COUNCIL MINUTES

March 16, 2026
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL – Mr. Chute, Mr. Cost, Ms. Ingold, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lemley, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Ms. Newman, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

INVOCATION – Ms. Bline

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Calliope Kimbler, 5th grade, Cherry Valley Elementary

CAUCUS
Mr. Marmie - Mr. President, with Mr. Houser stepping down from Council and then a new appointment, I want to introduce the new committee assignments. The only thing that has changed is that Mr. Lemley has taken the positions that Mr. Houser holds.
Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed by acclamation

Mr. Marmie - Mr. President, we need to invoke Rule 11 on Resolution 26-17, and I'm in agreement with invoking Rule 11.
Mr. Cost – As am I.
By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Ms. Ingold, Mr. Barker
26-17 A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AND ADOPT A POLICY AND PROTOCOL FOR A CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM THAT SAFEGUARDS THE CITY OF NEWARK'S, DATA, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AS REQUIRED BY OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 9.64 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost
Mr. Marmie – Mr. President, I make a motion to go into executive session for our law director to discuss some information on this. The folks present: we want the administration, as far as the mayor and his cabinet, the law director, all council members, and Auditor Bubb.
Motion to go into executive session by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 10-0
Motion to come out of executive session by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 10-0
Motion to adopt passed 10-0

MINUTES of March 2, 2026, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Ms. Ingold, Passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS
Mayor Hall – Reappointing Bob Klingensmith to the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority Board of Directors. His new four-year term will begin June 1, 2026 and will expire May 31, 2030.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
Finance - **Received and filed without objection**
Street - **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 February 28, 2026 - **Received and filed without objection**

Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator – Income Tax Revenue Reports for the period ending February 28, 2026 - **Received and filed without objection**

COMMUNICATIONS
Mayor Hall - PROCLAMATION – Newark Ice Hockey Association is celebrating its 30th Year Anniversary - **Received and filed without objection**
Mayor Hall - I'll ask Lindsey Brighton and (inaudible) to step up with me. Lindsey is our stormwater coordinator, but she's here tonight in a different role, as you can see here. Kind of hard to believe 30 years of ice hockey to start with, which is really neat. This is phenomenal. I'd like to share a proclamation. Whereas Newark Ice Hockey Association is proudly celebrating its 30th year anniversary. Newark Ice Hockey Association teaches the youth of Central Ohio sportsmanship, fair play, respect for coaches, referees, players, and fans through the sport of ice hockey. Ice hockey creates opportunities for players to develop team-building skills, competitiveness, and the emotion of winning and, of course, losing. All of which are lessons to prepare children and young adults for life. Ice hockey is a popular family recreational activity. The City of Newark is fortunate to have the Lou and Gibb Reese Ice Arena as such a wonderful facility for families to enjoy, and that it really is. A 30th anniversary dinner celebration will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at Venue 901, 1355 East Main Street, beginning at 5 p.m. Now, therefore, I, Jeff Hall, Mayor of the great City of Newark, do hereby honor and commend Newark Ice Hockey Association for their outstanding commitment and service to our great community and congratulate them on this major milestone.
Lindsey Brighton, Storm Water Coordinator - Just come see us at the rink. We have all ages, from mini-mites, which is like four or five-year-olds, up to adult league, women's league, women's only league on Sunday nights. I play in that. It's fun. We are happy to have everybody there. We're a non-profit organization, and we're celebrating 30 years.

Scott Brown, State Auditor's Office - Presentation of The Auditor of State Award with Distinction to the City Auditor's Office - **Received and filed without objection**
Scott Brown, State Auditor's Office - I appreciate a few moments on your agenda this evening to celebrate another job well done. My name is Scott Brown, and I am the Auditor of State Keith Faber's Central Ohio Liaison. To you, that means I'm your Customer Service Representative. To some of you, that may mean you're looking at a calendar I delivered here in December, but I only did 1,500 of those this year. I take pride in my job that I can navigate our 800-member staff in a manner that allows your challenges to be addressed as quickly as possible. Auditor Faber asked that I attend on his behalf to present the Auditor of State Award with distinction to the City of Newark. Our office oversees 6,000 clients statewide and conducts 4,200 annual audits. This award places your organization in the top 4% of these 4,200 engagements or 1 out of 168 entities to receive this award statewide. The Auditor of State Award is presented to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a financial

audit that meet the following criteria defined as a clean audit report. The entity must file financial reports with the auditor's office by a statutory due date without extension on a GAAP accounting basis and prepare a comprehensive annual financial report. The audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, uniform guidance findings, or other question costs. Breaking through the audit speak, Auditor Faber would like me to recognize the council, the administration, the finance department that have done an outstanding job watching over every dollar. This award represents all of your staff and employees' hard work as they work constantly to attain accounting excellence. What this truly means is across your entire organization you have the people and the processes in place that understand fiscal accountability. We especially want to recognize Auditor Ryan Bubb for his outstanding leadership and commitment to protecting the finances of your organization. So on behalf of Auditor of State Keith Faber, I'd like to present the City of Newark the 2025 Auditor of State Award with distinction. Congratulations.
Ryan Bubb, City Auditor - Mr. President, if I could have just one minute. Thank you. Thank you, Scott, and Auditor Faber, and thank you to my staff. Without them this isn't possible. We just have a wonderful staff up there. Jim Weisent, Jackie Williams, Deborah Cain, Rhonda Wilfong, Jessica Reed, and Kenda Mentor. Our staff has been just a multifaceted team, day in, day out. So much back-office support for the City. Between just putting this budget together, forecasting, purchase orders, paying bills, payroll, forecasting, day in, day out, we do it. Fuel cards. We just really appreciate the cooperation of the administration, fire chief, police chiefs, all the department heads, city council, all making good decisions. Again, thank you, Scott, and we're going to continue to win awards. Every year we've been in office, we've brought this award home for you, and we'll continue to do that. Thank you.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING
By: Ms. Ingold, Mr. Cost, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline, Mr. Neely
26-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE AND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF *JUDICIAL,* DIVISION OF *LICKING COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURTS* BY *ABOLISHING ONE COURT SECURITY BAILIFF POSITION CLASSIFICATION, ABOLISHING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION OF ASSISTANT JURY COMMISSIONER, AND ABOLISHING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION OF SMALL CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR* while *CREATING ONE ADDITIONAL BAILIFF POSITION CLASSIFICATION and ONE MAGISTRATE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION CLASSIFICATION* and SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE
Motion to adopt by Ms. Ingold, Second by Mr. Barker
Motion to table by Ms. Ingold, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 9-1 (Marmie)

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING
By: Ms. Newman, Mr. Cost, Mr. Barker, Ms. Ingold
26-10 AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A SIXTEEN (16) FOOT WIDE ALLEY AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF THE WEHRLE ADDITION, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 223 OF THE LICKING COUNTY PLAT RECORDS; SAID ALLEY IS LOCATED BETWEEN SEROCO AVENUE AND DANIEL AVENUE, EAST OF FORRY STREET. **Held until 4.6.26**

By: Mr. Barker, Ms. Ingold

26-11 AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN TERRITORY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING APPROXIMATELY 0.9 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED IN NEWARK TOWNSHIP, TO THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Barker, Second by Mr. Neely

Mr. Barker – Mr. President, this is an emergency. This is an annexation and we need to pass this and I'll be supporting this as there is some legal contracts in this timeline.

Motion passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

26-08 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. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Mr. Neely, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Ms. Ingold

26-09 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR AN AWARD OF FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 FUNDING UNDER THE OHIO EMS TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

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

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

26-11 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES NOW OWNED BY THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AS ITS AGENT FOR INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, DISTRIBUTION, AND RESEARCH

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

26-14 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. **Held until 4.6.26**

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

26-15 Exp A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

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

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Danielle Quick, 548 Apt. A, Seroco Ave. – I just have a question. You guys were talking about the alleyway, one of the first ordinances. What was happening with that alley? I didn't hear. I just was curious.

Ms. Bline – I'll address it after the meeting.

President Harris – She will get with you after the meeting.
Mr. Bubb - Thank you. Just two items this evening. I want to welcome Mr. Lemley. Jim, I've known you for years. Great guy. First Ward resident for many years. A lot of business experience. Great addition. Welcome. Thank you. I want to thank the first responders for this past weekend. It was a crazy weekend weather-wise, and all the folks, too, that came in and worked overtime. David rounded up the troops and did a nice job this weekend, so thank you to everybody. I know at one time, I think there were 72 fire calls at once on the CADS. It was a crazy weekend, and everybody stepped up. I know it's still an ongoing process, but both chiefs, I want to thank you and your departments for that, along with David in the Service Department. Thank you.
Brandon Metzger, Fire Chief - Thank you, Mr. President, members of Council. Mr. Auditor, thank you for the segue into what I came up here to discuss with you guys tonight. Just a brief sit-rep: as you guys were aware, some pretty significant weather blew in on Friday. I just want to take an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank all of our firefighters. Hard work, professionalism. In a span of less than 24 hours, we responded to 79 calls. Without getting into the archives of the history of the agency, we believe that that is the record for calls taken and responded to in 24 hours. A lot of things occurred in that 24-hour span, but more significantly, the commercial fire we had in the east end of Newark. Anytime we have severe weather come in, call volume escalates, and a majority of those calls require multiple units and multiple firefighters in order to be able to safely and effectively mitigate and provide some resolve. We appreciate the support of our mutual aid partners that came into the city to assist us. Thank you to the Newark Police Department for their support as well. I want to take an opportunity to acknowledge the dispatchers at the 911 center. Everything truly starts and kind of stops and culminates with everything they're doing, and their ability to maintain calm, clear communication on the radio is extremely important for what we do. But having said all that, I want to take this opportunity to remind you all that we need to continue to invest in our safety forces, specifically our firefighters. We do not have enough units on the street, we do not have enough firefighters on staff, and we need to continue to make sure that we're all working together to find opportunities to make that happen for the future. This is not to overshadow the hard work that the firefighters of the Newark Fire Department do every day, but this, again, is just another example of when we have severe weather, how the situations just escalate and completely absorb every resource we have. So, with that, I thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS
Tricia Moore, Law Director – Thank you. I want to congratulate Ryan Bubb and his staff for this awesome award, for all the work that they put in. I know we regularly call the auditor's office and speak to them about a variety of issues, and they're always very professional and always help us get the problem solved. So, thank you for all your work. Also, thank you to Chief McKee and Chief Metzger for all of their work during this storm incident, on top of what you guys do every day. I know my office sees a lot of what you guys do every day, and we appreciate your work. You know, while most of us can go inside our homes and nestle in and settle down for the evening, you guys have to run out into that weather, and we thank you for all your work. With that, I'll pass.
Mayor Hall – I'd like to welcome Jim, too, into the First Ward on council. I think you'll find it quite rewarding and beneficial and enjoyable in so many ways. There are great ways you can help this wonderful community and help out, and we've got a great council here. Congratulations to Ryan and his team. We work with the auditors all the time, obviously, and with my accounting background, I have a little extra respect for accountants that keep the numbers straight. It's the base of everything we do in so many ways, and they do put out quite a bit on a small team up there, so this is good stuff.

I want to congratulate Newark High School boys varsity basketball for being Division I regional runner-up. I'm sure they're not jumping up and down happy. They had only two losses during the regular season, and they got to avenge both those losses, which, in postseason, one they won against Reynoldsburg, and the second one, Hilliard-Bradley, which they couldn't quite pull off. But Division I is a tough, tough division. There are some big players and tough players in the Columbus region and beyond, and they've just done a phenomenal job, I think, and had a great, great year, so kudos to them in so many ways. They deserve that. Also, the governor gave an announcement last week, and I'll just read it: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce director today announced 109 Ohio schools have earned the Governor's Science of Reading Champions Award for 2026. The Governor's Science of Reading Champions Awards recognize schools that stand out for their commitment to the science of reading and their work using this method to improve student engagement and literacy outcomes. They know it's the best way to teach children how to read. There is one school in Licking County that did that, and it happens to be in our borders, and it's Ben Franklin Elementary, and I'd really like to congratulate Dena Cable-Miller, who's the principal there, and her staff, who just do a wonderful job. I've been out there many times over the years. They really engage, but I think there are only 109 schools in this entire state, and only one in this area at all, Ben Franklin, so that's a big, big award. The weekend, we've touched on it a little bit. It was pretty busy, and I stay on a scanner and listen a lot and stay engaged. I was down at Station One for a little bit and different things. It's just amazing. I was at the fire on East Main. This is exactly why we have outstanding, great safety forces for times like this, and the mutual assistance that we provided and also received. There were two commercial fires at the time within that 24-hour period that the chief talked about, and I would just tell you, wow, I've never seen it like that. Very interesting, very, very unbelievable, but wires down, and people call 911, and someone comes, and that's good stuff. Surely P.D. backing that up in many ways. Thank you to the professional police and fire that we have that handle those calls and take it right and put our citizens somewhat at ease. I think there were over 2,000 workers through AEP working on cables and things. You know, the courthouse on the north side of the square was dark for a couple of days, and that came back up for Sunday, which was nice. But there was more damage than it kind of looked like. Also, kudos to our street department. All hands on deck there removing trees that have fallen. Like anything else, if a tree takes down a line, you've got to get the tree out of there before the line. There's a lot of work to it, so thank you to the citizens for their patience as they went through this. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Chute – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like to welcome Mr. Lemley. Glad to have you. And also congratulate the auditor's office for their good work, as always, and a heartfelt thank you to our safety forces for all your hard work this past weekend. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Cost – Jim, welcome. Glad to have you here. Congratulations. Thank you, police and fire. We truly appreciate it. And the auditor's office, that's to be commended. I'll pass.

Ms. Ingold – Among all the other thank-yous that we've heard were the same things: Mr. Lemley, welcome. Glad to have you here. And your wife, whom I know. But I'd like to add a couple things. One is, I have the privilege to know Bob Klingensmith. The mayor just renewed his service to the Port Authority, and he's awesome. He really cares about our community and what he's doing. And, Mayor Hall, thank you so much for approving his reappointment. Lastly, I want to talk about the Licking County Foundation. Friday morning, there were probably over 200 people at the hotel talking about housing and what happens here. But most importantly, what came from that meeting are a couple of things. One, the foundation is now going to support financially five, what we call navigators, in our community. Five agencies to help support those who need help to find whatever it is they need help for, whether it's a home, whether it's finances, whether it's mental health. There are going to be

people there now to help them with an individual plan to help direct them. So, I thank the foundation for that. I also thank the foundation for the $10,000 that they gave to HOME Court. I thank the foundation for doing good work in this community, and that's what their mission is. So, I thank them. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. Jim, welcome to Council. Glad to have you here. It will be a rewarding experience for you. Also, congratulations to the auditor's office, Auditor Bubb and his team, for bringing home another award for us. We're proud of that. And finally, thank you to our fire and police departments for all the hard work you put in over the weekend. You always put in, especially over the past weekend. And, Chief, I appreciate you giving us solid numbers as far as, you know, 79 calls in 24 hours. It gives us perspective on what you guys faced this past weekend and the work that you had to do. So, thank you for that. We're proud of you. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Lemley - I thank you for the opportunity for this position to be taken. It's going to be a new experience for me. No doubt about it. From heating and cooling, it's a big difference. I'm up for a challenge. I like challenges of learning and meeting people and the public. I'm proud to be in service to Newark. With that, thank you.

Mr. Marmie - Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for April 6th.
I first want to congratulate Auditor Bubb for what he continues to do. When the Auditor's Office has done this for so many years, it's almost an expectation. It's a great thing that they've done. It is not something to take lightly. It takes hard work and commitment year after year. But with his leadership and his team, they just continue to do it over and over again, and we appreciate it. I want to welcome Mr. Lemley, also, to Council. There's going to be a lot to learn, but I just know, by meeting you and also by the things that folks have said about you, those who know you really well, I look forward to serving with you. So, welcome. I want to thank the safety forces and also the Service Department, Street Department, and everybody that was working during the storm and after the storm with cleanup. I know it's still ongoing today and will continue. I appreciate the safety forces. That fire, just a great job by our Newark Fire Department in taking care of that situation. I also want to comment that St. Patrick's Day happened downtown in the Arcade this past Saturday. It was a tremendous event. It had cloggers, bagpipes, and an acoustic Big Bad Stache. I think there was green beer involved and some other things, but it was just very well attended. The community had a great time, and I look forward to more of that in the Arcade. The last thing I want to comment on, I need to do something this evening. The manner in which 26-09 was tabled, it'll die because it was not tabled to a date certain or back to a committee. So, it has to be acted upon either tonight or at the next meeting; otherwise, it dies, and that legislation is no longer in existence. Therefore, my plan is to bring it back on the table and table it the correct way so that it will not die, and it will still be legislation that is enforced. I couldn't amend it because it's not amendable when somebody tables it. So, just to let you know why I'm doing what I'm doing and why I voted no, it's because it would die, okay. So, with that, I want to make a motion to bring Ordinance 26-09 off of the table.

Motion to bring Ordinance 26-09 off the table by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Chute, Motion passed 10-0

Motion to table Ordinance 26-09 back to committee by Mr. Marmie, Second by Ms. Bline, Motion passed 10-0

Thank you. With that, I pass.

Mr. Neely – Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to thank our first responders for their work over the weekend and all the time. It's a 24-hour profession. We have great ones, so we appreciate you for that. I would congratulate Auditor Bubb for his award and his staff. They do a great job. Mr. Lemley, welcome. And finally, I will call a Rules Committee for April 6th.

Ms. Newman – Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Lemley, welcome. We're thrilled to have you. To our first responders, again, thank you so much, and thank you for the exact numbers on what had happened. I think this is a stark reminder that emergencies take a lot of different forms, and this was a reminder of what that can look like. And, you know, guaranteeing that someone can be there when something happens, because I think for a lot of folks, Friday got very scary very quickly. So, thank you for your response on that. Mr. Bubb, congratulations on your award. He's gone now, but it is quite an impressive feat for that to continue to happen. I think it's exceptionally important at this point in our city's time. I also want to thank Mr. Fox and the Water Department. We're working together to get information out to 7th Ward residents about some of the upcoming changes within our neighborhood about tree removal and the stormwater sewer line separation project. So, we're going to be working together on some communications for that. I would encourage us, as an entity, to keep talking about how we're going to communicate over the next several years with all the residents regarding these changes. It's going to be something felt not only by individuals living in the ward, but by people who travel through it. And I think that's everyone here and everyone listening. So, I just want to continue to enhance communications on that point. And with that, I will pass.

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. It's always kind of nice to go towards the end because most everything has already been said. But I would like to, first of all, call a Service Committee meeting for April 6th. Jim, welcome. I know we got to spend a couple of hours together getting you oriented to Council, so I'm looking forward to serving with you here these next four years. We really appreciate your service. Auditor Bubb and his staff are just fantastic, and I want to congratulate them. Fire Department, Police Department, our Service Departments great job as always. We appreciate it. Even in the midst of fires that the Fire Department was working to handle, the Police Department had the stabbing on East Main Street, which I was told was pretty tragic. Hopefully, that gentleman is going to make it. So, thank you to all of them for how professional they are in keeping our citizens safe.

I want to congratulate Treasurer Feightner on the birth of his triplets on Sunday. So, congratulations to him. He and his wife, Taylor, welcomed two baby boys and a little girl. Congratulations and the last I heard, everybody's doing great. That's a lot of babies at once. Finally, I want to congratulate, as the 5th Ward Council Member, the Newark Ice Hockey Association. I travel Sharon Valley Road almost every day, and you can definitely tell when it is ice hockey season because it is packed. It is a great facility that we have, and it probably brings in some good bed-tax dollars for the City to utilize. So, we appreciate their 30 years here in our community. With that, I pass.

Ms. Bline - Welcome, Mr. Lemley. Welcome, neighbor. I know we're going to be working together on many projects in the future. So, it was nice to meet your wife as well. Congratulations to the Auditor's Office, great work. It's so nice to be able to say that we have one of the greatest Auditor's Offices in the state. Congratulations again. Way to go, Wildcats! Let's go, Cats! That was a tough season. I love basketball and am really proud to call them our own. Great job. I just want to thank the first responders, and thank you for that data. That's so important. It brings clarity and helps underscore the importance of, as Ms. Newman said, what happens in a crisis. Data has a way of bringing reality before us with extra clarity, so I appreciate that. I'd also like to thank all the rest of the first responders, Director Rhodes, and the Street Department. They came out to be foresters. That's a tough transition at the last moment. So, I appreciate them very much. And then there were many neighbors who reached out to help one another as well. It was so encouraging to see that. They didn't wait. They did what they could. I was messaged. There were some citizens who couldn't attend this meeting tonight, and they would like to thank NPD for responding so well to service calls that they had made. The officers, as I said, did a fantastic job mediating their requests. So, thank you. We appreciate it. I have a

special shout-out: the businesses in south Newark are really vital to our community, and it's important to recognize those that make a difference by making an extra effort to improve the area. Ashcraft Machine and Supply deserves that. They've done an outstanding job for the Wilson Street community in these past few weeks, and I appreciate them so much. So, again, thank you, Mr. Ashcraft, and thank you to the employees there. Thank you, sir.
President Harris – Welcome, Jim, and I look forward to working with you. Please don't bring your wife to any more meetings. This is the only one she can come to. Tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day. I wish everybody a happy St. Patrick's Day.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council