatures

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yesterday we have seventy-six signatures in one day now were going to be going out at this next meeting we'll have over five hundred signatures to give to this Council to say that the people of those communities, both black and white, mostly poor, deserve a piece of that money to go in their area."

Mayor, "Is there anyone else wishing to speak to City Council please come forward and state your name and address."

Mr. Fortunato moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Perkins.

Roll call. All ayes. So moved meeting adjourned declared Mayor Mucci.

Pamela L. Orlando

Clerk of Council

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR