

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
August 5, 2024

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on August 5, 2024, following the Finance Committee with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath - Chair
Dustin Neely – Vice Chair
Bill Cost Jr.
Beth Bline
Colton Rine sitting in for Bradley Chute

We wish to report:

1. **Resolution No. 24-66** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH OWENS CORNING INSULATING SYSTEMS, LLC, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW BRIDGE AT RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Brian Morehead, Chief Engineer - Yes, thank you. So, there's an existing bridge on Riverside Drive, and it is such that the south half of the bridge is in the right of way of Riverside Drive. The north half of the bridge is in the vacated right of way of Riverside Drive, which is now owned by Owens Corning. We've been working with them for, oh, probably the last three or four years to come up with a way to get that bridge replaced, and finally, they've been able to budget for their portion of the bridge. So, we've moved forward with the design work. It's underway right now. We're planning to have the plans completed in October, get the project out to bid. It's probably going to be an early spring construction by the time the bridge components are manufactured and so forth. So, this is a resolution to cooperate with Owens Corning, basically split the costs for the bridge project between Owens and the city. If there's any questions, I'll be glad to try to answer them.

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

2. **Resolution No. 24-70** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A NEW MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEWARK SPORTS AND EVENTS COMMISSION, INC., TO OPERATE THE LOU AND GIB REESE ICE ARENA AND PICKLEBALL COURTS

Director Rhodes - Thank you, Mr. Chair, as you know, we added pickleball courts to that site. In our old management agreement, it didn't have anything in there about pickleball courts. The new management agreement does. In the old management agreement, it didn't talk about what would happen if the City wanted to walk away from its lease agreement with Newark Sports Events Commission. In this, it speaks to that, but those are the two major changes that's in this agreement. We're thrilled with the operation of the ice arena. If you haven't been out there, take a look. We have a wonderful ice arena. We were able to add a visitor's locker room. It was a \$450,000 lift with three donors. The ice arena is in great shape, as well as the pickleball courts, and we envision the pickleball courts will stay in great shape too. So those are the two highlight changes in here.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Cost, Second by Ms. Bline

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - I did have a question, and I did raise my hand earlier. On this, this change seems to be sort of a privatization of our parks, and I was wondering why we were going in this direction.

Director Rhodes - Yeah, Doug and I were on council back in 2004 and 2005. Mr. Rath was there. Mr. Harris. A couple of visitors that have been hanging around since then. We had an ice arena that was getting ready to close, and Bruce Bain got with Council and Tim Weisert, and we got Robertson Construction, and we raised a bunch of money, and we redid the ice arena. At that time, it was Council's feeling that the city doesn't do a good job operating things, but we can do a good job owning things. So, the Newark Sports and Events Commission was created back then. It's been a very, very successful partnership. The people on the board donate their time, just as the people on the Board of the Downhill that Colton sits on donate their time, and what this really is is a natural extension of that, and they currently have been overseeing the pickleball courts, and quite frankly, I'm not going to hire, I don't want to hire people to run an ice arena and run pickleball courts.

Ms. Volen-Smith - Yes. I've noticed problems with the parks, and for instance, across the street at the Rotary Club Park.

Mr. Rath - We're talking about the ice arena and the pickleball.

Ms. Volen-Smith - Okay, well, the thing is, who is responsible for repairs?

Mr. Rath - For the ice arena? Pickleball courts?

Ms. Volen-Smith - Yeah, and actually the Rotary Club Park as well.

Director Rhodes - The Rotary Park is not a city park. It's taken care of by the University and Rotary. The ice arena, it's spelled out in an agreement who's responsible for what, and we have annual meetings. Actually, we meet with them on a continual basis to talk about maintenance, repair, and things of that nature. Last year, if you can remember, we put a new roof on the place. With your help.

Mr. Marmie - As far as the philosophy of our parks, at one point, we used to have parks on almost every corner, and it was just a nightmare to maintain. To have neighborhood parks that were small in nature. The equipment started to deteriorate. No one was taking care of it. You can't monitor it. You're moving equipment to cut the grass every single day. We tried to limit the number of parks we had to bigger, nicer parks in the City of Newark and those that we can maintain. As far as the economics of it, we try to do a private/public partnership to keep the cost down on the City, so then taxpayer dollars aren't paying for all of it. So, that was the philosophy of this and other things that are going on, is to try to reduce the taxpayer burden on our parks, but still have nice, quality facilities that are run by professionals. The City doesn't know how to run an ice arena. There are professionals that know how to run an ice arena, and they're a lot better at it than us as a city. We know they would do a much better job. The folks that are on the board, they deal with not only the hockey, but also the recreational, and even some of the figure skating type of stuff that was going on. We want to maintain the fact that we have that in our City, so we maintain ownership of it.

Ms. Volen-Smith – Who is maintaining it?

Mr. Marmie – We do. It is our responsibility of the facility. That's our cost.

Ms. Volen-Smith – Who is in charge of the Rotary Park?

Mr. Marmie – That's not the City of Newark. Contact Ohio State.

Ms. Volen-Smith – Thank you.

Motion passed 5-0

Meeting stands adjourned

Jeff Rath -Chair