

Economic Development Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
August 4, 2025

The Economic Development Committee met in Council Chambers on August 4, 2025 with these members in attendance:

Bill Cost Jr. - Chair
Spencer Barker
Mark Labutis
Dustin Neely

Absent:

Michael Houser – Vice Chair

We wish to report:

1. **Resolution No. 25-51** A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A REVITALIZATION DISTRICT DESIGNATION PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 4301.81

PJ Sullivan, Executive Director of Newark Development Partners – Good evening. As part of continued promotion of investment and development of the downtown area, we were made aware a while back of Ohio revised code opportunity to create a revitalization district in a bounded area that includes retail, social establishments, mainly we're presenting this for restaurants and the need for potential addition of liquor licenses. We sent the application to the mayor to drive this forward in coordination with the law director's office and wanted to basically bring this forth, have the mayor talk and answer any questions, but the main driver of this again is to NDP as part of the Arcade coming in saw that we're going to need more liquor licenses to attract some restaurants and other potential areas in the downtown area and as many of you know there's a waiting list for liquor licenses. The area that we put the application in for is basically a replica of the DORA area and it would provide us with the maximum of 15 additional liquor licenses which for this area, and the other thing about is the revitalization district you're allowed one per municipality so this would incorporate the one for Newark proper.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Barker, Second by Mr. Labutis

Doug Marmie, 6th Ward Councilmember – What are the boundaries?

Mr. Sullivan - The boundaries right now again is a map of the DORA, but it's basically from 6th over to I think 2nd or 1st. Actually, I've got it right here, down to Walnut. It's submitted also as part of the application. So, S. 2nd, down 3rd and 4th to Walnut and across and then up just short of the highway on Locust St.

Mr. Marmie - Are we restricted to a certain amount of area?

Mr. Sullivan - No, so it can be any contiguous area that we map out. You could theoretically do it for the entire city, but you're still only bound to 15. There is a, so licenses, I think you have to do 15 acres gets you, or five, I'm sorry, five acres I believe gets you one license or something like that. I'd have to double check, but that's what we took advantage of. And you can basically, we could expand it so we

could run it down Main Street either way or up or south if needed. But we figured to start with the DORA area.

Mayor Jeff Hall - Yeah, just to kind of match it so it looks, but it can be adjusted. The only other thing that's unique about it, they cannot be transferred out of this area. So, they're not portable like a regular liquor license. If you had a restaurant downtown and had your liquor license and you wanted to close up and move up on 21st Street or somewhere, you could take it with you. These are not. These have to stay within the district where they are. It is a Department of Development tool from the state, hence a revitalization district, but it gives that opportunity to establish it. And don't forget it follows the guidelines of downtown restrictions where you have to sell more food than alcohol. So, there is the guidelines there that come with it, and that doesn't change either. So that's local driven by us, but we've honored in this same thing. So, we've got, I mean, it'd be like in the Arcade if somebody wanted to open up a little place to drink wine or something like that. You know, it's pretty complicated now for them to do that. This would make it a lot simpler. It's an area that needs revitalization a little bit. I mean, that's the whole intent of what downtown has been over the last 10 years plus is to kind of bring it back, and that's what this tool is for. So, it isn't just used in any community, any place where it's not needed. It's really focused on areas where it could be beneficial.

Motion passed 4-0

Meeting stands adjourned

Bill Cost Jr., Chair