

COUNCIL MINUTES

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

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Houser

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Rory Black, 4th grade, St. Francis de Sales

CAUCUS

MINUTES of February 18, 2025, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Hall – Appointing Dan Hunt to the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority Board of Directors. His new term begins immediately to fill the term of a past member. His new four-year term will begin June 1, 2025 and will expire May 31, 2029.

President Harris – Is that senior or junior?

Mayor Hall – That would be senior.

Passed by acclamation.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - **Received and Filed without objection**

Safety – **Received and Filed without objection**

Capital Improvement – **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

There are none this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ohio Division of Liquor Control - Transfer liquor permit application from Malherbe Girls LLC dba Bummies Pub & Grub & Patio, 155 N. Cedar St. 1st floor and basement, Newark, Ohio 43055, to Malherbe Girls LLC dba Bummies Pub & Grub & Patio, 399 W. Main St., Newark, Ohio 43055

Tricia Moore, Law Director and Melanie Timmerman, Assistant Law Director – Presentation

Tricia Moore, Law Director – Thank you, President Harris, members of Council. Tonight, Melanie and I wanted to present the program that has been developed in partnership with

many people here in the City of Newark, and really, throughout Licking County. As you know, the camping ordinance was passed, and what I've explained to people at the meetings, is that there's always been an emphasis on service. Services first. We're not trying to throw people in jail for being homeless. We want to get them back on their feet. So, after the passage of the ordinance, it just so happened that Melanie came aboard to my office. I went into her office and I said Melanie, here's my idea. I want to have a diversion program for people that are picked up for prohibited camping or other crimes based on the cause being homelessness. Go. She did some research and I'll let her tell you what she did and what she found.

Melanie Timmerman, Assistant Law Director - Thank you. Thank you for your time this evening. As Tricia explained, I started off by doing some research to see what other courts in Ohio were doing. I didn't find another court in Ohio that was holding a H.O.M.E. Court or a court with a diversion program in the way that Tricia envisioned it. There are a couple of housing courts in Ohio, but they deal with property maintenance issues, evictions, things of that nature. So, I broadened my search and found some courts in the United States who were doing a H.O.M.E. Court similar to what we wanted to structure ours like. I researched those, did a deep dive into those courts, and used some of the structure that they had put into place to form what we are calling H.O.M.E. Court. That stands for housing opportunities through municipal engagement. So, I just wanted to provide a brief overview of H.O.M.E. Court, how H.O.M.E. Court will operate, and then at the end, I'm so excited to share all the different organizations in the community that have partnered with us and the array of services that those organizations will be able to offer people who are participating in our H.O.M.E. Court. So, as Tricia mentioned we developed H.O.M.E. Court in collaboration with the Licking County Municipal Court. So, we met with Judge Stansbury, Judge George, and Magistrate Liston. And Magistrate Liston was a champion of this court from the get go. She hears a lot of our cases in small claims dealing with evictions, some property maintenance cases. So, she's already well versed and has some familiarity with some of the folks that we will be seeing in H.O.M.E. Court. This court will operate as a specialized docket court. So, it will be a diversion program, and I'll explain a little bit more in detail about how that will work, and participation in H.O.M.E. Court is voluntary. So, individuals who are eligible will be notified that they are eligible for participation and it's up to that individual to choose to participate in H.O.M.E. Court. We know that not everybody who's eligible will choose to participate, but we've come to talk about how we believe in the story of the starfish, right? The gentleman who's walking along the beach one evening, he sees thousands of starfish washed up on the beach. And there's another gentleman throwing starfish back into the ocean. He's like, what are you doing? You can't save them all. And the gentleman says, but I made a difference to that one. So, for those folks who want to engage, we know that we can make a difference in their lives with the services and partners that we have been able to put together. So, to be eligible for H.O.M.E. Court, an individual has to be experiencing homelessness in Licking County. And I won't bore you with the details, but we use the federal definition of homelessness to help guide us in that determination, and then that individual also has to have been charged with a nonviolent misdemeanor. So as Tricia mentioned, we often see individuals who are experiencing homelessness engaging in certain types of prohibited conduct. We see a lot of theft cases, criminal trespass, criminal damaging cases arising because of some of the issues that those people are encountering from being homeless. We also included the prohibited camping ordinance. So, as I'll mention here in a few

minutes, anybody who is charged with a prohibited camping violation is presumed to be eligible for engagement in H.O.M.E. Court. We have a designated time set for when H.O.M.E. Court will meet. And we wanted to do that because of the population that we're dealing with. We wanted some predictability regarding when H.O.M.E. Court will meet. So, H.O.M.E. Court will meet every Wednesday at 11 AM. We have time set aside for arraignments where Magistrate Liston will hear those cases, and we'll be using the small claims courtroom on the fourth floor. Just some of an overview, a quick overview of how the process will work. Like we said, an individual who's charged with a nonviolent misdemeanor is eligible for participation in H.O.M.E. Court. Again, that presumption that if it's a prohibited camping charge, they're going to be eligible. The other cases involving other nonviolent misdemeanors, our office will review on a case by case basis. We'll look at the current and past charges and determine whether or not that individual with this charge should be eligible for participation in H.O.M.E. Court. Because this is a diversion program, what will essentially happen, the person will come to arraignments, they'll be told you're eligible for participation in H.O.M.E. Court. They'll be given an overview of what that means, and if they choose to participate, they enter into basically a plea agreement where they plead guilty to the crime that they were charged with or the offense they were charged with. That sentence is held in abeyance and basically an alternative sanction of diversion is ordered by the court. So, diversion is very similar to a term of probation. So, they will be ordered to be placed on diversion. The length of that diversion will be based upon, again, the charge, the offense they were charged with. We're anticipating, because these are misdemeanors, that diversion period will last anywhere from 30 to 180 days. Magistrate Liston will set that diversion term. After the arraignment, the participant will immediately meet with the H.O.M.E. Court program coordinator. We are super excited that we have a lot of our organizations who have said we want to partner with you. As we've talked to them and met with them, they also said, we want to be at this arraignment. Because sometimes to get people engaged in services, it takes a little bit to get them eligible. We want to be there at this meeting to meet with them. So, we will have our H.O.M.E. Court program coordinator there. We will have several different service providers who have said we want to be there and engage with these participants right away. Another organization that's partnering with us is Doubletree and they have agreed to pack a boxed lunch for all of our participants when they come into H.O.M.E. Court. We'll have boxed lunches for them, we'll have some hygiene kits available, we'll have some non-perishable kits available, and some of our other partners have said, please send them, so the re-entry program, please send them to us. We can help provide food, clothing, things of that nature. So, we're going to get these people plugged in right away before they leave the building. We're going to get them plugged in. As we were thinking about the design of H.O.M.E. Court, we thought, well typically in a diversion program you would have a diversion officer or probation officer who's overseeing kind of the terms and the program, but as we talked more and more and more, we thought we really want somebody with a social work background because this person is going to do an assessment with the individual. Based on that assessment, they're going to develop a treatment plan which will become part of the individual's terms of diversion and they're going to start connecting that individual with services. So, we kind of said, okay, this is what we want. We want a program coordinator, and other courts have used a similar structure, and one of our big needs was where do we come up with this program coordinator, though? But Chad Brown has met with us and graciously agreed

that the Licking County Health Department's community navigator can serve as our H.O.M.E. Court program coordinator, and we are absolutely thrilled and we're so thankful for that partnership. So, as I said, that individual, our program coordinator, will perform an intake or needs assessment. Based upon that assessment, they'll develop the treatment plan which becomes part of the diversion terms. During the diversion period, the H.O.M.E. Court participant is expected to report to their respective service providers to engage in services until they come back to court. One piece that we wanted to include to make sure that folks are engaging is we wanted kind of this monthly status report to be submitted to the court. The program coordinator will work with service providers, defense counsel, the participant to update the court on each individual and the progress they're making during that month. As we come close to the end of that period of diversion, a disposition hearing will be scheduled where the court will review how well this person has done during diversion. Have they engaged in services? Have they complied with services? Are they making progress? We know that not all of their needs will be met probably or dealt with within 30 to 180 days, but we want to see that they're making progress, they're engaging, they're starting to address some of those issues that led to them experiencing homelessness. If they successfully completed diversion, their case will be dismissed and their attorney can later ask to have their record expunged too, which will help them down the road with employment, with housing opportunities, and things of that nature. For the individuals who are successfully dismissed, their cases, they're successful, they've completed diversion, their case is dismissed. I've also talked with our program coordinator about how we really want to develop a transition plan, right? The court is no longer involved, so now here's what you need to do to stay engaged and on the right track. So that's something that will be developed as well. As we set about to form H.O.M.E. Court, we really realized the truth of it will take a village. It will take a village to make this successful. We've met with various nonprofits, churches, service providers, organizations. We've had three meetings here with three different groups of potential partners. We've gone to the Licking County Apartment Association. We've met with folks from MVNU. We've tried to pull in as many resources as we can to look at creative solutions. We've also talked with other municipalities who are considering prohibited camping ordinances as well and talked to them about engagement with H.O.M.E. Court. So, as I've said, we've been creative in solution exploration. Chad helped us meet a huge need by providing the program coordinator, but we've also worked with Mount Vernon Nazarene University to have some of their Masters of Social Work students come serve as interns with our program coordinator and with H.O.M.E. Court, so they'll be getting experience helping arrange services and working with our participants. I'm excited to show you the next slide because this slide shows you the range of services that our H.O.M.E. Court participants will have available to them. I don't want to read all of those, but you can see that we've really kind of covered a continuum of services for the participants in our program, and a lot of services, again, aim to address the issues that led them to homelessness and hopefully get them on a path to short-term housing, long-term housing, and being successful. The next few slides and again, I won't read all the organizations that are on these slides, but are just some of the organizations in our community who have agreed to partner with H.O.M.E. Court. One thing I forgot to mention, at arraignments, I talked about how service providers will be there. Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities will be there to start the eligibility process for people to get help with workforce, services, and development. Licking Memorial has offered to

have a nurse available at H.O.M.E. Court to do some basic health assessments. Reentry, so we've again got a lot of service providers. Bright View, who's going to be there to help get folks engaged right away with substance abuse counseling and treatment. So, three more slides of partners, and we're still building partnerships. I updated this list Friday because we're still getting service provider information forms back from agencies and organizations saying we want to partner with you and be part of H.O.M.E. Court. So, we're so thrilled. Our next steps we are putting our advisory council together We're going to be hosting our first advisory board meeting in the next couple of weeks, and we are hoping to launch this spring. So, we're hoping for an April launch. Just some of the program needs that we still know are out there are short and long-term housing options. Again, we're trying to be creative and work with groups that can maybe help provide financing for some short-term housing options, working with other groups to, again, think out of the box and be creative about how to make some of these housing options available. Other miscellaneous expenses we know will come up. Data management. We want to be able to track our data and look at whether or not this is effective, what we need to improve, immediate needs items for defendants, which we've had all kinds of people again offering to make immediate need items available for the defendants when they come in to H.O.M.E. Court. Thank you for your time and allowing us to share about H.O.M.E. Court.

Director Moore - I just want to say one thing. You will not find another court like this in the state of Ohio, and I think what makes this program so special that it's very community dependent. I think you all saw a few months ago when we passed the ordinance the amount of community people that came in here. Well that kind of inspired me to be like, okay this community wants to help people. Let's get everybody on the same page and let's have everybody who wants to help be able to help, and what Melanie has put together is a network of services from churches all the way to Licking Memorial Hospital that are in. That have partnered with us for this program, and there will be so many services that are going to be available at their arraignment. At their arraignment. This is so important because we want them to leave, as soon as we can get a hold of them, with as many plans, services as possible. And we want to make it an environment where they're going to come back and report. So, you know, that's why we said we don't want a probation officer want a service coordinator. There's going to be services at arraignments. There's going to be a box lunch when you come in to our arraignment. We want this to be as service oriented as possible, and I know that's what Council was talking about when we passed this ordinance. Thank you for your time. We look forward to reporting on how our program is going to go, and we will be here after council to answer any questions.

Assistant Director Timmerman - And I should just note, many of our service providers are here this evening, so I'd like to thank them for being here as well.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - Thank you for that presentation. I thought there were some really good ideas in there. Some really good ideas, and thank you for that. I think it's a good start. But it's still missing an awful lot. I did see something really exciting recently in the Dispatch and some other sources. In Columbus, and there was another area. It was kind of extensive. Got to see pictures. They created a village. In Columbus, they have miniature houses.

They're gearing toward single person or possibly couples for now. I sense you're familiar with it. And that's a start. It's not a finish. But the thing is, there are some rules to it. There's some rent involved. In one of the projects in one of the other areas, it's working toward actually purchasing, starting to rent, and then gradually that rent goes toward having a home at the end of a certain period of time. They have a lot of the services that you're talking about. So that's exciting. I'm wondering whether you're planning on having showers more often than what is currently happening. That would be really a help for people to have self-esteem and the opportunity to. I've met a number of people that actually do work while being homeless, and it's really, really hard. And showers once a week does not cut it, nor the transportation. The advantage from what I can see of Columbus' situation is a lot of the services are in the same vicinity as the housing. I've talked to a lot of people that are in this situation, and a lot of really fine people with so many skills, we need to build them. And I'm not sure whether we're getting close enough to that with this, and I'd like to collaborate in terms of things that I've done, in terms of the education that I've done in the past, and I have a background in counseling also. So anyway, thank you.

Donna Gibson, 1100 Thornwood Dr., Heath - I'm also the director of the community drop-in. So, a lot of these people that we're talking about, actually 99% of them, see me. I see 25 to 30 every day. I really like a lot of points in this. My only thing tonight is I couldn't read it. If I can get a copy, that would be great. The other thing that I wanted to ask a question about is I saw where the charges and the expungement, why does there have to be a charge? Why can't there be a charge if they do not complete it? So that would save financially someone from trying to get it expunged, because that can cost money. So that's a question that I have. I see no reason why anybody should be charged. It's like a pending. I see that happening. So, if you're good, you don't get it. The other thing was the service providers. I'm appreciative of Cheri to be the one to be the social worker, but the problem is it's a trust thing with people. And I found it immediately that when I started working with them, there's a trust that I have built up now. They know if I tell them something, they know I'm telling them, I mean what I say, I say what I mean, and I'm trying to tell you to the best of my ability. That comes from trust. You're not going to get somebody to go in an office and tell you everything that's going on with them to do a case management thing. You need those service providers who work with them. It needs to be, hey, you've been working with this person, so what's up? They're not talking to me. Did you know they had anxiety? Did they tell you anything? Maybe we sit down together with that person at a certain time and just kind of figure out what's going on in their life. Usually there's one or two things that keeps them homeless. It could be trauma. It could be mental health. It could be because they got a divorce and they just, you know, there's a lot of things. And it's not a simple here's a case management plan, yay, everybody's good. That's not how it works. If that was the case, I could solve a lot with what I'm doing. I am getting people jobs, but that's because they trust me. Getting them to recover, we have nine people from the community drop-in who went to recovery in February. That's something I'm pretty proud of. So those are the kind of things that happen because of trust. So, I would like to ask you to add more in that, where everybody who's helping, whether it's reentry, whether it's us, whoever, is involved, not just at court. Because maybe I can't get to court, but if I'm involved beforehand and I'm asked some questions, I might make things easier in court. I don't know if that makes sense. Now they're willing to say, yes, I want to do that. If you just say here's all these things you can do, I

guarantee you that 70% will walk out and say just charge me. Because that's just how they are. So, I love this. I'm so happy we're doing it. And I'm happy that we're taking the charge in this in Licking County because we need to. So, I thank you.

Director Moore - Mr. President, may I speak? I will be in the hallway afterwards if people have questions. So, ma'am, if you'd like to discuss, we can talk in the hallway afterwards. Please wait around.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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

25-06 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 8, TITLE TWO: BUSINESS REGULATIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO WITH MARKETING CARTRIDGE-BASED ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS (ENDS) PRODUCTS AND OTHER ENDS PRODUCTS THAT HAVE NOT OBTAINED PREMARKET AUTHORIZATION

Held until 3/17/25.

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

25-07 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEED OF DEDICATION OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR PUBLIC USE OF STEMFLX WAY, A NEWLY DEVELOPED STREET LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF MT. VERNON ROAD, BETWEEN NORTH 21ST STREET AND MYRTLE AVENUE.

Held until 3/17/25.

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

25-05 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

25-06 Exp A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 10-0

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

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

25-07 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF OHIO 2025 URBAN FORESTRY GRANT.

Held until 3/17/25.

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

25-08 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Held until 3/17/25.

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

25-09 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Held until 3/17/25.

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

25-10 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO RELEASE THE LIEN PREVIOUSLY PLACED AGAINST THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT AND KNOWN AS 900 JONES AVENUE, NEWARK, OHIO (PARCEL NO. 054-192078-00.000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed 10-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Joyce Benson, 4075 Fallsburg Rd. - I just wanted to mention that the FOPA Lodge is having a fish fry this Saturday. I think you guys all got this. Just wanted to make sure that everybody knew that the public is invited, and it's in honor of Fran, so we can put a tree in honor of Fran. And what we would also like to do is also start up a memorial fund in her honor for people that are in need of things, because Fran always was one that always tried to help anybody that she could. So, we want to try to set up a fund in her name so that when we do have somebody that needs something, we'll have something available to help out the community. So, it's this Saturday at the FOP Lodge that is right beside Brodsky's Drive-Thru at 255 South 6th Street. It's from 5 to 7, and it's going to be fish and fries and coleslaw and \$20 a plate. It's going to be done by Heritage Catering, our famous recipe that Fran also loved. So, we would like to see you all there if we can, and hopefully it'll be a great turnout. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director – I think I've said enough. Thank you. I'll pass.

Mayor Hall – I'll pass this evening, thank you.

Mr. Rine – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like to say my support for the H.O.M.E. Court Network. Kind of like the bail, like bondsmen is available out of jail, they'll kind of be available as one of the first contacts to help them out. I like that. And then, yeah, the diversion, you know, gets expunged. I'm not sure if – I think it has to be, you know, pending. You know, the whole due process thing might affect that. So, about the whole pending charge and how it is expunged. So, but yeah, definitely look into that. I just wanted to say my support for Ordinance 25-06. Next council meeting, it will be on its second reading. It's the amendment of the business regulations of the nicotine delivery systems. So, I know it's a little early, but I just want to, I think it's a very good idea. When you drive past smoke shops it kind of looks like a Willy

Wonka chocolate factory. So, I feel like some of those probably need to be FDA approved, maybe. So, with that I'll pass. Thank you.

Mr. Barker - Thank you, Mr. President. Just a couple things here. Law Director Moore, Assistant Law Director Timmerman, thank you very much for all your hard work. I know you guys have been working on that for many months now, and it shows. We appreciate all the providers here tonight. Chad, Director Brown of the Health Department, we appreciate your support on this. I want to thank Director Rhodes and Nick Schultz in the Engineering Department for helping out with a safety issue, really more of a roadway issue. The Fifth Ward that we've been kind of going back and forth on for at least the last six to seven months, but that got started taking care of today. Then the Street Department was able to get out today as well on some major potholes where we had somebody call me and they had lost a tire in the Fifth Ward. So, we got that taken care of today. So, I appreciate their quick work, great victories of his team on that. And with that, I will pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Councilman, for your heartfelt prayer. I appreciate that. I thank you. I'd like to thank the Street Department and Property Maintenance for their interventions. The citizens, you know, they call in, and it's so nice. As Councilman Barker said, they have prompt assistance. We really appreciate that. I'd like to thank Dan Moder and Explore Licking County for their assistance and coming together at the last minute to help out on another project. Law Director Moore and Assistant Law Director, there she is. This is a great idea. The thing I love about it is it creates a narrative, and the good thing about any narrative is that you can build in first, then, next, and there's a number of transitions to a good end. Also, the great thing about a narrative is the finally is that person's choice. They have choice throughout. So, that's a beautiful thing to give someone control over their life again and then be able to receive it. So that's a great thing. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chute – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll echo my thanks for the initiative of the Law Director and Assistant Law Director. I appreciate your presentation and appreciate all your hard work with this. And with that, I will pass.

Mr. Cost – I want to thank Tricia and Melanie both for what you've gotten started. It sounds like a great way to move this issue forward. I also want to thank all the providers for being here this evening. I know that you're going to be willing to work alongside with all of this, and it feels really good to see something moving in that direction. Thank you.

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

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. Again, I just want to thank Law Director Moore and Assistant Law Director Timmerman. Great presentation. I know that last October we went through the legislative process. We all had discussions, conversations, a lot of community conversation, and one of the things that I said earlier, and I think I spoke for all of us on this council, is that if the ordinance was just about putting people in jail, we weren't interested. So, through both of your hard work, looking at other options, and then also working with service providers and having them provide options as well, I think that's what we have come to. So, congratulations on working on that. I'm excited to see what will come of it as H.O.M.E. Court starts. I'm looking forward to the redemption stories that come out of it. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for March the 17th. I, too, want to thank the Law Director and Assistant Law Director for the presentation and the information. I look forward to gathering a lot more information on the program and

seeing how it will be implemented. I too want to thank Mr. Houser for his invocation this evening. A lot of death and a lot of illness recently, at least in my circles, and then I hear about a measles outbreak, and we hear about all the different tragedies that are going on in our country and in our state and in our city. It's times like this that we need to look and count our blessings and look and see, and just look around us, how many wonderful people we have around us and how we work together. I appreciate all of you, and I appreciate the administration, our safety forces, all the different departments, law director, auditor's office within our city. We have a lot that we are blessed with, even during these times of death and illness. May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States. With that, I pass.

Mr. Neely – Thank you, Mr. President. I will also just thank Law Director Moore and Assistant Law Director Timmerman for their work on the H.O.M.E. Court. Thank you to all the community partners coming together, helping with that as well, to make the best of that situation. So, with that, I will pass.

Mr. Rath - Thank you. I'll call a Service Committee meeting for the 17th of March. And while we've passed the camping legislation, we did have a lot of discussion, like Mr. Labutis talked about, and we were interested in the opportunity to funnel people more into a program that provided services, much like you presented tonight, so I appreciate you guys doing that. It's awesome to see all the service providers here in support of this group, this initiative. I'm glad to see the community once again come together in force to help. That's very much appreciated. And, Law Director Moore, I have an unrelated question for you, so if I can grab you before the hordes of people accost you for 10 seconds, I would appreciate that. With that, I pass.

President Harris – I want to encourage Council to go take a tour of the water plant up on Waterworks Road and down to the sewer plant down on East Main. Amy and I have been taking tours of the city, and we went to the sewer plant and the water plant. I guarantee when you get done, when you turn that water on, you'll appreciate that water. And everything that goes down in the drain, you'll appreciate that a lot better, too. I was really impressed with what they did. I guess that's the kind of things that we take for granted. So, I encourage you guys to take a tour. It's about an hour long each. And then take a tour of the rest of the departments that you haven't been to.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council