

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

June 2, 2025  
Council Chambers  
7:00 P.M.

**President Harris called the meeting to order**

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

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Houser

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CAUCUS**

**Mr. Chute** - Mr. President, I'd just like to inform you that I will be abstaining from discussion or voting on Resolution 25-09 due to a potential conflict of interest due to the close personal relationship with members of the Reddington Condo Association Board.

**President Harris** – Just 25-09? Not 25-10?

**Mr. Chute** - And also.

**President Harris** - Okay. Anybody else?

**Mr. Barker** - Thank you, Mr. President. I also need to let Council know that I will be abstaining from discussion and voting regarding 25-09 and 25-10. As well as Mr. Chute, I do have a personal tie to the Reddington Board and Reddington Village.

**President Harris** - Thank you. Anything else for caucus tonight?

**Mr. Marmie** - Yes, the minority leader and myself have agreed to invoke Rule 11 in order to bring Resolution 25-40 to the table.

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath**

**Resolution 25-40** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A DISCRETIONARY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 11.05 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker**

**Mr. Marmie** - We are appointing a discretionary charter review. We have something that's in direct conflict as far as one of the director positions. It just needs to be clarified whether or not that is going to be a protected classified employee in which they would fall under the guidelines of vacation, time off, so on and so forth, or if they're going to be an appointed official under the discretion of the mayor. It was changed some years back and that has created a real conflict because they had the protection of being classified, however, not having to follow the rules of being classified really didn't have the proper documentation as far as their position. We need to make sure that we clear that up. We have an

interim HR director currently, so it is not going to impact that individual. Therefore, we feel like this is the best time to do it to make sure that it is corrected.

**Mr. Barker** – Mr. President, one thing I want to make sure everybody is aware of, we are planning this as an emergency because due to time restraints with the Board of Elections, if we move forward, this is something that would have to go on the ballot, so that's why we have graciously had the Majority and Minority Leader use Rule 11 tonight as well as declare it an emergency.

**Motion passed 10-0**

**MINUTES of May 19, 2025, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation**

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

There are none this meeting.

#### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance - **Received and Filed without objection**

#### **REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

There are none this meeting.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

There are none this meeting.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**25-08** AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 134 EAST MAIN STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-186858-00.000, #054-186876-00.000, #054-186864-00.000, #054-186870-00.000, AND #054-195762-00.000 FROM THAT OF MB – MEDIUM INTENSITY BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT TO DC – DOWNTOWN ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

**President Harris** - This public hearing is now open just for 134 East Main Street, 25-08. Is there anybody here to speak for or against 134 East Main Street, 25-08? Okay, we're going to close this public hearing for 25-08.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline**

**Mr. Rath** - Mr. President, there does not seem to be any opposition to this. The zoning has been recommended, so I would encourage everybody to pass this on.

**Motion passed 10-0**

**President Harris** - Now the next two public hearings, they're the same project, but we have two different parcels. So, the first one we're going to do is 25-09.

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

**25-09 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 330 THORNWOOD DRIVE, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-216702-00.000 FROM THAT OF MFC - MULTI-FAMILY CONDO ZONING DISTRICT TO MFH – MULTI-FAMILY HIGH RISE ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.**

**President Harris** - Okay, I'm going to open up this public hearing, and then I'm going to let the developer go first, and then once they're done, then anybody that wants to speak to this will be able to come and speak. Need your name and address for the record, please.

**David Hodge, 8000 Walton Pkwy, New Albany, Ohio** - David Hodge, an attorney with the law firm Underhill & Hodge, 8000 Walton Parkway, Suite 120, New Albany, Ohio, 43054. Do you want us all to do that and then speak, or?

**President Harris** - Sure, that's fine.

**Scott Hartley, 2964 Peachtree Road, Suite 585, Atlanta, Georgia, 30305.**

**Brian Wood, ADR & Associates, 88 West Church Street, Newark, Ohio.**

**Mr. Hodge** - Thank you very much, Mayor Hall, Council President Harris, members of council. As I just mentioned, my name is David Hodge, and I'm a local zoning and land use attorney. Much to my family's chagrin, I spend my evenings out talking about new developments in communities all over central Ohio, and this is certainly no exception. I'm here tonight for the applicant for the two ordinances to follow. That's Ordinance 25-09 and 25-10, just read by the clerk. This legislation amends the zoning map for the subject properties to further facilitate the creation of new housing in Newark and the improvement of area infrastructure. The developer of this property is a first class group in every way as has been demonstrated by the collaborative work they've done with the prior project with the administration and elected officials, but not just that, really by their willingness to embrace adjacent property owners through a series of meetings we've had with the Reddington Village Condo Association board and membership to listen to evaluate the proposal and to do what we can within the bounds of our proposal to address needs at that property. I'm going to stop there and may be involved in some question and answer, and from there I'll turn it over to Scott Hartley.

**Mr. Hartley** - Thank you for your time. The picture behind everyone at Council here is just the current progress that what we call Trailhead Vista Phase 1. We first brought this through Council a little over two years ago, so we're very proud. From what you see here, the quality, the finishes, both from an exterior quality as well as an interior quality have not diminished albeit interest rate environment as well as tariffs that we've had to go through the course of the last two years, we've been very proud to keep the quality both from an interior and exterior perspective for this community. We're currently a couple months ahead of schedule as you can see from the clubhouse. We're currently on budget as well. Expecting to have first residents move in here call it September October time frame. As you can see from this second picture, this is the back of the site looking from the northwest down this to the northeast down to the southwest looking to the West Main Street Thornwood Drive intersection as well. As part of the Phase 1 closing for Trailhead Vista, we committed \$500,000 to the City of Newark. Those roadway infrastructure improvements will begin sometime over the course in the next two to three weeks. We've added over \$350,000 worth of permit fees to the City of Newark and to the County as well. We continue to be good stewards. Mark Mauter and others here in the crowd to continue to remain in a very collaborative state working through this project. As you'll see here on the Phase 2 site plan as well, again this is a rezoning hearing this is not a site plan approval, we've tried to be very

mindful of what we've programmed for this site. This site is just the same in terms of challenges with the topography and the rock as our Phase 1 site is there's actually 70 feet of elevation change on this Trailhead Vista Phase 1 site and we have those same challenges on the Phase 2 site as well. What we've committed to is very similar in terms of the Phase 1 from a monetary contribution perspective. We've set aside \$500,000, \$100,000 of which has been committed to the Reddington Condo Village Association for improvements at their discretion or work that we are comfortable completed on their behalf. As you can see here, and Brian Wood will speak to this right after myself as well, we've been very mindful just of the preliminary site planning due diligence process as well. You see we've oversized the retention pond as we understand through Mr. Hodge's comment we've followed up multiple times through drainage concerns that they currently have on site. You see that we've been very mindful in the setback that we have by code. We are required to have a 30-foot setback. There's over 300-foot setback on this site. We've been very mindful of that. In addition to future Thornwood Drive roadway infrastructure improvements are contemplated to occur sometime over the course of the next couple years, including a roundabout at the West Main Street Thornwood Drive intersection we've set aside acreage for the City of Newark to complete that roundabout installation as well as the traffic study will continue to advance. As I mentioned before, we first came forth before Council before the administration over two years ago. The only reason we did not rezone the entirety of this site to start was due to that traffic study not being completed. It still hasn't been completed, but just carving off eight acres for that potential roadway infrastructure work allows us to continue on with Trailhead Phase 2.

**Mr. Wood** - Good evening, everyone. As Scott mentioned this isn't necessarily a site plan review, but as you can see from the picture, the layout of the pond, the natural topography leaves the basin to be in that area. So again, obviously zoning is not contingent upon the site plan but in some form or fashion you're going to have a pond in that area to provide a natural buffer regardless of the use there, and as Scott mentioned, the pond as shown is well oversized to provide some additional drainage to assist the neighbors there. Another item that we kind of talked about early on in the process was the increased traffic and our traffic engineers put together a preliminary report of what those increases might be and if we look at the current zoning of the lots, the best estimate would be you could create 222 units on that site. That would be approximately a 3.3 percent increase on traffic to the north under current zoning. So, we took those same numbers, which was assisted by Nick Schultz at the city engineer's office, with the best guess estimate for traffic. As Scott mentioned it's not totally finalized yet, but with the current layout proposed of 254 sites, that would only increase it to 3.6 percent increase. So, that's only an additional 0.03 percent increase in traffic over what's already currently zoned in this situation.

**President Harris** - Thank you, gentlemen. Now I'm going to open it up to anybody that wants to talk mainly to this ordinance. If you come, up give me your name and address and try to keep your comments to about three minutes.

**Bill Stewart, 2073 Taylor Ln.** - Thank you and I appreciate the time. We were advised before. This is short to listen that's all I can ask. There's 86 units in our condo association, and also 86 people pay taxes. Traffic is a big problem for us. We see it continuing, and it's even slowed down a little bit because there's another road being blocked right now. There's a lot of blockage, but there is a transporter building a new building down the road and we anticipate that to come. We're wondering about the traffic report mentioned and the possible turn lane and a traffic report by the City. We haven't seen it or we didn't know about the details. We'd like to know if it's done, completed, and that it reflects the increase in traffic, if it shows the speeding, as well as distracted driving. What percentage

is there? They're more than 3% I'll guarantee you. There's also Jake breaking coming down that hill and I don't expect that to discontinue for quite a while. Property values, we anticipate and we recognize with this new venture that's going down and all the money that's putting in, our property values are going to drop. Park places are going to depreciate due to traffic. This is not apartments being built like up at 21st Street next to Walmart. We're not Walmart. We would like to see a couple things. Is there a choice between condos and apartments? We'd rather it be condos. I think the City might consider us too. If you're making (inaudible) over considerations for the apartments, will you consider giving the condo owners an extended 10-year abatement on taxes? Thank you.

**Gary Pike, 315 Thornwood Dr.** - My name is Gary Pike. I live at Thornwood Drive 315 across the street from the proposed condos or apartments. I purchased that property in 1977 two weeks before the blizzard, and it was a very quiet, very peaceful area to live in. Now the traffic is absolutely awful and I'm afraid to go down to my mailbox considerably because it's just traffic and the trucks and the speed. If they would just put a policeman out there for about two, three weeks, he'd see. There would be many, many tickets. Like this morning, I was standing out my yard this morning, this guy on a motorcycle came by off of the roundabout, came past my house, and he had to be going 67 miles an hour easy. They don't know that that's a 35 mile an hour speed zone. I think they think it's still 45 mile an hour. The street has never been touched basically since I moved in there in 1977 and yet the condos, apartments, and the building has gone up tremendously. So, the traffic is totally out of hand. I don't know how they're going to do with the street. The street needs to be wide. The trucks barely make it through, two 18 wheelers side by side, and it's just absolutely terrible. So, I don't know what they plan on doing there, but I'll tell you if it's passed and it's going on, something's going to happen with that road I'm going to end up selling out. It's just no longer peaceful to live there anymore. Thank you.

**Debbie Delozier, 2195 River Rd.** - I am, when you come down Thornwood, I'm right there. I just, I guess I have a couple of questions. I live on the top, up on a hill, so we can see the roundabout and what goes on and the horns that go off all day long because people aren't driving the roundabout...They're not yielding. People are driving, especially coming from the freeway, when we come home from work, we have to watch. Coming off the freeway, we have been cut off so many times. The yield signs are not, we see them, but people aren't seeing them. But I guess my question's going to be, in our area, just like Gary, we have lived there 31 years. We're wondering why, in such a small area, from Main Street to there, and future, what they want to do in my front yard, why we need so many apartments in walking distance of each other. Why, in a residential area, do we need so many apartments? And they're doing their traffic study, and I get that, but they're not taking into effect a couple things. Down River Road, there's a housing development being built. They're not considering that traffic that's going to come that way. If you go up through that four-way stop, they're not considering that there's a PCA semi business that's going in right there. So those semis will be coming down into our roundabout. And if you go out even further on to Seminary Road, there are 17 houses on this road right now, and they are building 600 track houses out there. That traffic's going to come this way to get to the freeway. So, the traffic study that they're doing does not include all of that traffic that's going to be coming our way. We've already outgrown the roundabout as it is, let alone bring another 2,000 or 3,000 cars into that area. So, I guess I just don't get why we need so many apartments in such a small little residential area, not a business, nothing in walking distance for them to go to stores, for convenience, or anything. It's all residents that have lived there. Now, I'm telling you, you can go down River, up Thornwood, Reddington, you're not going to find one person that agrees with this. Not one. And I'm hoping, I'm

hoping you guys will listen to the people that have to live there. No disrespect, they're going to go home when it's all said and done. They're going home. They're not going to live there. They're not going to have to deal with the noise, the traffic, the crime, the house rate, nothing. They are going home. We are the ones that are going to stay there and that will have to deal with this forever. So, I'm hoping you will listen to the people that live there and go our way, because no one wants this in our area. Thank you.

**Lee Miller, 173 Reddington Village Ln.** - This is my first time on Council, so I'm a little nervous. But I'm concerned, one, about traffic, two, we're already seeing a lot of traffic. But also, my concern is the safety factors. We got 86 homes. We probably have three or four emergency squads going in there every week. I'm thinking with that many more apartments and the ones down on Reddington or down on River Road, I just feel that it'll have to be a priority. If I'm sick, if I've fallen, who's going to set the priority for us? I also heard that, and I don't know this for sure, but the fire department on Cherry Valley there, it's my understanding that they do not even have an emergency squad there. So, we don't, I'm just saying that if each fire department has one, well, we're somewhat screwed on that. So that's all I have.

**Barbara Nelson, 2091 Valentina Ln.** - Thank you all for coming and listening to our gripes and complaints and concerns. I'm not used to speaking, so I'll try to just make it brief. I'm not going to go into concerns about health and all those different things. I'm not against progress, but I think where we are, we're getting a lot more than what most people see in several years. It's all happened since, well, let's see the Showman Bridge was shut down October 5th, 2022. Then they had to wait and build a new one, which is a perfectly good million-and-a-half-dollar bridge, supposed to handle semis, 70-foot pilings in it, and they've closed that down so we don't have access to that anymore. So that was another way out for us to go out and get onto the freeway. But where we are, we're sort of locked in. Landlocked, so to speak. We have one access in, one access, that's it, in and out. Where we sit, we'll never be able to have a light to help us there because we're too close to the roundabout and the highway entrance and exit. In the other direction, we have a light not too far down the way, so it would jam all the traffic up in that area. So, we'll never be able to have a safety way in and out. Once the apartment complexes are built, what do we have now, three going in for sure? So that's 300 plus per unit. And if you figure there's going to be more than one person living there, that's 2,000 more cars. Just that, not considering the businesses that are down Thornwood. So, you know, that's a lot of vehicles. I'm concerned just about us being able to negotiate that part of it. I know that this is probably already a done deal, as far as passing it, but I wish you would look at either opening that old bridge back up somehow, or giving us another way. We can't have a road because if you make another access road back somewhere in there, which would be difficult, even if there were funds, everyone and his brother would cut through there to try to get access, you know, another way around before they go through traffic. So, I hope that people would consider what's already there when they're building, what they have to deal with before they just take the money and say, okay, build. So, I appreciate your time, thank you very much.

**Rick King, 187 Reddington** - I'm the eagle's nest that looks over this roundabout. I hear all the noise, the complaints from neighbors. I hear my alarm clock going off at five o'clock in the morning because of J-braking. These guys don't J-brake coming down Thornwood. They J-brake coming up Reddington. It's a grade coming up and they're still engine braking it. You know, and part of the safety issues, they claim lower speed, lower noise, okay? If the speed is at 25, keep 25 all the way through the roundabout down Reddington so these people don't engine brake. They create a lot more noise. I

could be here for about 45 minutes, but I'm not. I put this together a little packet and it was going to go to my third ward representative. I think it's Jeff, which Molly's taking over. If you guys want to take it, go through it, read it. My email address is there, telephone number. I appreciate any feedback and I'll be looking forward to working with anybody to come up with some kind of concern safety-wise, cut the noise down. I attended a meeting, I think it was in January over these same issues and I didn't see any results done yet. And one of my big question is, am I talking to the wrong people? Should we be referring to ODOT because do they have the jurisdiction over this roundabout? Anybody know? As far as who sets what speed limits?

**Mr. Rath** - As far as the Thornwood Exchange.

**Mr. King** - That's right.

**Mr. Rath** - And the roundabout and Thornwood Road going through Newark and through Heath, that is all an ODOT project. Newark has nothing to do with that.

**Mr. King** - So I should be, so we should be speaking to ODOT. Will the Council help us along?

**Mr. Marmie** - Point of order. That is not correct. Newark maintains speed limit within their jurisdictions. It is not an Ohio road, it is a road that Newark will maintain. Just because ODOT is involved in the project, Newark still maintains all the responsibility on that thoroughfare.

**Mr. Rath** - But ODOT does have design responsibility.

**Mr. Marmie** - Correct.

**Mr. King** - I went out and bought a decibel reader to see what kind of numbers I'm getting from my front porch, from my bedroom. These numbers are hitting above 100. I do recall reading somewhere that anything above 76 is considered very high for the human ear and everything. Okay? So, and that's also included in the packet. And, you know, that's all I got. I'd invite anybody out there to have a luncheon with me, just sit there firsthand and see and hear what's going on. I mean, you know, it's pretty bad. Another gentleman said my property value is going down. I got a lot invested there. You know, I'd hate to see it go down to a point where, you know, all 86 of us in Reddington Village is going to lose cash. Thank you very much.

**Jonathan Kent, 2175 River Rd.** - I'm right there on the corner just right below my neighbor. I get a lot of the same thing. I'm right there at the end of that cul-de-sac, like I said, on the corner. So, everything that goes up Thornwood, I get to hear as well. Everything that happens at the roundabout, I'm close enough that I get to hear it as well. Not too long ago we had our son. He was born, and ever since a lot of these things have happened, I mean, a lot of these noises contribute to waking him up throughout the night. I mean, we got kids driving up Thornwood, bumping their base to the point where it's rattling my windows. I got the semi-trucks, Jake breaking down Thornwood, which is also rattling my windows, which, I'm going to be pretty honest, that's very unpleasant. It's almost like an alarm clock, like he said, as well. It happens first thing in the morning. Sometimes I'll hear that base late at night. Definitely feel like I'm turning into an older man a lot earlier than I probably should. But going along with all that, I also have another proposed kind of issue that's going to come along with all these apartments coming in, and I think it's one that tends to get overlooked quite frequently, is the school system. With all these buildings that are going up and all these people that are moving in, how many of these people are going to have children? How many of these people, their children, are going to go to Cherry Valley Elementary? I know Newark has quite a few more elementary schools than what my district does that I work at, but with the rapid expansion and multiple people coming into it, that can cause a lot of issues very quickly within a school district. It can raise class sizes for the teachers, and for those teachers, raising class sizes means that those students aren't getting as much attention as they

need. It could cause the building to exceed their limits of students, which then we have to look into building new buildings for those schools. I know as of currently, which my school district is not here, but we're kind of in this predicament, too, where they're rapidly building and we're running out of room within our schools. So, I just hope that that's something that's brought to light that may have been kind of brushed over or forgotten about. Thank you.

**President Harris** - Thank you. Anybody else?

**Unknown speaker** - I got a quick question. Does anybody know what the plan is?

**President Harris** - We can't do questions back and forth.

**Unknown speaker** - I'm trying to figure out how they're going to do Thornwood Drive for the future.

**Mr. Rath** - So is ODOT. So is ODOT.

**President Harris** - Anybody else would like to speak on this subject?

**Jeff Delozier, 2195 River Rd.** - My concern is all the apartments that they're wanting to put in in the neighborhood. We all moved there, you know, liking the area of no apartments all around us. It's a country setting. Everybody's got, pretty much everybody's got about an acre, acre and a half in our area. We bought that kind of area because we didn't want houses right up on us and everything else. My big concern is also as far as the apartments. We already have one area, and I'm sure you guys all are very aware of Lee Avenue apartments. There're problems there all the time. You can go down through there and watch two and three cruisers pulling out of there all day long. That just concerns me that they're going to put in more apartments around there. I want condos. If we're going to have to have anything at all, I prefer condos. I don't want more of the crap of the Lee Avenue apartments. Matter of fact, when I moved in there almost 32 years ago, this is my neighbor Gary. He lives on my side. He faces Thornwood, but he's on the side of my house. They fair warned us as soon as we moved in there because we had three young children at that point in time and they're all grown and gone. Do not let your kids go over around Lee Avenue apartments. That was the first thing the man ever said to me. And like you say, there's trouble there all the time. I don't want to see more trouble being brought in there with, like you say, we bought the area. These people that own the condos bought areas in there as well. For an older group, you know, we're older. We don't need all the crap. We don't need to listen to and seeing all the stuff these young kids are doing nowadays. It's just unruly, and I don't want to see apartments. That's all I have.

**Dan DeLawder, 635 Howell Dr.** - Thank you, Mr. President. This is not my first time at this table. It's a pleasure to be here to help express my personal views and to a lesser degree that of organizations where I've been involved. I was born in Newark on Hazelwood Avenue, in fact, so I have a long history of Newark, Ohio and what's happened here over literally decades with all this gray hair. I've watched with great interest the actions taken by City Council and the kind of developments that have occurred, and I see today a Newark, Ohio that's much stronger and more financially based than ever before, and I give that credit to the council members here, as well as those that preceded you, and to an active and, I think, a very well-meaning community that supports the City of Newark. About 13 years ago, Jerry McClain and I were involved in establishing an organization that came to be known as Newark Development Partners. It is a community improvement corporation. It has a 10-member board of directors of which I am one, and has served as its chair since inception in 2012. We've had a number of projects over the years that have been successful for the City of Newark, the first major one being the redevelopment of Whitefield. For those of you in the community who understand that, you can see that today. It's a point in pride for the City of Newark. We were able to raise money for that event and sponsored, frankly, the renovations that you've seen there. We've had other successful projects as



well. Mayor Hall and his administration have been equally supportive, as you have been as a council, in seeing that we help the City move forward, and that has certainly been the case. I think the opportunity that's before you today is an important one, that's critically important, in fact, and I understand the concerns. I would offer to you another occurrence that created a good bit of concern and some divisiveness in the community when we began the project of trying to understand how best to suit the traffic needs of downtown Newark. We decided it was appropriate that we sponsor public community meetings that citizens could come forward and offer their input and advice, their direction, and we did that, several meetings. Mayor, I can't recall how many we did. It was three or four, I think, to allow plenty of ample time for citizens to express their concerns. What you see in downtown Newark today is a direct result of those public meetings and the consultants that we engaged, and I don't think anybody would have expected roundabouts, the four of them, in fact, in downtown Newark, and to eliminate (inaudible) street parking, but it was a patient and highly thoughtful exercise to address traffic and it's been done very, very successfully. I have the same confidence in the future that we'll have successful traffic patterns in the city of Newark as we continue to grow and expand, which is a good thing. I give credit to the Vista organization for phase one and what they've done and I've seen the initial plans for phase two and also, I highly support that as well. Our board of Newark Development Partners did not take a formal action on this. We've talked about this at our table, at our meetings, and most recently at our last board meeting, but we did not take formal action because we were not requested nor was it necessary that we do that, but we do support advancement and the kind of improvements continuing in the city of Newark. It's for that reason that I personally can offer you my support for this project. I think you're on the right track and the right road. I know it's difficult for those whose properties will experience additional traffic. I also have confidence in the city of Newark being able to address traffic patterns in such a way that it will be safe and the city of Newark will continue to make progress and be a better city as a result of this and other action you continue to take. I give you all credit for the kind of work and efforts that you're putting forth. I mean it's time and effort on your part. I respect it and I wish you the very best and thank you for this consideration.

**President Harris** – Thank you. Anybody else? Okay, we're going to close the public hearing on 25-09. Amy, please read the ordinance again, please.

*(Ms. Vensel read Ordinance 25-09)*

**President Harris** - Okay, we're getting ready to vote and we're going to need six votes to pass. Amy, please call the roll.

**Mr. Marmie** - Point of order. We need a motion.

**President Harris** – Sorry. You're right. Do I have a motion?

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline**

**Mr. Rath** - Mr. President, there are a few issues that I would like to discuss about this. First and foremost being that this has gone before the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission has recommended this to pass. It actually as far as a point of order, it takes six nos to overturn this, but only four yeses to approve it. I did want to clarify one thing as far as this being zoned for condominiums or zoned for apartments. That zoning reflects only the density of population for that area. Whether this legislation passes or fails there are going to be apartments built there. If this passes, there will be approximately 30 more apartments built there than if it doesn't pass. So, we're talking about an additional 30 apartments. That's it. I don't want to say that's it, like that's dismissive because

you're still talking about 250 apartments additional, which is a lot. I absolutely understand that. As far as property values go, I can't predict what is going to happen with property values if this passes, but I can have a bit of a prediction of what's going to happen to property values at Reddington Village if this does not pass. And that's that your property values will go down. And the reason that I say that is because the homeowners association does not have the money to maintain the property. There's a significant amount of improvements that need to be done to maintain that property. VISTA has very generously offered to pay \$100,000 towards those services or even provide those services to maintain that property. I think that will help maintain your property values if not increase them as well. As far as traffic studies go, there aren't any traffic studies that are available to reflect what is happening with the traffic at the roundabout or in those roads yet because there isn't traffic. We can do a study on what the traffic is now, but you can't study the traffic in the future because that's in the future. Those apartments aren't built. We don't know how many cars are going to be there. We don't know that yet, but there is a significant number of residents being increased in that area. I know they're talking about another condominium built over on River Road. We have a ton of housing going on being built on the north side of River Road. We have a gigantic farm on the south side of River Road that will undoubtedly be turned into housing development in the very near future. This is the first time I've heard anything about the track houses on what road was that on?

**Ms. Delozier** - Seminary.

**Mr. Rath** - Thank you, Seminary Road. But 600 houses, that's a ton. So, I have serious concerns about the traffic. That's why I have every chance as possible promoted the reopening of Cherry Valley Bridge. Like I said, you can't do traffic studies now to predict what's happening in the future, but it would be looking forward into the future and being proactive to open that bridge now as opposed to waiting until there is an excessive amount of traffic to identify the problem and having that be the solution. Along with that, being proactive, closing Chalfant Road, closing South Chalfant at West Main Street to prevent Chalfant from being a cut through off of West Main. Bringing that volume of cars down Chalfant to Cherry Valley Road with no traffic signal there would be a nightmare and a catastrophe. As far as the Jake brakes or the engine brakes, again I want to encourage you guys to remember to call them engine brakes, not Jake brakes, because if we outlaw Jake brakes there's a whole lot of other engine brakes out there that aren't made by the Jake company. So, it is engine brakes. I don't know if we have any legislation towards that now, but I think we absolutely ought to investigate that, research that, and if that does not exist we can discuss eliminating the use of Jake brakes...See, you guys got me doing that. Discuss the elimination of the use of engine brakes within the city limits of Newark and I think that's something very reasonable to have to do. There's no reason to come down that hill at an excessive amount of speed and need to have an engine brake to come down the hill. I didn't understand what you meant by calling it up Reddington, but I don't see a reason, other than coming down Thornwood, I wouldn't ever see a reason to use an engine brake anywhere. But I think we can discuss that. So, with all of that being said, addressed, I know some of your concerns, maybe not all of them, but nonetheless I think, oh the other thing was that the Reddington Village Homeowners

Association has withdrawn their objection to this project because I think they've got more to lose than gain if it does not pass. So, with all of that said, I recommend that we pass this piece of legislation as well as 25-10. I won't be as long-winded on that one. Thank you.

*(Comments from the audience)*

**President Harris** - No, you can't say anything else. It's closed. The public hearing's closed. You can't say anything else. Anybody else from Council would like to say anything?

**Mr. Marmie** - Yes, Mr. President. Newark is facing a lot of challenges and I believe Mr. DeLawder mentioned some good information as far as the progress that we have seen in the City of Newark and what we wish to continue to see. First and foremost, all zoning, we have to look at property owner rights because the Ohio Revised Code requires that property owners have a right to their own property just like each and every one of you and I have a right to my own property and asking for a zoning change or making sure that every individual within our zoning code is abiding by that so they're not running a business out of a residential so on and so forth. However, if there's adjacent properties and there's other properties in the area that are zoned and it's conducive or it's one that migrates from one and one step up to the other then property owners do have that right. We also have to look at what we need in the future. I hear a lot of concerns about traffic and there are traffic issues and I agree with that. Not only in that area, in my ward, Mount Vernon Road, 21st Street, Deo Drive, Horns Hill, there's barely a road that does not have a traffic issue in my ward, and it continues to grow and it continues to expand. Newark has to be smart about their growth. The city can't afford to annex in property and put in more streets and extend the boundaries of our emergency services. So, a lot of times this growth is going to be beneficial. With everything that has been announced in part of our county, with Intel and other companies moving in, it's going to be conducive for folks with high paying jobs to want to reside in our community in places like this that will generate additional tax revenue for our community. Hopefully we will not have to raise taxes or burden our current taxpayers with different ways in order to generate enough revenue to run our city, to pay our safety forces, to repair infrastructure. We have a record number, or we have one of the largest number of bridges per capita we have to maintain, and they're expensive. So, all of these things are at the burden of our tax dollars. Newark has to grow, like Mr. DeLawder has indicated. We're doing a lot to try to grow. There are growing pains. There're growing pains where I reside. I grew up by 21st Street when it was nothing but cornfields. Now it's all commercial, all commercial. I could see nothing but cornfields from Sherwood Downs all the way to State Route 13. So, there's going to be growth. There's always growing pains with that. I understand your concerns. I believe that a lot of what Mr. Rath has indicated, we need to address those concerns. We need to make sure we get out in front of it. I think that Newark and Vista have done that, and we're looking at different ways in which we can help with traffic flow and patterns, and they're actually putting a lot of dollars in that ward. It's not being used in my ward, to be honest. If you see the traffic right now, we're in our third year where our road is being shut down. Safety forces do not even have access to cross the bridge to get to a number of residents in my ward, because we only have one bridge. So, there are a lot of things that we need to address. Your concerns are valid. I believe the city

of Newark is addressing them and trying to reduce and trying to work with folks, and I believe that the developers are as well. It's going to be developed one way or another. It's just a matter of how many are going to be there. So, I'm going to support this because I need to support the growth and the betterment of the city of Newark so we don't have a larger tax burden on our current residents and we continue to grow in a smart manner. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Harris** – Thank you. Anybody else on Council at this point?

**Ms. Bline** - Yes, I'd like to thank everyone for coming tonight. Your concerns matter. I'd also like to thank Mr. Hartley and Mr. Hodge. You know, coming from with the perspective of living in large cities, a company like this, companies like this are few and far between. Often, they come in and just say, live with it. This is what we're doing, this is my property. But the accommodations they've made are, honestly, from my experience, are somewhat rare. Now, with that being said, you do have some things, valid points. And this is where, to Mr. DeLawder's point, this is where you as a community come together and work on those things. Many of you have years and years of experience that should not fall to the ground. Use it. Use it. The more I live in south Newark, the more I find the absolutely very special people with lives that have done outstanding work. And you have this. You all have this. Use your experience. Use your expertise. Take this and make it something that's amazing for the generations to come. But again, I understand there's a lot to be dealt with yet, but this is a model that not everyone sees. So, I am grateful for everyone and the compromises that have been put forth and you can do it. Thank you.

**Mr. Cost** - I'm totally in favor of all the progress, the development, and the growth in the City of Newark. I've been honored to serve on this Council through a great deal of it. I'm proud to be a part of it. However, my phone, text, email, voicemail, what I'm hearing is people talking about, they're concerned about apartments, they're concerned about too many apartments, they prefer condos, they're concerned about the amount of density that's going to happen, they're concerned about too much traffic, they're concerned about property values, they're concerned about safety. And I think those things are valid concerns. I realize that how this is developed needs to work for the developer. I get that. But I also think this has to work for the neighborhoods and the community and that's who I represent. So, I cannot support this. Thank you.

**Motion passed 7-1 (Cost), Chute and Barker abstained**

**President Harris** - 25-09 passes. Next up is 25-10. It's a public hearing. Amy, please read the public hearing.

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

**25-10** AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 360 THORNWOOD DRIVE, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-216624-00.000 FROM THAT OF MFC - MULTI-FAMILY CONDO ZONING DISTRICT TO MFH – MULTI-FAMILY HIGH RISE ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

**President Harris** - We're going to open up this public hearing. Anybody want to come speak for or against?

**Debbie Delozier, 2195, River Rd.** - All I'm going to say is you know this one is passing if the other one did. So, we get that. I just want to say you don't live there. None of you live there. No one's going to deal with it the way we have to deal with it. And I thank you for your no. This is awful. This is absolutely awful. That's all.

**Beth Barker, 2075, Valentina Ln.** - This is not anything that I planned on doing tonight but I am the treasurer of Reddington Village. I have met with Scott Hartley. I want to point out that Mr. Rath overstepped what he said about the funds coming to Reddington Village. We are a very flush HOA. We are not accepting that money because we need that money. You did not do your research. You did not come and ask me that. You don't know our funds. So, the fact that we are supporting Vista is that we decided it was better to be a good neighbor than a bad neighbor. And that's why the board stepped back, thought it through. It is not because we need those funds. We are very comfortable where we are. You overstepped that statement, and I wanted to bring that to everyone's attention that that is not why we are taking that money from Vista if that money happens, if this goes all the way through. That's all I wanted to say.

**Jeff Delozier, 2195 River Rd.** - I just want to thank you, Mr. Cost. And the rest of you, like I say, you guys don't live around here, you don't give a crap about that area. As far as I'm concerned, like I say, is you guys are talking revenue that it's going to bring for the apartments, so would the condos. So, I don't understand where you guys are thinking the apartments are going to be any better in bringing more revenue in. That's just crap. I mean, condos, so what? Us older people, we don't pay taxes, we don't give you guys tax? You guys are crazy.

**President Harris** - Anybody else? Okay, we're going to close this part of the public hearing. Amy, please read 25-10.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline**

**Mr. Rath** – Mr. President. Again, this is recommended by the Planning Commission. For that reason, I'll be promoting passage of this. Also, I want to add, Ms. Barker, I apologize if I overstepped or overstated. I was going based on the information that was given to me that the amount of money that you guys had was just over the state minimum that was required to hold an HOA. If that information was inaccurate, then I apologize for that. But that was the research. That was what the research told us to be. Again, I want to reemphasize the purpose for changing the zoning from condos to apartments. It has absolutely nothing to do with the type of structure being built to that property. It only has to do with the number of units allowed at a piece of property. So, if this failed, it doesn't mean we're going to have single-story condos. That would not be the case. Then the other item I wanted to address was station three, which is the fire station that was on the corner of Cherry Valley, basically Cherry Valley and West Main Street. There is a medic there. That medic is blacked out at times, and that's due to excessive overtime costs in a way of the fire department dealing with their budget. And that's the choice of them.

**Mr. Cost** - I don't want anybody to leave here and think that these decisions are easily made. They're not easily made. They're very difficult decisions that people put a lot of thought into, put a lot of care, a lot of concern. We all live in Newark. We all love Newark. This is home. We want to see the best for

Newark it possibly can be. My objection is that I just think it could've been done with a little less density, and that's my major concern in this whole thing. Thank you.

**Motion passed 7-1 (Cost), Chute and Barker abstained**

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Christopher Beckholt, 1282 Mount Vernon Rd.** - I am a promoter, a music promoter, and I will be having some events just over the river, and I just wanted to formally introduce myself to the Council and invite you guys. If you announce yourself at the gate, Mayor, that would be great, they'll let you in for free so you could come and make your own opinion about...They're not large-scale events, as you know rumors are spreading, so that's why I invite you guys to come and just take a look. There'll be people there with their kids and girls in dresses. I mean, you know these are mechanics, construction guys, volunteer firefighters, lawyers that come to our events. Our average age is right around 38. A lot of the band members and stuff that play their average age is 60 just to give an idea. So, this city is growing. It is and we see it everywhere. This is the audit from 2023 for the city of Newark. I'm not here to critique that I'm here to study it and try to learn where my place would fit in here to create revenue for this city. I want to help, and I live here. I'm a moderate Republican, you know, so I'm almost middle of the road. Not quite, but these events that I'm going to be talking about there's no real development that needs to go on just dirt and grass really. I have a production company and I also work for Green Pro Lawns. I'm a general manager of the facility. If anybody knows Charlie Friend or his family. Anyway, Charlie's a pastor in Hilliard and his father was a pastor here. Anyway, I own a production company and I have two hydraulic stages. I have state-of-the-art sound, state-of-the-art lights, and I'm here to offer my services to the city. I went to the Strawberry Festival. It was very pleasant. Very pleasant. There's a lot of things that, with my experience, I would change personally. The point of sale when it comes to the vendors. You know how people could probably register online for their bracelet and use a QR code to ride the rides. If they wanted to. It would create a quicker revenue and quicker lines for an event like that as I'm assuming it will grow. I'm not sure how many of those festivals we have a year, although I do the Halloween thing every year downtown. So, what I'm trying to do is introduce myself and offer up my services with the direction and guidance of the law director, you know. We're trying to operate and become some sort of standard for other promoters that may come to this city and they're coming whether you know it or not because you know Steve Trickle owns Legend Valley. Those events are enormous and I've had events where I've had 6,000 people before. I don't think I could do that here, but I'm saying this is an avenue to generate income for the city, okay, and it's something that I'm willing to work on with the help of the city law director and anyone that might offer advice. This is my homework right here. Your audit is my homework to see where I can fit into this city and not really take away from anything, but add to it. So, my name is Chris Beckholt, again, and my information is available to anybody that would want it. So, if I can help the city when it comes to events, I will donate parts of my equipment to save the city money and create bigger events even right downtown. Anyway, I don't want to take up too much of your time. I feel very insignificant to what's going on here, but you know I'm concerned about the budget for the police department, the budget for the fire department. Those are things that I have seen in here. I know what the city pays for the police department and the fire department. I've even considered doing a community event to benefit some of those services because the police are stretched very thin and apparently so is the fire department. So, I don't want to take any more of your time, but I will be at these meetings on a regular basis. Thanks.

**Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** - I saw the article in Sunday's Advocate about the homeless Home Court, and I just want to state in recognition of credit where credit is due, I was very encouraged by that. It was a relief to see that the Magistrate, Teresa Liston, has, it seems to be, what I feel is a good understanding of the situation, realizing that there is no one single solution to the problem. I would venture to say there are as many solutions to the problem as there are people that are suffering the problem. The problems that our homeless citizens face can be quite difficult, and in our current economy with the housing costs what they're being, they're very intractable. It's just going to take a lot of work, and one of the things that is still necessary, and Teresa Liston mentioned this, is that we really, really need short-term emergency housing, because all of the benefits that come from the Home Court in terms of services, substance abuse testing, mental health testing, physical health testing, are not going to be long-term help if they don't have some place to go afterwards. So, thank you very much, and I appreciate the time.

**Gary Babcock, 67 Philmont** - A few things. First of all, you guys are not crazy, unless you run for election, because you're probably the most underpaid people in Newark. I appreciate what you do for us. Secondly, I was a resident of Reddington Village, and we're not going to elaborate on that, but I was there 10 years. Loved it. And they are a small community. I mean, we met all the time. I loved living at Reddington Village. It just didn't work out for me. I was too young. But anyhow, I wanted to be Jeff Harris's neighbor, so I went down there. Thirdly, the little blue building on Buena Vista in East Main. I didn't think it could get any worse, but it looks like a third-grade coloring book. It's just hideous. It's terrible. I don't know. They probably should have gotten a permit to paint that. Fourth, I want to address, I know we talked about it, the pit bulls. My neighbor got bit by a pit bull the other day on Pierce Avenue. And it's a dog bite. Got her in three different places. She's working in her flower garden, and it came from over on, I think where I live, over on, doesn't make any difference. Their backyard is joint. Anyhow, my little bit of a complaint is there were two police cars there, a dog catcher, and an emergency squad treated her. They quarantined the dog. Quarantined in Newark. Quarantined. They let the dog, the people that own the dog, it's in their house, quarantined. After we're done tonight, I want someone to explain to me how they can test this dog for rabies with it being quarantined by the owners. And that's it. Thank you.

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

There are none this meeting.

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

There are none this meeting.

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

**Mr. Chute, Mr. Cost, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie**

**25-31** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. **Motion to adopt by Mr. Chute, Second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed 10-0**

**Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker**

**25-32** 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**

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

**25-35** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO REPLACE THE UTILITY BILLING SYSTEM FOR THE WATER DIVISION. PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10.02 (D) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, THIS CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DOES NOT REQUIRE COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

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

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

**Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Ms. Bline, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath**

**25-36 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. Cost, Motion passed 10-0**

**Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Ms. Bline, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath**

**25-37** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. **Held until 6.16.25**

#### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Brandon Fox, Water Administrator** – Good evening. Brandon Fox, Water Department. I just want to throw out there again, if you have a lead service line or you have a house that was built before 1982, I want to continue to push that to the residents. Let us know. Contact the Water Department, 670-7940, and we can come out and inspect your house and see if you have a galvanized or a lead service line. We just awarded our number 7 contract to replace 1,600 more services throughout the city free of charge. So, spread the word to your residents, your neighbors, and everybody else to contact us. Also visit the website. Go to the website, type in lead, L-E-A-D, and you can get that information as well, and we'd be happy to come out and take a look and get your line replaced free. Thank you.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Tricia Moore, Law Director** – Mr. Babcock, in reference to your question about quarantine, it's the state law. So that is not a city law, that is a state law on how quarantines are conducted. So, I know that there is legislation in the state legislature right now addressing specifically dog bites, so stay tuned. It will not be breed specific because that is unconstitutional. However, it is getting more aggressive with dogs that do bite, and in penalties towards owners. So, stay tuned. With that, I'll pass. Thank you.

**Mayor Hall** – Mr. Houser, during his invocation, noted the untimely passing of one of our employee's spouses late last night. Don has worked in the Engineering Department for over 30 years with us. He's a phenomenal employee, and when I got word early this morning, it was pretty sad and pretty tough. In representing all the employees of this city, I really want to spread condolences to his family. They have children, so it's across the board in many ways. And really, I want to send him thoughts and prayers, and know that we're thinking of him. With that, I will pass.

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



**Mr. Cost** – I haven't had the opportunity to thank the law director yet, publicly, for what you've done with Home Court. I am thrilled with the steps you've taken, and it was really nice to read that article the other night. It had a lot of good, positive things to say, and I just wanted to say thank you for that. With that, I'll pass.

**Mr. Houser** – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll just echo what Brandon mentioned with regards to replacing the water lines. I had mine done, and they showed us how blocked our old one was because it had been done so long ago. It greatly increased the water pressure in my home, so it was a great addition. So, thank you, Brandon. With that, I will pass.

**Mr. Labutis** - Thank you, Mr. President. I would just need to call a Safety Committee meeting for June 16th, our next committee meeting, and with that I will pass.

**Mr. Marmie** – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for June 16th, and with that I will pass.

**Mr. Neely** – Thank you, Mr. President. I will pass.

**Mr. Rath** – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll call a Service Committee meeting for Monday, June 16th. Mr. Fox, I appreciate you promoting that program, and you have an open invitation to come on out any time you want. I've already signed up the property as well. Condolences to Don and his family. I can't imagine having to go through that. In relation to the dog bites, there is state legislation going through, or at least being presented, however, that's duplicating legislation that already exists within the city of Newark. Judges at this point in time have the ability to order a dog euthanized after a first dog bite at their discretion. Unfortunately, that's not being enforced, but the judges do have that discretion to order that. Thank you, Law Director Moore, for being Johnny on the spot, law director. She has informed me, probably when everybody was here, but I didn't look at my phone at that time, but she has informed me that we do have an ordinance against using engine compression brakes within the city limits of Ohio, or within the city limits of Newark, I'm sorry, with fines up to \$1,000, so that already exists. We just need some enforcement. I guess I can't end any of my miscellaneous comments without saying, please close South Chalfant and open the Cherry Valley Bridge, Mr. Mayor. We really need that for the future. With that, I will pass.

**Mr. Rine** – Thank you, Mr. President. I will pass tonight.

**Mr. Barker** – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll pass as well.

**Ms. Bline** – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to thank the Law Director and Magistrate Liston, again, for the work on Home Court. You know, it's a wonderful thing to see steps. Sometimes they're slow steps. Sometimes they're quick. But just involving someone in their own process is good. I'd like to offer condolences as well to those that lost their families, or I'm sorry, lost their loved ones in the recent accident. It is a terrible thing. We just pray for them that they will be able to get through this and rest and find peace in the process. I'd like to thank Brandon Fox and the Water Department for their quick interventions. People call, and they're having different issues, as everyone knows. There are some things going on on 2nd Street, and I sat and watched Mr. Fox tonight have a great listening ear. Again, that doesn't always happen in a lot of communities. So, I really appreciate that. I know that he'll work hard to address those complaints. I'd like to thank Property Maintenance for their attention to detail. There are a lot of cities that don't have a property maintenance. I was visiting my son recently, and I tend to notice things now as I'm going through communities. I was thinking, oh my goodness, oh my goodness. How is this happening? How is that happening? So, I got to asking. They said, oh, we don't have anything like that. People pretty much do what they want. And I thought, oh, I'm so grateful that we have a city that not only wants the best for everyone, but wants to help people elevate their

lives and their homes. And so, with that in mind, I'd like to thank the persons on 13th Street for their renewal project. You know, they've taken it upon themselves to work on their street, to add beautification and just to make their little neighborhood a better place to live. And so, shout out to them. Thank you.

**President Harris** – Thank you. Mr. Houser and Mr. DeLawder, I'd like to see you after the meeting because you didn't have a suit on tonight. I'd like to wish everyone a happy Father's Day. Father's Day is coming up. It'll be before our next meeting.

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

**Jeff Harris, President of Council**