

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 1 , 2023
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Pro-Tem Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Ms Bline

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -Danny Luers, 5th grade, John Clem Elementary

CAUCUS - Motion to excuse Mr. Ellington by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, passed by acclamation

Ms. Hottinger - I will need to abstain on Resolution No. 23-44-A

MINUTES of April 17, 2023, Motion to approve by Mr. Labutis , second by Mr. Barker , passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

There were none this meeting

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - **Received and filed without objection**

Service - **Received and filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

There were none this meeting

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none this meeting

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Shelby Aeby-Hopkins, 45 N. Front St. - thank you for letting me submit my suggestions for the Easy Street Park. Today I stand before you asking you to consider something to bring pride to the Easy Street Park. The park is a much more inviting place to be, just recently there was a blue grass concert and picnic get together. It's great to see these wonderful things happen. The possibilities are endless of what the community uses could be for the park. We have heard so many compliments on how nice, clean and safe the park is. We all would like to find a proper name for the park, so I would like to propose a name of Hope Park for Easy Street Park. Ms. Bline and everybody thinks it fits the park so

well because it has always been a hope for the park to become safe and fun for everyone. I'll do what I can to make sure the park and Newark are the best that it can be. Lastly, I have show my gratitude to the following people because without them the park couldn't be as good as it is now, First and foremost a huge thank you to Ms. Bline because without her none of this would have been possible. Also thank you to Community Services for their help, also thank you to the boy scouts for their help, they did an amazing job and thank you to Shackelfords Disposal for bringing a dumpster for us to have a place to put the trash, Everyone has been amazing with their hard work and sweat, thank you for taking the time to listen to my idea for the park take care and have a good night.

Dr. Sharon Parsons, 829 Éclair Ave, Bexley, Ohio - I have a son that was buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

I bought the plot at Cedar Hill Cemetery because I did not want to have him in a sterile environment. I wanted him in a place that showed warmth. I saw other cemeteries that had flat stones on the ground, I wanted him to be able to have a stone and I wanted his friends who are not all of the Christian faith to be able to come and to honor him in a way according to their own religion. Many of them are Jewish, they come to his stone and they leave a stone or a token. In reading your new policy, I see that anything that falls on the ground now belongs to the cemetery. I can't tell you how upset I am. Not only did I lose my son, but now you're telling me I can't grieve in a manner that I want to grieve in, can't honor my son the way that I want to honor him. When I first heard about this policy, I thought, it must be a money issue. There must be a problem with not having enough money to maintain the cemetery. I'm involved in City politics in Columbus, so, I went onto your website and I found your latest financial document that was posted by your Auditor. In it I was surprised to find that there is a cemetery fund and in it there is more than \$1,400,000. So, I'm a little concerned about why this is happening. Why is the culture of this cemetery being changed without asking anyone. I certainly didn't receive anything in the mail. I received no notice. I had to hear it from other people. Why is this. So, if there is a fund for the cemetery and if this fund contains this much money, I'm a little concerned at how this money is being spent. Do we not have enough maintenance people, are there too many people at the top. As a concerned person, I would like access to the financial records of the Cedar Hill Cemetery for the last 10 years and I would like to see how things are being run. I just don't think this is right and I can't tell you, as a grieving mother, how hard it is to hear that when I come from out of town, I'm not here in town, somebody knocks something off, something gets thrown down, I can't run over there and take care of it. Why are we having to deal with these things, don't you have important things in this City that need to be run?

Thank you. Also, I can leave you my email address, if the financial records are sent electronically, if they need to be dealt with in person, then I will send an agent to pick them up.

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - I've been thinking a lot about the cemetery and about how the public has been treated about this. In teaching in the past when some of my students went through grieving processes we planted trees for them and did a ceremony and had memorial plaques for them it was very uplifting for the students that went through that. When they went on to the next school I had suggested a project where the kids did a memorial walk with footstones that were decorated by the students, it also was a very therapeutic process. At our home we have made a number of footstones as tributes to people that we love and we make them in such a way that you can mow over them, they are embedded into the ground,

some of them have messages, some of them have other markings, some were painted, they've been different things at different times, the thing is they are mowable. There are people that when they buy a very expensive cemetery plot, they don't have a lot of money left that year. They often, we've experienced it ourselves where we couldn't afford a memorial the first year. It's a custom for a lot of people and a lot of religions. I have seen at some of the local funeral parlors where they have pet memorials, they have some at Wilsons. Again they're where you can personalize them and I'd like to suggest that as an option for some people to decorate their things. I think it would be possible to embed things into them. I think it would be possible, when I went to the daffodil show recently in Granville they had one as a tribute to one of the people who had been a volunteer.

Megan Pursley and daughter, 1705 Watson Rd. Apt 4, Heath, Ohio - She just wanted to speak to the cemetery issue in regards to her brother who is buried there. My brother Garrett is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery and yesterday was his 13th birthday. In the past years we would leave like little statues for him that were in the ground and we'd leave a thing that said like I love you brother in there as like a little present we have in place to make his grave look nice for his birthday. Sometimes I would give him little presents and bury them under the rocks or mulch or whatever we have in there, but this year was different, we weren't allowed to put anything little or anything on his grave as a gift, we just had to leave his grave cold and lifeless. I don't remember seeing my brother because I'm 14 because I was 1 ½ when he passed away. When I was little I would give him little trinkets in the rocks and talk to him at his grave and the rest of angel circle is now lifeless. Like there's nothing up there anymore. I just want to know, everybody else can have a birthday and get like gifts and presents and stuff, so why can't they. The last thing I want to touch on is, last council meeting Ms. Patznick's comment was we did not throw anything away and I'm not calling anybody a liar, but that statement is false. My mom and I found 70% of my brother's items in the trash, not broken, just laying there and we were told the wind just blew them away. We were given no warning to come pick them up, which we would have, but they were just gone. If you don't mind I would like to show you a picture of all those things. The little angel has been on his grave for the almost 13 years, it's never blown away, never done nothing, it was just in there. I hope we can meet in the middle and find a situation about this, taking away the way many people grieve because grieving is a (inaudible) process.

Carla Wilson, 15 Hoover Street - Toby Wills has given me citations of non-compliance for things that have gone on at this house (inaudible) last June and he has managed to give me at least 2 or 3 of these a week with fines on them. I live on Social Security I cannot afford to pay a \$450 fee (Inaudible) these total more than \$1,000. I'd like for you to let me know exactly what I have to do to comply, because I've complied with things he's wanted done and it's still not enough for him, (inaudible) He does not knock on the door, he does not put it in my mail slot, he leaves it somewhere, so I don't know how many he's left, they could've blown away. I would like to apply for help or whatever (inaudible).

President Pro-Tem Harris - A couple of us will talk to you after the meeting.

Megan Pursley, 1705 Watson Rd. Apt 4, Heath Ohio - I just want to follow up for my daughter. AS you all understand my son is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery at Angel Circle, he has been there for 13 years, his way I've decorated (inaudible) about 4 years ago I went down to the office, I spoke to a gentleman, I'm not sure of his name, he suggested I put the border around, so I put a

stone border because he said they would be able to mow around it and I took everything out put plastic down and put rocks on the inside of the border and then I put all his items on the inside, they were like that for 4 years. We went up every year around April 30th for his birthday to decorate or if it needed more rocks or tuned up or whatever and they we kept an eye on it throughout the year. For his birthday we eat cupcakes up there, we bring balloons, we throw our party at his grave. We did yesterday, we took balloons, I thought that was about all we could do, it was very different. My issue is, I had a friend go up on March 31st and check his grave because I was told that things had been removed, they were removed, there was nothing left on my sons grave, the stones were there, the rocks were there, the headstone was there, that was it, everything else was gone. So I called and asked and was told they were probably damaged and blown away. I showed up to the Council Meeting on April 3rd, where Chance stated that only wind damaged or sun damaged items were taken away. I went to the cemetery, I found my items, two of them were in the dumpster, the rest were beside the dumpster. I found a lot of other people's items, I have all kinds of pictures. I found the flags in the barrels, on the ground on April 5th, I went back up because I took my items and put everyone else's in a crate so that they could go get their stuff when we notified people via Facebook, so I went to check on them. I saw Chance, I had a conversation with her, I let her know about the flags, I showed her pictures, she told me that's how they are destroyed, so she did know about it April 5th, although she stated at the last Council Meeting that she did not know that. My concern is my son's items are missing, I did get about 70% of them back, but they were all taken off before April 1st and my other concern is there are multiple situations where Chance has told me one thing and then said another thing to you guys and I don't think she should be in the position that she's in. Thank you.

Loren Barber, 424, Thomas Ave. - I was speaking to a dear friend of mine that's an attorney for the Ohio Attorney General's Office and she said I'm doing this all wrong and I need to say why I'm here. Show why I'm here and I don't agree with it, I shouldn't have to do it, but she insisted. To show you guys why I went to Cedar Hill Cemetery and how you can end up at Cedar Hill Cemetery. I haven't made this about me, this is my daughter, she was murdered and so, that's my hell, it's not anybody else's, everybody has their hell here that we live and I don't like talking about it. I don't like being forced to come here, so that's what brought me here and I want to point out there were 1,068 drunk driving deaths in Ohio last year, 1,068. That could be your child, your grandchild, your spouse, you might end up at Cedar Hill Cemetery. Instead of, you know that could never happen to me. So, that's what makes it real, but here's the point, for 2,769 days I've gone up to that cemetery and sat with my daughter, quietly. I don't talk about it to anybody 7 years, 7 months and zero days, I looked at it on the phone. I've sat there quietly with her. In the last 7 years you think of the weather we've had, the storms, snow, wind storms, freezing cold, I just sit there, okay, I don't bother anybody. My daughter doesn't bother anybody. There's nothing hanging on my grave, her grave. So imagine, you do something the same every day, I can't sum up my daughter and her murder in 180 seconds, but thank you for reminding me. The fact that I went there every day enough time for one of you to have a child and raise them to second grade. That's a long time. That's a long time that I've been practicing something. Now imagine, and this is what the attorney wanted me to tell you. My daughter was in a home on the day that someone decided to murder their mother so, he grabbed the family gun, went in the living room and shot her in the eye and then she says call 911 to her son, he

shot her in the head again. My daughter is in another room, she heard this, so she's waiting, this man coming toward her with a gun and he grabbed her by the back of her hair and put one right here, through her head, then when she fell he put another one in her head and so, presenting me with that I had to go to Cedar Hill Cemetery and the reason I liked Cedar Hill Cemetery, we're talking about a small percentage of graves here, this 33,000 thing, this is a small percentage of people in one area and they sold me a grave site and the reason I said, take me over here, this was the place where, these were young people, there were flowers, it was a warm place, as warm as you can get for dead people. Life, there was life there, there were pinwheels, so what do I do, I buy 4 plots. I buy real estate based on the presentation that was given me that day, okay, this is the neighborhood that sold me. There was nothing, especially after 89 years, there have been 4 generations of people that have come into this cemetery and had the dignity to keep it the same way, I don't want to hear about a rule, a rule doesn't exist.

President Pro-Tem Harris - you need to wrap it up.

Mr. Barber - So anyway, she was at the wrong place at the wrong time, so after 2,769 days of sitting there somebody walks up to me, I want to point this out, she wasn't allowed to have a funeral. Her murderer was still loose, so, she was deprived of her life, then we had to agree to a private, don't tell anybody when she's being buried, so she didn't have friends, you guys don't care about that, she didn't have anything, she was cheated out of everything, so 7 years later somebody walks up to me and says she can't have that light.

President Pro-Tem Harris - Sir, you need to wrap it up, I gave you more than 3 minutes.

Mr. Barber - Are you being paid sir to listen to me?

President Pro-Tem Harris - **There are rules in this Council Chamber and I gave you more, you've been here every meeting, so I'm going to ask you, you have another opportunity later in the meeting when you can come back and speak. Sir, please take a seat.**

Mr. Barber - Let me say, if someone would've listened before, I wouldn't have to go into all of this. We're here to talk against dictatorship. We pay you, 180 seconds, that's dictatorship. You guys are all really into it. It's disgraceful.

Suzie Gualtieri, 400 Senior Dr. - I yield my 3 minutes to Loren Barber.

President Pro-Tem Harris - It don't work that way.

Ms. Gualtieri - Where's the rules?

President Pro-Tem Harris - Listen, you tow be seated or I'm going to ask you two to be removed.

Multiple people speaking at the same time

Ms. Hutchinson, 74 N. 8th Street - I'm here because my son, my mother, my father, three of my nephews and my grandmothers are all buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery. This is my son, he would be turning 18 years old tomorrow and I can't even go up and leave my son a balloon, any type of decoration to celebrate his birthday because she took that from me. I lost my son once, December 3, 2021 I left my house for 20 minutes to take his girlfriend to a Doctor appointment and I come home and my son is dead in his own bed laying beside his 6 week old daughter. What do I explain to her as she grows up that she can't even go leave anything because it's unsightly to Chance. A little plaque that says I love you, that is ugly to her. Then I abide by her rules about the live flowers, then why do I go and plant live flowers at my sons grave and I go up there to this. They dug my flowers out of the ground and broke them with the excuse that they needed it for a foundation for my sons headstone. Where my son is buried it has to be a 2

plot headstone, which the foundation is 4 feet long, so it covers my sons grave and my step dads grave next to him, so why is my sons grave the only one tore up, why not 4 feet long and to this day, where's the foundation that was supposed to be dug. There isn't one. So what was the urgency for her to dig up my flowers that she said I could have and then tell me they moved them. No, digging them up and moving them is one thing, but you broke them. The secretary at the cemetery agreed to fix my sons grave and replace my flowers until she stuck her nose in the conversation and told me no they will not be. She could've notified me, she could've notified the owner, my step dad that hey we need to put a foundation down, could you come up and move the things that you do have. No, she couldn't do that, but the excuse is I don't have your contact information, but she looked it up right in front of me and my step dads information is right there on the computer, so I want to know, where's my sons foundation that you dug my sons grave up for and broke my sons flowers, live flowers that it was agreed we're allowed to have. So I can't even leave my son flowers for his 18th birthday?

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Mr. Lang, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rine

23-33 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF OHIO 2023 NATUREWORKS GRANT.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, Motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline, Mr. Lang

23-34 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, COPS HIRING PROGRAM

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, Motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline, Mr. Lang

23-41 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, MS. Bline, Mr. Lang

23-42 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO REDUCE THE LIEN PREVIOUSLY PLACED AGAINST THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT AND KNOWN AS 11 MORRIS STREET, NEWARK, OHIO
Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, Motion passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Mr. Lang

23-43 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$5,875.00 -reimbursement for stolen side by side) (\$100,000.00 -Credit card processing for water payments)

Held until May 15th

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline, Mr. Lang

23-44-A A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PARK NATIONAL BANK FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) POLICE CRUISERS FOR THE DIVISION OF POLICE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Mr. Rath - This is named A because we added the emergency clause in the committee meeting, the reason for the emergency clause is because the vehicles had been ordered previously and are enroute and we need the money to pay for them sooner than anticipated.

Motion passed 9-0 with Ms. Hottinger abstaining

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - The last time I was here I had talked about some of the law changes that are coming about in Ohio on reducing the rights of children and reducing the safeguards and the what age children can do what in the workforce. Since then I have written a number of letters both to our State and Federal Government and I was asked what Council should do essentially and I feel that Council in loving children too has an obligation to make a stance too because Council does make policy. I have written letters, my husband has written letters. I've since found that Ohio is trying to pass something that changes the structure of the Board of Education to make it easier for these changes. I think this is tragic. I think a lot of kids are going to be hurt in the process and I think it's up to every single citizen in our City to do something about it.

Loren Barber, 424 Thomas Ave. - Mr. Hall the last time I was here I asked if you could get together information to justify the second position being created as Superintendent, the workload, the business justification, did you ever get information on that for me?

President Pro-Tem Harris - You can ask, but he's not going to respond, it's not a question and

answer time.

Mr. Barber - Oh, when is that?

President Pro-Tem Harris - Before the meeting, after the meeting, you can call his office.

Mr. Barber - (Inaudible)

President Pro-Tem Harris - It's not a question and answer, you know that sir. Sir, you've been here the last 3 meetings, you know it's not a debate or question and answer period.

Mr. Barber - Okay, you're taking my time, thank you Mr. Harris. I asked the mayor for information, I have been here twice. I listened to closing arguments from people, the only, not the only person, but the leader of this community sat here and has sat here for two meetings, not even a closing comment last time, and you're driving the bus. I want to make it clear that Chance Patznick is just someone they have, it's Mr. Hall and it's Mr. Rhodes.

President Pro-Tem Harris - We're not doing personal attacks.

Mr. Barber - Excuse me, we're talking about policy, you're taking my time Mr. Harris. Now, I've asked for this, citizens have a concern. You as the Mayor of this City (inaudible), I want to be clear you and Mr. Rhodes (inaudible), at the first meeting you could've set up there and said oh let's take a look at this, this has gone too far, is Mr. Rhodes here today? Okay. Mr. Rhodes promised me two days ago I could have those night lights, so those night lights will be on my grave. I'm not recognizing that because I'm taking Mr. Rhodes word for it. If he wants to say that didn't occur, please say it now. He said Mr. Barber, you're not going to have to fight for those lights. Great. I thanked him and that's the way it's going to be. As for permission to go in there for a steel border that someone, we're all going to go to a machine shop have it cut, have it welded, some 80 year old woman's going to do that, we're all going to do that. The border, there's no difference between that border and borders that are all over the place like this. You can get these at Lowes, whatever, they look really nice around the grave. This is a flat surface like a piece of metal, trim across that, mow past that or mowing through steel, there's no difference. The policy is unacceptable for the citizens. It's not even close, basically, all it did was nail down the rights top pillage graves. If we want this border that's out of reach for most citizens, we have to go ask permission at the cemetery, permission and I find that there is no one in that office of the character or integrity that I would ask their permission. Okay. I don't recognize authority unless it's moral authority. These games that are being played, it's two men letting this go and of course one, what can we do to him. It's not acceptable okay, so I want to make that clear. The respect shown to this community over this., I want to know why these two men dig in so hard. Now we can have a border, but you can't put anything behind it. Thank you. We can get a border, nothing behind it, if something topples off the grave they're going to reach in that border and get it, okay. The idea of the border, Mr. Marmie, in your closing arguments last time, hey we all need to follow the rules, I mean we're following rules, we're here to talk about the rules.

President Pro-Tem Harris - Let's wrap it up.

Mr. Barber - The border, I didn't come here and say I wanted a border with nothing behind it, you guys missed the point. The border keeps your workers away, in the border is our life, is our little sentiments for these people, okay, that border solves everything, you don't have to near it, there's no safety concerns, there's no maintenance concerns. Safety and maintenance keep this all about. What I'm hearing is, I don't like the way something looks there, okay. 89 years, 4 generations of people come in here, closing argument.

President Pro-Tem Harris - Let's wrap it up.

Mr. Barber - Closing statement. Come in here and have the integrity for 89 years to keep that place the same way. Not one of these Superintendents, Managers, whatever, thought that what they wanted overrode the ability of hundreds of bodies buried there, hundreds of families, thousands, whatever, okay, until now. As I said, my daughter was in the wrong place in that room, she couldn't have a funeral, she couldn't have this, now she can't have a nightlight, okay, I'm standing there someone comes over to me, oh she can't have that now, okay. I don't recognize that okay, because no one with integrity that I recognize or respect is telling me that. Mr. Rhodes said I can have those lights, I'm going to have those lights. (inaudible) So, I want to say the policy, this should have been included, these types of things at Lowes that are within reach of these people for \$3, a 70 year old woman doesn't have to go to a machine shop.

Daniel Crawford, 163 S. 2nd Street - I'll be very brief. So for the past few weeks, I should say the past month or so, I've more listened than wanted to speak about this issue because honestly I don't have anyone buried up there that I know of. Honestly, I was just wanting to listen to see what everyone had to say about everything, but here in the past couple of meetings I have noticed something that kind of caught me by surprise. In the past few years that I've been attending Council Meetings I've never heard of an explicit rule of a time limit. Now of course it may have been recently adopted or may be an interpretation of a Council Rule that says it's up to the discretion of the Council President, but I would like to know, I might even file a formal request for information, what is the specific rule that states that it's 3 minutes or the discretion of the President and why is it only now being enforced. One last thing I will say is it doesn't take 3 minutes to vote, that is one thing I want you to remember.

Rodney Coble, 1771 Summit Rd. Heath - I have four generations that's buried up there. I remember when I was probably a5 or 6 years old, a sign hanging up there, it said artificial stuff will be removed after February or whenever, it said live flowers during the summer. They didn't say how far you could measure or whatever, now you've got all this cremation. How many plots can you have in there if you don't (inaudible). How are you going to mark all these people's graves when there is nothing straight in a row, alright. As far as another thing, you guys dig down 6 feet deep to bury somebody, the footer for your tombstone is only 3 foot, so therefore, when you dig down your tombstone settles because your footer settles because you guys do not compact that ground. That's why all your tombstones topple over. I have pictures to show you. (inaudible) That's as far as I can get, as you can see, the mower can get through, there's no

ifs ands or butts about it, now. There this is the tombstone for me and my wife, you can see there isn't a damn thing hurting anything around the stone. That's the way I decorate my stone. (inaudible) I asked about putting down fabric which is biodegradable, right and then put mulch down on top of it, but it's natural right. Can I do that, because Memorial Day is already past, Mother's Day is coming up, I'd like to have flowers on my mothers and grandmothers and great grandmothers and my great great grandmother before Mothers Day comes. That's all I've got to say.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mark Mauter, Director of Community Development - I wanted to let the City Council know that we completed two very successful City cleanups, one was the south side of town a couple weeks ago and another in the Hudson Avenue area from Central Avenue to the west down to Clinton Street to the east all the way to Channel St. to the north and Route 16 to the south. It was great to see community participation, we got a lot of compliments and it was a great coordinated effort. There was our department the Property Maintenance department, we had the South Newark Civic Association, Councilwoman Blin was very active, Councilman Houser was very active in their wards and Mr. Harris had a presence there and it's great for the community it made a real difference. You can clean up a lot of items that would've been left to the community to clean up. We have another coming up this month, May 20th, we'll do the east side of town on that day. The second thing I wanted to comment on is to publicly say thank you and to recognize Councilwoman Cheri Hottinger. I've known Cheri for a very long time, I knew her when she was on her first terms here on City Council, she did a wonderful job, I was very proud to be serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors when a change was made there, made a very good hire in Cheri. She inherited, the Chamber was in decline quite honestly, membership numbers were dropping and it was great to see Cheri come in, she was a great listener. She listened to what the member's wanted and dug in and led her team to create the Chamber that was 2nd or 3rd in numbers for the State of Ohio. Thank you. You're a difference maker, you're great for our community of Newark. Newark's loss is going to be the State of Ohio's gain when you start your job with the Industrial Commission. Again Cheri, thank you for everything you've done for our community.

Law Director, Tricia Moore - A couple things, Mr. barker, your records request was received by my office and I will be getting the documents you requested, hopefully tomorrow and Dr. Parsons, if you could just wait afterwards I will get your email.

Mayor Jeff Hall - I want to thank everyone for coming in, this is what a public forum is about, sharing your ideas and concerns. I'd like to reach out and thank our engineering department for getting the bridge open on the west side of town this week, it alleviates a lot of congestion and certainly from a police and fire standpoint it is a plus in many ways, I'd also like to congratulate Cheri and thank her for serving on this Board and wish you the best.

Mr. Lang - First, Miss Hopkins thank you for coming in and sharing your passion for the park, I love your idea on the name, so hopefully that works out. Mr. Barber you had asked of Personnel Committee previously what discussions had gone on and what had passed as far as the Assistant Superintendent, I did look that up, it was Ordinance 22-41-A, I have a copy for you, I have a copy of the minutes as well it was in Personnel Committee October 3rd and we had

an amendment on the floor there to remove an unfunded crew leader position, it was read at Council on October 17th and then passed November 7th of last year, so happy to give you the minutes for that, I've got a copy. If anyone else wants a copy of that you can email Janine and we can get that out to you. I do appreciate everybody coming today, I think we're still trying to figure out how to navigate this, you know ultimately it is up to the Mayor, up to the Superintendent and Director Rhodes, how we enforce the policy and I am hopeful that they can find some flexibility in the policy to work with folks to give them something that they can work with. The continued comments, you know folks get up here and we sit, we're quiet, but that doesn't mean that we don't care, it doesn't mean that we're not working to try to find a solution, but ultimately it is up to the Administration to enforce that policy, but we are here to listen and we will continue to listen and hope that those comments are heard.

Mr. Marmie - I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for May 15th. I too want to thank everyone for coming out here this evening, I appreciate all the input, I'm hopeful that like Mr. Lang has indicated that this is going to be a work in progress, maybe some flexibility will come about, ideas are shared and changes are made based upon that. To say the Council can make those changes, we cannot, the Administration is responsible for taking care of the cemetery and the policies that they are ruled by and so I know that they are putting a lot of effort into making sure that the cemetery is a pleasant place to go to as far as cleanliness and we've had complaints over the years on the maintenance of it and I know they are just trying to improve upon that. Again, I echo what Mr. Lang has indicated, I hope that with further communication down the road, if there is anything that can be done as far as leniency or improvements or anything along those lines, they're always going to be listened to and if there's an issue with any of you getting that information then that's where your Council representative or any of us on Council are willing to listen and to pass that on, move it forward, get it to the right department whatever it may be, whether it's this issue or any other issue, that's what our responsibility is to help that communication channel. If there's anything I can do I definitely will be there to assist. Finally, I want to thank Cheri for serving, I really appreciate everything that she brings to the table, her experience and I wish her good fortune at the Industrial Commission. I know she will represent the State of Ohio and do a great job representing also us as far as a Newark citizen who is going to do better for the State of Ohio, I know you're going to do a fantastic job and I want to congratulate you on that.

Mr. Rath - I'll call a Service Committee meeting for May 15th. Obviously I'm going to say thank you for the bridge. Having that bridge open on the west end of Newark is nothing short of a Godsend and impressive as well, that bridge went from concept to completion in under 8 months and it was done by a City Government, that's just impressive to me. So, kudos to you for that. Cheri, thank you for everything that you've done, we appreciate your service and look forward to things that you're going to do in the future.

Mr. Rine - Thank you Cheri, I want to thank you for your service, for probably about as long as some of us up here have been alive you've been active in the community. Dr. Parsons, the Cemetery and Parks is one division, so that's why the funds are so high there, so it's not just the Cemetery that has access to those funds, I just wanted to clear that up. Today in the Personnel Committee we established a Grounds Maintenance position, so there will be 3 total Grounds Maintenance, a total of 10 employees in the Parks and Cemetery Division, so we're going to get another person some help and so hopefully that will help.

Mr. Barker - Cheri as I said to you today when we talked I'm extremely happy for you, it's a great thing for the State of Ohio, for us it hurts, but we're there behind you we're supporting you, we really appreciate everything you've done on Council on your time in this current Council and in your previous time at Council, so best of luck to you and I know we will probably work together in the future. I want to thank everyone for coming tonight, this issue is one that I hear about every day and I'm here to hear about it and so, when we leave tonight it's not that this just stops. I want to make sure everybody is aware of that. We constantly have discussion with Administration regarding different issues that are brought up, you know we've talked with Director Rhodes quite a bit on this, we've talked with Superintendent Patznick about it, so we're taking in everything you're telling us and communicating that with them and I just want to echo what Councilman Lang and Councilman Marmie mentioned it, it is an administrative task, there is nothing that Council legislatively can do, but we're advocating for what we hear and so I appreciate everybody coming in tonight, really appreciate that because again, if we don't know, we can't help. I want to just comment on one thing Councilman Rine said, with the creation of that position tonight, we took one crew member off and put him 40 hours a week in the cemetery, that is his job. So this new crew person will be going with the crew that he left while this gentleman stays in the cemetery. So, we've got a 40 hour a week person dedicated to the cemetery now and this new position will be created in 4 weeks completely. So, just want to echo those statements. Now I want to congratulate Newark Catholic High School they had a fundraiser over the weekend, their annual fundraiser for their operating fund, raised a little over \$155,000, the Mayor was there, Auditor Bubb, Law Director Moore and Service Director Rhodes. It was great to see a group of community people come together to raise money for the school. They also raised money that night for the Spice program at Newark Catholic which a lot of people don't know about and it's something that happens in public schools where kids get assistance and in private schools that doesn't always happen, so Newark Catholic has a special fund for kids who need some more assistance and just that night we were able to raise right under \$11,000 for that fund to help those kids, so it was a great night for the Newark Catholic Community.

Ms. Bline - Congratulations, I'm sorry, I didn't know you were leaving, but congratulations on your new appointment. Shelby I'm really proud of you, it takes a lot for a young lady or a young person to get up in front of a large group of people to speak and you spoke very well, congratulations. I want to compliment you on initiative, it's not something that's as common as we would like. Personally she'll call me, are we going out today, are we working today, 7:30 I'll be pulling myself out of bed, yes, we're going to the park to work. Most certainly she has vision, she has goals and I want to compliment those young people that are coming out and taking their place in the world. In fact, all of you by showing up tonight are taking your place in some way and that's really important. Ms. Volen-Smith, I want to thank you for bringing that up, again this is an opportunity to run for school board, if children's rights are important to you, take your place. Take your place, fight for the children, fight for parents rights. Things are changing so rapidly often we don't even know what's being legislated on a National level until we see the effects. So, as a City Council here we can do what we can form a lateral view, but again, take your place. There's opportunities for school board, there's opportunities to work in your school, but again, take your place, this is a big deal. We need to definitely look out for our children, I'm with you on that. As far as the graveyard, there are many opportunities yet to be

had in this and as in like my cohort has said this is an Administration decision, however, when you all come and submit your ideas, they're being heard and there are opportunities to progress because customer service is an important facet of any business. So, it's very important to listen and I do, there's probably not a day goes by that I don't get a phone call or hear a different opinion on a different facet and as a person who spent a time in customer service, leadership, you're being heard and it's good to think, take a situation and think in and out of the boundaries, think where can we meet on this. So, I'd like to thank you all again, it's very important and MS. Hutchinson are you still here, can I meet with you afterwards.

Mr. Houser - Just pertaining to Cheri, I'm not going to make you feel old, I know all the time we've been on Council together, I know not very long, but I appreciate all that you've given me and just the leadership that you've provided Council, we're all going to miss that, I know you're still going to be around, but just really appreciate all you've done. I also want to mention, it was already mentioned by Director Mauter, but we have east end cleanup is May 20th and a lot of people have already said it, but I was at the ribbon cutting for the Cherry Valley Bridge and I loved being out there and seeing all the excitement from the residents, you had cars honking as they were getting ready to cut the ribbon it was just exciting to see the energy behind that, so I appreciate that. You know everyone who came out to speak on the cemetery, I know it's been said by a lot of Council Member sup here, but your comments are being heard along with other members of Council and the Administration and talking through concerns with them, so your concerns are definitely being heard.

Mr. Labutis - I want to thank everyone for coming out this evening, we appreciate your thoughts and sharing your stories and sharing the stories of your loved ones, again as Mr. barker said, if we don't know we can't help. Shelby thank you for the idea on the park for the name, hopefully we'll be able to do that. Having the Cherry Valley Bridge replaced has been a big help people's commutes have gone from 10 minutes to 25 minutes and now they're back down to 10 minutes and they're very happy about that. Cheri, I want to thank you for everything, it's been an honor to serve with you on Council, you'll do a wonderful job on the Industrial Commission and I wish you all the best I'm sure you'll do a fantastic job.

President Pro-Tem Harris - Just a couple of things, I'm saving you for last, who's running this meeting? I want to wish everyone a Happy Mothers Day, thankful for all the Mothers and all that you do for all of us guys to keep us all straight. I want to talk about the cemetery for a minute, I want to throw out some positive things. There were a few lots bought in the last couple weeks and the reason they said they bought the lots was because of the rules. They like the enforcement of the rules, so not only are we getting this side, we're also getting positive sides about the cemetery so I want to make that clear. I also would like, I don't know if you guys have read rules of any other cemeteries, some of them you only get 6 inches, you get no borders, you don't get hardly anything on these other cemeteries and this one here, it says they have a Board and the Board has the right to require all persons coming into the cemetery to obey all rules and regulations adopted, these rules and regulations may be changed without notice to any owner, so, at least when we're making change we're trying to let you guys know. So Cedar Hill's not as bad as you think it is, I know it all happened at once, but if you get the time look up other cemeteries.

Out of order comments from the audience

President Pro-Tem Harris - Sir, you know the rules, you cannot speak at this time. If you want us to work with you, you've got to try to be respectful.

Out of order comments from the audience

President Pro-Tem Harris - Ask him to go. Please go. You can't come in here and act like this.

Out of order comments from the audience

President Pro-Tem Harris - Anyway, I just wanted to put that out there. I also wanted to remind everybody that Thursday is National Payer Day at noon here on the steps of City Hall, that will be May 4th. I want to thank Cheri for her Council time and as Mr. Marmie said, all you've done and we've learned a few things from you. We appreciate that, wish you the best and finally you got a position you're going to our do your husband in and with that the floor is yours.

Ms. Hottinger - I'll be Brief. I don't know what to say Colton, I'm experienced, okay, just happens to have a little more years on you. I truly enjoy public service, I always have, I always will and that is my goal in everything that I do whether it's in the public sector or the private sector, friendships or acquaintances or whatever, I just really do enjoy helping people. Y ideas of helping someone may not be someone elses idea of helping someone, but that's where my heart is. I recently heard one of pour pastors at our church say that when you interact with someone you change that person life forever and some of us I don't think realize that, every single interaction changes them, it could be a good interaction or it could be a bad interaction because we've seen both. I truly hope that if you've had interactions with me that I have been more positive than negative and hope that I will continue to have positive interactions with all of you. My parting request of Council Members is that you continue to listen to the citizens of Newark and continue to make Newark a better place in terms of raising a family and working here and I love this City, I think it's a great City and we're very fortunate to have people that care about the City.

President Pro-Tem Harris - Our next meeting will be May 15th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Barker , second by Mr. Lang , passed by acclamation, with that we are adjourned

Jeff Harris, President Pro-Tem of Council