

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 15, 2025
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS

Mr. Marmie – Mr. President, I would like to invoke Rule 11 for Ordinances 25-45, 25-46, and 25-47.

President Harris - Do you agree, Mr. Cost?

Mr. Cost – Yes, I do.

By: Mr. Marmie

25-45 An ordinance to make an appropriation for the expenditures of the City of Newark, Ohio during the year ending December 31st, 2026.

Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 10-0

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

By: Mr. Marmie

25-46 An ordinance to make an appropriation for the expenditures of the City of Newark, Ohio during the year ending December 31st, 2026.

Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 10-0

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

By: Mr. Marmie

25-47 An ordinance to make an appropriation for the expenditures of the City of Newark, Ohio during the year ending December 31st, 2026.

Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 10-0

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

MINUTES of December 1, 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

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor – Operating report for the period ending November 30, 2025 - **Received and Filed without objection**

Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator – Income Tax Revenue Reports for the period ending November 30, 2025 - **Received and Filed without objection**

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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

25-41 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 165 SOUTH 3rd STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-215808-00.000, FROM THAT OF LB LIMITED INTENSITY BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT TO TFR TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Referred to the Planning Commission

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

25-42 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 200 DAY AVENUE, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-242886-00.000 AND 024-233454-00.000, FROM THAT OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE RH- HIGH DENSITY ZONING DISTRICT TO HB HIGH INTENSITY BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Referred to the Planning Commission

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

25-75 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

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

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

25-76 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR CERTAIN ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, FOR 2026.

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

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

25-77 Resurfacing with related work. Scope of work within city will include resurfacing and replacement of curb ramps as needed. The general location within Newark is State Route 16 from just west of Dayton Road to the east corporation limit.

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

25-81 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

Held until 1.5.26

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mark David Fraizer I, 20 W. North St. - I live at 20 West North Street, Newark, Ohio in the 7th Ward. I am here tonight because I want to thank Councilman Rine, I want to thank Councilman Rath for your service, and so thank you both for filling this term. Thank you, Colton, for letting me have a Republican representative in my ward, and so I do appreciate that. Thank you for serving out your full term and representing me and the district and doing what you could in order to move it forward, so I appreciate that. Mr. Rath, thank you as well for your service. I wanted to say thank you on the record for all that you've done over these 16 years, as well as put up with somebody like myself on Council for the four years that I was here. I wish you both the best. I want to say thank you for your service from a community that really is grateful for where we were from 16 years ago, to four years ago, and being in a better place today. So, I want to say thank you to both of you.

Jonathan Lang, 297 Auburn Dr. - Hi everyone, good to be back. Couple things I wanted to mention tonight. I did want to applaud the snow clearing. I think they've done a pretty good job. Service department, appreciate them making it out all the way out on River Road where I now am. Unfortunately, the new detour has me going through some areas we don't plow. So, I do want to ask that we kind of think through with the engineering department, the timing of some of these kinds of detours. I think this was kind of a frustrating time of the year to close down River Road and make everybody go back through these pretty windy roads. I know there's been some real hectic driving out that way. So hopefully it was something that was necessary as far as the timing goes, but I guess it is what it is now. I just hope we can get it done quickly. Colton, had pleasure serving with you. Congratulations on a job well done. Congrats on finishing out your term. You've done a real nice job for the 7th Ward and I hope you are proud of your accomplishments. Mr. Rath, 16 years on council. What did we do, seven? Seven together. It was a pleasure serving with you. I always thought you did a fine job speaking up, speaking your mind, being direct, never being afraid of saying what had to be said. And so, I just want to congratulate you on 16 years of an incredible job serving your community and your voice will be missed. All the best of luck to your successor and the City of Newark going forward. Thank you.

Mr. Rath - Could I ask a question real quick?

President Harris - Sure.

Mr. Rath - Would you mind, just one time on the record, tell everybody why you moved to the 3rd Ward?

Mr. Lang - I did have to move from the 5th Ward to the 3rd Ward, the most desirable ward in the City of Newark. Thank you.

Mr. Rath - Thank you.

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor - I too just want to wish you nothing but the best Colton, good job. It was good getting to know you, and certainly stick around and hope to see more of you. Mr. Rath, we served together for many years in city council, you did a wonderful job and wish you nothing but the best in your future and talk soon, thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Director of Law – Thank you for your service today. Congratulations on serving a great term for the City of Newark. It's been an honor to sit here next to you for four years. So, I wish you nothing but luck in your future. Councilman Rath, as also a citizen of the 3rd Ward for all 16 years you've served, I appreciate your dedication to our ward and the service that you gave for our ward. It's also been an honor serving here as a law director with you on council. Wish you the best of luck in the future. I know that you have some plans. Also, congratulations on 16 years of great service. With that, I'll pass. Thank you.

Mayor Hall – I'll continue that on. Councilman Rine, Councilman Rath, thank you very much. Not everybody wants to serve on councils in communities, but we are the better because you do. Thank you so much for the years and years and years and years serving together. It's been a real privilege to, as administration and mayor, to sit here and work with both of you. So, thank you very much. I want to reach out just to our departments that have to work outside during this time of year. We all shiver a little bit going to our car while they work out there. And truly, it's police and fire and water and streets. We've got a variety of people that do have to work outside daily, even beyond our workers. Thank them all for making this city run, whether it's our employees or construction workers, et cetera. It's always a challenge. This isn't normal weather for us. Then we had a big snow on Saturday. And certainly, I think the street department has done a (inaudible) job. As I've said many times, until that stops, we really can't try to get ahead of it, and then when it gets below 16 degrees, that salt does very little work and very little effectiveness. We got some sun yesterday, which was phenomenal what that can do, even when it's single digits out there. But thank you, gentlemen. They put in a lot of hours in those trucks. They're very appreciative, I know, of the new equipment that administration and Council worked together to get them. They made quite a difference. Thank you very much. Really, there are a few communities that have school closed tomorrow as I see more out in the Coshocton area, out in the country a little more, and I think it's also because of the cold weather in the morning. Columbus schools were closed today and that's also weather, but it's also streets. We had two-hour delays today, but I want to thank all the employees of the city that do their job in the weather. Thank you.

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. A couple things. One, I just want to thank the auditor's office, all department heads. We've passed a budget, a balanced budget, one that I know everybody's worked on for quite a few months, so I appreciate everybody's hard work on that. I'll echo the mayor's comments on our snow plowing and some comments earlier that Mr. Lang made that they did do a great job. I know I was out in the middle of it when it switched from a level one to level two and it was a little dicey, but our crews were out there at the same time and did a great job. I want to bring up one thing that a couple of constituents have called me about, the Baker Blvd. connector to Sharon Valley Road. It's been on again, off again, on again, off again. I'd like to start having these conversations with the administration if we can to see what that looks like here in the future. If we can bring that back up with some additional development coming to the 5th Ward, I think it's something that needs to be brought back up. Mr. Rine, congratulations. It's been a pleasure serving with you, my time on, off, on, so it's great. I wish you the best in your future endeavors. Mr. Rath, congratulations. Appreciate everything you've done for the City. I, at a time when I first came on council, was also a resident of the 3rd Ward, so it's been a pleasure to work with you and I do appreciate what you do and how you

handle yourself and wish you luck in your future endeavors and call if you ever need anything. And with that, I just want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, as we probably won't see most of you until January. With that, I'll pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. First, I'd like to thank the community for how it came together for the Toys for Tots outreach. We had toys go out to a thousand kids on Saturday and it was most of the day and it took dozens and dozens of volunteers and I'd like to thank Family Faith Community Church and of course Toys for Tots. It was an inter-county effort and so very, very grateful for them. It was just a great day. Mr. Rine, thank you. He was so generous of his time. He was boots on the ground and he did a great job helping with the Hope Park restoration project and I just appreciate them so much. Very industrious. Maybe we will see you on that Fortune 500 cover someday. And sir, I appreciate you. We've not always seen eye to eye, but you know what? I've learned a lot through our discussions and it taught me that it's okay to talk about difficult things and to dig and to research and I'll tell you, he has done a great job as well teaching me about signs, taking me out. How do you do this? How do you campaign? But a very, very good gentleman. Congratulations to you and your dear wife. She's wonderful. And thank you, sir. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Chute – Thank you, Mr. President. I too want to wish Colton and Jeff the very best in the future. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Cost – I'd like to thank Colton and Jeff for their service to the City of Newark. I'd also like to say I thought the streets were phenomenal. I (inaudible) the streets were that good after that big of a storm. So, thank you to the street department. Thank you, David. I'll pass.

Mr. Houser – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll just thank Colton and Jeff for the time they've served. It's been enjoyable to work with you guys and wishing you guys the best. I'm sure you guys will stick around. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. I too want to thank the street department for the great job they did over the weekend with all the snow and getting it cleared. I was out Saturday and Sunday and we had good trips all around, so that was much appreciated. Colton, thank you so much for your time on Council. The last four years has been a pleasure to serve with you. I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors. Mr. Rath, I've had the pleasure of sitting next to you for eight years. We've had a lot of conversations over this time. They've been great. I appreciate all that you've taught me, especially on the front end when I came in eight years ago as far as serving on Council, and sharing that with me and in sharing our many conversations and laughs up here as well. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. I'm proud of you and wish you the best of luck. Thanks for your service. Last but not least, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, want to thank all of those, like the mayor indicated, that are working outside. Street Department did a fabulous job this weekend, primarily because they prepped and they prepared ahead of time and they were ready for it. Same with our police and fire. They were ready for it. I know when it's that cold and you're out there and you're responding and you're doing what you've got to do to get the job done, it's very much appreciated, and I know there's other folks with the water and so on and so forth, especially with this cold weather. We have, oftentimes, issues, so appreciate all of them for what they did this weekend and continue to do in this cold weather this week. 51 on Thursday, so that's the way it goes. I want to also thank the auditor's office for the budget and bringing that forward. They did a lot of work, along with the mayor. It's his budget, and he has a lot of input from his department, and then it funnels through him to the auditor's office to get that together. But in particular, I know the hours that Jackie, Jim, and Ryan put into the budget just to make those numbers crunch and equal, and so greatly appreciate what they have done for us to make that happen. Mr. Rine, I want to congratulate you on the completion of this endeavor in

your life, this chapter, and wish you good fortune into the future. I've appreciated you on council, and you're always going to have a friend in me, so therefore, if there's anything that we can do for you in the future, or we might call on you also, you never know, but do appreciate your service. Thank you very much. Mr. Rath, I want to start out by saying that I appreciate that Jason, Erica, and Jen are able to be here for you. They've been here the entire way. There's so many. And Warren. How many grandchildren do you got?

Mr. Rath – Warren is 1 of 12.

Mr. Marmie - So you can understand me not knowing what that was. Okay, but they've been with you the entire time, the entire 16 years, so it's only fitting that they are here with you today. This is the conclusion of this chapter in your life, and it's 16 years of a novel that you completed just because of all that you've done for the citizens of Newark and for the city itself. There's so much that we can comment on as far as the individual things, but I think it's more beneficial to explain just the gravity of the accomplishment that you have done here. It is just huge, and the city is in a much better place than we were 16 years ago, and that's because of you. It's, again, just one chapter, though, and I know that there's going to be another purpose that you're going to fulfill in the very near future. Whatever you choose to do, you're going to fulfill that purpose. That's just the type of man you are. You're an even better friend, and you're somebody that will never let a friend down. If I needed something and I called, okay I'll be there in 5, I'll be there in 10, however long, however far away you were. It wasn't, "Oh really, now?" No. It was, "When do you need me?" So, again, that's a true friend and somebody that you can count on and I appreciate that greatly and that'll never end, it's still going to continue on. I wish you the greatest of fortune, you have a fortune sitting right out there and you're very blessed and those blessings will continue and I look forward to seeing what's next for you. Thank you very much. And then finally, I just want to wish everybody a very, very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and with that I pass.

Mr. Neely – Thank you, Mr. President. I've said it before, I always have the distinct disadvantage of going after Doug. I will simply thank Mr. Rine for your service to the City and wish you the best moving forward. Mr. Rath, thank you for your service. I wish you the best on your future endeavors. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and with that I will pass.

Mr. Rine - Thank you, Mr. President. First off, I want to start off by saying thank you to the citizens of the 7th Ward for giving me the opportunity to serve the last four years. I feel like I'm a different man from four years ago. I've grown so much. This is the most honorable duty I've ever had the opportunity to serve, flat out. I don't know how I'm going to be able to beat this. Thank you, Beth, for the kind words. I'm going to be running my own, you know, my business has been exploding. I deliver firewood to restaurants and I have like a dozen restaurants right now. So, you know, I just don't want to put too much on my plate. So that's the main reason why I'm not running again. I probably will be moving as well, but I just didn't think it was the most responsible thing to do, you know, to try to start a new family, run the business and council. I just didn't think I could do them all at once. Jeff, being a newbie coming on here is so overwhelming and you made it manageable. The lessons I've learned from you, the friendship I've gained from you, it's just irreplaceable. I just can't put into words, you know, how much I appreciate you as a friend and as a colleague. And everyone here, you know, grade-A colleagues, you guys are just, you know, teammates, team players, and our team is the City, you know, it isn't Republican or Democrat. I have faith in my replacement that she will keep it that way. If not, you guys let me know. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Rath – Thank you, Mr. President. I did have a prepared speech. I was going to talk about each and every one of you. I had to, again, I apologize for my voice. How appropriate that I have laryngitis on my last night here. I had a 15-minute speech prepared, and Mr. Harris reminded me that the Steelers are

playing tonight, so I'll cut it a little bit shorter. To my fellow council members, Mayor Hall, I am going to get through this, Auditor Ryan Bubb, to our Law Director, Trish Moore, to our Service Director, David Rhodes, Safety Director, Tim Hickman, to the citizens of Newark, I'm not going to get through this. This is a great speech. I'm just not going to get through it.

President Harris – Do you want Jen to read it for you?

Jen Rath - Thank you, President. To my fellow council members, to Mayor Hall, to Auditor Ryan Bubb, to our Law Director, Tricia Moore, and our Service Director, David Rhodes, to Safety Director, Tim Hickman, to the citizens of the City of Newark, and to my family and friends who are here tonight, thank you for being part of this moment. Sixteen years ago, I took an oath to serve the City of Newark as a member of City Council. I accepted that responsibility with humility, and after all these years, that sense of gratitude has never faded. Tonight marks my final meeting as a councilman, and it has truly been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve this community. Over the past 16 years, we've seen progress, faced challenges, and made decisions that will shape Newark long after we leave these seats—from improving our roads and infrastructure, to supporting local businesses and community programs, and from advancing public safety initiatives to investing in parks and recreational facilities. I have seen firsthand how hard work, collaboration, and dedication can transform a city. Not every issue was easy, and not every vote was unanimous, but every decision was made with the shared goal of doing what we believed was best for our city. I am proud of the work we've accomplished together. To my fellow council members, past and present, thank you for your dedication, your thoughtful debate, and your commitment to public service. I've learned so much from each of you, and I am grateful for the professional friendships we have built. To Mayor Hall, thank you for your leadership and your willingness to work collectively with Council in service of Newark. And to our Law Director, Tricia Moore, thank you for your guidance, professionalism, and steady counsel over the years. Your expertise has helped ensure that our decisions were not only well intended, but well grounded. To our Service Director, David Rhodes, your friendship, guidance, and professionalism are appreciated more than you could ever know. Without your steady leadership and dedication, I am not sure we would be where we are today. I also want to take a moment to recognize our Safety Director, Tim Hickman, and our safety forces—police, fire, and emergency medical personnel. Your bravery, dedication, and tireless commitment to protecting our community often goes unseen, but they do not go unappreciated. You put yourselves in harm's way every day to keep our families and neighbors safe, and for that, the City of Newark owes you a great debt of gratitude. I also want to recognize our city employees and department heads. Your professionalism, hard work, and commitment keep Newark running smoothly every single day. The success of this city reflects your dedication, much of which happens behind the scenes. You make it possible for Council to do its work, and for that, I am deeply grateful. To the citizens of Newark, thank you for the trust you placed in me over the years. Thank you for your emails, phone calls, conversations, and yes—even your disagreements. Your engagement strengthens our local government and reminds us who we serve. Your voices have guided me, challenged me, and inspired me. Reflecting on these 16 years, one thing is clear: public service is not about the titles, the votes, or the meetings. It's about the people. It's about neighbors helping neighbors, leaders listening to their community, and working together to create a city we can all be proud of. I leave Council humbled by what we've accomplished, inspired by what is yet to come, and grateful beyond measure for the chance to serve. Most importantly, I want to thank my wife, Jen, and my family and friends. Your patience, encouragement, and support made these years of service possible. Public service requires sacrifice, and I am deeply grateful for the love, understanding, and unwavering belief you have shown me. As I step away from Council, I do so knowing Newark's best days are still ahead. I am proud of what we built together, confident in those who will continue this

work, and forever grateful for the opportunity to serve this remarkable city. Thank you. It has been the privilege of my life.

Mr. Rath – I have to finish with this. With over \$300 million dollars worth of development going on in the 3rd Ward, I feel confident that the 3rd Ward will continue to be the most desirable ward in all of Newark. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Thank you for all the kind words. Thank you for the friendship and the association. I appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you. With that, I will pass.

President Harris - I want to remind everybody coming up on January the 19th is the Martin Luther King breakfast. The speaker is going to be much better than it was last year. December 29th, at 4:30, right here in the chamber is going to be the swearing in ceremony for Council and a couple other people here in the City. It's open to the public, so bring your friends and family. Colton, thank you for your service. I know it takes a lot of time and effort and I appreciate all you've done. Like Mr. Marmie said, never know, we may have to be calling you for something. Mr. Rath, I probably knew Mr. Rath longer than anybody. We go way back into the 90s. Jason, I coached Jason in baseball, him and my son. I asked your dad if you were coming tonight and he said, no, Jason won't be here tonight. So yeah, I knew Jeff way back in the 90s. That seems like a long time ago. Jeff, thank you for your service and all that you've done for the city. Good luck to you in your next adventure. I'd like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year. Our next meeting is January the 5th.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council