

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 3, 2025
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Addilyn Davis, 2nd grade, St. Francis de Sales

CAUCUS

MINUTES of October 20, 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**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Brandon Fox, Water Administrator - A list of properties being sent to lien for past due water, sewer, and stormwater bills, totaling \$4,217.35 - **Received and Filed without objection**

COMMUNICATIONS

Reddington Village Condominium Association Board – Support for the reopening of the Showman Arch Bridge on Cherry Valley Rd. - **Received and Filed without objection**

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio – Ohio Power Company Staff Report 2025 - **Received and Filed without objection**

Ohio Division of Liquor Control - New liquor permit for Vibe City, LLC., 1150 Mount Vernon Rd., Newark, Ohio. - **Received and Filed without objection**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

DJ Jakala, SBA representative - Good evening, my name is DJ Jakala, and I'm actually in the region right now representing the Small Business Administration's Disaster Recovery Team. It's officially the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resiliency, and I appreciate just the three minutes tonight to make you aware that the governor had asked for a declaration from the flooding that occurred July 26th through 28th of this year. And because it was received, SBA's Disaster Recovery Team is providing low-interest loans to survivors of the July 26th to 28th flooding, and the misnomer about the Small Business Administration Disaster Recovery Team is the majority of our loans go to homeowners and renters as well as faith-based organizations, private nonprofits, agricultural cooperatives, and businesses.

Even if there weren't any directly impacted in Licking County or specifically in Newark, the reason why I asked to be able to speak here this evening or find when I could speak here this evening is word of mouth is key, because there are a lot of individuals who aren't even aware that we offer this service. I am going around to as many of the city council, village, town, you name it, I'm going, trying to get the word out so that we can ensure anyone who was impacted by the flooding knows this resource is available. We have a physical damage loan deadline coming up on November 12th. But in general, we just want people to be aware that if, not wishing it upon anyone, but if something were to happen specifically in Newark, that Licking County's Emergency Management Agency would probably be asking the governor to have someone come in and look at and make our loans available. For businesses, the deadline is longer. It goes clear out to June of 2026, and it's called an Economic Injury Disaster Loan, EIDL, which I kind of laugh at that acronym, because it's anything but. It's working capital to keep businesses on the move and operating. If they were to suffer any kind of economic injury, their facility, their actual building could be fine, but they've seen a drop-off in business, they want to keep their employees on the payroll, and the Economic Injury Loan allows them to do that. So just wanted to make sure you guys are aware of it, and I know you can't ask any questions, but I will follow up with an email in case you do have any that come up afterwards. Thank you so much.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Ms. Bline

25-34 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AND A RESOLUTION AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Rath - Mr. President, the reason for the emergency clause on this is to meet a filing deadline.

Motion passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

25-65 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. (\$17,600.00 - Amount was received as proceeds from the sale of used cruisers. It was deposited into 100.155.4910.300 Auction Proceeds Vehicle Auction. We would like to use this money toward the replacement of a totaled cruiser)(\$249,822.81 - Horns Hill Tower Project)

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

Mr. Chute, Mr. Cost, Mr. Neely, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath

25-66 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. (\$50,000.00 - Donation John & Mary Alford Foundation)

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

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

25-68 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION - STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

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

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

25-69 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATES FOR THE STORMWATER UTILITY SERVICE CHARGE AS AUTHORIZED BY CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Labutis

Mr. Rath - Mr. President, I'd like to make a motion to amend 25-69 to show a duration of five years as opposed to 10 years. The updated chart should be included in everybody's packet.

Motion to amend by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Marmie

Motion to amend passed 10-0

Motion to adopt passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Mr. Rath

25-70 Exp A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. (\$20,000.00 - Negotiations, Replace previous budget cut)

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

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

25-71 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENT PERSONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026 WITH THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Rath - Mr. President, the reason for the emergency clause is to meet a filing deadline and prevent a lack of service in the future.

Motion passed 10-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Daniel Crawford, 163 S. 2nd St. - First and foremost, obviously, the election is tomorrow and I hope everyone gets out and vote. Good luck to everyone on the ballot, including you, Beth, and it's been an honor running a set of positive campaigns, so I think that could be a model for going into the future in this process. One of the things I wanted to bring up is tomorrow we're also going to vote on whether or not to increase our taxes here locally. Now, I will say, I actually voted in favor of this because I know it's important. It's a crucial funding that I think has been needed for a long time, but I'm glad to see that people are being given a chance to say, look, we're going to increase it. I mean, it's really hard to vote to increase your own taxes. It's not a sexy issue. It's a hard sell. In addition to that, it is my hope that others here will join me in a pledge to oppose any further pay increases for elected officials in the City of Newark, at least for the foreseeable future, because while we're about to enter these budget constraints, I think that can help in whatever way to get us to where we need to be, to be in the black,

if you will. So that's all I wanted to say, and again, good luck and make sure everyone votes tomorrow. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Mayor Hall – Monday, the Louis Sullivan Building opened to the public, quite a noted event. In 1973, it was put on the National Register of Historic Places. It was gifted to the Licking County Foundation in 2013, built in 1914, opened in 1915. It's one of only eight jewel boxes or banks that Louis Sullivan designed across this country, and we are fortunate to have one. It's kind of that, really, diamond in the rough a little bit that no one realized, I think, when we grew up in this community and didn't understand the impact of it. But what a phenomenal, beautiful facility. Thank you to the Licking County Foundation and all supporters far and wide that have helped this project. This is not a small-dollar item to restore and keep up. The Explore Licking County, our Convention and Visitor Bureau, is occupying the top floor, which is a great place to welcome people in. The main floor will probably be there for art galleries and traveling art gallery shows and things like that. So, if you haven't had a chance to see it, what a gem it truly is. Thursday was trick-or-treat in the neighborhoods, and we know it was a little bit rainy and a little tough, but there you go. On Friday, we do it again downtown, and safe trick-or-treat. What an event with just thousands of people downtown. I can't give enough thank-yous across the board, from the Downtown Newark Association that organized it a couple years ago as a final Friday event, to the businesses that stand out and hand out candy. It was a great night downtown in so many ways, and I really enjoyed it. I've had some nice touch-outs that when we used to have them both on the same night, safe trick-or-treat and door-to-door, that somebody couldn't be home handing out candy when they're bringing their grandchild or whoever, child downtown. So, a lot of kudos as you move forward with that. And thank you to our safety patrols that just do an outstanding job. Busy time. It's a very busy time, but they do an outstanding job in preparation for the event. And then finally, yesterday was the 38th annual Rolling Thunder, and what a way to start the holidays for the Salvation Army with all the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of toys that were brought in. Thank you for everyone that participates in that event and keeps it going. With that, I pass.

Mr. Neely - Thank you, Mr. President. I will simply say get out and vote, and that's all I have.

Mr. Rath – I will also encourage everybody to vote tomorrow. Please vote for the tax levy. That is very, very important to the future of Newark. I had a chance to tour the Sullivan Building this weekend. It is a great facility, great story. It's worth going and looking through it. I've had a lot of contact from residents on River Road. That's closing for an extended period of time for the fourth time this year. They're not really happy with that. I said I would express that. I'd also encourage you to open the Cherry Valley Bridge. I think there's more and more and more people calling for that to open. I'll call a Service Committee meeting for the 17th, and with that, I'll pass.

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

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, just as the Mayor said, the trick-or-treat, the DNA safe trick-or-treat, I was able to take my son to it this year and it was... We went early because I had heard it had been packed. Somebody had told me last year that they ran out of candy in the first 14 minutes. I said, are you sure? She said, no. We had no candy after the first 14 minutes of the event and it was packed. It was nice to see downtown fully packed, businesses interacting with people who had never come downtown and seen what's been done down here. It was also nice to see that every level of the parking garage was full and people were pouring out of it. So, it's definitely getting its good use. Also, coming up here at the end of this month, on Friday the 28th, is the 77th annual Licking County Courthouse Lighting which I'm the chairman of. We're excited as always, again, to bring in Christmas here in Licking County and with the assistance from Newark Fire Department and NPD keeping

everybody safe. We appreciate all our safety forces working with us on that. I'm going to call a Personnel Committee meeting for the 17th. I encourage everyone to go vote, and as Mr. Rath mentioned, our income tax increase. Nobody likes to raise taxes. It's not something we take lightly, but it is something we need to maintain the services we have today here in the City of Newark. With that, I will pass

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. I too want to thank everyone who worked downtown for the trick-or-treat event. I was speaking to some people and they said what happened? Everybody's gone. I said, well, they're all downtown. Everybody with a kid was downtown here last week and it was great. So, thank you to everyone who participated in that and it was a great cooperative effort. In that light, I'm going to a party this weekend. I'm so excited. One young lady who's become a friend, has come out of homelessness. She's got a job and a car. She has a great living situation and we're throwing her a party. It's just great to celebrate. Again, the cooperative efforts of everyone and even as much as today I'm speaking to someone who's going into rehab and that's due to the cooperative efforts, again, from Home Court, the City entities, and the faith-based community that's getting people the help they need. So, it's just been a great, great week and just good news all around. Thank you, sir.

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

Mr. Cost – I just want to comment, what an incredible day the dedication of the Sullivan building was. That was just a really neat day for Newark, Ohio. Excellent, excellent day. Thank you.

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

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. As everyone else has mentioned, I would like to encourage everyone to go out and vote tomorrow if you haven't already. There will be a blood drive tomorrow at Station 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as well. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for the 17th of November. I wish the young lady with the SBA would have stuck around. I'd like to know, hopefully she does follow up with an email because I don't know if it follows the same guidelines as FEMA, but it has to be contiguous with a waterway or pond or something like that or if individual properties would also qualify due to flash flooding or anything like that. I want to also echo the safe trick-or-treat was a huge success. I also want to mention the folks from Lost Lands. They bring down the dinosaurs and the kids really like that. So, it's kind of unique and neat and I think that attracts just as many of the kids as the candy does, but was proud to participate in that as a business owner and thought it was just a great thing to see our downtown that active. I want to also encourage everybody to vote tomorrow. There's a lot on the ballot. I know this is usually an off election and voter participation is not great, but there are important issues and I would hope that everybody would exercise their right to vote. Finally, I just want to wish the Newark Catholic girls good fortune this Thursday. They are going to state for the volleyball and they're playing against New Bremen at Wright State at 4 p.m. I want to wish them good fortune. This is the state semifinals. If they are victorious on Thursday they will play Saturday, so I want to wish them the best and with that I will pass.

President Harris – Our next meeting is November 17th. Don't forget to get out and vote.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council