

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 18, 2025
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS

MINUTES of August 4, 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**

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

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

PROCLAMATION - Mayor Hall – Sunday, August 31, 2025 as Overdose Awareness Day

Mayor Hall - On the 28th, which is a week from Thursday, will be the 11th annual Overdose Awareness Event. I'd like to read the proclamation. Whereas Ohio Senate Bill 30 went into effect on September 7th, 2021, officially recognized on August 31st of each year as Ohio Overdose Awareness Day. Overdose awareness is critically important in Newark, Ohio. A campaign to end overdoses, raise public awareness, and remember the lives lost to the epidemic is happening every day. The Overdose Awareness Day marks the importance of understanding the ongoing battle with the opioid epidemic that has touched so many people. Community groups, legislators, county and state agencies across Ohio are working hard to bring this crisis under control through efforts to expand access to naloxone and improve access to addiction treatment. Therefore, I, Jeff Hall, Mayor of the great city of Newark, do hereby proclaim Sunday, August 31st, 2025 as Overdose Awareness Day in Newark, Ohio, in an effort to raise awareness to the disease of addiction. I present that to you, and please share a few words with us if you'd like to.

Trish Perry - Thank you very much. Overdose Awareness Day here in Newark will be on August 28th from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Canal Market. We actually have some special speakers this year. We've got, from Recovery Ohio, the Governor's Office, Deputy Director Sarah Holt will be there. And then we have a social worker from Denison University. This year we've enhanced with a lot of prevention to bring more resources to our families that are raising their grandchildren, because what we saw years ago are not what we're seeing now. Everyone's invited. It's all free. There will be food. We have a balloon release to honor those that have died to substance use disorder from mental health.

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor – Operating report for the period ending July 31, 2025

Jill Frew, Tax Administrator's Office – Income Tax Revenue Reports for the period ending July 31, 2025

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

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, Ms. Bline, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Rath

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)

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

25-51 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A REVITALIZATION DISTRICT DESIGNATION PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 4301.81

Held until 9.2.25

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

25-52 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ACCEPT BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE 16 NORTH SEWER SEPARATION PHASE 1 PROJECT.

Held until 9.2.25

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

25-53 Cooperating with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for roadway improvements to State Route 13 (Mt. Vernon Road) from West Channel Street to the north corporation limit, and declaring an emergency.

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

Mr. Rath - Mr. President, the reason for the emergency is to comply with the deadline put forth by ODOT.

Motion passed 10-0

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

25-55 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$65,000.00 - 2025 credit card processing fees, office mailings, water meters for Lead Service Line Project 6 and 7, current unencumbered balance is \$3.1M)(\$225,000.00 - Appropriate City's share of License Plate Permissive Tax that has been collected by Licking County Commissioners. Funding will be used for City's construction match on South 11th Street and other projects.)

Held until 9.2.25

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Rob Evans, 22 Summit St. - If you're coming up 2nd Street there, we're getting a lot of motorcycles that are just flat out running rampant up and down that street. The other day, me and my wife was going down the road, and there were some kids on some four-wheelers. Just jumped right out in the road, right in front of us, like they own the road. I don't know if maybe we can up the police in that area to kind of take care of that. But the other day, I was coming home from work, and I crossed the bridge there on 2nd Street at the bottom of the hill, and a motorcycle just shot around me, left of center. If there had been a car coming the other way, it would have hit him head-on. So maybe a little extra patrol in that area, I'd be grateful. Thank you.

Brandon Fox, Water Administrator - Good evening. Just want to continue to offer up our free lead service line replacement program for anybody that has a galvanized or lead service line leading into their house. We're getting to the point where we're getting a lot of folks that, we've got 400 or 500 that we've contacted more than three times. And once we contact you four times and offer this service free of charge, we'll basically be able to say, hey, if you have a leak on your service in the future, the city won't be responsible to replace it. So, the program is still going on, and it will for another two or three years, but want to continue to spread that word as you meet folks out in the city. Let them know to get a hold of our water office, go on the website, so that we can get you a new service line free of charge.

Mayor Hall - And it extends into the township as long as we provide them with water. Is that correct?

Mr. Fox - Yeah, any current city water customer is eligible for this program, if you have a galvanized or lead service line leading into your home. We've still got about three to four thousand that are either unknown or that we know need replaced, and we are trying our best to get in touch with those people. But we are getting some resistance to people that, for whatever reason, don't want it. But just to make you aware, once we make contact with you four times, we will be making a decision that the responsibility will fall on the customer if it happens in the future.

Mayor Hall - Your online map is very explicit about what type of line they have. Is that correct?

Mr. Fox - Correct. We have an online map. If you go to the city's website, type in lead, L-E-A-D, and you can search your address on that interactive website map, lead service line map, and you can see if your service is a galvanized, is a plastic, is a copper, whatever it is. And if you have any questions, reach out to our office, and we'd be happy to send a technician out to verify what you have.

Mr. Marmie - Is there any way for you to separate that by wards and get it to the council members, the ones that you know for sure?

Mr. Fox - Yes.

Mr. Marmie - That would be fantastic.

Mr. Fox - Absolutely.

Mr. Marmie - Thank you.

Mr. Fox - I think we already have that done. I don't know that the map - I think you can actually, on the interactive map, I think you can actually - it has the ability to click which ward you want to select, but we can get you an Excel list for your individual wards.

Mr. Marmie - The ones that you haven't been able to (inaudible).

Mr. Fox - Good question. But most of the ones that we have made multiple attempts are in the Mount Vernon Road-Hudson Avenue area because we're prepping for the 16 North project. We're trying to get those done ahead of that project. So most of them are in that 16 up to Channel Street area. But yes, I can definitely send those lists out to you folks.

Mr. Marmie - That would be great. Thank you.

Mr. Fox - Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Mayor Hall – I'll pass this evening. Thank you.

Mr. Houser - I'll also pass. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. Labutis – I will pass this evening.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for September the 2nd. Mr. Evans, I'm going to reiterate what we've said to the other folks. The best thing that you can do is to call the police and have them file an incident that had occurred because the more attention that we draw to it through the police department, it justifies possibly putting another officer or detective in that area to try to monitor that. So, if that happens again, please contact and at least file an incident report, please. And with that, I'll pass.

Mr. Neely – I will pass. Thank you.

Mr. Rath – I'll call a Service Committee meeting for September 2nd, and I'll pass.

Mr. Rine – I'll pass, Mr. President.

Mr. Barker – I'll pass as well.

Ms. Bline – I stand with you. Mr. Evans, we have been calling the police, and we're going to continue to call the police and get those incident reports filed. The more the citizens know about the incident reports, the more traction we're getting. It's just that people didn't know. They just thought we're just going to call and leave it at that. But those reports, they're starting to come through. So, I want to thank the citizens for doing that. I want to thank Mr. Fox and his response. As the 2nd Street renewal is coming to a close, you know, there's been some folks that have questions about multiple things. And of course, I refer them to him. He has been spot on responding to calls and questions and just various other things. I really appreciate he and his team for that. And the citizens have really sent their thanks just to get someone, you know, that quickly. I also want to thank the citizens who have been working on the historical sites to get them renewed and restored and taking the time and energy to do so. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cost - I would like to commend the safety forces of our city. I witnessed their swift reaction to the incident over by the YMCA the other day. They were all over it. Very efficient, very quickly, professionally handled. I truly appreciate it. With that, I pass.

President Harris - Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 2nd. Monday is a holiday. Do I have a motion?

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council