

October 24, 2022  
Council Chambers  
6:00 P.M.

## COUNCIL AGENDA

### **President Pro Tem Harris called the meeting to order**

ROLL CALL - Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Harris, Ms. Hottinger, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath,

INVOCATION – Mark Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL FOR MEETING AND CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Mayor Jeff Hall has called a special meeting of Newark City Council to convene at 6:00 P.M. on Monday October 24, 2022 to consider

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - President Ellington and Majority Leader Marmie have agreed to use Rule 11 for tonight's meeting.

**By: Mr. Marmie**

**22-102** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, OR ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO RESTORE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC OVER THE SHOWMAN ARCH BRIDGE ON CHERRY VALLEY ROAD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Mayor Jeff Hall** - I'll give just a little bit of background and explain both pieces of legislation this evening. First of all, thank you for coming in on a Monday night that is otherwise unplanned. The bridge closed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, we didn't know until that morning it would happen. Certainly the Engineering Department under Brian and Nick in there have worked really well on this. We had talked about 2 days before that there was a potential it could be closed to one lane and they did a lot of analysis on that, they did a great job. Nick did some traffic scenarios, what would it be if all traffic went one direction with one lane and what would it be the other way or if we got traffic lights. That's what we were possibly anticipating and then ODOT reached out on that morning and said we needed to have the bridge closed by that evening at the end of the day and they wanted it done for sure. The Showman Arch Bridge is unlike any other bridge we have in the City, it's 189 years old, it could last another 189 years, but we don't know that. It's quite unusual, it's one big pour of concrete to be honest with you, it's very

unusual. It was built to handle water, not traffic, 189 years ago you didn't have car traffic around. It has cracks in it as we have known for quite some time, they were looking at it most recently every three months and have studied it much closer than the rest of our other 88 bridges in the City and what they are most concerned with is winter coming and water getting into those cracks and freezing and expanding, obviously it's like any issue you might have with concrete. With that being said, we shut it down that afternoon, we were over at ODOT about a week after that to ask for additional monies and I will say about 14 people from this community went over there in support, County people etc. and congressman Balderson was there, it was a pretty nice show, but no one usually goes to those things, to ask for an additional \$5 million as the new bridge has escalated that much in about a year and a half, steel, concrete, things like that. But, Still that project is doing very well, it's very hard to rush it from where it is now, but usually the rushing is on the front end with some of the planning, financing, things like that, but we're probably ready to go to bid in March with that, with two years probably minimum to get it built, again I say that worker shortage, material shortage and back orders, we can't predict any of that these days, but that's the anticipation. With that being said, having shut the other bridge down, it has caused an immense amount of congestion on that side of town, I think as most everyone has seen, I've had a lot of reports. Probably our roads are the busiest from 3-5 in the afternoon, but obviously first thing in the morning, a lot of people pick their kids up from school these days, so there's a lot of things that go on. We have a lot of compassion for people who do that, they've changed a few things, but again we've got a lot of back-ups. One of our biggest concerns is safety and you have to understand that the hospital is sitting out that way and of course we have a fire department out that way, response times and medics rolling from the western part of the County in the townships to Licking Memorial Health Systems. That bridge handles about 12,000 vehicles a day with about 9% trucks, it was very challenging we were ready to shut some of that truck traffic down, but again they stepped in and shut the bridge down. Brian has done a really great job reaching out and there's a lot of little parts and pieces, what could we do, what was a plan B to open up that direction with maybe a temporary bridge and some different things like that. He got some different ideas and talked to some consultants, you want to be sure they are good ideas. So, at the end of the day, we've been working with a good company called U.S. Bridge, down in Cambridge and the idea would be to suspend a bridge, almost I'll call it for short, an erector set bridge, parts and pieces that can be put together, a full bridge over top of that bridge, above the bridge where it doesn't have any dependency on that bridge and will rest on some pylons and foundations on each end. We all met with some guys out on the bridge today for about an hour because it's getting those foundations in, getting them in the right place, being sure it's good firm ground. So, essentially it

would be about 3 or 4 feet above that bridge there would be some adjoining, we won't call it ramps, the Reddington Road side elevates a little anyway so it's almost a straight there. We anticipate anywhere between 25mph to 35 mph traffic probably, it just depends on how it gets built, see how it is, but full two way traffic without any load limits per say to it, but again we'll look at the whole thing as it gets built. The biggest thing was finding a reputable company that could do it A.S.A.P. you know companies don't sit around and wait for work to do. Our particular bidding process would take months as we do with all the other projects. There's a lot of work going on in this community all those were done through the normal channels. Put a bid package together, send it out, get stuff in, review all those bids and see what's right, narrow it down to 2 or 3, do some interviews, it's a process. With that being said, that would be the second part, 22-103, to waive that bidding process in the sense that it would be an emergency. We did talk with ODOT and that's generally how it's done, emergency status, we have the intentions of asking ODOT for some emergency monies, but they also want to see that we perform on this side, can we front some money that could be replaced, could be, there's no guarantees, but could be replaced with some emergency funds. Then on the other side of that would be waive the bidding process to show it's an emergency. You all are representatives of the electorate out there, the people, with that, that is what we're asking for tonight. We haven't signed on the line yet, we're very close, we've got a solution, but when we can do that we want to roll and get her done A.S.A.P.

**Mr. Houser**- What kind of time frame are we looking at once you've signed?

**Mayor Hall** - It's possible the bridge could be put together and put in place in January, which is an expedited time, really very quick. I can't say that's beginning of January, it could be middle or end, but then they've got to pull source materials for the bridge, amazing with what back orders are, but they said they can do that and with the foundations and things like that, that's still a realistic time.

**Brian Morehead, City Engineer** - It could be February with everything to be completed.

**Mr. Rath** - Mr. Mayor, I just wanted to say, obviously there are a lot of businesses that have been incredibly inconvenienced by this, thousands of people have been inconvenienced, though no fault of your own or ours, we understand, but it is a hardship without a doubt. Then we come to the safety issues that exist due to response times both to the hospital and otherwise. Safety issues just in the neighborhoods with the cut throughs and the traffic and the volume of traffic we've had. I certainly want to take time to commend you in responding to this issue quickly, efficiently and in coming up with a resolution for it. I certainly appreciate that.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Lang**

**Mr. Marmie** - With this approximately \$1.5 million that will be appropriated, it leaves our ARP Funds at \$750,806.72. Well worth the cost for the safety of our citizens and a good use of those funds to allow, in particular, our Fire Department to be able to move quickly and rapidly to locations from there and also to get to the hospital. I know that it's been a problem with the ambulances just because of the traffic just trying to get in and out so, I think it's a great use of those ARP Funds and it's something that's definitely needed, so I'm going to support this.

**Mr. Lang** - Mayor I would like to commend you and the Engineering Department for coming up with what I think is a win, win solution here. I guess I just wanted to make sure I was clear, is there some potential for being able to reuse the material that we're using to construct this? Eventually we'll have Thornwood Crossing completed, can you speak to that?

**Mayor Hall** - I think there's two ways you can go into this, you can rent the bridge and we had some good discussions with ODOT, kudos to Brian for making those relationships over the years and going over there and talking to them a little bit, their lead structural engineer. You can rent them and honestly I don't know how much participation ODOT would give if we don't treat it as an emergency because if you rent then you've got nothing at the end. I understand the costs involved are quite high, \$25,000 a month, pretty high. Then if the other bridge ran late you still keep paying this money out at the end of the day. So, this is investing in a bridge that can be re-used, it's put together in 8 foot sections with a surface of either concrete or asphalt, then it can be taken apart and used at another location, so that's kind of a neat, unique part of that.

**Motion passed 9-0**

**By: Mr. Marmie**

**22-103** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A REPAIR OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO RESTORE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC OVER THE SHOWMAN ARCH BRIDGE ON CHERRY VALLEY ROAD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Barker**

**Mr. Lang** - I guess I'd just like to as the Mayor or Mr. Morehead, what are the other options, I understand the timeline we're under, but how many other companies are out there that could even do this. I just want to get a sense of what the completion is here.

**Brian Morehead, City Engineer** - We compared prices with one other bridge fabricator

and their price was about \$30,000 more for the structure itself. So, we're getting a good value on the structure itself. AS far as the installation and the construction of the foundations and so forth, I picked a contractor that we have experience with, that had some availability. That was the main criteria, there are lots of contractors that could do the work, but who's available right now.

**Mr. Rath** - Mr. Morehead, I don't know if you snuck in or if you were just hiding behind the Mayor when I made the comments earlier, but I wanted to thank you personally.

**Motion passed 9-0**

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - The next meeting will be November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn by Mr. Barker, second by Mr. Labutis , passed by acclamation

**Jeff Harris, President Pro- Tem of Council**