

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
May 5, 2025

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on May 5, 2025 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. 25-34** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH LAYTON INC., FOR OFF-SITE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS (ROADWAY WIDENING OF WEST MAIN STREET FROM COFFMAN ROAD TO WEST OF BUILDERS DRIVE) AS A RESULT OF THE PROPOSED TRAILHEAD VISTA APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Brian Morehead, Chief Engineer – Thank you. This piece of legislation was put together by our law director's office, has a lot of pertinent information in it. The reasoning why we would like to have it considered by council. Mostly there's four different projects going on out in that neighborhood and being able to waive the bidding on this one would be very helpful in coordinating the timing and the road closures and so forth that go along with the project. So, if there're any questions, I'd be glad to try to answer them. But yeah, that's kind of the essence of this piece.

Mr. Rath - Rather than assume I'm going to ask you for the reason for the emergency clause?

Mr. Morehead - We are hoping to get under construction with that by the end of May, and to be able to do that, we need to have it passed at the following council meeting.

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

2. **Ordinance No. 25-17** AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 170 OBANNON AVENUE, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-198390-00.000 AND PARCEL TAX ID#054-198396-00.000 FROM THAT OF LC LIMITED COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT TO LI LIMITED INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

David Rhodes, Service Director – Thank you, Mr. Chair. As always, I ask that you pass this forward to the Planning Commission, so we can take a public meeting, get a real solid look at

this, come up with an opinion, send it back to council for another public hearing, and then you guys can make a decision.

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

3. **Resolution No. 25-35** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO REPLACE THE UTILITY BILLING SYSTEM FOR THE WATER DIVISION. PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10.02 (D) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, THIS CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DOES NOT REQUIRE COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

Brandon Fox, Water Administrator - Good evening. So, I think I've stated this in the last year, but our utility billing system is used to bill water, sewer, and stormwater. It was purchased in 2006, and we have been maintaining that system with upgrades throughout those years. 2027, Tyler Technologies will stop supporting that software, so we have to do something. So, that something is putting out requests for proposals to evaluate different software to replace this (inaudible) system, and we're going to go through that with committee, selecting the best three, and then out of those three, you know, have them come in, present to us, look at different options. We've already started meeting and trying to determine, you know, what we do good currently, what we need for new system aspects and customer interfaces to make the customer side of it better, because we know it's a challenge for customers. Our lien process, we're looking to improve that as well for customers that fail to pay, and we have to lien those properties. We're looking to improve that process. So, a lot of different things we're hoping to do with this and make some improvements to what we're currently doing, but we're expecting this to be around \$200,000. We've gotten some quotes on some, and they're, you know, anywhere from \$200 to \$1 million. So, we don't need a Cadillac, but we definitely need to improve what we've got. So, hoping for your approval to go forward with that.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Neely, Second by Mr. Cost

Mr. Rath - I know we were in a meeting a few weeks back, and we talked about utilizing some of your registration information. Has that been in the consideration for this new software?

Mr. Fox - So, we are looking from a tax standpoint to help out with registering new customers to make sure that they have accurate information in the tax department. We haven't moved forward with that yet. Well, we moved forward with it. It hasn't gotten off (inaudible) center yet. I actually just talked to Mr. Feightner tonight about that and possibly using our system to be able to link with their CMI system at the tax office to make that more automated. So, yes, that's part of this discussion.

Motion passed 5-0

Meeting stands adjourned

Jeff Rath -Chair