

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 21, 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. Houser

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS

MINUTES of July 7, 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**

Service - **Received and Filed without objection**

Ways and Means - **Received and Filed without objection**

Rules – **Received and Filed without objection**

Personnel - **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Jill Frew, Tax Administrator's Office – Income Tax Revenue Reports for the period ending June 30, 2025

COMMUNICATIONS

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – New liquor permit for OX-BS, LLC, dba 917 N. 21st St, 917 N. 21st. St., Newark, OH 43055

Ohio Division of Liquor Control - Transfer liquor permit from Five North Third, LLC, 5 N. 3rd St, to Joy Newark, LLC, Mariposa, 5 N. 3rd St., Newark, OH 43055

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Tom Brunner, 419 S. 2nd St. - Just a couple little things. The construction site down there on South 2nd Street in front of Mound City, that looks terrible. I mean, there's no reason they can't... I could see the, you know, construction materials being there, but there's no reason they can't keep the weeds down and stuff down there. That makes Mound City look bad. So, we need to look at somebody getting on that and having them clean that up. And the other thing is Cedar Hill Cemetery. If you go up Cedar

Street, the cemetery looks great from the street. But you go on back where the headstones are, my son-in-law had to trim around my mother-in-law and father-in-law's headstone and my other brother-in-law's headstone because the weeds were halfway up the headstone. So evidently, they ain't doing their job. They're just trimming out front. I'd like to see them trim all the headstones, not just one or whatever makes it look good. They need to make the whole cemetery... That used to be the best-looking cemetery around Newark. But it's not no more because they're only doing what you can see. So, I'd like to see somebody take care of that situation too if they could. Thank you.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline, Motion passed 10-0

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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

25-19 An ordinance levying an additional income tax of one-half of one percent for the purpose of raising general operating revenue for the operation and maintenance of essential municipal services, including but not limited to, police and fire services, public safety initiatives, and street repair and maintenance, on all salaries, wages, commissions and other compensation earned by the residents of the City of Newark; on all salaries, wages, commissions and other compensation earned by non-residents of the City of Newark for work done and services performed or rendered in the City of Newark; on the net profits earned on all businesses, professions, or other activities conducted by the residents of the City of Newark; on the net profits earned on all businesses, professions and other activities conducted in the City of Newark by non-residents and on the net profits earned by all corporations doing business in the City of Newark as the result of the work done or services performed in the City of Newark; requiring the filing of returns and furnishing of information by employers and all those subject to said tax; imposing on employers the duty of collecting the tax at the source and paying the same to the City of Newark; providing for the administration, collection and enforcement of said

tax; declaring violations thereof to be a misdemeanor, and imposing penalties therefor, and declaring an emergency.

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

Mr. Neely, Mr. Cost, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis

25-22 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING THE QUESTION “SHALL THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DISCRETIONARY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, BE ADOPTED” TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

25-23 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 15 VOGEL STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-204468-00.000, FROM THAT OF CD – CONSERVATION ZONING DISTRICT TO CSI – CHURCH SCHOOL INSTITUTIONAL ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Referred to Planning Commission

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

25-24 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS THE SE CORNER OF SHARON VALLEY ROAD AND COUNTRY CLUB, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-286350-00.000, FROM THAT OF TFR – TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE ZONING DISTRICT TO CSI – CHURCH SCHOOL INSTITUTIONAL ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Referred to Planning Commission

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

25-25 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ACCEPTING, RATIFYING AND ADOPTING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 109, PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION OF ALL TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND BENEFITS OF SAID AGREEMENT, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2025 THROUGH JULY 31, 2028, ABOLISHING THE CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE EFFECTIVE DATES OF DATE OF EXECUTION THROUGH JULY 31, 2025, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SAID EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

25-46 A resolution providing for the submission to the electors of the City of Newark, Ohio, of the question "Shall the ordinance providing for a one-half of one percent additional levy on income for the general revenue fund of the city for the operation of essential municipal services be passed?" and declaring an emergency.

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

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

25-47 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$1,740.00 - Request appropriation to put rebates from Naloxone back into the EMS supply account.)(\$8,960.00 - MORPC – OSU Scholarship contribution to local govt. Summer Intern Program, reimbursement to City for participating in program.)

Held until 8.4.25

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

25-48 Exp A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$1,500.00 - Parks supplies Coble Park)(\$11,032.00 - To cover the costs of minor home repair work for low-moderate income homeowners in the City of Newark.)

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

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Tim Rummer, Vice President, IAFF Local 109 – Good evening. I just want to take a minute and thank Council for the unanimous vote of this agreement. I think it's a great step to fix the retention issues that this department has had for many years. I also want to thank Mayor Hall for his support of all the safety forces of this city. I also want to thank Safety Director Hickman, Chief Metzger, and Deputy Chief Vermaaten for the collaboration, the hard work, and the desire to get a deal done at the table. I also want to thank our negotiating team. We put in a lot of hours, long days, to get this done at the table. I also want to thank Kevin Garwick for his endless hours of work and his dedication to this local. Without him, I don't know that this would have been done. Thank you for your time.

Tim Hickman, Safety Director - Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like to echo some of Firefighter Rummer's comments. First of all, express my gratitude to Council. Once again, you have stepped up and demonstrated your commitment to our safety forces, that's very much appreciated. I'd also like to express my gratitude to the mayor. Although he wasn't at the table, he was a vital part of getting this deal done. Appreciate the insight and the years of wisdom that you were able to share with us. And also echoing what Firefighter Rummer said, I'd like to express my gratitude to the union. They showed up prepared, very professional, and were very much willing to negotiate. And that's what, I guess, led to us getting this deal done. So, thank you very much to you guys. Thank you.

Doug Vermaaten, Deputy Fire Chief - I also want to echo Local 109, safety director's comments. Thank you so very, very much for this unanimous vote. This is going to go a long way for the fire department. As a very old firefighter in the fire department, I can tell you that this has probably been a historic moment this evening. The contract is going to set a standard for the city of Newark that you're going to find has elevated us to playing... We're no longer, as I was saying in the stands, we're now in the playing field. It's because of you and your commitment to the fire department, to the public safety forces, the police department, to the city. Mayor Hall, I cannot thank you enough for your guidance. I must say, because again, this was my first time in 28 years of being in the fire department, being part of the contract negotiations. The safety director deserves a lot of accolades in steering the ship and making sure that we stayed on track. Local 109 did an outstanding job coming in every day prepared, professional and collaborating. And because of the coordination and cooperation we were able to do, we have been very successful in this contract that is going to guide the city of Newark probably for the next decade. And for me, as a citizen, for me as a firefighter, from the bottom of my heart, I cannot thank you enough for tonight's vote. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Mayor Hall – I'll make a few comments on the same. I really want to thank the teams on both sides that worked very hard. It was done very professional and I'm very proud of that. They operate every day very professionally in this city, and there's no reason we can't do that at the negotiating table. I want to thank Council's support of it. We know it's costly, but we'll work at it. Because we've got great men and women in both those departments on the safety side. We've obviously got another contract to do here for non-safety. But on the safety side, it's just outstanding to do it in such a professional manner. Director, thank you. And of course, thank the chief, deputy chiefs, everybody on both sides. The union reps, they just, I thought they did a (inaudible) job. It's quite refreshing to not take a year and a half to do that and have a great outcome. As you can kind of see here tonight, it appears that everyone's pretty happy on both sides. I was joking a little bit. A great meeting is where everybody leaves a little unhappy. It's called a compromise, everybody gets along. They did a great job of it. I was updated all the time through it in the process. I just want to thank everybody involved. It's nice to work with good professionals. 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 will just speak to the ordinance this evening for the prior contract with them. I think from hearing from all sides of the negotiations, two words that rang clear to me were professional and collaborative as well. And so, I think if you have both of those things in order, it's a win-win for everybody. So, our safety forces are super important for the city. Usually a lot of things are residency first and foremost more than anything else. We appreciate all that you do for

the firefighters and the police as well is extremely important. So, I'm happy to support you and thank you for your time. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for August the 4th. August the 4th is a date that has been etched in my mind for quite a long time, not just because it's my wife's birthday, but because it is the date that the Waterworks Bridge is supposed to reopen. So, I am looking forward to our next Council meeting because I really, really, really hope that bridge is open on that day. Because there's going to be a lot of disappointed folks out in my area if it is not. So, with that, I will pass.

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

Mr. Rath – Thank you. I'll call a Service Committee meeting for August 4th, and I will pass.

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

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

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to echo Mr. Labutis' comments. Great job. It's always a wonderful thing to see our safety forces honored. We really do. We thank you, and we respect the great job you do personally. Thank you. I'd like to give a shout-out to the Parks Department. I was at Wells Park over the weekend, and there were people there who'd never been there before. They said, we didn't know that such a nice place existed in Newark. And that certainly compliments our Parks Department, and I'd like to thank you for that. There have been a lot of concerns about minibikes and ATVs on the streets, and they've created some very difficult and unsafe situations often. I'd like to thank Safety Director Hickman for giving time to thoroughly discuss these incidents. Please keep calling NPD. NPD has responded. They are showing a greater presence on the streets, and honestly, I've seen a diminished level of activity since they've been more frequent. That's what we have to do. We're going to have to show consistency. We are calling, and they are doing a great job responding. And the riders will get the message. But thank you. Thank you, NPD. Thank you, Director Hickman. Thank you, sir.

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

President Harris - I have one thing. I want to remind everybody on August 1st at 6 p.m., the city will dedicate a portion of Washington Street as Reverend Charles W. Noble Sr. Street in recognition of his lifelong commitment to his spiritual leadership, education, and community service. The ceremony will be held in front of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church located at 383 Washington Street, Newark, Ohio. So hopefully some of you can come, if not all of you. Our next meeting is August 4th.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council