

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

February 21, 2023  
Council Chambers  
7:00 P.M.

**President Ellington called the meeting to order**

**ROLL CALL** - Ms. Hottinger, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Rine, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Harris

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Houser

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Ariana Paul, Kindergarten, Par Excellence Academy  
Ka'toi Givens, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, par Excellence Academy

**CAUCUS - Mr. Marmie** - I would like to invoke Rule 11 for a Resolution and I'll let the clerk read it and then we can talk about it.

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Houser, Ms. Bline**

**23-15** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO PROCEED WITH THE STEPS NECESSARY TO DESIGNATE THE WATER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AS THE ROGER A. LOOMIS BUILDING.

**Mr. Marmie** - This is something that we are bringing forward, Roger Loomis is retiring in the very near future and he has done so much for this City as far as for our water, waste water and even storm water and I just feel that it is something that is to honor his service to the City and we wanted to kind of surprise him with this and just name the water administration building after him.

**Motion to waive the 2 day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang**

**Motion passed 10-0**

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Rath**

**President Ellington** - Well deserved I agree.

**Motion passed 10-0**

**MINUTES of February 6, 2023, Motion to approve by Mr. Labutis, second by Mr. Harris, passed by acclamation**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

There are none this meeting

**President Ellington** - Actually, I see Mr. Loomis, I didn't realize you were here, would you like to say anything?

**Mr. Loomis** - Thank you!

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance -**Received and Filed with no objections**

Service-**Received and Filed with no objections**

Safety-**Received and Filed with no objections**

## **REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**City Auditor, Ryan T. Bubb** – Operating report for period ending January 31, 2023

**Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator's Office** – Income Tax Revenue Reports for period ending January 31, 2023

**Marcia J. Phelps, Clerk of Courts** - Licking County Municipal Court Clerk's Office Annual Report for 2022, issued in 2023

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** - New Liquor application for Newark Oh Hotel Management LLC, DBA Cherry Valley Hotel, 2299 Cherry Valley Rd., Newark, Oh 43055

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** - Transfer Liquor application from Widewaters Newark Hotel Management Co. LLC, DBA Cherry Valley Hotel, 2299 Cherry Valley Rd., Newark, Oh., 43055 to Newark Oh Hotel Management LLC, DBA Cherry Valley Hotel, 2299 Cherry Valley Rd., Newark, Oh 43055

**American Legal Publishing** - American Legals Publishing has joined the International Code Council family of solutions as a wholly-owned subsidiary.

## **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Rochelle Vole-Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** - I want to thank Mr. Rine for a very nice conversation earlier. I had mentioned to him that recently earlier this month I had seen two cars by Hudson Ave. that were tilted and offline, off the tracks. One of them was in your area and one of them as I told Mr. Rine was in his. I don't know the particular problem, but those tracks have had problems before, don't know whether it was in that one of the groups of cars had one car that was tilting distinctly and was slightly off the track, the other one I wasn't able to tell if it was actually off the track, they were two different tracks, two different directions around North and the tracks that are behind Hudson. The reason I mention that now, I had thought to do it last time, but thought I had enough on the agenda, is because something like this given the kind of traffic trains have in this area, they are extremely long and they often carry chemicals. The mess that was in upper Ohio and I've done extensive reading on this, could have happened here and I think we need to do something to make our State accountable and stand up and insist that they hold railroads accountable for the damage they do. I do remember at one point a number of years ago because I helped with the cleanup, as did my husband, the cleanup on the south end noted what a terrible mess the railroads had made, as well as some companies, they should've been accountable then. I think this kind of increases the need for awareness of how it affects our area as well and stand up.

**Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Dr.** - I debated about speaking to Council again, however, I feel that it's my responsibility as a board member of Ohio CAN, which stands for Change Addiction Now

and I'm a representative of Licking County. Ohio CAN is the umbrella agency for the Newark Homeless Outreach. The mission of Ohio CAN is to embrace, educate and empower those whose lives have been impacted by substance abuse. One of our purposes is to advocate for every family directly or indirectly affected by substance abuse. Many of the board members and leadership have had either children die of an overdose or are still in active addiction. Another purpose is to educate our communities about substance use, medically based treatment and evidence embraced practices to reduce harm and promote proper health and wellness. We also have a purpose to implement harm reduction strategy for our communities. I have given you two handouts tonight, the first one is a black and white handout and we obtained this information from the Licking County Coroner and it shows how many people have died of overdoses in 2022. I ask you to just take a second to look down at the overdoses and what caused them and the combined drug effects. As you can see a lot of those overdoses have fentanyl or had fentanyl involved. I have been a part of the Newark Homeless Outreach for almost 5 years. Some of the people I see every Saturday are still in active substance use, many are not. Some people already started a journey to recovery. Getting into recovery is difficult. If you're on a certain substance, say fentanyl, you have had fentanyl, that affects your brain and can stay in your brain for many months. You can simply not quit some substances. I'm also a member of the United Church of Granville. We believe that people who use drugs are worthy, we believe that God still loves people who use drugs. The church has allocated funds to try to purchase fentanyl testing strips, but we are a small church and our funds are very limited. Because I care about the people who I see every Saturday, I have used my personal money to buy fentanyl testing strips. A couple weeks ago I realized, I got to the Outreach and I left the strips at home, so I went home to get them because I could not live with myself if someone wanted fentanyl testing strips and I didn't have them. The people I see there every Saturday are nice people. Do I know which ones are in active substance use, no, do I care, no. I pass out bags so people can carry their food home and everybody says thank you we're really grateful for what you're doing. So, I think one of things we need to think about, these are human beings and we need to acknowledge that. The second handout about substance use spectrum, this is a handout that is on a tool kit from Spirit of Harm Reduction, A toolkit for Communities of Faith. What this toolkit is, it gives churches a way to be involved in harm reduction practices, because a lot of churches believe that people are worth saving. It shows that substance abuse is on a spectrum and it can go everything from basically experimental use, and that may have been what the two OSU students were doing when they overdosed. It can go all the way down to chaotic use. People can move up and down the spectrum, you just don't stay in one place. You can maybe start out with experimentation and maybe that's enough, you realize that this is not something you want to continue to do. Or you can get into heavy use, they move up and down the spectrum, but in today's world except for accidents there is fentanyl can be found in drugs across the population and across the spectrum. I've heard some comments that people using substances could change their behavior. Change can be a challenge for anyone, has anyone ever started a diet and been able to stick with it? It's difficult. I know for me I planned to reduce my sugar intake, I even purchased a sharing size bag of peanut butter m&ms, which I did not share, so, change is

hard. Harm reduction supports any positive change, we can see this on the back of the handout of substance use spectrum, it offers compassionate evidence based support on their journey. Fentanyl testing strips can help with the journey. In November of 2022 a bill decriminalizing fentanyl testing strips passed with overwhelming bipartisan support proponents said it would help prevent fatal overdoses and save lives. The strips, and you were correct Mr. Rath, when you said they are used to detect fentanyl in drugs. Fentanyl can be found in pressed pills, in meth and a variety of substances. Somebody is just not going out to a drug dealer and saying hey I want some fentanyl. They may not know they have a drug that has fentanyl. One Ohio memorandum of understanding which is for cities, villages and councils has a direct call in directing opioid funds to implement strategies for community recovery of the opioid crisis. Harm reduction is one of the strategies. This is not tax payer money, this money was awarded because people died from opioid overdoses. People are still dying. As of February 14<sup>th</sup>, the City of Newark has collected \$49,743.27 of opioid settlement funds. To date to my knowledge no funds have been allocated or spent. It is my understanding that some of these funds may be allocated for Narcan for first responders. I thought that Narcan, at least according to Harm Reduction Ohio, could be obtained for free from Harm Reduction Ohio or Project DAWN. I am asking Council or the Mayor to consider using a portion of these funds to save lives. I know I've went on for quite a long time, but thank you. The other thing I brought I left sitting on the chair, I don't know if you all have received the invitation, but you are invited to an event on Sunday, Ohio CAN and Newark Homeless Outreach and OSUN is inviting people to a luncheon honoring first responders in Licking County. If you did not receive the invitation, I'll make sure that I'll scan this and I'll send it to you Janine to distribute to the Council. Thank you very much.

#### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

There are none this meeting

#### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

**By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Harris, Ms. Bline, Mr. Labutis**

**23-02** AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AMENDMENTS TO NEWARK'S SEWER USE AND SEWER CHARGES ORDINANCE (91-59); DIRECTING LIMITED PUBLICATION OF THE SEWER USE AND SEWER CHARGES ORDINANCE

**Held until 3-6-23**

#### **RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING**

**BY: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis**

**23-05** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$60,300.00 -the two line items were keyed-in incorrectly during budget preparation, requested amounts will bring them to needed levels for 2023)

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 10-0**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis**

**23-06** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE UNDER THE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis**

**23-07** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 FIRE ACT GRANT PROGRAMS, IN SUPPORT OF TRAINING PROGRAMS, EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, FUNDING FOR PERSONNEL, FIRE PREVENTION, AND FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Rath**

**23-08** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR AN AWARD OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FUNDING UNDER THE OHIO EMS TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0**

**By: Ms. Hottinger, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Houser**

**23-10** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$74,500 - F250 truck with snowplow, salt spreader, 20 foot trailer)

**Motion to adopt by Ms. Hottinger, second by Mr. Labutis, motion passed 10-0**

#### **RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING**

**By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline, Mr. Labutis**

**23-12** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR REMITTANCE OF FUNDS, FOR LEASING CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO OTHERS TO USE FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

**Held until 3-6-23**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline, Mr. Labutis**

**23-13 Exp** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$100,000.00 -Asset Mgt. Plan for LSL Loan - Lead Service Work)( \$500,000.00- (Loan reimbursements for payments made to contractor - Grant from OPWC) (\$200,000.00- (Asset Mgt. Plan for LSL loan)( (We rec'd \$2513 from MH & Recovery Board of Licking and Knox

County, \$1500 to pay Ashley Weaver an adj. for her work on LIFT Drug Court recert. \$1013 on LIFT Court supplies)

**Motion to waive the 2 day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang**

**Mr. Marmie** - This is some work that was done and we need to pay the contractors so we're expediting this.

**Motion passed 10-0**

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Labutis, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath**

**23-14 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$3,250,000.00 -Grant Funds for East Side Transmission Line)**

**Held until 3-6-23**

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** - I want to express my appreciation to Mr. Harris for his listing of prominent Americans who have helped our country. It's very appropriate this time of year because not inappropriate at any time. I would like to make mention of one that might seem obvious, but I think is going to end up being a big effect on our society in general and that is George Floyd who was tragically murdered at the hands of police a couple years ago. I think that incident was very tragic, very contrary to everything that I think people should stand for. It's affect will help the awareness of justice in the future. We all know that Derek Chauvin was convicted of the murder, you may not be as aware of Alexander Kueng and probably mangle the pronunciation, but Tou Thao who were also convicted for failure to intervene in that incident. So, it's a principle that if you have the ability to intervene to keep a crime from being committed and you don't, a law officer has that legal responsibility to do so. I think for us all, if you have the ability to act to prevent harm to someone it is at least your moral responsibility to do so. For that reason I participate in the Homeless Outreach and the Warming Center and I certainly don't speak for either of those organizations, I just volunteer for them. I have the greatest respect for Linda Mossholder and Nancy Welu for the works they do in those organizations, they are responsible for saving a number of lives I'm sure. The failure to act to help someone is also an act. It is the responsibility of us all to help and I cannot see myself failing to act in my small little way to be able to help people. I see people at the Homeless outreach with their bicycles that are in such terrible repair that I brought my bag of tools and did adjustments and did what I could do. Literally some of these people were riding bikes that didn't even have brakes and I could just not see myself not acting when I had the ability to act. I would feel as responsible if I saw one of those people and I did not help them with their bicycle and they got into an accident and died I would feel as responsible for their death as if I had caused it myself. Thank you very much for your attention.

**Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** - That was kind of a surprise, I was going to say something to Mr. Harris as well. I am very pleased that you have stood up for history, the last time, I was

hoping that this time you mention the ladies because there are a lot of ladies in our culture that have not gotten credit. For instance, in the NASA program there was a large group of women who were responsible for a lot of the successes with some of our space research and other people got the credit. Also I learned this year that there was a woman that was involved with AT&T that invented an incredible amount of communications systems, the software and that sort of thing. It was a long time before she got credit for that. So again, Mr. Harris, thank you especially during this time when some States and I hope it doesn't come to that sort of thing in Ohio, when books are being banned and history is being denied and I just read today that an area in California is being sued for its school practices and not being fair to all students and rejecting (inaudible) I think that's a sin. So anyway, please keep it on all year round if you can, I think it's beautiful.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Doug Vermaaten, NFD, 75 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street** - I'd like to provide assistance to Council in order to bring you up to date on the Fire and EMS vision. In 2022 your Newark Fire Paramedics responded to 12,535 incidents. The City of Newark Division of Fire and EMS continues to be one of the busiest emergency services in Central Ohio. As of 4pm this afternoon the Division of Fire and EMS have answered calls for citizens help, 1,712 times. In addition to the daily incidents that the Division of Fire and EMS responds to we have been working diligently to address the following challenges: reducing overtime expenditures and ensuring we have effective staffing to meet the high demand for our services. To that end, we developed and instituted a lateral entry process, to attract more participation we allow firefighter/EMTs to apply and take part in a lateral entry process, as well we have increased our outreach efforts through the use of Facebook, specifically the Newark Fire Facebook account which has over 14,000 followers. As a result of this effort 101 people submitted interest to participate in the lateral entry process. Of those submissions 36 candidates successfully completed the process. Last Thursday Safety Director Hickman gave conditional offers of employment to 9 individuals. Once through the hiring process and orientation period these 9 individuals will increase the staffing of Fire and EMS personnel closer to our allotted staffing of 84, thus decreasing the daily vacancies that increase our operational overtime. We've been working to improve our fire code and life saving missions attempting to reduce Newark's high fire volume, by introducing fire inspector training as part of our professional development. Once they complete their training and testing the Division of Fire and EMS will have 5 additional State Fire Safety Inspectors. All will have the ability to perform these important life saving actions. Finally, on behalf of Fire Chief Metzger and the Division of Fire and EMS I would like to thank Newark City Council and Mayor Hall's Administration for the support of our felt needs through the acquisition of two much needed medic units. One was legislated for purchase in 2022 and the other introduced in committee this evening. These medic unit purchases ensure that the citizens have the latest innovations and reliable transportation to the hospital when their emergency occurs. We look forward to the further collaboration to address the needs of the Division of Fire and EMS and to ensure that we are fiscally and operationally successful and sustainable. Thank you.

**President Ellington** - Thank you, tell me about the lateral program, and you give me a little information about that?

**Deputy Chief Vermaaten** - What the lateral entry process is, we have a provision within the Civil Service rules that if we do not have an active list as in the case we are in right now, we have no viable candidates, the Civil Service Rules give us permission to do what we call lateral entry we can eliminate the testing process of going through a regimen physical, what we did to make it somewhat competitive is we did do a physical abilities evaluation, can't call it a test because of liability reasons and we also did a structured interview where candidates were actually interviewed and scored based upon the candidates responses and that's how we came up with the candidates we got.

**Tricia Moore, Law Director** - I just want to say thank you to Spencer and Janine for making Zoom available for me. I'm actually on my third round of COVID so, hoping to be back next Council meeting, but there were some important issues that came through in committees that I wanted to make sure I was personally here to answer any questions including the NDP agreement and MORPC, so I am very excited for both of those resolutions, but appreciate you allowing me to be here by Zoom and hopefully I'll be in person next time.

**Mayor Hall** - I do want to thank Council Members Houser, Barker, Marmie and Blaine for coming to Framework last Thursday. I mentioned it briefly, but they've interviewed several thousand people as to what they see or what they think is important as Licking County grows and moves forward. There's a lot of work behind the scenes, it's probably better for them to tell you than me because there is a lot of detail for those of you who went, it's amazing. It's not a precise plan, but it's a beginning and some plans as we move forward. I think if you look at some counties around Columbus, they've grown exponential and they've outgrown their infrastructure a little bit, it's challenging in some places, we're trying to stay on the other side of that. I think we can grow and still keep our Licking County ways about us. Newark grew by about 5% last time which isn't bad raw population. There are places that grow by double digits and that becomes a challenge. We remind people you don't need to grow or not grow, you grow with the times. Communities that have declining populations are challenged. You don't shrink your borders with a declining population, you still have liabilities and expenses, so I think we can work this the right way where it isn't going to be intrusive on us, I was the Mayor of the largest city in the framework group obviously, but it has 50 different entities and you have potential trustees there that have pretty desolate townships that either will change or will not change it just depends on the residents, but you kind of see how fast life is changing and oil prices and what's going on out there, so hopefully those 4 members who attended benefited. It's unique in it's a public/private partnership and the private partnership funded \$300,000, that's pretty neat they stepped forward and they are not there to tell us they are more there to ask what do you need to get the job done. I met a little bit this morning with Congressman Troy Balderson and gave him updates on the Thornwood Corridor. He met with myself and the Mayor of Heath, Mayor Johns and our engineers and the County, just to keep him updated. He can be a big asset to us in a lot of ways. Thanks for the MORTC conversation I think that will be a benefit to us and I will report back to you.

**President Ellington** - Do you have a bridge update?

**Mayor Hall** - They are driving pilings as we speak, they were driving them last week and the pilings will create foundations and I believe the bridge is going to be delivered in about two weeks I believe, they don't want to get it on site too early. Again the pilings, then we pour the foundations, the bridge will be brought in two pieces on site a third and two thirds with a crane



to set it in place and supports till they get it bolted. They'll have to bring quite a bit of fill in to fill the ramps on each end of that and then pave the top. Again, it's probably going to be April realistically a little bit later than what we thought, but asphalt is going to be the best material to use as the asphalt plants don't open until then. Just a quick note, if anybody has been down West Main Street by Newark Station, the hole is filled and it looks kind of neat and the engineering department is working on how that sidewalk will be put in and look nice, the grant fund will help fund that and we'll have a new sidewalk in there and grass growing up top and it should be pretty neat. It's been a long process, but it's working well.

**Ms. Hottinger** - I first want to congratulate Roger Loomis, recognition well deserved and thank you for all you've done for the City in the past and all that you're still going to continue to do for the City. I was happy to support that, so thank you. Great positive update Deputy Chief, I really appreciate that, it was kind of a breath of fresh air from what we've been getting maybe in the past couple updates. So, I like that, it's exciting to hear that we're going to have some new hires soon. So thank you and I want to thank Tim for that. I want to thank Linda. I know we may disagree on every aspect of how to help homeless, I know where your heart is and it's a great heart and I know why you do the things you do. I agree that people who are addicted are humans and individuals and God loves them too. So, thank you for being persistent, even though we don't agree on every detail, I appreciate you.

**Mr. Houser** - I want to echo what the Mayor said about the Framework Initiative, a few of us went out there and got an update from them I think those are dollars well spent, I think they're giving us all a great approach to what the needs are around here I'm excited to see the pathway forward. Congratulations Roger I was very excited to vote for that and it's recognition well deserved and I appreciate all you've done for the City. Deputy Chief, appreciate the update, very positive and it's obvious you guys are working very hard to put good change in place, so certainly appreciate that.

**Mr. Labutis** - Just two things. I'd also like to congratulate Roger, well deserved for all the work you've done for the City, greatly appreciate that. Deputy Chief Vermaaten, thank you for looking for new ways of recruiting and bringing new EMS and firefighters to the City. I certainly appreciate that and it was a fantastic update, thank you for sharing.

**Mr. Lang** - Roger, well deserved, happy to vote for naming the building in your honor and I'll say, I wasn't from here originally, but lived here long enough that when I leave and travel I miss Newark water and can't wait to get home, so thank you for all you do. Thank you for the update as well from the Fire Department, seeing some of those overtime numbers definitely a little scary in terms of our budget, so glad to see we're making some progress and hopefully that will continue.

**President Ellington** - We were told if we voted for that you were staying another year. Two years!

**Mr. Marmie** - I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for March 6<sup>th</sup>. First thing I just want to comment on is that as far as the railroads, that's a federally regulated, PUCO has very little power and authority over that, only when a tragedy occurs does the State of Ohio actually jump in. At the Federal level there needs to be a little more, so that's what I'll comment on that as far as safety. I want to talk about the Framework, it was a great presentation, very high level. They're at the beginning stages and I say beginning stages, they've done a ton of work for being the beginning stages and I think it's just great that there is communication amongst the

communities. It doesn't mean that it's going to be one master plan, the them that I got and they kept echoing is that individual municipalities can have their own plan they can still go forward with them, but it's just a matter of knowing what those folks around you are doing and if there is collaboration that needs to be done then we want to of course do that. So, Jennifer Roberts is heading that and I think she's doing a great job and it was a lot of great information. Next thing that I have, I want to wish the Newark Catholic Girls Swimmers well. A couple girls are going to State this week, so I want to wish them good fortune. Deputy Chief, I appreciate the information. I appreciate what you and the Chief and all the folks are doing down there and all of our safety forces and Director Hickman I think that we've got some challenges, but you're meeting them head on, you're attacking them, you're addressing them and I really like that and I like seeing the aggressiveness of it and really appreciate all that you do and also the information. Roger, congratulations first and foremost very very well deserved. I can also say that I saw you come in as the superintendent and I'm seeing you leave as the superintendent. But, you did a tremendous amount of work even before you became the leader down there and I really do appreciate it, your experience is going to be missed tremendously. I would get rid of your cell phone if I were you, maybe change your number or something because I think the folks will try to call. Not only what you've done for the City of Newark as superintendent, but just as a human being and getting to know you I appreciate you and I love your sense of humor and it doesn't always come out real boisterous but I do appreciate that and you've raised a fabulous family also and I really think you're a great human being and I've been blessed to know you and to get to know you, so thank you very much.

**Mr. Rath** - Deputy Chief I appreciate the updates, it's exciting to know that you've got a couple new medics coming your way, it's exciting to know that you've got 9 offers, hopefully we have 9 acceptances to the offers that would be great. I'm real excited about Resolution 23-10, buying the new snow plow and salt spreader as well as in Service Committee we talked about buying a new 8 ton and 16 ton truck it's good to see that we're getting some new equipment, hopefully we won't have to put those into operation too much, but if we do, it's good to know they are there. Roger, changing the name to that building is just a really appropriate and fitting way to say thank you for all you've done for the City of Newark. You'll leave some very big shoes to fill. I know you've trained some people well and hopefully they'll follow in your footsteps. We appreciate all that you've done. I will call a Service Committee meeting for March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Rine** - Again, I would like to congratulate Mr. Loomis. We go back pretty far, Mr. Loomis was my neighbor growing up, so I played soccer with his son Devin. I don't know him like Mr. Marmie does, because mainly when I saw him we were not maybe doing too well on the soccer field, but Devin was the goalie, so he got the blunt end of everything and I was the sweeper, I was the last guy back, so I'd be helping Devin up off the ground because he was a diver, that was his specialty. He would dive and sometimes he would get them and sometimes he wouldn't, but when you get shot on 20 times in a game. I just want to thank you for being an awesome human being. He had a big field behind my mom's house and he let me practice whenever I wanted, me and my friends, football, soccer. He even had a field goal post, so I wanted to be a field goal kicker when I was younger and I probably could've if I would've put some more hours in on that thing. So I will thank you. Ms. Volen-Smith that was a great conversation we had earlier, I hope to have more like it.

**Mr. Barker** - Roger congratulations, we were real happy to do it, you have made a huge impact on every citizen here in the city whether you know it or not. Deputy Chief thank you for that update appreciate that very much. I know we've all had conversations with Chief and Director Hickman regarding overtime and staffing and so we appreciate that update very much. As councilmen Houser and Marmie mentioned already the Framework is something that is truly a very large undertaking and there are not better hands than the Thomas J. Evans Foundation to spearhead that with the rest of the private entities as well as the public entities involved Sarah Wallace and Jennifer Roberts, it's an amazing thing what they've done on this and the consultant they've brought in to help on this. I know it was nice for us that were there that we could leave some comments afterwards because in an hour and a half we basically got a full update from their first meeting to the meeting the week before and so as Councilman Marmie said there was a very high level but a lot of content and I know we'll keep getting those updates. So, it's exciting to see what's going on in the western part of the County but we also have to be conscious of what's going on here at home. So I would just stress to everyone I you want additional information on Framework, I would encourage everyone to take a look at their website because this is a large development coming to our County, [Frameworklc.org](http://Frameworklc.org) is the website.

**Ms. Bline** - On Framework, I was very impressed because not only did they give somewhat forecasted data and statistics, but it was also a report of capacity. I'm a capacity person and I like to see the opportunities and this is an opportunity not only for a greater capacity, but for learning. For taking care of some old things and some old mindsets even and reforming them into something that is not only transformation in the present, but will certainly go over into the next generation and generations to come. So, this is a great thing and I was very appreciative. Mr. Loomis I would like to thank you for your time, we're not going to say goodbye right now, but thank you for the teaching that you've given and when I've come down thee you've said just sit down and we'll look at this screen, look at these screens and all of Newark explodes before you, it was very informational, but thank you for all you've done. We have two Deputy Chiefs here in our presence and we have a wonderful Deputy Chief from the Fire Service and from the NPD. I'd like to thank you both. Thank you Chief Vermaaten for the update from the Fire Department because we love you guys. To the police, thank you. They have been incredibly instrumental in recent events, I thanked him privately earlier, you know I am not the most patient person in the world, I've said that before, but I'm learning process and I'm learning that consistent reporting is effective and to be able to share that with the citizens that things may not happen overnight, but they're going to happen. So, just hold your ground, take your place, keep documenting. Thank you Director Hickman, thank you for your time. Mr. Rhodes, I would like to thank you for your cleanup, you guys did a great job along Buckeye Linen. That was on my radar and that was just a wonderful surprise, actually made my whole week. Thank you to the Street Department for their participation and Property Maintenance and John Spring from AEP for catching up. Quickly, to the railways. I've been speaking locally to the railways, probably since before the election and I've come to understand that they have a limited response capacity, no judgement, it is what it is, so therefore, Mr. Baldersons office has been very kind to listen again and again and again to my calls, so, they've been able to get us through information and files concerning a lot of infrastructure here and some of the damage as far as the trash trains for local businesses, so they are now receiving our communications, it's the main offices

of Ohio Central, so we're going to continue to pursue that and I'm looking forward to the next steps with them.

**Mr. Harris** - Mayor, Don volunteered when the bridge is done to be the first one to drive over it to make sure it's safe. Roger, congratulations to you. Roger has a lot of knowledge. About a year and a half ago I called him about someone wanted sewer, so I told him the address and he goes, well back in 1985 in August, they had the opportunity to do it and they didn't do it then. I mean, he knew, that's how much knowledge he had, he knew exactly the property, the owner, all about the line without even looking. Congratulations to you. It's still Black history Month, I wrote down a few more inventions from African Americans, sorry no women, I'm sorry, sorry. I went back to the 1800's on a lot of them. The street sweeper was invented by Charles Brooks in 1890, the traffic light was invented by Garrett Morgan in 1893, he probably wouldn't like roundabouts now, the mop by Thomas Stewart in 1893, the mailbox where we get all our junk mail Paul Downing in 1891, I found this interesting, a golf tee was invented by George Grant in 1899, I didn't know they were playing golf back then, clothes dryer George Sampson in 1971, folding bed Leonard Bailey in 1899, folding chair Nathaniel Alexander in 1911 and the last one I have is the pencil sharpener by John Love in 1897. It's really interesting if you go back and just not black history, all history. History was one of my favorite subjects in school, I don't know what they teach now, but I think it's important that we know where things came from.

**President Ellington** - You do a great job Roger and I sure do appreciate you. Whenever I call, you have the answer, you usually don't even have to look it up, like Mr. Harris said, you have the answer right there, so don't forget about that two year thing that Mr. Rhodes has got worked out for you. I agree with everything Mr. Marmie said, I can't say it any better than that, I just wish you good fortune and good luck and hopefully you'll stay around a while. Thank you for everything you've done. Our next meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup>, committees will start at 5:45pm, full council at 7:00pm

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Labutis, second by Mr. Harris, with that we are adjourned**

**Don Ellington, President of Council**