

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
October 7, 2024

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on October 7, 2024, following the Finance Committee with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath - Chair
Dustin Neely – Vice Chair
Bill Cost Jr.
Beth Bline
Bradley Chute

We wish to report:

1. **Resolution No. 24-84** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENT PERSONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 WITH THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tricia Moore, Law Director – We do this every year. It's so that if someone is charged in the Newark codified ordinance, the Licking County will reimburse for attorneys' fees for people who are indigent and can't afford legal counsel. So, we have to do this contract with the commissioners every year so that we can have the funding for those individuals to obtain legal counsel.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Chute, Second by Ms. Bline, Motion passed 5-0

2. **Ordinance No. 24-38** 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

Director Moore - So this is the yearly legislation that we do that any changes that we've made to the codified ordinance and legal, updates them and this is the legislation to put that through for their update.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Cost, Second by Ms. Bline, Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Rath - One question I do have. Both of these have the emergency clause on them. Can you explain why?

Director Moore - I think that we typically do the emergency clause to get them through before the end of the year. So that's the way we received it from and Amy, I'm not sure, Amy provides us with that legislation and I think every year they put the emergency clause on it to get it through.

Mr. Rath – Okay.

3. **Resolution No. 24-87** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWARK FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND\OR CONSTRUCTION OF LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT #6 AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN.

Brandon Fox, Water Administrator - Good evening. This is number six of we're expecting 12 lead service line projects. We're about halfway through. So, this project has already been approved. We submitted this last year to OWDA. This is just getting your approval to actually move forward with it. Just as a reminder we did qualify again for this loan. It's 53 percent principal forgiveness, so it's basically 53 percent free, 47 percent we have to pay back and at zero percent interest for 20 years. It's a really good deal for us and they want to see these projects move forward. We're expecting this to be a three and a half million-dollar project, and we're going to anticipate about 900 more services to be replaced with this money.

Mr. Rath - On projects one through five, I know at one point in time you said you were having a hard time with compliance or participation. How has that been? Has that changed?

Mr. Fox - A little bit, yeah. We changed the way we bid the projects, and now the contractors are out there knocking on doors and we're requiring them, like the last project we had, out of 500 services that the contractor is doing they were required to get about 350 signed agreements on their own, and so they're getting better results because they're out there working. The neighbor says, hey come do mine. So, it's been improved, but yeah, we can always use more. There's still a lot of people we knock on the doors and they don't want to do it, so just speak to that a minute. If we try to replace a customer's galvanized service line, and we try three times, then it falls back on the customer if there's ever a problem in the future. So that's the requirement the EPA puts forth that we have to try three times, and then we can basically say it's on the customer to replace that line.

Mr. Rath - So when these contractors are getting agreements with the customers, with our residents now, if they sign that agreement there is no cost to them whatsoever, is that correct?

Mr. Fox - Correct.

Mr. Rath - Okay. Is there a risk as far as the resident goes?

Mr. Fox - Very little. The contractor is required to repair the sidewalk, repair the grass, repair any damage that they do on the house. You know if they have to core a new hole through the wall, they're required to repair that, all the internal plumbing. Occasionally we will have issues, but I would say out of the 1,500 we've done, it's I'm going to say less than 20 or 30 people

we've had to go back and redo issues. But yeah, the contractors have been very responsive. It's still on the City to get that resolved, yeah.

Mr. Rath - When the contractors are trying to make contact with the residents, are they leaving notices at the door?

Mr. Fox - Yeah, they're leaving notices and knocking on the door if someone's home. If not, they'll call, they'll leave a door tag for them to return the call back to the to the contractor or to our office, to the water office.

Mr. Rath - So they can either sign an agreement with the contractor, or they can go online to the Newark Water Department website and register there as well?

Mr. Fox - Correct, correct. The online option is the easiest, Beth, that we're recommending. If anybody wants to do it, go on Newark's website and type in LEAD, L-E-A-D, and it'll take you right to the survey, to our lead service line survey. You can fill that out online. It takes no more than a minute. You put your address in, information, and then you get an email response that you've been signed up, and we get it as well at our water office, and then we'll get you on the list for replacement. You can also come to the office and fill out a paper form if you'd like.

Mr. Rath - Has there been any stories about this in the newspaper, local paper, local radio? Anybody have any interest in talking about the things that we're doing for residents in Newark?

Mr. Fox - I'd be interested in it, but I have not to this point, yeah.

Mr. Rath - Fair enough. All right, thank you. Any other questions or comments for the committee or the audience?

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Chute, Second by Ms. Bline, Motion passed 5-0

4. **Resolution No. 24-88** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR THE RACCOON CREEK – CHERRY BEND SLOPE REPAIR PROJECT.

Brian Morehead, Chief Engineer - Yes, sir. This is a piece of legislation. When we were going through our checklist to award the project, we realized that we didn't get a resolution passed by Council for this one. So, we're kind of backtracking on the advertising part of the legislation, but we still have not awarded the bid. And this is for, as we said, the Raccoon Creek-Cherry Bend Slope Repair Project. So, we'd ask that you'd pass this on. And when this is passed by Council, then we'll move forward with awarding the bid.

Mr. Rath – Are you okay with not expediting it?

Mr. Morehead - Yes, we just need to let the contractor know that.

Mr. Rath - Okay. Any questions from the committee? Questions from the audience?

Motion to send to full Council by Ms. Bline, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 5-0

5. **Resolution No. 24-89** Major rehabilitation of pavement; replacement of composite pavement and construction of additional general use lanes. Bridge and culvert maintenance work to be completed within project area.

Mr. Morehead - This is an ODOT project. They'll be doing some pavement resurfacing repairs. Basically, for the city of Newark, it is the very west end of State Route 16. Basically, from about a 10th of a mile east of Thornwood Crossing to our west corp. line. So, through the Cherry Valley, the old Cherry Valley intersection area. It's a very short half mile section of State Route 16 pavement. And the rest of their project will be moving westward to Route 37.

Mr. Rath - Probably have a completion date of August.

Mr. Morehead - I don't know what the completion date of that is, honestly.

Mr. Rath - Any questions from the committee? Questions from the audience?

Motion to send to full Council by Ms. Bline, Second by Mr. Neely, Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Rath - I was kidding about the August timeline.

Mr. Morehead - I know.

6. **Resolution No. 24-90** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A NEW MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY FAMILY YMCA TO OPEN AND OPERATE THE HOLLANDER POOL

David Rhodes, Service Director - Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the past, I don't know, 11 plus years the Y's operated the Hollander Pool for us. Last year we didn't open it for a couple different reasons. One of them, we had a lot of construction in the area. This year, just a couple weeks ago, we filled the pool, we ran the pool. Everything works well. I've met with the Y and negotiated a new management agreement. If approved here by this body, then we'll put it into the budget. If approved, then we'll make a final decision at that time whether or not to open the pool this year. We do have some more construction...

Mr. Rath - This year or this coming year?

Director Rhodes - This coming year. We do have some more construction in the area with the bridge there and we'll take that into consideration when we make the final decision. All I'm asking you for is to give me an updated management agreement so we can walk that path.

Mr. Rath - Anything you can do to open that pool would be much appreciated. All right, any questions from the committee? Questions from the audience?

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - In the past, frankly, under the YMCA, the pool's been rather dirty. I was wondering whether there's going to be an improvement in that regard in terms of their management.

Director Rhodes - When we talk with the Y, we'll bring those comments forward.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Neely, Second by Ms. Bline, Motion passed 5-0

Meeting stands adjourned

Jeff Rath -Chair