

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 7, 2024
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL - Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Mr. Rath, Mr. Rine, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Chute, Mr. Cost

INVOCATION – Mr. Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Ava Coad, 2nd grade, Blessed Sacrament School

CAUCUS

Invoke Rule 21

24-77 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) A FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND A ONE YEAR USE OF FUNDS/ACTION PLAN ALONG WITH AN APPLICATION FOR FY 2025 FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (CDBG), AS REQUIRED BY 24 CFR PART 91.220, FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS RELATED TO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Motion to reconsider Resolution 24-77 by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Houser, Passed 10-0

Motion to amend Resolution 24-77 by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Houser, Passed 10-0

MINUTES of September 16, 2024, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Hall – Reappointing Adrienne Eskins (alternate), Kandee Engle, and Mark Mauter to the Etna Corporate Park Joint Economic Development Zone 2 (ECP JEDZ2) Board. Their new two-year terms begin October 20, 2024 and will expire October 19, 2026.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - **Received and Filed without objection**

Service - **Received and Filed without objection**

Safety – **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Ryan T. Bubb, City Auditor – Operating Report for the period ending September 30, 2024
Received and filed without objection

COMMUNICATIONS

Scott Brown, Regional Liaison to the Ohio Auditor of State – Presenting the Auditor of State Award with Distinction to Newark City Auditor, Ryan Bubb, and his team.

Scott Brown, Regional Liaison to the Ohio Auditor of State – Thank you for your time this evening and allowing me a few moments to speak. It's my honor to be here this evening. On behalf of Auditor Faber, to present the city of Newark with the Auditor of State Award with Distinction. This award puts the City in a very select group. Our office audits approximately 6,000 entities every year, and less than four percent of those entities are eligible for this award. The Auditor of State Award with Distinction is presented to local governments, school districts and other entities upon the completion of a financial audit that meet these criteria to be considered a clean audit report: The entity must file financial reports with the auditor's office by a statutory due date without extension on accounting basis, and prepare a comprehensive, annual report, the audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, uniform guided findings, or other questioning costs. Breaking through the government speak, what this means is this award represents the hard work of the city of Newark staff and employees who make every effort each day to attain accounting excellence. We'd like to recognize the Council, the administration, the finance office, that have done an outstanding job watching over every dollar. What this truly means is that across the entire city organization you have the people and processes in place that understand fiscal accountability. Specifically, we want to recognize Ryan Bubb for his leadership, his professionalism, and exceptional commitment to fiscal integrity. So, on behalf of Auditor of State, Keith Faber, I'd like to present the city of Newark the Auditor of State Award with Distinction again. Congratulations.

Ryan Bubb, Auditor – Thank you very much. This just would not be possible without my staff. You put great people in a great place, great things happen. I want to thank Jim Weisent, Jackie Williams, Tanner Marmie, Kenda Menter, Rhonda Wilfong, and Deborah Jackson. We want to continue to win awards and provide the best service. Thank you.

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – Transfer liquor permit application from Macs Convenience Stores LLC, dba Circle K 5303, 369 W. Church St., Newark, OH 43055 to ALFAA LLC, 369 W. Church St., Newark, OH 43055

Marcia Phelps, Licking County Municipal Court Clerk – Opinion regarding Ordinance No. 24-36

PUBLIC HEARING

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

24-24 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 203 NORTH GAY STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-193776-00.000 FROM THAT OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE - RH - HIGH DENSITY DISTRICT TO TFR - TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Motion to Adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline

Mr. Rath - Mr. President, this zoning change has gone through the Planning Commission and has been recommended for approval. For that, I would ask everybody to support it as well.

Passed 10-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

President Harris - Next up on the agenda is comments from citizens. I'm going to ask you to... if you've already spoken, if you're here to talk about the homeless, if you've already spoken, I ask that you wait and let the other people that have not spoken to please speak first. I need your name and address and three minutes, and I mean three minutes tonight. Do we have anybody that wants to speak about anything? It's not just about the homeless. And just a reminder, we will not be voting on 24-36 tonight.

Jody Sullivan, 356 W. Main St. - I'm here to complain about the noise coming from Newark Station. It is unbearable. We are getting blasted. We can't get away from it. We are in our homes. We can't go outside. We can't open the windows. Our windows are shaking. The walls are vibrating. It's like we're being harassed, like, nonstop, and it is just out of control. Our dogs are hiding in the bathroom. It's so bad. So, I ask that, please. I mean, I know they're trying to make a buck and all that, but at whose expense? Everyone on our block is fed up. Only two people that didn't want to get involved of that whole block. So, I ask, please, give us some peace. That's what you would expect in your home. Okay? Thank you.

Caroline Cook, 898 Lateglow Ct. - Our Declaration of Independence says that people have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We're talking about criminalizing homelessness. So how can you have life if you don't have a place to lay your head? If you don't have a place to protect you from the elements. Why should you take away someone's liberty because they don't have these things?

President Harris - Please, excuse me. No noise from the crowd, please. Just please respect everybody. Thank you.

Ms. Cook - There are many reasons why people are homeless. Not all homeless people live in a tent. A lot of homeless people live in cars, they couch surf, and they go from relative to relative. Sometimes it's families. I used to work with the program in Akron, the Family Promise Program, that the churches in the area came together to provide program for homeless families. And I watched families that were struggling. We had a family with five children. The churches put them up. They serve them food. We hired a social worker to work with these families. And 80% of those families then did not have homes. We have families staying in hotel rooms. We need to do something as a community to solve these problems. One problem with homelessness, one reason for homelessness is disability. And all disabilities are not something you can see. I was a special ed teacher for most of my career, and one of my jobs for six years was as a work study coordinator. My job was to help find kids that were developmentally disabled, not all of them that you could even tell, but to help them find a job. I went to different places and asked and pleaded with employers to employ these kids. I know what happened to a lot of them. They're now 40 and 50-year-olds. They don't have a job that they can support themselves on. A lot of them are living with elderly parents, and those elderly parents are developing disabilities of their own, and these kids are going to find their way on the street. They're not going to know, they're going to go from couch... Okay, so I know that a lot of families become exhausted in their resources. I've had friends that have tried to take care of their friends. I work, I

substitute in Newark City schools, and if you ask the kids, say, what do you want to do when you grow up? Nobody says, I want to be a drug addict and live on the street.

Garren Walton, 720 Moull St. Apt B - I'm living proof that this law against homelessness encampment is wrong. Some years ago, I moved out of Newark in order to find better things. I'm not going to get into the horrific specifics, but I screwed up. I saw things I can't forget. I nearly died, and I lost almost everything. But I survived, and I crawled from the brink and rebuilt my life. I was able to do this because I had a place to stay. My life is not perfect, and it could be better, but I had enough stability and space to try and fail and try again until I got it right. Now I'm back on my own. I'm paying all my own bills and my taxes. I would die or I would be incarcerated if I couldn't do that. You don't need a PhD to know how to help people. You just help them. Just give them what they need. People aren't machines, trash, or vermin. They're people, and people don't grow if their basic needs are unmet. But I don't think this law is about helping people. This is about keeping up appearances and being violent towards people you don't care for under the guise of safety, and the city will be less safe with increasingly desperate, alienated homeless people further exposed to the criminal element. Not to mention poor people who are almost homeless and are going to get even more desperate to avoid that. And speaking of safety, I have to ask. What's being done to make our infrastructure more resilient to the weather that gets severe more and more every year? Record-breaking temperatures and rainfall, hurricane or tornado touchdowns, and we're not safe from hurricanes anymore. We're just not. Is the plan to throw more police and fines at those too? Or is the plan to try and ride it out and let the weather wipe out the undesirables? This law is pointless cruelty, which will cost everyone dearly. Between the unleashing of state violence, the failure to address poverty and climate change, everyone is on the menu, and it's not a question of if but when you will be cooked. No official who supports this measure should ever be trusted or voted for again. Thank you for your time.

Roger Boucher, 927 Wells Ave. - I've been a mail carrier for 32 years here in Newark. The last 12 have been on Granville Road area. Villages. Why are we busing these people in? Does anybody know where the bus station is in Newark? It's at OSU. This is how I know. I walk that street every day for the last 12 years. I witnessed a man come out carrying a trash bag, holding his pants up, walking his dog. This was during the summer. It was hot, like 90 degrees. I just made contact with him. We just talked about how hot it was and went on my way. And he goes, yeah, I just came in town on the Greyhound. And that struck me because I had heard about us busing homeless in. So, I made a point to get my relay done and catch up to him because I wanted to talk to him. He told me his story. He was headed towards Country Club Drive. I know where Salvation Army is there. He knew where every place was that would help him. He refused to go there because they'd take his dog away. I asked him where he was going. He said, I'm going to Heath. I heard it's safer. I've never given a homeless person money in my life, but I felt bad for this dog because I don't think that dog's seen grass in years. He was just having a ball while I was talking to him. I gave him money. I said, You guys get something to eat. I was told that people on my route saw him down at Dairy Isle feeding him and his dog. Now, they're not all just being bused in. They're busing some out. I ain't kidding you. Four days later, I met a guy on the corner of Country Club in Granville. He was carrying a suitcase. He had a cell phone. He was looking. He stopped me. He goes, Where's 999 University Drive? He goes, I'm looking for the bus station. I said, Well, it's got to be down off that drive there, right off Granville, going

into the campus. He goes, Yeah, he goes, I'm getting out of here. I'm getting on the bus. I'm trying to get to Tennessee to help my sister. So, I mean, I've been a lifelong resident here and I noticed the homeless is getting crazy. I've dealt with a lot of them. I've met them in different aspects. A lot of them don't want to change their lifestyle. They want the freebies. But then, but when they know where they can get help and they refuse to go there. I just don't understand why we're bringing them in. And, you know, I mean, if they're our citizens, yeah, let's help our citizens. Let's not bring them from other states. I just wanted to let my experience be told.

Darla McCall, 358 W. Main St. - I'm talking about the Newark bar. It's way too loud. What is this? Newark Station? It's way too loud. I grew up above a bar. We Used To Be Somewhere Else bar and they had light bands. Never that loud. Not like Newark station is. That's just beyond. To where I have to turn my TV up full blast to hear it. It's beyond. That's it. Thank you.

Max McLantonio, 963 Riva Ridge Blvd. - Good evening Council, my name is Max. I'm a student at the Ohio State University's Newark campus and I'm studying to become an attorney. I also just recently started volunteering at the drop-in center at the Holy Trinity Luther Church who provide resources like free meals, temporary shelter, phone chargers, coffee, water, a place to sleep and use the bathroom and a welcoming community for anyone who needs it and I'm here today to urge the City Council members to scrap these ordinances which seek to punish the most vulnerable in our society and instead support programs like the drop-in center which have been very successful at helping people get back on their feet. I'm from the Columbus area where we have more than ten times the amount of people who are currently unhoused than Newark and that number has been on the rise since the pandemic. I'm speaking in opposition to the proposed ordinances because while I do agree that Newark can and should regulate public health and safety, sacrificing the rights of individuals without houses is not only wrong but will not help public health or safety. Not only does it seem that the concerns of public safety and health brought up in the ordinances don't apply to the health and safety of the people who are unhoused themselves, but the ordinances don't properly address those concerns. What do these ordinances propose to do about those found camping on public property? Fines, jail time, and forced removal from the premises. If you can't pay rent how are you going to pay \$150 fine, \$250 fines each time you're found to be sleeping on the street and how is that going to make your situation better? If you don't have a place to live then where are you going to go after you're removed from the premises? It seems like the only one of the punishments that really deals with the problem of where the displaced still unhoused people will go is the punishment of jail time, but I would guess that if you asked most of the law enforcement officers in Newark they would agree that jails shouldn't be used for housing and this will only lead to overcrowded jails and a strain on resources for criminal justice and not to mention legal implications, inadequacy of facilities, and safety and security concerns. Then when you get out of the jail, how are you not going to have the exact same problem you had when you went in? In cities where similar anti-encampment measures were implemented like Los Angeles which cost the city over three million dollars and neither safety nor health meaningfully improved. There were studies done on this. If you are someone who thinks the federal government is doing a bad job right now and is to blame for the housing instability happening, then why would we punish the victims for those failures? A much better use of resources, attention, and money would be better temporary shelters, not jails, rental assistance, mental health and drug addiction services, public restrooms, and outreach teams to

connect the homeless to these services and honestly anything but these ordinances. To the proponents of these ordinances, you can't sweep human beings under the rug. People who don't have a place to sleep right now are your constituents as much as anyone else in Newark and you would be failing them by passing these ordinances. Please vote against them. Thank you.

President Harris – Does anyone else want to speak? I'll tell you what we're going to do. We're going to go through the agenda, and then we'll come back for the second part, and we'll let you speak. We're going to go through the agenda, and then there is another opportunity to speak.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Labutis, Mr. Rath

24-36 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 660 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO WITH REGARD TO CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

Held until 10.21.24

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost

24-37 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 2nd STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #054-207942-00.000 AND 030-092568-00.000 FROM THAT OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE – RL – LOW DENSITY ZONING DISTRICT TO MFR – MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO

Referred to the Planning Commission

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

24-80 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline, Passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Cost

24-81 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING.

Held until 10.21.24

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

24-82 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Held until 10.21.24

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

24-83 Exp APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

**Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Passed 10-0
Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Passed 10-0**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Tom Brunner, 419 S. 2nd St. - What I'm here tonight for is Roost on the River. I called three times Saturday night. Every time an officer would come out, they'd turn the music down. As soon as the officer would leave, they'd crank it up. The last time Officer Benner came out, he had the decimator. He read it at 65. He said we're allowed 70. But they had turned it down just before he got there. You know, I pay to watch my cable TV just like these people pay to go to a concert. I don't pay to go to the concert. Why do I want to hear it? It's fall. I like my windows open. I was trying to watch a Buckeye game at 2.30 in the afternoon, 3.30 in the afternoon. I couldn't hear it because of this band down below. That's uncalled for. So, somebody needs to get control over these concert venues or whatever. They need to respect the citizens of Newark. This is the city, not the country. If they want to have them, go out like Legend Valley and go out in the country. Leave the city alone. That's all I have.

Shelby A.B. Hawkins, 200 Burt Ave. - I came to say a little bit about the homeless stuff. So, I've had some experience with homeless people. I've helped homeless people, I've helped clean up homeless camps, I've talked to a few of them. Some of them are drug addicts, some of them aren't. Some of them, they're just having a hard time. You know, they can't pay all the bills. You know, inflation's a real thing. We've all dealt with it. I'm all for doing something for the homeless people, but putting them in jail is not going to solve it. It's just going to overcrowd the jail. Like, you're giving them a place to have food, water, and all that, which is a good thing, but the jail's not the best part. It's for actual criminals who do bad things. So, like, put them in the basket. It's abandoned. All you have to do is, like, equip it for the people, and then, like, the different floors you could turn into different resources, and, like, the homeless people could run it while the resources help them get a job to, in turn, get back on their feet and start living life again. And another thing I've noticed around town, back behind the TrueCore Credit Union, which is literally, like, a block away from the Midland, Terry Clark was here, and everybody knows she's a big, famous country musician. There was a homeless encampment, very visible. Like, I walked from the Midland doors, and I could see it. I get it they need somewhere to go, but, like, could we find somewhere different? Like, find them a place to go. We have plenty of abandoned buildings around here. Find somewhere to equip for them and make it where they can get back up on their feet. Thank you, and you all have a good night. Thank you.

Maria Alejandra Leon Garcia, 230 Woods Ave. - I think all of us discussing this issue have a common concern. We all agree on something. There's too many people living outside. We do not, nobody here, I don't think, we want to keep them outside. The problem comes when we come to the solution. Putting them in jail absolutely gives no guarantee that they won't come back. Actually, they will come back. They will choose a different street, and they're still going to be doing what every human does. They go to the restroom. They need to eat. They need to sleep somewhere. It looks ugly when it's outside. I agree. I don't want them in front of my

house. However, I have been a case manager for six years for the homeless. There is something called permanent supportive housing that is happening even in this town. We just need more resources for those kinds of programs. There is no, it's evidence based. Once you provide those services, 80% rate, they do not go back to the streets because everyone is getting the services they need. You have talked, Mr. Marmie, about the good apples. I agree. We do not want to spoil the good apples. However, a bad apple, when they are hungry, they have to find food somewhere. Okay? You have put me as an example of a good apple. I'm going to say I was not able to get back on my feet without all the resources that I had to look for, and I was able to find. However, for example, Mrs. Bline has said that there are teams that go out in the streets and invite people. Training, people need to be trained to do this kind of work. You've taken Grants Pass vs. Johnson as the rule for this ordinance, this initiative. You have taken only that, and you're not taking into account that that community has created a community liaison that provides the services to those individuals, and it has to be individualized. Do not put people in one category. If you are only asking them, how can I help you? Here's a sandwich, right? It is not going to solve anything if you don't approach this in a, it's complicated. I understand that. However, this is not a simple, I understand your concern about sending them somewhere they cannot be seen, okay? I just, I hope you consider this.

Jay Satterfield, 612 Edgewood Dr. - First off, I want to say the homeless population here, Council, the homeless population in Newark, it isn't going anywhere. It's going to be around, so you're going to have to deal with it a different way. I mean, criminalizing poverty and subsequent homelessness in this deal with this ordinance is wrong. It's just not going to work. It's not going to work. You've seen this from other people that have come up here and talked. I mean, you put them in jail, they're going to be right back out on the street doing what you don't want them to do. How many times are you going to put them in jail when they can't afford it? They can't afford housing, so you're going to hit them for \$150 and then \$250, it's not going to work. Next thing I want to say regarding this is during discussion here when I was down here on September 16th, (inaudible) heard some saying that most of us have encountered some problems in our lives, some tough times in our lives, and we've worked through these tough times, and we didn't become homeless. Really? Are you kidding me? Well, we're not all cut from the same thread here. We're not all cut from the same thread, and you all come from different backgrounds, and some of these people that are homeless, they've just been in situations where they haven't been able to get to first base, where we've made it all the way around the bases. And I know I've had some tough times. Everybody in here has had tough times, and we're not all homeless, but there are people who just can't get out of that rut. Also, I work with these homeless week in and week out, and more of these people that are homeless in this city of Newark, they're trying to improve their lives more than you could ever imagine, some of them. And it's not all true. It's not true that all the homeless are just taking handout after handout after handout and never trying to improve their lives. It's just not true. And I would just like to read this quote from the Newark Homeless Outreach Facebook post dated September 25th of this year, and I quote, Happy Wednesday. Another one of our guests has secured housing and is in need of furniture and household items. If you have anything that you could donate, please reach out to, and I'll leave that blank, on Facebook, unquote. I mean, these people, some of them are trying. They really are. Now, these types of success stories, I'll go on and say, do happen here in Newark, and just trying to criminalize these homeless from

where they are in the poverty level and then become homeless, it's just not going to work. I would ask City Council to table this ordinance next reading. I guess it's going to be October 21st. Table this ordinance and move to find a way to have low barrier shelter some way for these type of people that's in this situation. Try to move your energies toward that instead of this ordinance. Thank you.

Lawrence Joseph Brown, 197 S. 2nd St. - Can you time me? I did have a watch, it took me a while to get in and out because of the watch. I didn't steal it, I do own it, just for the record. I want to say hello, Mr. President Harris, with all due respect. Amy, good to see you. Mr. Neely, once again, we haven't spoken much, but we will. Doug, Colton, nice to talk to you. Tricia, Mayor Hall, good to see you. Now, this might ramble, if it goes beyond three, just cut me a little slack, I'll get it done, I'll be peaceful, I'll leave. All right, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, oh, sorry, wrong speech. I was gonna go, you're out of order, the whole city is out of order, it is out of order, it is out of order. There's a balance we can maintain, it's called communication. Fair, fair enough? Currently, oh, I'm sorry, my name is Lawrence Joseph Brown. I currently reside at 197 South 2nd Street, Newark, Ohio, the end of 2nd Street, currently. It says road closed, detour, I'm the other way, I'm the right way, take a right, stop by anytime. I've got people on my porch helping me sweep, picking up dog poop, weeding my flowerbeds for what? A couple cigarettes, a couple bucks, what's it for? Okay, a friend of mine left this on the step for me. He was gonna go back and pick it up if I didn't need it. That's one of the things we have to do, clean it up, make a mess, clean it up. Fair enough? Pick up your stuff, leave the planet like we found it. All right, another part, I think of a quote, yeah please, and let me know if I'm, Mr. Harris? I'll make it, I'll ramble, or I won't. I am the Lorax, I speak for the trees, no, I am Larry and I'm speaking for the homeless, to you, those that can be difference makers, all right? Here we go, I'm also none, we all have street names out there, well you don't, everyone knows your name, we voted for you, we put you in office, we, collective, put you in office, we can take you out. Your seats aren't that secure, know this, help us, okay? I represent the invisible, the unheard, the night rangers, the city's plight. Anyone who wants to listen to what I have to say, I'll be at Doubletree with some friends of mine, fair enough? Thank you, thank you, Doubletree, if you can make it, great, we'd like to talk.

John Labelle, 100 Jeffrey Ln - Thank you very much for allowing me to speak. I'm president of St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Leonard's Church in Heath. A lot was said tonight. The young man from college that spoke, that's getting educated to be a lawyer, really said an awful lot that you guys and gals need to think about. You have a chance right now to not to put a mark on the city, but to take action to help the homeless. If you pass this ordinance, it's not like being proud of a new interchange or a new cul-de-sac or a new highway or whatever that's going through the city. This is going to hurt the city, it's going to hurt the county, and it's going to hurt the state, and it's sad that you've taken this approach. I would like to see the City Council and the mayor take responsibility of appointing a group of councilmen to work with the community to come up with a better solution. Back behind me are many people that work in the community each and every day and fight homelessness. No one has the answer, but I really feel that if we put ourselves together in a room, we could come up with some answers, and that's something that has not happened here in the city of Newark, to my knowledge. So, Mayor, I ask you, look at me please, put together a committee, a coalition of your council people to start working with the community to solve this problem. It's not going to go away. You're going to

be, look, not as a city that is doing positive things for your community. You're going to be looking down. People are going to look down on the city because you've missed an opportunity to work with the people that can help you solve these problems. Every community in America has problems with the homelessness. Every community can stand tall or you can shrink down to where you are now, wanting to put the people in jail. They're citizens, just like everyone in this room, it's just like you. They're citizens of this community. They need help. Do not turn your backs. Postpone what you're doing for 12 months. Give yourself the opportunity and the people behind me to work to come up with the solutions. It's not going to be easy. Nothing is anymore. It takes time, but it takes effort. And that's what you need to do. It's easy to pass an ordinance and put people in jail. It's harder to find a solution. Many cities have. You had a program. Now, I would like to, you know, there's power in prayer, and I would like to say the Our Father, and these people can join me. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. Thank you very much for your time, and please consider this and give it time to work with the community. Thank you.

Logan Legge, 327 Union St. Apt. G22 - I've spent the last three years of my life working with people who have substance use disorder and are suffering from homelessness, and I could not imagine putting a single one of them in jail because of the situation they're currently in. On top of that, incarcerating homeless people is one of the most expensive things you can do, averaging about \$31,000 per person every year, and that's going to be paid by your taxpayers who are already suffering from high costs, inflation, and are already struggling to pay their bills. Florida implemented a Housing First strategy where they assigned caseworkers and gave permanent housing to residents, and that only cost them \$10,000 per person on average, saving nearly \$20,000 for every person they helped. In addition, in Syracuse, New York, they were able to end homelessness among veterans by working with their local organizations that have already been proposed. They're here, they want to help, and we need you to work with us to do that. Syracuse was the first city in the nation to end homelessness among veterans, and it would be great if Newark could set an example similar to that. Thank you.

Mary Jo Ferrell, 93 Grant St. - I know none of you want to see me talk again. I just want to start this evening by thanking you for allowing me to talk again, and I remember a while ago watching a council meeting on YouTube where a council member made a statement that the homeless problem in Newark was a gangrene to Newark. I watched the meeting. I know what was said. And at that point, I made the decision to help the homeless. Therefore, tonight I put on the full armor of God so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground and after you have done everything, stand. Stand firm then with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in its place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. Speak up and judge fairly. Defend the rights of the poor and the needy. Do not exploit the poor because they are poor, and do not crush the needy in court. Scoundrels use wicked methods. They make up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just. For the Lord is

our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king, and it is he who will save us. The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and the needy, to slay those whose ways are upright. For he never thought of doing a kindness, but hounded to death the poor and the needy and the brokenhearted. Defend the weak and the fatherless. Uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done. The poor plead for mercy, but the rich answer harshly. The poor are shunned by all their relatives. How much more do their friends avoid them? Through the poor, pursue them, pleading that they are nowhere to be found. Sorry, I don't have my readers on. Those who give to the poor will lose nothing but those who close their eyes to them, many curses. The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong, not so that people will see that we have stood the test, but so that you will do what is right, even though we may seem to have failed. You all will do what you have already decided to do. Your minds were made up a long time ago, but so you know, I have contacted the National Homelessness Law Center and hope to work with them to overturn this dangerous and frivolous law if you pass it and prove that housing is a basic human right in these United States. Get your ducks in a row. Thank you.

Brandon Myers, 371 O'Bannon Ave. - I'm going to read a couple quotes by folks that are harm reductionists, trying to raise awareness on what some of these terms mean. So, this gentleman's name is Jeremy and quote, nah, substances have been around since the beginning of time. We as a society need to learn to live with them instead of saying drugs are bad. I honestly feel like a lot of people in recovery are jealous of people who use drugs, especially people who can use in moderation. As a harm reductionist, the biggest pushback I get is from the 12 steppers and recovery people. I feel bad for anyone who thinks they need to live their whole life abstinent because that sounds like torture. Nature has taught us that humans and animals are always going to use substances to help them live. I'm sorry that you were brainwashed by this terrible drug war into believing that substances are the issue when it is actually policy, end quote. One more, this is by Patricia Perry, by the way, this is quote, by the way, just throwing it out there, I believe in safe consumption sites. I believe that we should give people a safe drug supply. How you like that, end quote. So, for a while, you know, I had the mindset that folks were just trying to help people. And then I started questioning what help is, like how do we define help? What is help? And clearly different people are defining it differently. And so, what I would like you guys to consider is there's been a lot of quoting of scripture tonight and the Lord's prayer came from Jesus and he had a principle that he preached and lived by and it's called the law of sowing and reaping. Okay, so if you take a lady who's in a bad situation and she's getting beaten, and if nobody comes around her and stands beside her and holds her husband accountable, then there will be no justice done. If everybody sweeps it under the rug, if we look the other way, then no justice will be done, why? Because you're voiding out the law of sowing and reaping. And so, you know, homeless people are no different than anyone else. They're people. If you cut their hand, they're gonna bleed. They go to the bathroom just like everybody else. They need to eat; those needs are the same. However, I believe they should be held accountable. There's still a law of sowing and reaping. So personally, I've seen very few people inside of the homeless camps that wanna change. Now, I would like to see different than that, but I have asked 12 people, roughly, it's been a little more than that, but I don't like to overestimate. So, I'll say 12 people, that number will

continue to rise if they're willing to come out of addiction in exchange for getting back integrated into society. And what do I mean by that? An example is, you have to hold me accountable because I don't have my stopwatch today, okay? So, an example of that is, a gentleman walked into our shop about four years ago, his name is Adam Vincent, and he said, I'm done, Brandon, I'm finally ready to get off drugs. And I said, are you serious? And he said, yeah. I said, all right, there's the door. You've got a decision to make. You're gonna stay in this shop for 21 days, and we're gonna dry you out, we're gonna get your head right, we're gonna get you straight, and I'll be in your corner the whole time. Or there's the door. There aren't any other options. You're either gonna lock yourself in here and we're gonna do this thing or you're gonna go. And he stood there for about two minutes and the wheels were turning. He made the decision to stay. Today, he's married and he has two children plus three children from his sister that he adopted because she was on drugs on the last child they had, so they got taken away from her, and he and Jess, his wife, took them. So, my point is, real help does not void out consequences. We can't act like that people that are in a worse spot than us get voided out from duties to have responsibility. One of my favorite quotes is by Viktor Frankl, and it is, along with the Statue of Liberty on the East Coast, we need a statue of responsibility on the West Coast as well. So, responsibility and liberty work hand in hand, and we can't void out one just in the idea or the mindset of it, we're helping under the guise. Thank you.

Mary Myers, 57 Annette Ave. - I wasn't planning on talking because I'm here for a school assignment. We got the mayor here, and you go every year to OSU the Spring Scholarship Award because I go, because I get an award for OSU-Newark because I'm an OSU-Newark student with two semesters left, and scared to death to losing my home because I decided to put the middle finger up to corporate America because they have ghost jobs out there. These people can't get jobs. You go to Sheets, you look at the Sheets, they're saying, apply, we're hiring. None of these, you get on their websites, none of them are hiring. And the mayor listens to all these stories about these kids and how the scholarships change their lives and better them. This ordinance is just taking one problem and causing another problem. That problem is the police are already overworked with the stuff that they have to do. The courts are overworked. The prison, my husband did a tour of the prison in training, not prison, at the jail to be a correctional officer. He noticed when he was on tour, three incarcerated people, they're not inmates, incarcerated people, were on the floor with mattresses. What do you think that's gonna do to our county jail? You're taking one problem and just moving it to another problem, moving it to another problem. Busting up a camp on this street, like somebody said, they're gonna just move that camp to another street. That's not solving problems, it's just causing more problems and more problems. So, I know you guys, you care because that's why you guys are coming up with the ordinance, cuz you saw that there is a problem. But the ordinance and criminalizing, it is not the way to go. And it's funny, cuz my research paper is on crime. So, I just don't think doing that, you have to think. You guys said a prayer at the beginning before you guys even had that, and stood up and said the Pledge of Allegiance before you addressed anything. So, nobody wants to see the homelessness. I have a class on OSU campus, and every morning I'm up there at 8 o'clock in the morning, there's homelesses sleeping on the concrete ground in front of businesses. And it's sad to see that. Don't know the solution, but what that solution is that you guys have come up with, is definitely not the right solution. So, who knows? You gotta try things. It works. Great, let's implement more, and let's expand it. If it doesn't,

regather and think of another way. Think outside the box. I think that's all I have to say, sorry. Thank you.

Ann Roach, 4895 Lake Forest Blvd., Westerville - I'm an attorney. I've been practicing and serving this community for six years, and Newark is my hometown. I just want to reiterate a lot of the myths we've heard tonight. First of all, that people in Newark that are homeless are not from here. The vast majority of homeless everywhere are from that area, and that includes Newark. There's no such thing as people being bused to Newark for benefits in Licking County that makes no sense at all. There are no benefits that Licking County provides. We have federal benefits, the same as everywhere else. Nobody is being bused to Newark. That myth has been around since before there even was a bus in Newark. And I, unfortunately, don't think it's going anywhere, but that is just absolutely false. Obviously, most homeless people are not on drugs. The people that are cannot be shamed out of addiction, and that's what this... The only way this sort of ordinance makes sense from a cost benefit is if you place innumerable value just on shaming people, because you can't shame people out of poverty or out of addiction. What you can do and what this ordinance would do is just send people to jail, leave them with more fines, worse record, worse opportunities, no opportunity to find housing in the future. Possibly also getting their birth certificates and other documents and things they need to try to find somewhere to go. Also, those getting lost in the shuffle of being thrown in jail. All this is not a bootstraps approach. This is a hope that people will be so unwelcome that they leave approach, and that just simply does not work. If we wanted, I mean, if that sort of thing worked, we've been trying that since the Victorian ages and since before. We keep framing this as a public safety issue. Again, this has nothing to do with private property. We already have the legal tools if someone is on your property. We have criminal trespass. If someone is otherwise committing a crime, we have disorderly conduct. We have all the legal tools to correct actual dangers in society. But the status of being in deep poverty is in itself not a danger. That we don't have just two options of spending tax money, which is cost efficient on this sort of thing, or jail. Those aren't the only two options. We could just do nothing and do no harm. We could stop exacerbating the problem as another solution. While I think the cost benefit on homelessness prevention and those sorts of things would be great, and it would be great if you all would talk to the shelters. That can tell you, by the way, that the beds are full. People are not avoiding the shelters. They're full. While investing in that sort of thing would be ideal. The other option is just to not make it worse is to do no harm. So that's why I would please urge you to vote no. Thank you.

Dustin Williams, 7853 Jug St., Alexandria - I also am out of 3710 O'Bannon Avenue. Accountability. It's been a big thing that nobody's really set up here and it's all about putting people in jail. But it's really, I mean, the last meeting that was talked about, it was a 48 hour, you know, hey, you got to get up, you got to go. In reality, I think these people need to be held accountable. And a lot of people are saying they have a 5013c. Why don't the people that have the 5013c in the housing coalition and everything else work together as one to help these people with their resources instead of grouping yourselves out to be other individuals. Also, if the whole homeless outreach program. I've been on this thing for about, oh, three weeks now. I'm just gonna be blunt. I go and find somebody that's homeless and I asked them straight up. I've got recordings on my phone that I could play right now, that state that they are receiving needles, Narcan, alcohol wipes. I just got told they're receiving a bubble, which is a meth pipe.

For what reason? If you guys really want to see what we, you know, the people that want this community cleaned up, challenge yourself to go out or follow somebody that goes out. We'll provide you with the tool to pick up the needles and the trash and ask yourself, do I have children or do I have grandchildren that want to walk the bike paths, walk the streets, walk anywhere, play in a field. To potentially step on something, to get something, hepatitis that everybody's claiming that this is a harm reduction for. I get it. I absolutely get it. The hepatitis is absolutely terrible. I don't think it should be a spread situation. But at the same time, I think that these people that are handing out this stuff need to be accountable, held accountable. And the reason why I say that is because I ran with the fire department. I'm sure every one of you guys in here has a family member that's been an addict, you know, has become clean from addiction. I guarantee at one time, a fire department or an emergency personnel of any sort has helped your family member and gone out of their way, because you obviously didn't know what was going on. So, I challenge you guys to think about that, because I guarantee the people that are handing out these needles, mind you, Saturday, 11:45, I was down by the Cedar St. Speedway. And I'm going to be blunt, St. Vincent de Paul. I received 10 needles in your guys' parking lot from a gentleman that told me straight up, recorded, that he walked to the Homeless Outreach Program right across from, what is it, 155 East Main Street, the jail, and received 10 needles, hypodermic needles, and I'll tell you that it will be evidence. It will be turned in, I'm sure. I'm happy to fill out that report. I'm happy to do a video on that as well, showing them that I received that as I recorded it, as evidence. So, to think that, and I challenge every one of you guys in the wards. If you guys haven't driven down, and I'm not going to, you know, tell whoever, but the Sally, I agree that they get, I agree they need food and, you know, a home and everything else. But if they're not willing to help themselves, what are we doing? We're enabling them. We're enabling them to keep getting high. They don't care about nothing. Your kids' bicycles. Your kids' bicycles. Your grandkids' bicycles. Guess what? Gone. I've been down off 2nd Street. I've been back in the camps. I've been down behind the Sally. The Sally, I wouldn't let my kid walk. I wouldn't let my kid walk. There's grown adults saying inappropriate things. There're women, you know, that are selling themselves. 19, 20, 21 years old, for what? Because of a drug. It's an addiction. And if you guys aren't going to be able to help them, and I'm not saying these guys, because it's not their responsibility to help you guys. At 18 years old, I went off to, straight out of high school, 30 days out of high school, I graduated. I went to college. That was my opportunity to make a living. I have, I'll say it this way, my mother's an addict. I've talked to her about it, she'll never come clean. That's her decision. Is that my mother? Absolutely, I love her to death, but at the end of the day, I have to hold my mom accountable because I have grandchildren. I have nieces and nephews. It's a revolving door. It's not their responsibility to continue enabling these people to continue forward. If they're not willing to help themselves, hit them with the misdemeanor, guys. Hit them with the misdemeanor. If there's a law director, I challenge you and I challenge the mayor. Whatever the blue building is and whatever the address is, if somebody knows it, go investigate that building, investigate it. Ten needles, hypodermic needles to one person. And if the county's saying there's anywhere between, I've counted over 75 people. That's 7,500 needles in a matter of an hour. I think the statistics were a couple weeks ago, 44,000, and that was on the low end. Do your math. One day, 7,500 needles. One day. How many weekends do we have in a month? How many weekends do we have in a year? It just adds up. Again, I think they should be held

accountable because all they're doing is enabling people to overdose from a drug that they're A, getting from somewhere or a meth pipe from this place. Why can't we hold them people accountable for homicide? That's all I gotta say.

Sue Robinson, 1445 Londondale Pkwy - I had a speech and I scrapped it. Basically, I just want to say, number one, we can't put all homeless people in one category. There's a million reasons. It could have happened to me. My speech included three different times it could have happened to me. But somebody was around to give me a leg up, and so it didn't. But if we're going to be going after anybody criminally, I think we should start with the corporate landlords who've raised rents so high that you can hold two or three jobs, and you can't find a place to live. So, part of the reason that it never happened to me is because I was born way before rents were that high. And I had help buying a home, buying my first home, and I can't tell you how many times that has saved me, the fact that I'm a homeowner instead of being subject to rentals. So, yeah, let's don't put every homeless person in one category. There are drug addicts with homes, there are drug addicts without homes, but that's two different issues. And I think what the attorney said about how we have laws for other behaviors was very important. And that's it.

Caitlin Curtis, homeless - I also want to thank you guys for letting me speak again. This guy said accountability. I take accountability because my husband died four years ago, and I am not out on the streets because of drugs. I'm out on the streets because of financial situations. He was my payee. And sometimes I've went to the Salvation Army, and the major there upset me because she called me a liability risk, which hurts me. I've called landlords recently, and they have told me that they won't rent to me because the homeowner's insurance will go up if I have a seizure or if I fall. So, I've not been able to get housing, I'm trying. And for people who can't afford housing because it's too high, I just ask that you guys do take that into consideration because I don't know about other people, but I feel like I'm being labeled instead of being a human. And I feel like I'm having to go and walk around with a prison number on me because nobody wants to see me for who I am and give me a chance with my disability and it upsets me because I want to feel like I'm part of this, you know, society instead of being called a liability risk or not worth taking a chance on. That's all. Thank you.

Daniel Crawford, 163 S. 2nd St. - Thank you, Mr. President. I had another speech planned but I realized trying to speed up the agenda and stuff so I'll just, you know, deal with that one later. Anyway, this is my second speech I had. So, is the proposal coming soon for your consideration a criminalization of the homeless? Members of Council have protested the notion that this is effectively what will happen, and I hope to explain why it is that we can justifiably argue that the proposed ordinance to ban camping will effectively criminalize the state of homelessness in Newark. Consider for a second the three basic things which all animals including us humans must do. For starters, all animals must consume both water and food. Secondly, all animals must then dispense with what they've consumed. But what is the third and unavoidable part of life which is inescapable for all animals including us? Sleep. We cannot survive without the required minimum sleep that our bodies need. It is this last part which serves as the key factor in asserting that the proposed ordinance criminalizes the homeless for it punishes the citizens of Newark who dare to exist outside the confines of four walls. If you will indulge in a thought experiment with me for a second, I ask that you imagine if Licking County as a whole followed our lead in adopting this ban. Then what if every county in the United States followed one by

one? Where would the growing homeless population of this country go? Do we even care? Or is this just the latest version of someone saying they want the crisis to be handled as long as it isn't in our backyard? In reading and listening to the concerns of the citizens who've been crying for help in dealing with criminal activity, I have noticed that nothing about this ordinance actually addresses the bulk of their concerns. Unless we presuppose that all homeless people are criminals with a goal of chasing them away. A man wielding an axe will still be able to appear in front of our neighbor's houses. People will still be able to roam the streets late at night. Getting scared by some mystery person shouting in windows will not be stopped. No, these concerns will not be dealt with here because each of those cries for help require more police not banning people from sleeping on benches. And unfortunately, hiring more police requires more money that our officials claim we do not have while they approve their own pay raises using our tax dollars once every four years. Giving you the benefit of the doubt, however, I will say that it is possible that your intentions mean well. You may not mean to be cruel, but the end result of this proposed ordinance will be cruelty by force of law. Even so, it is incumbent upon the people we elect to push back against the lies which allow this resentment for those suffering to fester, lest your goal is the exploitation of fear. Finally, to my fellow citizens of the city, I have called home for 31 of my 39 years of life. I ask that you consider the manipulation of your emotions by those in power. After all, we are all one crisis away from being homeless ourselves and being criminalized by an ordinance written with the purported best of intentions. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director – Thank you. Mr. Brunner. Is he here? Just for the people that talked about the Newark Station, it is my understanding that... I understand you had a music festival this weekend that there were several complaints called in, and it is my understanding that charges are being sent to my office. So, we will be addressing that issue. And was it Dustin that was speaking about the needles? Because that is a felony. That is the jurisdiction of the county prosecutor. So, I would ask that that be communicated with that office. And with that, I pass. Thank you.

Mayor Hall – I'll pass this evening. Thank you.

Mr. Houser – Thank you, Mr. President. I know Mr. Brunner is not here, but I want to thank him for coming down and just bringing up that Roost on the River situation. I know a couple of council members and I went down there over the last few years have been down there a few different times. That's definitely something we know about, so I'll definitely be looking into that. With regards to ordinance 24-36, I appreciate everybody coming out and sharing their thoughts on kind of both sides of that issue. I've shared a couple of occasions where I sit on that ordinance. I really don't have anything further to add on that. And so, with that, I will pass.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to thank everyone for coming out and sharing your thoughts on Ordinance 24-36. As I've said previously, it's an ordinance that everyone is passionate about and I appreciate your feedback and your thoughts on both sides of the issue. Thank you for being here this evening. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for October 21st. I want to thank everyone for coming out and voicing their opinions. I do greatly

appreciate that. I took a lot of notes here. The vote isn't until next week. I will be compiling some information for that meeting. And with that, I'll pass.

Mr. Neely – Thank you, Mr. President. Like everyone else, I want to thank everybody for coming out. If this ordinance has done anything, it's really sparked a big conversation in our community. Brought together a lot of nonprofits, a lot of advocates. I, unfortunately, when this was tabled in committee, it pushed it to a week that I will not be here for a second reading. And I won't be able to vote on this. However, I do feel it important to give my opinion on it. I'm not skirting the issue. I have an opinion on it. Homelessness has been a growing issue for years in Newark. I don't think anybody denies that. You know, we have many citizens that are scared. Many citizens that are frustrated with that, and many of them do support this ordinance. I believe it is important to give law enforcement the tools, and laws are one of their tools, to deal with situations that they are called to deal with. I've heard a lot, you know, we've heard a lot over the last three weeks. I believe that there's a lot of misconceptions on this ordinance. That it's just going to be going out and arresting the homeless. I don't believe that to be the case. In my conversations, you know, I believe this ordinance to be, it's going to be complaint driven. I've heard that it's going to be services first, which I hope it is. I'm not opposed to helping people that want the help. However, there are times when law enforcement is called to a situation where they do need to make sure they have the tools to deal with that and take enforcement action if they need to. So, I believe this is a very important ordinance for our city and our citizens, and I do support it. And with that, I will pass.

Mr. Rath – Thank you. Again, I want to thank, like everybody else, thank you guys for coming out, voicing your opinion both on the ordinance as well as the other issues that we've talked about tonight. I will call a Service Committee meeting for Monday, the 21st, and with that, I'll pass.

Mr. Rine – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to thank everybody for coming out. I counted 22 people. So, yeah, thank you for coming out and expressing your opinion. We have another meeting, we will be compiling everything, and plan to see you there. Thank you.

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you all for coming out tonight. As I've always said, we don't know what your thoughts are unless you come and tell us. And so, we appreciate that. And with that, I will pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to mirror Mr. Marmie's comments. I am still receiving e-mails. I'm still receiving calls. I'm still visiting in people's homes and in their yards, and I'm still going into the encampments, and still talking to people who are on the streets about where they're from, how they get here. I'm finding out a lot. So, I'm compiling all this. And to Mr. Marmie's point, as well as these comments tonight, because I want to be sure that no one or nothing is left unspoken to. Now, I had to pivot for just a minute here. I want to thank Mr. Bubba and his staff for that well-deserved reward, because in today's world, financial integrity is hard to come by. And it's important. We're seeking to operate the city with so many things coming forward. And then I also need to thank some folks who went above and beyond. Nick Shultz, from our engineering department, he greatly intervened for a local veteran, a handicapped veteran, and his home access situation. Very grateful for him. And then the street department added signage for Poplar, as semis were using that very, very narrow street for a cut through. That's a big deal. There's just no room for anything like that to happen there. And I'd also like to thank Greg Fox and Lindsay Brighton in the water department for intervening,

taking care of some issues on 2nd Street and as well on the western street area. And then Brian Morehead, again, went above and beyond and pursued some difficult street repairs on Weiant that have been needed for some time and so I appreciate that. Just a second more. On speaking with accountability, I've had many, many, many calls on found needles and folks who have picked up harm reduction kits with the same in them. So, over the years we calculated over thousands of needles distributed it's hard to quantify how many have been used as part of drug deals, which is their businesses, hot needle hits that do look like overdoses, and overdoses themselves. It's also difficult to quantify the impact this distribution is made on the city's founded EMS systems. It's huge. It's unknown how many citizens have come into contact with trace drugs within the syringes or have been harmed by the needles themselves because you don't know if you've been stuck until you walk away and you see a needle and think oh my goodness I walked on that. The larger, and possibly most harmful impact, is psychological. As commonplace as a commonplace syringe culture becomes embedded in the eye gates of our youth. So, they lose fear any fear or hesitancy around these needles. It becomes a part of... It's a way of life for them. It's very destructive. Now, I'm not an attorney, but I do understand that this distribution is illegal and we would ask prosecutor Wells to pursue this to the greatest of her abilities. On the sound ordinance, I want to thank NPD for doing all that they did and we are going to pursue this and we're going to go after it to give the citizens peace. Thank you.

Mr. Chute – Thank you, Mr. President. I too will be unable to attend our next council meeting, so I thought I would take just a moment to share my thoughts on the ordinance as well. For the last several meetings we have heard a wide array of citizen comments with regard to the proposed Ordinance 24-36. I would like to first commend all of those who have taken time to share their perspective with us, on both sides of the issue. Thank you for your concern for our community and all who live here. I have met with a number of citizens, non-profit leaders and stakeholders over the course of the past few weeks. There is no question that the issues before us are complex. Cities across the country have been grappling with these issues for years. I found the recent Supreme Court decision in *City of Grants Pass vs. Johnson* to be a thorough and thoughtful summary of the public policy challenges we face. Justice Gorsuch, encapsulates much of the issue in writing the Majority Opinion. Justice Gorsuch writes: [As the number and size of these encampments have grown, so have the challenges they can pose for the homeless and others. We are told, for example, that the “exponential increase in . . . encampments in recent years has resulted in an increase in crimes both against the homeless and by the homeless.” Some have argued that the enforcement of these laws can create a “revolving door that circulates individuals experiencing homelessness from the street to the criminal justice system and back.” But many cities take a different view. According to the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties and others across the American West, these public-camping regulations are not usually deployed as a front-line response “to criminalize homelessness.” Instead, they are used to provide city employees with the legal authority to address “encampments that pose significant health and safety risks”] I share the view that limitations on camping are not a remedy for homelessness. Neither, in my view, is this proposed legislation an assault on it. California Governor Brief 16, referenced in the Grants Pass decision, says “policy makers need access to the full panoply of tools in the policy toolbox” to “tackle the complicated issues of housing and homelessness.” It is my hope that whether this proposed legislation should pass or fail, the broader discussion around the challenges of the

unsheltered in our community will continue. I think we can all agree, independent of this legislation, there is much work to be done. Thank you, Mr. President. I will pass.

Mr. Cost – I want to thank you all for coming. I truly appreciate that. In two weeks, we're going to vote on this issue, and regardless of how that vote goes, my pledge is to continue to work with the members of City Council, administration, the non-profits, the social services in this area because there has got to be a better answer than jail. Thank you.

President Harris – Our next meeting is October 21st. My biggest issue tonight is the Cleveland Browns.

(laughter)

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council