

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 3, 2025
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL - Mr. Rath, Mr. Rine, Ms. Bline, Mr. Chute, Mr. Cost, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely

INVOCATION – Ms. Bline

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Payton Moffitt, 5th grade, McGuffey Elementary

CAUCUS - Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Mr. Barker, Second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed by acclamation

MINUTES of January 21, 2025, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

There are none this meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Service - Received and Filed without objection

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

There are none this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Davis, President, Junior Achievement of Central Ohio – A ribbon-cutting ceremony for JA Biz Town at the Junior Achievement Learning Center of Newark on February 7th, from 9:00 – 10:00a.m.

Mike Davis, President, Junior Achievement of Central Ohio – The unveiling of the student-ready JA Biz Town and JA Finance Park spaces at the Junior Achievement Learning Center of Newark on February 20th, from 2:00 – 3:00p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker

24-41 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 278 SOUTH 24TH STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-223428-00.000 FROM THAT OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE - RH - HIGH DENSITY ZONING DISTRICT TO TFR - TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Rine

Mr. Rath – Mr. President, this zoning change has not been contested by anyone. The Planning Commission does recommend the approval of the zoning change. I will be in support of that, and I would encourage everybody else to as well.

Motion passed 9-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Ms. Bline

25-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE AND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF Public Service, DIVISION OF Wastewater Treatment Plant BY ABOLISHING THE CLASSIFICATION (1) OF Industrial Waste Inspector/Operator while CREATING ONE ADDITIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF Operations Technician/Operator and SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE

Motion to adopt by Mr. Chute, Second by Mr. Labutis, Motion passed 9-0

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Chute

25-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW SERVICE TRUCK AND UTILITY BED FOR THE WATER DISTRIBUTION/SEWER MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Neely, Motion passed 9-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Chute, Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline

25-02 Cooperating with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for roadway improvements to West Church Street from North 29th Street to Green Wave Drive, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Cost

Mr. Rath – Mr. President, the reason for the emergency on this is we all know ODOT does not play nice. They do not give us advanced notice on this. So, in order for us to meet deadlines, we need to have the emergency clause.

Motion passed 9-0

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Chute

25-03 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO RELEASE THE LIEN PREVIOUSLY PLACED AGAINST THE

PROPERTY LOCATED AT AND KNOWN AS 125 WEST CANAL STREET, NEWARK, OHIO (PARCEL NO. 054-211464-00.000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Neely

Mr. Rath – Mr. President, the reason for the emergency on this is the liens are holding up the purchase of the real estate. So, we need to do this as quickly as possible. The same will be for 25-04.

Motion passed 9-0

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Chute

25-04 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO RELEASE THE LIEN PREVIOUSLY PLACED AGAINST THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT AND KNOWN AS 553-555 WEST MAIN STREET, NEWARK, OHIO (PARCEL NO. 054-227640-00.000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Neely, Motion passed 9-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Brandon Fox, Water Administrator – Good evening. Just want to take a minute to give a shout out to all of our water and sewer staff. You may not know it tonight, it's 60 degrees, but the last month has been pretty difficult with the cold temperatures. It's been a few years since we've had cold temperatures like this, so shout out to all of our staff that's out there doing the duty 24-7. But especially to our water distribution and sewer maintenance crews. We had 16 water breaks over the last month since like January 4th or something like that. So, a lot of hours spent after hours, and then they come in and we have another break during the day that they're expected to respond to. So, doing a great job. Just wanted to recognize all those staff. Thank you to everybody out there.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director – I pass, thank you.

Mayor Hall - Yes, Joyce Malainy, I would like to thank her for 15 years as superintendent of CTEC. She has recently retired, and congratulations go to Michelle Snow that has stepped up and works as the new superintendent of CTEC. That's obviously a great asset in our community. Second of all, under communications was some mention about Junior Achievement. I would encourage everyone to look into that and learn a little more about it. With ribbon cutting on Friday, we've probably worked for a couple years on this. There are eight Junior Achievement Associations in the state of Ohio. This is only the second location of what I would call a lab or a work center for the students in the entire state. It will service up to 20 counties, I believe. There is a city hall in there of a city called Newark. I want to thank all the companies that partnered. The fifth graders will come into the BizTown side, and the seventh graders will come into Finance Park on the other side. It's amazing what they learn. As much detail as what a credit score is, it's a pretty neat project. It's a great way to join our students and our youth into real life out there in the workforce. It's a great partnership with Newark City Schools, and obviously it's got 17,000 square feet out in the State Farm Building, so what a great use. And finally, on Friday, 650 people attended the 69th Annual Groundhog Breakfast out at OSU Newark. I want

to congratulate the chamber for putting on another great event, and thank you for everyone that attended. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Rath – First off, I'm looking forward to Friday afternoon, our first public event at the Arcade. We're going to have a market on Friday. I believe that starts around 4 o'clock, so I'm looking forward to that. I guess before I go any further, I want to welcome my wife to the chambers. Good to see you. I also attended the Groundhog Breakfast on Friday. Thank you for the invite, Mr. Mayor. I appreciate that. I also wanted to say congratulations to Scott Hayes for winning the Community Service Award. I want to call a Service Committee meeting for Tuesday, February 18th, and with that, I will pass.

Mr. Rine – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll pass tonight. Thank you.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, am looking forward to the Arcade opening. It's going to be very exciting. There are a lot of people who have been asking about it, so momentum is building. I'm very excited about that. Congratulations as well to Scott Hayes on winning that Community Service Award. I'd like to thank the residents who came out twice this weekend from 9 a.m. to 3:30 Saturday to give attention to an area that needed an upgrade, and so they worked on that, and then again on Sunday from 12:30 to 3:30. It was a very busy weekend, and amongst all that, I was very cognizant to notice the number of needles that were found, and the number was down 80 percent. Eighty percent on found needles. That's incredible, and that's a huge shout-out to our NPD, the law director, and prosecutor for standing firm on the law that needle distribution is a felony, and that boundary is making a huge difference in our community. I just want to thank, again, our fine folks in the Service Department for standing.

Mr. Chute – Thank you, Mr. President. I will pass.

Mr. Cost – Thank you, Mr. President. I will also pass.

Mr. Houser – Thank you, Mr. President. I would just like to thank Brandon again for the work that all your team did on those water breaks. That's got to be a lot of pressure, and I really appreciate all your team has done on that. I also attended the Groundhog Breakfast. It was great to see everybody out there, and with that, I'll pass.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. I also wanted to congratulate the Chamber on the Groundhog Breakfast. It's always a great event every year, and I always enjoy getting to go to that. I'm also looking forward to the Arcade opening on Friday. I think there's going to be a lot of neat shops that will be in there. I know some are still being built out and are still in that process, but it's going to be a fantastic facility, and it will draw attention to downtown as well. I'm also excited that 25-02 passed this evening. That's an area that has needed to be widened for quite some time. If you've ever tried to turn left on W. Church St. and have someone zoom around you on the right side, you know why that's there. So, I'm excited that work will begin later this year, and I'm happy for that. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for February the 18th. I want to just echo what the Mayor has indicated as far as the Junior Achievement with the BizTown. My children were fortunate enough to be able to go through BizTown, but they had to travel all the way over to Columbus. To have that in our backyard, it's just fantastic. It's a great experience for kids and adults alike because it takes some chaperones to help out with it. It teaches them a lot about how a city operates. Junior Achievement in other communities has been remarkable as far as just educating youth on some of the more common

things like having a checking account and other items that aren't necessarily taught in the schools. I know that I've taught different insurance courses through Junior Achievement, and it is just a fantastic program to help educate our youth and to enhance the experience that they get in their regular education. I'm looking forward to that. I think it's going to be fantastic to be a part of our community. And then, finally, the Arcade. I, too, am excited about the first phase opening up on Friday. The Farmer's Market always draws some attraction, and to have a location during the wintertime where that's going to be housed is going to be fantastic for the downtown area. It will be a temporary thing as far as it will move back outdoors once the weather breaks. However, they're anticipating next winter, during the entire winter, having the Farmer's Market down there. There are other facilities that are going to be opening. It's probably going to only be a partial opening for most of the locations. There are additional ones that are going to be opening up in the spring. And then, finally, they believe that they should be at pretty much full capacity by the summertime. So, it's exciting for our downtown. Everything looks great downtown. I think things are feeling better downtown as far as the safety of our citizens. I believe that there's a lot of good things that are helping to stimulate economic development. I appreciate what the mayor, the administration, in collaboration with Newark Development Partners has done to bring this project to fruition. I think it's just going to be a huge asset for our community. Finally, I want to thank Brandon and his folks as far as the work that you have done and continue to do. Those breaks don't always just happen in the cold, but we do appreciate it when your folks are out there taking care of it. As well as, we appreciate our first responders who are here, police and fire. They're doing their job day in and day out in inclement weather. A lot of times, it just goes unnoticed because they're just doing their job. So, we really do appreciate it. We appreciate that the water is always running for us, and we really do appreciate what the first responders do as far as taking care of our citizens and the safety of our folks. And with that, I'll pass.

Mr. Neely – It's not tough enough to go after Doug Marmie, I get to go last tonight. So, I'll just say, ditto on the Arcade and the Water Department. Great job on both. So, with that, I'll pass.

President Harris – Thank you. It's February, so that means it's Black History Month. As you guys know, every year I usually give some facts about black history. I usually talk about people that invented stuff. But, I thought I'd bring it more local. I talked about this in my speech at the Martin Luther King breakfast. So, some fun facts for Licking County for Black History Month. Robert Weaver was the first African-American Newark city councilman, Licking County Municipal Court judge, and also council president. Eddie Mae Scott was the first African-American school board member in 1990, I believe. Aaron Mitchell, the first African-American deputy sheriff in Licking County in 1962, and Chester Hart was the first African-American probation officer in Licking County in 1960. So, a little of fun facts. Our next meeting is February the 18th. Monday is a holiday, so we'll be meeting on Tuesday, February the 18th.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cost, second by Mr. Labutis, passed by acclamation

Jeff Harris, President of Council