

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
June 24, 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 Lalich, Metcalf, Perkins, Stasiulewicz, Chanoski, DiLoreto, and Fortunato. Also present; City Manager Bruce Williams, Law Director S. Gary Repella, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Finance Director Mike Marshall, Accounting Administrator Alyssa Kerker, and Engineer Michael Dolak, and M&R Superintendent Joe DeSantis, Health Commissioner Patty Reda, Fire Chief Terri English, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Rocky Augustine, and Sgt. Kenny Anderson.

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

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Mr. Chanoski moved that the minutes of June 10, 2008, and June 17, 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 in Council's hands seventy-two hours prior to Council's meeting be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2008-67 be acted upon this evening for this Council's approval or rejection. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved.

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. Second by Mr. Lalich. Roll call. All ayes. So moved rule suspended.

2008-56 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Fortunato, Perkins, DiLoreto

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CONDITIONAL USE APPROVAL FOR MARY ANN WAGNER AND DR. REMESH THIMMIAH FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY R & J REALTY HOLDING CO., LOCATED AT 605 TROY DRIVE, STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPENING AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY FOR THE CARE OF ELDERLY PERSONS.

Mayor, "You have heard the second reading of Ordinance No. 2008-56, its third and final reading will be held on August 5th here at City Council. The Steubenville Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 4th."

2008-57 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Lalich, Fortunato, Metcalf

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A TAX BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 FOR THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Lalich moved that the rule requiring and ordinance to be read on three separate occasions be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2008-57 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection. Second by Mr. Fortunato. Roll call. All ayes. So moved rule suspended. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 2008-57. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on the ordinance.

Mr. Marshall, "The tax budget as you know doesn't serve much of a function in the internal budgeting of the City of Steubenville, it is more a communication between the City and the County Auditor giving them forewarning if we have any need for a levy, income tax levies, real estate levies, allowing appropriate time for the County Auditor to work with us to get them on file. Since that's not the case and we have no intention of doing that we still file the Tax Budget but it is mostly a perfunctory item, our budget that we use for our annual basis is not the Tax Budget were passing today. Separately, just as an update, as you know the state auditors are in the Finance Office, we are working on the Table of Organization issues from labor contracts and were still working on among other things, our amended budget for the first six months of the year. So, we've been very busy and the tax budge is one of the items, that's why the seventy-two hours, one of our key employees was in high level training all last week and we have another employee who's position is right now vacant."

Mayor Mucci asked if anyone else wished to speak and there was no one. Mr. Lalich called question. Roll call. All ayes. So moved, Ordinance No. 2008-57 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

2008-58 – BY THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Messrs. Fortunato, Metcalf, Stasiulewicz

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO READVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE SALE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF NORTH AND FOURTH STREETS BY SEALED BID, SUBJECT TO BID SPECIFICATIONS 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. 2008-58 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection. Second by Mr. Metcalf. Roll call. All ayes. So moved. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 2008-58. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on the ordinance and there was no one. Mr. Lalich called question. Roll call. All ayes. So moved, Ordinance No. 2008-58 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

2008-59 – BY THE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Messrs. Lalich, Metcalf, Chanoski

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1501.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE 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. 2008-59 be given its second and third reading tonight for this bodies passage or rejection. Second by Mr. Metcalf. Roll call. All ayes. So moved. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 2008-59. Mayor Mucci asked if anyone wished to speak on the ordinance and there was no one. Mr. Lalich called question. Roll call. All ayes. So moved, Ordinance No. 2008-59 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Lalich – “No committee report but I would like to thank Mr. Petrossi, his team, the Health Department, Fire Department, Mr. Petrossi’s office, I had some dealing with them the last couple weeks, we went on some properties, they were there in force as they said they were going to be and they were very professional with the people who we talked to and I was pretty proud of that team, they did a fine job and I think we have everything resolved so I just wanted to thank them personally.”

Mr. Metcalf – no report

Mr. Perkins – no report

Mr. Stasiulewicz – no report

Mr. Chanoski – no report

Mr. DiLoreto – no report

Mr. Fortunato – no report

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS REPORTS

Mr. Williams – nothing

Mr. Repella – nothing

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mr. Lalich – “I was approached by a few of our citizens about the birth and death certificates, the cost of them, and about the food licenses, I believe in March that’s when they’re due, and I asked Mrs. Reda to explain some of the facts where the money goes from those items.”

Mrs. Reda – “Currently our costs to obtain a certified copy of a birth and death certificate is \$18.00. Of the \$18.00, \$9.50 goes back to the State, we retain \$8.50, the Board has tried to keep the cost as low as possible, most other health departments in the surrounding areas are \$20.00. All the upgrades and things we have to keep up with I think our cost is within the fee. Our food fund we have to determine that on the number of food service operations that we have and that is determined by the level of the risk factor and the size of the establishment. Of those costs \$28.00 of every food license goes back to the State also.” Mr. Lalich, “How much is that in dollars for the year?” Mrs. Reda, “Right now a food item I’d have to check on that for you but under Vital Statistics I think we currently took in \$63,000. and of that \$34,000. goes to the State.”

Mayor, “Thank you Mrs. Reda, and also the food operation license also depends if you get a catering license, carry out and so forth and so on and it’s a flexible schedule.”

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Carlotta Jordan, 616 Ross Park Blvd. – "I'm back again to ask for money for a senior citizen center. This City has many seniors fifty-five an up. People in our area go to every senior citizen facility, they go to Mingo, Follansbee, Weirton, Burgettstown, and we don't have anything. Steubenville is the hub of Jefferson County and I think that the senior citizen center should, we should have one, and it should go downtown. I asked Chris Petrossi a couple of years ago to put me on the budget but I'm not on the budget yet, so please put me on the budget, your budget, because if you get CDBG funds, I called Washington, you have to be on the budget for seniors, that part of the senior citizen center, you have to be on that budget. The seniors are your backbone of this community. There are more seniors in this town then anyone else. (inaudible) University students and seniors and our seniors do a great deal of volunteer work in this area and everything and we have to take care of them, that's what I feel. I would also seek money from other entities, I am going to talk to other people and we'd like to keep it downtown and your Chamber, the Visitors Bureau is having a card and on the back of the card it says "City of Murals, City of History, City of Fun", well the seniors would like to have some fun in this town and I would appreciate some money going to them. Thank you."

Mr. William C. Watson, Jr., 1618 State St. – "I would like to know, are we a City in an emergency? I'm asking that because I've asked before and I've asked continually, and I've never got an answer is why the norm is that every ordinance is an emergency. It makes me think that were not planning cause if we were planning by the city code it would be an abnormal thing rather than a normal thing. It masks the chance of giving citizens a chance to really let this sink in and if they want to be for it or come up against it because everything you do is an emergency its all through by the time anyone really gets to hear it. I would like an answer thank you."

Mr. Ed Chambers, 505 Market St. – "In reference to the Steubenville Convention and Visitors Bureau, I think the city should come up with an ordinance to mandate that the person in charge of the Bureau, plus their assistance be residents of Steubenville, Ohio since Steubenville, Ohio is the Steubenville Convention and Visitors Bureau. I'm dissatisfied with the way its been run lately, I think that the Board position that Mr. Lalich holds on there should look a little closer at what's being done down there and the way its being handled and I think the City should consider putting an office for that Bureau in the new City Building that they're planning to build."

Mr. Rick Yanch, 1301 Oregon Ave. – "This might be the time folks for another opportunity for our City to get better. There's three things I'd like to talk about, one is I would like this City along with the Police Department to take a look at no tolerance type of situations. We've had a lot of activity with shootings, etc., etc., the last several weeks and summer's coming up, people are parking on the sidewalks, tags are out of date, there's muffler's, sometimes cars park in front of fire plugs. I think it makes a statement, even though a ticket might be small it certainly leaves the impression with people around the area that the police are out giving tickets for different things, so I just like this Council and Police Department to consider that possibility of no tolerance. Number two is, we have around 250 employees in this City and I guess, I would assume, a lot of them do obey the law, most of them do obey the law and maybe they could also help with some of their properties, maybe some areas where there's criminal activity in certain homes or areas around the city, cause it does show leadership in the city when city employees do get involved, even if they have to do it kind of in a low key way and it does send a positive statement to our citizens concerning their participation in some the activities that could help our city. Number three, there's a lot of concern; the last three weeks about the shootings just happened up on the Hilltops and Mr. Williams, your our leader, your our City Manger, and there are a lot of people now wanting to step forward and I don't know if this would be the right time, but just something to think about, the possibility of having a round table discussion meeting with the landlords, with our hilltop's association, with the police department, maybe a couple leaders of some churches, the NAACP, business associations, and a lot of this activity folks is happening right between the hospital and also the University. That's the future of our city. I think Mr. Mucci said that at one of our hilltop meetings it seems to be the plus for the city, so just something I would like to throw out and maybe Mr. Williams you would consider meeting something like that down the road, I don't say its going to happen, its just a suggestion. Is there an opportunity right here now to talk about some of these issues concerning....." **Mayor**, "Mr. Yanch, I think you just did so thank you for your comments."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Mr. Yanch, I have (inaudible) for you to come down here for about three years, always asking for something and what have you done or your organization has done for the city. It seems like everybody wants to come to Council. I've a little bit of help in calling up some of these people to get their lawn cuts, get these dilapidated houses so maybe I can put you on my telephone list and a lot of landlords are cooperating but I think you have an obligation too. Your always asking. I'm done."

Mr. Yanch, "I'm receptive to anything.

Mr. DiLoreto, "Okay, I'm giving your phone number now when they call me cause I got enough."

Mr. Yanch, "Yes, and I completely agree with you Mr. DiLoreto what's happening. See Mr. Williams, this is what I'm kind of talking about. I think there's a lot of people who want to do things here. Mr. Hagerty's president of the landlords association, there's been a lot of problems I think we just need to patch up the past and move forward and maybe have some dialogues and some meetings about some of these opportunities. Thank you."

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

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

Pamela L. Orlando
Clerk of Council

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR