

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 7, 2025
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS

MINUTES of June 16, 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**

Safety - **Received and Filed without objection**

Economic Development - **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor – Operating report for the period ending June 30, 2025 - **Received and Filed without objection**

COMMUNICATIONS

Brandon Fox, Water Administrator – 16 North Separation Project open house July 24th at 5:30p.m. at 350 Hudson Ave.

Beth Bline, 2nd Ward Councilmember – Information regarding the Buckeye Train

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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

25-18 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF THE CURRENT ARTICLES OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO ADOPTED MAY 5, 2009 BY ORDINANCE 08-33A AND SEPTEMBER 5, 2023,

BY ORDINANCE 23-22A AND SEPTEMBER 16, 2024, BY ORDINANCE 24-18A IMPLEMENTING
ADDITIONAL ARTICLES OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Held until 7.21.25

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

25-20 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION TO PUBLIC USE OF ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT
THE INTERSECTION OF WEST MAIN STREET AND SOUTH 11th STREET.

Held until 7.21.25

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

25-21 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION TO PUBLIC USE OF ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT
THE INTERSECTION OF MOUNT VERNON ROAD AND WATERWORKS ROAD.

Held until 7.21.25

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

25-39 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL
CORPORATION (\$6,674.00 - Ohio EPA Grant funds for hand dryers in Water Department)

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

25-42 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY
FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE LICKING PARK DISTRICT GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Held until 7.21.25

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

25-43 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO
PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR FISCAL YEAR
2025 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) FUNDING.

Held until 7.21.25

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

25-44 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO ENTER INTO A
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDED SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE
HEREINAFTER NAMED ORGANIZATIONS TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES INCLUDED WITHIN NEWARK'S FY
2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN.

Held until 7.21.25

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

25-45 Exp A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL
CORPORATION (\$700.00 - Funds to replace SCRAM Equipment that was reimbursed by probationer)

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

President Harris - Mr. Ellington, that's how you do a meeting.

Don Ellington – Much faster than the old president. Much faster.

(laughter)

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Shelby Aeby-Hopkins, 45 N. Front St. - Hello, Council. I came to give you a very exciting update about Hope Park. It officially has a sign. Thanks to the Parks Department and all of you guys, we were able to get a sign for it. It's nice and pretty and it's actually really good. So, I wanted to come up and say thank you guys for all your help with it. Have a good night.

Tom Brunner, 419 S. 2nd St. - Just a couple things. One, at the last meeting I brought up about the minibikes and stuff on 2nd Street. Well, we were sitting on the porch the other night. There was three of them come off of Summit, turned out in front of a car, the car slammed on its brakes and went sideways. Mr. Marmie said, we weren't going to be able to get a patrol in our area. Why not? Our taxes pay for patrol. It's for safety, right? I mean, it might not be Morgan Manor or up near the Trout Club or someplace like that, but it's still a city street. So, I think, you know, we need to get somebody checking that area out. Somebody's going to get killed. And the other thing is, Roost on the River. I heard a comment that he was in for rezoning. I know this ain't the place to bring it up. Well, I'll bring it up, but I'll be at the Zoning Board too. This man has lied to everybody. He's went against all the rules set for him, and he's still wanting to go through with this. It ain't right. The people that's lived there and lived there for years and years and years shouldn't have to put up with that because the fact of the matter is it wasn't like Legend Valley. Legend Valley is there and people built around it. This here, these houses were built in the 1800s. So, you know, come on. You can't just decide to do a venue in the city, and if he gets by with that, what about Jugz? What about Newark Station? What about (inaudible)? They gonna get by with it next, with what he's doing? I'm sure people around there ain't gonna like it. So, we need to stop and think about this very seriously. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Michael Cox, Assistant Law Director – No, thank you. I pass.

Mayor Hall – On the 28th, we had a nice 200-year celebration of the canal system through Newark and obviously through Ohio, and you really have to think about 200 years ago, people dug with shovels a canal from the Ohio River to Lake Erie, and included in that were five lakes, one of which is Buckeye Lake, to feed that canal. The whole process was in existence for a little over 30 years because then railroads came in, and 30 probably wasn't enough for all the people that worked so hard to build it, but it's probably a good chance this city wouldn't be what it is or even may be here today without our early people that dug that canal. I'll put that in, because communities reside around water, obviously. And then on July 3rd, we had another great fireworks event out of COTC, OSU, Newark. They do a wonderful job. It's a beautiful setting. It was a nice weather night and makes it very proud, not only of the 25th anniversary of that, but the meaning of Independence Day. So, thank you. With that, I'll pass.

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

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

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to thank Brandon Fox and Chief McKee. They've helped me with a situation during the past few weeks, and I appreciate their assistance with that. And past President Ellington, it's good to see you in-house as well. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for the 21st of July. Mr. Brunner, my comments about not having patrol cars has nothing to do with the location that

you're speaking of. In order to set a patrol officer in one location for an extended period of time, there has to be justification. It doesn't matter where it is in the city. I hope that you documented and you contacted the Newark Police Department about the incident that you just described and created an incident on there. Any incidents that you reported, if it's consistent and continued, then it could justify a patrol car being in that area. But without that history of activity that is occurring in a specific location, it doesn't matter where it is in the city. And you can drop names of places that you are saying that are affluent and can get things over others. It has nothing to do with where they're located in the city. It has to do with the justification of what is happening in the area. Our Newark Police Department never discriminates based upon any kind of economic or any kind of issues within our city, and to imply that is just not right. I also want to welcome Mr. Ellington back to Council Chambers. He's doing an all right job, isn't he? We want to welcome you back and it's great to see you. And with that, I will pass.

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

Mr. Rath – Thank you, Mr. President. I will call a Service Committee meeting for July 21st. Mr. Mayor, I still want you to open up the Cherry Valley Bridge and close South Chalfant. Mr. Ellington, you're looking wonderful in your retirement tan. Welcome back. With that, I will pass.

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

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. Just a couple of things tonight. This upcoming Saturday is going to be a Christmas in July fundraiser at the Midland for the Licking County Courthouse Lighting Committee. We've been talking about doing this for a long time. It's going to be 10 a.m. at the Midland. I think Santa is actually going to make a little appearance this year, this first event. So, we're excited for that and it is a donation event. So again, 10 a.m. at the Midland, we're going to be showing a movie, The Santa Clause. I want to thank Director Rhodes and NPD for some help regarding with the walking bridge over the Y. It's not in my ward, but as I drove under it on Sunday, there was a gentleman hanging from inside, not hanging like, he was not dead, let me clarify that. He had strung up his own hammock in it and then he had strung up a bicycle and a bunch of other things from the bridge. So, it was not a great situation for anybody, but they immediately got on it and took care of it. They got that gentleman out of his homemade hammock and the walking bridge. So, I want to thank them for that. One thing that is not necessarily for the city, but something that I would like to just echo is prayers for the families in Texas that have gone through the massive tragedy in there. I know my son has just turned one years old and I could not imagine sending him to a camp and not having him come back. So, my prayers are with those families and with the state of Texas. Mr. Ellington, it's good to see you with that nice Florida tan. Obviously, you need to spend some more time up here in Newark, so we'll hope to see you more, but it's good to see you this evening. One other thing I just want to mention as we head towards the end of the year, you know, we're halfway through the year, the budget's going to be tight. We all know this. I'm really going to be advocating for line item budgets from every department because we've got to get, you know, make sure that we're stretching every tax dollar and spending it the best we can. So, I'm really going to be advocating for the budget process to every department to submit line item budgets. So, with that, I will pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Ellington, so good to see you. It seems like it's been forever. I'm just glad you're here. I do want to echo Councilman Barker's prayers for Texas. You know, I think it's been on everyone's back burners to keep them and their families in your mind. Mr. Waldren, thank you for coming. As far as motorbikes, we have a plan. I've been speaking to the law director, and I'd like to speak with you afterwards, see what you think. As far as Roost on the River, there will be an opportunity for a zoning hearing coming up, and we'll stay on top of that as well. All right? But thank you for your comments. I'd like to thank the citizens of Newark for reaching out and helping the seniors and their neighborhoods. There have been some people who've demonstrated some significant needs.

So, on a Saturday and even this weekend, we were able to help Trinity AME with some issues, and then some other seniors that had unfortunate things happen to their properties. So, communities in different parts of south Newark were able to get together and help them out. That was a great thing. I'd like to thank Property Maintenance. They've been giving great assistance to our citizens. They wear a lot of hats. I really appreciate their hard work. The Street Department fixed some curbs and have been working on alleys as well. Real quickly, and I promised the president here I would keep this short, on June 26, Director Mauter and I had the honor of being present in Dennison, Ohio, at Dennison Depot, where Newark was recognized as a designation for the America 250 Ohio Buckeye train. Now, it doesn't sound like it's a big deal, but it is. It's a big opportunity, and this came over truly seven years of working with the railroads, and Wendy Zucal in Dennison, Ohio, at the really great Dennison Depot. This didn't happen by accident. We were chosen because we had the proper pieces in place. The Mayor and his administration, Newark Development Partners, and really hundreds of folks who donated their time and their treasure over the years have made Newark a very suitable destination for tourism. We have things that are not only historic, but things that are experiential, like The Works, our jail, and a number of things that are downtown that are ready, and just really unknown. So, what this train will do is, it'll put Newark on the map in a couple of ways. Number one, it'll give our residents here something, a new adventure. The train that I'm talking about is on April 26th of 2026. It'll depart Newark at 8 a.m., go to Coshocton, and it'll have a short layover there, then go to Dennison Depot, have a three-hour layover there, and then come back. On this train, it's not going to be just sitting on your backside, you know, being bored for an hour and a half. There's going to be activities, and music, and stories the whole time. And that's just the first one, the first one. There will be two more opportunities in April. And again, this isn't, it's great to celebrate Ohio, the nation's 250th birthday, as well as participate, but what this'll do is, this'll bring tourists here, and they will get to experience Newark in a way that I think we've taken for granted. You know, we live here, we just, you know, we see the flowers, we see all these things, and we think, oh, great. But if someone's never been here before, they can, like I said, experience it, and then they can come back again. So, but I want to thank Director Mauter, and certainly the Mayor, and Newark Development Partners, and all the people who've given into this great city over the years to help this opportunity happen. Thank you, sir.

President Harris – Mr. Rath, you wanted to add something?

Mr. Rath - Yeah, I did, I'm sorry, I neglected to mention somebody else. I wanted to give a shout out to Dave McElfresh, one of our firefighters, jumped in in our neighborhood with the trees that came down in the recent storm, helped out a neighbor in clearing a road out, opening up a passageway through a road. That was awesome of him to just jump in and do that. But also, a shout out to our street department, service department. That storm really wreaked havoc, took down a ton of trees in a lot of different areas, and they were on it. I told that neighbor that they'd be there to help, but the list was long, and it might be the next day, but they were there within a couple hours, so they were awesome. Thank you for letting me chime in.

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

President Harris – I got a couple things. Mr. Barker, I didn't know I was supposed to play Santa on Saturday. I already have other plans, so I will not be able to make it, so you'll have to get another one. Mr. Ellington, it's good to see you. I had big shoes filled tonight, but I think I did all right. I want everybody to mark this on their calendar. August the 1st, it's a Friday. It's going to be a Friday evening at 6 p.m. We're going to honor Reverend Noble. The street signs are up already down there, but the family, all the siblings are coming in that evening, and they're doing a big family reunion, and we don't have everything worked out together, but we'll have some kind of ceremony. We'll have the Mayor there, a proclamation, and everything, so I think that'll be a nice event if you can make it. I know it's a

Friday night, and a lot is going on. That's going to happen on August the 1st. Our next meeting will be July 21st.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council