

## Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark, Ohio  
October 6, 2025

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on October 6, 2025 with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath - Chair  
Bill Cost Jr.  
Beth Bline  
Bradley Chute  
Michael Houser sitting in for Dustin Neely

### We wish to report:

1. **Resolution No. 25-67** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, ("CITY") TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL APPROXIMATELY 13,760 BOARD FEET OF TIMBER LOCATED ON PART OR ALL OF PARCEL NUMBERS 054-186632-00.000/054-199158-00.000/054-189192-00.000/054-196074-00.000/054-199152-00.000, AND 055-158602-00.000 LOCATED OFF OF EAST MAIN STREET AND ECOLOGY ROW AND OWNED BY THE CITY IN MADISON TOWNSHIP, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**David Rhodes, Service Director** – Thank you, Mr. Chair. This will be the third time the City has done this in different areas of the city. We have a consultant that goes to these areas for us for which we pay. They tag the trees that would be eligible to be harvested. We do a tree inventory, and from that tree inventory it goes out to bid. We received three bids back on this one. We are just asking for the permission to enter into contract to sell this. We are going to raise about \$17,000. Those dollars are going back to the City's general fund.

**Mr. Rath** – Are any of these trees at risk of falling on people?

**Director Rhodes** – I have not personally seen all of them.

**Mr. Rath** – I noticed that there's an emergency clause. I'm just wondering what that has to do with the health, welfare, safety...

**Director Rhodes** - The emergency clause is because of the time of the year, and we want to get it done prior to the close of the year.

**Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Cost, Second by Mr. Houser**

**Mr. Houser** - More out of curiosity than anything else, how do they estimate the board feet there before they even cut the trees down?

**Director Rhodes** - That's why we employ a professional to look at it, because that's not us.

**Mr. Rath** - That's an estimate, correct?

**Director Rhodes** - Yes, that is correct. It's an estimate.

**Motion passed 5-0**

2. **Resolution No. 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.

**Brian Morehead, City Engineer** - Thank you. Every fall we have the opportunity to apply for The Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvements Grant loan program, and this year we would like to apply for a resurfacing project. We've already budgeted through LCATS and ODOT the initial part of this funding, and to make up a portion of the City's match, we'd like to use the OPWC funding if we are fortunate to be granted that. So, I'd be resurfacing on West Main Street from 4th to 21st, West Main Street from 34th to Coffman Road, South 30th Street from West Main Street to Harris Avenue, East Main Street from East Main Street Bridge out to Madison Avenue, and then Granville Street from Central Avenue to North 21st Street. Depending on how the cost estimates and such come back we may need to cut Granville Street off of there to fit the funding that we would have available. Mainly funded with ODOT and federal funds and I ask that you pass this on to Council.

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

3. **Resolution No. 25-69** A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATES FOR THE STORMWATER UTILITY SERVICE CHARGE AS AUTHORIZED BY CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

**Brandon Fox, Water Administrator** – Good evening. Mr. Morehead and Lindsey are here to help me if I have any questions or if you have any questions I can't answer, but I threw a few notes here and give you a little background for those that are not aware of the stormwater utility. The stormwater utility was created in 2005 and that's what this legislation is, adjusting some rates that were modified in 2016. That was last time that rates have been adjusted for the stormwater utility. The last rate increase was in 2016 and that was for 15 cents a year for eight years, so we have not had any rate increase on our stormwater utility since January of 2023. Last year, kind of looking at our overall revenue and expenses and future projects that we need to complete as part of the stormwater work, we hired CDM Smith to conduct a stormwater rate analysis. That stormwater rate analysis basically wanted to evaluate current and future revenue, evaluate current operation and maintenance expenses and current and future capital improvement debt that are projects that may be funded through cash and or debt. Then also evaluate rate adjustments needed to fund the current expenses as well as fund future stormwater projects. So, in order to determine the required revenue, the future stormwater projects were categorized into high, medium, and low priority and that's what you see on the on the pamphlet that I presented to you. Total over 10 years, well the total project need is about 42 million dollars for identified stormwater projects that are currently known to be a problem within the city and we need to complete. The high priority projects were estimated about 12 million dollars. The medium priority projects were at 42 million and the low priority was at 21 million. I misspoke. The 42 million was for the medium. So, in order about 62 million dollars of total project need. As part of that, the revenue required to complete some of those projects, we evaluated five different rate alternatives and so I can share. I'm just presenting a little bit. I can share the entire report with anybody that wants to see it, but basically out of those five rate alternatives, there was a continued of the 15 cent per year increase, there was an adjustment where we increased it 50 cents a month. One of the evaluations was kind of up and down based on when those capital debt service costs would hit the city, and we kind of settled on what we're recommending. The fourth alternative, which is a four and a half percent rate increase on the stormwater for 10 years. What that does is that provides about a hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year of additional revenue for the stormwater utility and that helps us fund a high priority and

the medium priority projects. So over 10 years we're anticipating being able to complete all six of the high priority projects, which on your information sheet there, South 2nd Street levee project, down the river, Cherry Valley Road, Buckeye Corridor area for Wells Avenue, Buckeye and Coffman and then, I'm sorry, Steel Avenue. That's a total of about twelve to thirteen million dollars as well as several medium priority projects that out of that forty-two million dollars of need we would evaluate those projects over the next ten years and try to fund twelve to fifteen million dollars of those projects. Some assumptions that were taken into place, you know, we're anticipating a four percent inflationary cost. We anticipate some inflationary costs on personnel and operating and maintenance expenses and so all those were taken into account and the four and a half percent rate increase over ten years would theoretically give us enough capital to be able to fund those projects with additional debt through either loans or bonds in the future when those projects would hit. Happy to answer any questions. That's kind of where we are right now. Happy to answer any questions and Lindsey and Brian are here too if you have any questions on specifics of the projects.

**Mr. Rath** – There are a lot of projects. I'm sure there's a lot of details that go along with them.

**Mr. Houser** - You mentioned it's 15 cents now. From a percentage standpoint, what would you equate that to?

**Mr. Fox** - Great question. I put it in there. The four and a half percent rate increase would be 15 cents per month per residential user. So, you're going from seven, I didn't mention that, you're going from currently a current residential house is paying seven dollars and seventy cents a month. If this becomes effective in January 1, it would go to eight dollars and five cents a month. So, it's basically about four dollars and twenty cents per year total of increased cost per normal residential customer. Obviously industrial commercial properties that have bigger impervious areas, it'll impact them higher but that was also taken into account. One other thing was taking into account was just the general growth rate of the city. If somebody builds a new house or a new business, that obviously adds to our revenue because they have normally increased impervious area. So that was all taken into account of just the normal growth of the city as well.

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

Meeting stands adjourned

Jeff Rath -Chair