

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 2, 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, Mr. Houser

INVOCATION – Mr. Houser

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Nial Carr, 5th grade, Carson Elementary

CAUCUS

MINUTES of August 18, 2025, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, Passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

There are none this meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There are none this meeting.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Brandon Fox, Water Administrator - Water bill liens to County, total amount \$14,581.88

PROCLAMATION - Mayor Hall - Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, September 2025

Mayor Jeff Hall – I’m going to give a proclamation. Kaitlin is going to say a few words afterwards. It's her debut at Council, so she's a little nervous. Whereas Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is an annual campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors, and their families. Childhood cancer affects thousands of young Americans each year, and it's the leading cause of disease-related death for children. This year, more than 10,000 of our nation's youth will be diagnosed with this life-threatening disease. Approximately 40,000 children are on an active treatment at any given time, and two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment. Childhood cancer is devastating, and families face an enormous burden. Researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently, dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer. Hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional, and financial support. Now, therefore, I, Jeff Hall, Mayor of the City of Newark, hereby proclaim September 2025 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Newark, Ohio, and I strongly urge all citizens to get involved in the fight to end childhood cancer.

Kaitlin - Good afternoon, Mayor Hall, Council Members, and those joining us today. My name is Kaitlin. This is my spouse, Jayden. I want to start by asking for a show of hands of those who have maybe experienced childhood cancer in their families or friends, anyone that has went through it. Okay. So, did you know that 552 children just in Ohio alone are diagnosed just this year with pediatric cancer? That's 552 instant lives that are about to change forever. That's 552 families that are about to experience a heartache that doesn't stop hurting. Did you know that approximately 15,780 children in

the United States are diagnosed with pediatric cancer per year? We are one of those 552 in Ohio. We were one of those 15,780 nationwide that lost their child to pediatric cancer. Our daughter, Noriah Lynn Preston, was born healthy as can be. She was full of life. She could make everybody laugh. She was so smart, so beautiful. Her life took a tragic turn six years later when she was diagnosed with a high-grade forward infused midline glioma. That's when our whole world was flipped upside down. This is a diagnosis that typically only carries a life span of 6 - 12 months. She went through four invasive surgeries, many rounds of radiation, various types of medications, from steroids to keep the fluid down in her brain, to liquid chemotherapy. Fortunately, with modern medicine, many prayers, research, and Nationwide Children's Hospital, our beautiful daughter was able to surpass the stigma and make it to 15 months. She passed away July 5th of 2024 at 7 years old. No child should ever have to go through such a thing, so many trials and tribulations, pain, life-long changes, the strength of their childhood, and those that don't survive with the various types of terminal cancers. So, I feel September should be dedicated for childhood cancer awareness.

Unknown speaker – They are talking about my granddaughter. Anyone whose life she was a part of just loved her to death. I was the one that had to witness the pain and the agony that they go through when they have cancer. She went from a lovely kid that's always laughing, that's always dancing, making me laugh, to when we went to do radiation, I had to hold her on my lap until they gave her the medicine to make her go to sleep, and then they had to move her to the table to do the treatment on her. The next round she went with, she still had to go back on my lap, but she got up on the table, and they had people in there that was phenomenal with her and so patient. I think they're heroes to have to go through this at such a young age, and then to watch her actually go back in her final treatment. She would walk back, and she'd say, Mom, I'll see you in a minute. And she'd go back, she'd come back out just as bubbly and happy as she went back. I watched her grow to be able to accept the treatment that she was going through, but the agony of watching her go from a typical kid learning new stuff at school, she started out being able to do it, but then gradually, it faded away. She wasn't able to keep up with the kids. But I say these pediatric kids and adolescents are heroes, and I really think that they deserve a day for them to be remembered by. Thank you.

PROCLAMATION - Mayor Hall – Licking County River Round Up Day on Saturday, September 6, 2025
Mayor Hall – We are switching gears here. River Round up is right around the corner. It is with great pride that on Saturday, September 6, 2025, we celebrate the 30th Annual Licking County River Round Up where citizens come together to participate in a hands-on cleanup of our Licking County waterways. Over the years, this extremely effective round up has gained great momentum. Last year, volunteers and local leaders pulled 124 tires, 1,420 pounds of scrap metal and 12,000 pounds of trash to landfill out of our county water ways and surrounding riverbanks. In collaboration with the Licking County River Round Up event, the City of Newark encourages everyone in the community, from families and organizations, to public officials and senior citizens, to work together to help keep our waterways clean and preserve our natural resources. Now, therefore, I, Jeff Hall, Mayor of the City of Newark, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 6, 2025 as Licking County River Round Up Day. To put that into perspective, it isn't 30 straight years. It was for a while, and then it went dormant, and because of the City of Newark it was revitalized and brought back.

Lindsey Brighton – We are celebrating 30 years this year. After River Round Up this year, we are going to do a celebration on Rural Rivers Day, which is September 29th, and we are going to do that at Velvet Ice Cream. So, I will hopefully send out an invitation for that if anyone wants to attend and represent the City of Newark with me. They have a nice (inaudible) wetlands up there back by the river. We are going to highlight that as part of the celebration this year. This year's River Round Up event is this

Saturday. Normally, we do this proclamation a little more in advance, but this year it's this week. So, this Saturday, September 6th. We have some sites in Newark. I'll be at Everett Park. If you go to register online, it looks like it's maxed out and at capacity, but I will take you as a walk-in. We take walk-ins every year. So, don't be discouraged if you see that a site is full. Just show up anyway. We will find something for you to do.

Mayor Hall – There are sites all over the county now. Johnstown is a new site this year.

Ms. Brighton – Johnstown is new. I know they need help in Buckeye Lake, but of course, we have plenty to do here in Newark. We'll put you to work in Everett Park, Ohio Street, Riverview Preserve. There're sites open if you want to go in a kayak or a canoe. You can float down the river. We did that a few weeks ago and encountered 43 tires on just that little stretch. So, there's plenty to do. And honestly, it really is a good time. I enjoy it every year. I know it sounds crazy, but it is a lot of fun and fulfilling to see what you've accomplished after just a few hours. We have Boy Scouts troops signed up. It's just a good time. Registrations at 8:30. We start clean up at nine. And that's all the locations. Done about noon then enjoy the rest of your day. Join me if you want to. Thank you all.

Mr. Marmie – Mr. President, before they leave, would it be okay if I said something? I just want to comment. I cannot even begin to imagine what you have gone through. Just the fear as a parent, and now grandparent, that something like that could happen just makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up. My deepest sympathy and condolences. You said it well. Hero. You're truly heroes. To be able to then turn this around and try to be an advocate for it is greatly, greatly appreciated. And my prayers and my blessings go out to you and your family. And, like I said, my deepest condolences.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ohio Division of Liquor Control - Transfer liquor permit from Huber Lodge Inc., 500 Highland Blvd., to Granville OH 0225 LLC., 500 Highland Blvd.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.)

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

Mr. Labutis – I will pass this evening, Mr. President.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for September the 15th, and I will pass.

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

Mr. Rath – Just one thing. I'll be brief, I promise. If you guys have been out West Main Street, between Terrace and 39th Street, you'll see we've got some brand-new sidewalks going out there. They're going to continue from 39th over the Cherry Valley within the coming few days or weeks. It is pretty awesome. We'll have sidewalks all the way to Cherry Valley School, as well as the Cherry Valley Road, all the way to downtown. Long time coming for that. I'll call a Service Committee meeting for September 15th. I'll pass.

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

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. Very briefly, Lite the Nite cruise-in is this Saturday here in downtown. Last year I think there was 500-some vehicles. It'll start at 9 and go until, I think, awards are 530. And with that, I'll pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. I will make this brief as well, but this is important. I'd like to thank our NPD for their interventions and help in the area. They have done a fantastic job. I've been getting emails, texts from residents saying, please tell them that we appreciate them. And so, thank you.

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

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

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

President Harris - No one has said anything about the Buckeyes winning on Saturday. How about them Buckeyes? And go Browns on Sunday. Our next meeting is September 15th.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council