

## Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark, Ohio  
July 26, 2016

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday July 25, 2016 following the Street Committee with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath  
Bill Cost Jr.  
Mark Fraizer

Carol Floyd  
Doug Marmie for Ryan Bubb

We wish to report:

1. **Ordinance No. 16-31** establishing a backflow prevention program within the City of Newark and establishes uniform regulations for the protection of public health in conformity with all applicable laws was considered.

**Roger Loomis-** we do have a backflow prevention program within the City of Newark but in the late 1980's and then in 1990 as most of you recall we had a city Health Department. At that time when these regulations from the State of Ohio came out the decision was made to allow the Health Department to the backflow prevention program because they had plumbing inspectors. This is not a reflection of a bad job the Health Department is doing it is because we feel like we need more control over our backflow program so we can do our own audits and keep track of the date ourselves. The city Health Department is gone now and it is the County Health Department and we feel like we have as much information from them as we should. The ordinance before you is right out of the Ohio Revised Code as to how you run a backflow prevention program. Most other cities run their own backflow prevention program. We are proposing to take that back and in order to do that we have to have an ordinance within the city because the rules and regulations are those within the County Health Department. We are proposing by the end of this year we take over that program.

**Mr. Rath-** if I understand this correctly the program consists of periodic testing and monitoring.

**Roger Loomis-** most places are required to have an annual inspection of their backflow prevention devices. It amounts to a form being sent out to the company, the company hires a firm to come out and do the inspection. There are people who are certified to do

these inspections. We have two people on staff right now that are certified to do the inspection and we are proposing a couple of more people to cover ourselves.

**Mr. Marmie-** this doesn't apply to residential then because we have a code that they have to have backflows if they're new construction.

**Roger Loomis-** we have a small regulation with in our rules and regulations that says you have to have a backflow device on a residential property. This is an expansion of that to cover all the rules and regulations. Certainly this will apply to residential but residential is a small portion.

**Mr. Marmie-** it's not going to be mandated that they have an annual inspection is it?

**Roger Loomis-** no, small double check valves in a residential home can't be tested

**Mr. Rath-** if I don't have this backflow device at my house right now is this going to change that requirement?

**Roger Loomis-** you should have it is very difficult for us to go check every house and there are a lot of older homes that haven't had the plumbing changed but when the plumbing gets updated you are required to put a backflow device in.

**Mr. Rath-** at what point in time did back flow devices begin to be used.

**Roger Loomis-** the regulation came out in the late 1980's but backflow devices have been used for 40-50 years.

**Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send Ordinance 16-30 to full Council, second by Mr. Fraizer  
Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**

Jeff Rath, Chair