

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 4, 2025
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Ms. Bline

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS – Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Mr. Houser, Second by Mr. Barker, Passed by acclamation

Mr. Marmie - Mr. President, I'd like to invoke Rule 11 on Resolution 25-54 with the minority leader's approval.

President Harris – Do you agree?

Mr. Cost – Yes.

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Mr. Labutis

25-54 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH PARK NATIONAL BANK FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF ONE (1) MEDIC UNIT FOR THE DIVISION OF FIRE AND DELARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Mr. Marmie – Mr. President, to explain kind of what's going on here, these are for medic units, the lease agreement. These were the ones that were ordered like two years ago. We passed legislation approving that. However, because time had lapsed and we're also going to change the length of the term from four years to five years, they asked that we have new legislation. So, this is not anything new, it's just we're giving them new legislation in order to go ahead and approve the different bond.

Motion passed 9-0

President Harris - Do we have anything else before caucus?

Mr. Marmie - Mr. President, I also, since I was on the prevailing side of 25-18, I would like to invoke Rule 21 and reconsider Ordinance 25-18.

Motion to reconsider by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost

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

Mr. Marmie – Mr. President, I need to explain kind of what happened here. We sent this through this body, passed this legislation. However, we missed a step. It needs to go through Planning Commission. So what we're going to do is we are going to table this in order to send it to Planning Commission. When it comes back from Planning Commission, we'll be able to take it off the table and do a public hearing on that same night. But nothing's changing on it. We just need to go back and connect the dots with a few more steps. So, I would like to make a motion to table Ordinance 25-18.

Tricia Moore, Law Director – Point of order. We do need to vote on the motion to reconsider.

President Harris - So we're going to vote to approve the motion. I've got a motion by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Cost.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion to table by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 9-0

MINUTES of July 21, 2025, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Barker, 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**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

There are none this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Trish Perry – 11th Annual International Overdose and Prevention Rally August 28th from 5-7 p.m. at 36 Canal Market Place

PUBLIC HEARING

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

25-17 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 170 OBANNON AVENUE, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-198390-00.000 AND PARCEL TAX ID#054-198396-00.000 FROM THAT OF LC LIMITED COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT TO LI LIMITED INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

President Harris - We're going to open up the public hearing. Is anybody here to speak for or against 25-17? Anybody? Okay, we're going to close this public hearing.

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

Mr. Rath – Mr. President, this has been approved and recommended by the Planning Commission, and for that reason, I'll be supporting it. I would encourage everybody else to as well.

Motion passed 9-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Tom Brunner, 419 S. 2nd St. - What I'm here for, we got the issues with the minibikes in the south end, still. Okay, I was told by Tricia Moore, and also by Doug Marmie, the only way to get it taken care of is

call, call, call. I got 12 calls on my phone in two weeks, and they're still running the streets down there. I almost hit one at National Drive and 2nd Street coming here tonight, because he cut across in front of me. Somebody's going to get seriously hurt. We need to take this seriously. It needs to stop. Then the other thing, I came to the zoning meeting the other night on the Roost on the River. Okay, he had a bunch of people here. After the meeting, some people were leaving, and they're being harassed by him and his people. That shouldn't happen. We need to have maybe security or somebody there to keep an eye on the situation, because he's very unhappy about the whole situation. And then we got the Planning Commission coming up, and I'm sure it's going to end up being the same way. We as residents of the south end shouldn't have to put up with his nonsense. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Jane Duvall, 226 Cambria St. – Good evening. I'm going to sound almost like that gentleman. I'm here with several of my neighbors to hopefully awaken the urgency of closing down our neighborhood blight at 249 Cambria Street. For five years, the surrounding families are affected by broken laws, drug sales and use, thefts, rowdy behavior at all hours of the night, and worst of all, living with the fear of repercussion if they attempt to rid the house of vagrants, homeless criminals who blatantly display their stolen articles for all to see. We now have five drug theft homes in a three-block area, my neighborhood. Law enforcement of several branches are well aware of the problem. Unfortunately, without visual proof that they are working to help us, the residents are angry, frustrated. So, they find themselves wondering, what's the point, of having laws that protect the rights of lawbreakers and strangle the path of law and order? Folks, we have multiple homes, not just in our neighborhood, but the entire city where drugs, theft, prostitution runs rampant, as they laugh at us knowing that nothing will be done. So, my question is, why aren't you, when are you going to cure the cancer that has gripped our city? Obviously, we're not the only ones with major problems. Thank you.

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - This weekend we had Pelotonia, which is a marvelous event that earns a lot of money for cancer research and that sort of thing. Again, with the bike problem. I would like to suggest that the city work with the Advocate and maybe the Dispatch to refresh people on what the law is in terms of bike. This weekend during Pelotonia I saw an awful lot of people that were not part of that ride riding on sidewalks, including motorcycles, which is just crazy. Something needs to be done. It's not that big a problem in terms of how to solve it. I think it's simply a matter of communication. People don't know what side of the street to do it and it's a danger to the pedestrians as well as the bicyclists. Thank you.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

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.)

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 9-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

25-49 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$22,780.79 - One Ohio disbursements)(\$12,321.96 - Request appropriation to put funds into Misc account from department Gov Deals sales from March 2025 through July 2025 – see attached list)(\$1,450.00 - Remaining money left from donation for Coble Park)

Held until 8.18.25

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

25-50 A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO APPROPRIATE REAL ESTATE BEING A PART OF OUTLOT 5 AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF PROPERTY OF THE SIMPSON FOUNDRY AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (1935), AND LAST CONVEYED AND RECORDED AT VOLUME 481, PAGE 57 OF DEED RECORDS, LICKING COUNTY; FOR REPLACEMENT OF A DEFICIENT BRIDGE ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE, OVER LOG POND RUN, WHICH PROVIDES ACCESS TO OWENS CORNING MANUFACTURING PLANT, WITHIN THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE OWNER OF SUCH LANDS AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Rath – Mr. President, the reason we're doing this it's a very small piece of land that is being obstructive to the completion of the bridge project. We understand that the owner is deceased and this is a formality so we can get the project going. That's why there's an emergency statement.

Motion passed 9-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mark Mauter, Director of Development – Good evening everyone. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm the city of Newark's Community and Economic Development Director. I come before you tonight with my community development hat on to talk to you a little bit about a lead hazard control grant that the city applied for and was awarded. It's a three point six-million-dollar lead hazard control grant. I gave you a copy of the pamphlet that I'm holding in my hand. We put this together to use as an informational piece to get the word out to the citizens of Newark that we have these funds available. Lead is a very serious issue. Up until 1978, lead was put into paint to provide durability, but it also is a health hazard. It's a poison, actually, to children, especially children six years and under, and also to pregnant women if they would become exposed to lead. The pamphlet, if you open up, it tells you where lead could be found in the home. It can be found in the paint, which could be on your windows, your doors, your siding, any surface where you might apply paint to. It could also be in your plumbing fixtures, in your plumbing pipes. So, this brochure section tells you how to identify it there. The next part in the program is lead is a poison, like I mentioned a moment ago. It's very dangerous to young children, and that's one of the priorities that we'll put is for families who do have young children. Or maybe it's grandparents who are watching young children during the day in their home, and that home may have lead in their paint. So how do you test a child? It talks about that. You go to your pediatrician, they get tested, and they take a blood sample and they examine that sample to see if lead is present in the bloodstream. The next section talks about does my home have lead hazards? And this addresses that through the City of Newark's Lead Hazard Control Program, low-income families with both owner-occupied and or rental properties. They both qualify, which I think is great. That way we are not excluding anyone from taking advantage of this program. An evaluation would be done through our

department to examine the homes as well. The next section is titled Controlling Lead Hazards in the Home, and this Lead Hazard Control Program will review the results of the testing that the city will conduct, and then we'll develop a work plan on how to identify the lead hazards. So, you can turn the page then. Once you identify the hazards, well, then how do I qualify to take advantage of this great lead program to help the citizens of Newark? It addresses that in that section right there. Again, it's available to low- to moderate-income homeowners and or rental property owners. Priority is given to homeowners who have children six years or under, but it's not exclusive to that. Then there's a section on project eligibility. We will focus on the areas where the older housing stock is. So, think of the downtown area and just beyond the downtown area where the homes are older and are going to have more potential to have that lead on their home products. So, the entire City of Newark will fall within what we call our target area. So, we're not just in the central district of the downtown. This is an entire city target area for us. And lastly, the Lead Hazard Control Program is a cooperative effort. I think this is great. We do such a good job in the City of Newark working together, and my department is linking up with the Property Maintenance Department. We're working with the Licking County Health Department. We're working with the LEADS Community Action Agency. So, we'll all be working together to administer this program. I think it's one of the best grant programs I've seen in the 14 years I've been here. Not only is it a health concern that we can address, but it also quite honestly becomes a beautification project. When people get new windows and doors and siding on the exterior of their home, that has a positive effect in neighborhoods. I think it also creates a ripple effect where other neighbors also then take interest and maybe invest in their property a little bit more. But again, we're very proud to have received this. We worked hard. There's a lot of competition. And to get a \$3.6 million grant for the City of Newark, I'm very pleased to report that to all of you. So, thank you for your time. And if anybody else would like a pamphlet on this, I did bring extras. Just come see me after the meeting. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director – To the citizens who came in today, you're doing exactly what you need to do. Don't stop. Don't give up. Keep reporting. Anything that you see that is suspicious activity, that's what that line is for. So, keep reporting. There are ears in this room that can help. You're doing what you need to do. Thank you. With that, I'll pass.

Mayor Hall – We had a pretty busy Saturday in this town. Pelotonia came through in the morning. And for those that knew about it or not, the 65-mile ride and the 100-mile ride, those came through Newark. I'll give great thanks to the Police Department. They did a phenomenal job. All hands-on deck that day. Of course, they covered all the intersections as you come in through town to make it a great, safe ride for the riders. Several hundred, I think it was maybe 750 riders, for those of you that weren't in that ride, as they went east of town here, they went up the big hill on O'Bannon on the way to Kenyon College. We had some people that did 100 miles on Saturday, and then they came back and did 90 more on Sunday. They didn't come back through Newark, but they did the north side. So, kudos, obviously, a huge fundraiser to help fight cancer and work in the Columbus area. They've been phenomenal, did a wonderful job in this city. And then, followed by the Summerfest concert downtown. Police regrouped and came downtown after that and provided a good, safe environment for outdoor music and enjoyable time. The weather was very cooperative, and we appreciate that. I'm sure the riders did, too in Pelotonia. So, with that, I want to thank everybody. It takes a lot of months and a lot of planning, and I would just tell you, especially Pelotonia, that it takes a long time. But even Summerfest took quite a long time to book it all and get everything going. So, kudos to everybody that had that on the radar and made that a successful event.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to thank the constituents and family members that came out to give us information on each of your areas and things that are happening in those areas. So, as the law director said, there are some ears in the room that might be able to help with that. So, thanks for coming and sharing that. I'd also like to say I was thankful to be able to attend the Reverend Charles Noble street dedication on Friday evening. It was a great event. A couple of us weren't able to make it. It was a very nice event in honor of a man that has done a lot for, obviously, not only Newark and Licking County, but all across the country. So, it was great to honor him. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for the 18th. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Neely – Thank you. I will pass.

Mr. Rath – Thank you. I'll call a Service Committee meeting for the 18th. I just wanted to say I was down here Saturday for the Summerfest and was around for the honoring of the hometown heroes. That was a great, great event. Local heroes being honored. It was awesome. Mark, congratulations on the grant. It's awesome work. Also, I wanted to remind people along that same topic, as far as lead poisoning goes, all of our galvanized water service lines are systematically being replaced throughout the city. That is at no cost to the residents. Please go to the Water Department and register to allow them to do that. If you don't register, they're still going to knock on your door and try to catch you at home. But it makes their job a whole lot easier if you just register ahead of time and give them permission to do that. That is a great project. Obviously, a very vast project. Your cooperation would be appreciated. With that, I pass.

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

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. I will pass as well.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. On Saturday, south Newark residents gave New Beginnings a helping hand. It was much needed. The great thing was I didn't have to ask. I showed up, and people came out, and we all jumped in. What would have been an all-day project took just half the day. It was great. They did a fine job. Last week, continuing, neighbors from Jefferson and West Main joined Basic Tree Service in just the first steps of revealing the old canal lock that's off West Main Street. This has been the dream of many for a long time. We were able to take down 12 trees and move some of the rocks that had been, sadly, excavated from their historic sites. We were able to preserve them and move them to the front where we hope that they'll be preserved as being out in the open. They did a great job, and that place, too, in a way, had a new beginning. Now, I'm really glad you all came tonight. I appreciate it. Ms. Jane, your letter was good. It was great and to the point, and I appreciate it. This is a 24-7 job, collecting data, collecting photos, collecting information, and it's frustrating, and there's fear in it, and there's heavy fatigue. I encourage the residents, keep in communication with our police. What can we do better? What can we do next? I think next is the best word as we're all sending in testimony of what we're seeing, we're sending in photos, we're sending in film, we're calling the police. It's been five years at the one site. So, what is a functioning step that we can help as residents in this process? To their point, there are, as business, drugs are business, and as good businessmen and women, they are expanding. And so, again, I would appreciate our officers, they're very good at what they do, but help us with the strategy of what we can do next. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cost - I had the honor to attend the recognition for Reverend Noble for the renaming of Washington Street in his name, and sadly had the honor to attend the funeral for former County Commissioner Don Hill. These are two men that I greatly admired. They were the definition of public servant. Also, a great afternoon and evening at the Newark Fest. Thank you.

President Harris - I'd like to thank everyone that came out to the Reverend Noble ceremony. It was a great evening. The family was very appreciative for what we did for their father. I'm not sure they realized what we were going to do, and they were just overjoyed. One of the daughters came in from Nashville, and she didn't really realize how big of an event it was going to be. So, it was a good event. So, thank you, everybody, for that. Our next meeting is August the 18th already, and school will be in session, so start watching the school buses and obeying the school laws and watch the kids.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council