

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 3, 2015

Council Chambers

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M. - President Ellington called the Monday August 3, 2015 Newark City Council Meeting to order

ROLL CALL- Mr. Rolletta, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bubb, Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Guthrie, Ms. Hall, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath

INVOCATION – Mr. Johnson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Ellington

CAUCUS

MINUTES- of July 20, 2015 Motion by Mr. Rath second by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes as presented and the reading be dispensed with in view of the fact each member of Council has received written summary of same. **Motion carried by acclamation**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance-**Received & Filed**

Service- **Received & Filed**

Capital Improvement -**Received & Filed**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Barb Jobses, Newark City Income Tax Administrator- Income Tax Revenue Reports ending July 15, 2015- **Received & Filed**

COMMUNICATIONS

Paul Moran- written statement of his comments during July 20, 2015 Newark City Council Meeting. **Received & Filed**

Theresa Moats- invitation to member of Council to National Night Out on August 1, 2015 7 P.M.-9 P.M. to celebrate block watch programs and community involvement. **Received & Filed**

PUBLIC HEARING

President Ellington opened the public hearing.

There were no comments received for or against this issue.

The public hearing was closed.

By: Mr. Blake, Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Rath

15-14 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 13.457 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, 6TH STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, FROM THAT OF LI (LIMITED INDUSTRIAL) DISTRICT, TO MFR (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE) DISTRICT.

Motion by Mr. Cost to adopt Ordinance 15-14, second by Mr. Blake

Mr. Blake- I would like to say thank you and that I feel this is going to be a very worthwhile project. I think this is something we need in our community and I know Linda and Tom have been in several different meetings trying to address concerns. Now moving forward I think it is going to be a partnership with the neighborhood. I think this is going to be a great thing, thank you so much for your effort on this proposal.

Motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

William Butcher, 263 Union St- stated that he would like Union Street paved and the alley behind where he lives.

Yvonne Gonzales, 228 Boyleston Ave- testified to Council that there is a very serious drug and crime problem on Boyleston Ave.

She stated that she and other concerned residents have been to the Mayor's Office, Chief of Police and Metro asking for help ending this problem which has been going on for the last 5 years. She stated she has spoken to officer Conley and that he said they are investigating her complaints. She stated they have even contacted the owners of the two particular properties she referred to in her comments. She stated she has spoken to officer Conley and that he said they are investigating her complaints. There are safety concerns for the children in the neighborhood.

Sheryl Sturgis, 213 Boyleston Ave- stated that she is part of the block watch program and that she is concerned for the children in the neighborhood that are not been supervised by their parents. She stated that the residents that are dealing drugs on their street have scanners so they know when the police are coming.

Kay Kittle, 48 N 21st – she and her husband own Yesterday's Pub. She complained the house across the street that she stated has been boarded up and abandoned for two years. She also stated that the alley behind their restaurant has very large hole and that it is the main egress to the restaurant.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE SECOND READING

By: Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Rath

15-65 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(297, Fire Safety Grant Fund, in the amount of \$3,500.00: Supplies & Training; 100, General Fund, in the amount of \$5,690.72: Temp Services for Parks Dept)

Motion by Mr. Blake to adopt Resolution No. 15-65, Mrs. Floyd

Motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

By: Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Rath

15-67 A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO VACATE A PORTION OF A 16.5 FOOT WIDE ALLEY AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF THE JOHN R. HUGHES ADDITION, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3 AT PAGE 13 OF THE LICKING COUNTY PLAT RECORDS, LOCATED BETWEEN PROPERTIES AT 279 AND 295 WILSON STREET.

Motion by Mr. Johnson to adopt Resolution No. 15-67, second by Mr. Rath

Motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Rath

15-68 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION-CI

(335, Capital Improvement Fund-\$23,429.00: Maintenance of Streets)

Held for a Second Reading

By: Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Rath

15-69 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(298, ODNR Grant Fund-\$23,429.00: ODNR Nature Works Grant Received; 100, General Fund-\$23,429.00: OPT)

Held for a Second Reading

By: Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Rath

15-70 A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO APPROPRIATE THE REAL ESTATE KNOWN AS PARCEL # 054-280590-00.000, NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, FOR MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING MT. VERNON ROAD WITHIN THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE OWNER OF SUCH LANDS AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Cost to adopt Resolution No. 15-70, second by Mrs. Floyd

Motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mark Fraizer, 20 W North St- I have a prepared statement concerning the upcoming Safety Committee meeting. In light of the upcoming Safety Committee and the ongoing discussions with our community regarding part time fire staffing I want to clearly and concisely review the arguments to get to the bottom of the community impact of instituting this model and cost benefit analysis of performing such a wager. The following items I wish to discuss: 1. Part time firefighters are less dedicated. Part time firefighters are still dedicated professionals that pride themselves in performing a difficult job that makes a difference in the lives of the people in our community. Part time firefighting is often par for the course especially in career in which most part time firefighters are career until retirement. They maintain their certifications and desire to work in this profession even without a pension and benefits in hope of continuing in this career that will eventually lead to their full time employment with benefits. It would be foolish to think that a part time firefighter working at a department with the opportunity for full time positions would be unreliable and would present anything other than their best. Although the preference would always be full time employment what is a firefighter to do that has not yet found that full time opportunity they seek? 2. Part time firefighters are low quality. A part time firefighter maintains the same certifications and credentials as a full time firefighter. Fully trained and often experienced for years through volunteering by part time work their experience can extremely beneficial and complimentary to full time firefighters. If an applicant would be of less experience or lack accreditation they should not be hired. With these positions competition should bring forth the best candidates throughout the county and Newark. The hiring process should find the most ideal candidates from our community hopefully filling these positions with residents of Newark. 4. Part time firefighters are likely to leave seeking full time employment. With 57% of the fire department with a second job it is more likely that a part time firefighter will maintain their status in Newark and work a full time job elsewhere giving up other part time employment that doesn't offer any upward mobility. With Newark offering competitive wages to part time firefighters it is not beyond the realm of belief or possibilities that our wages, facilities, equipment and experience will compel part time workers to maintain their position in Newark's Fire Department. Part time firefighters take away from full time careers. Part time firefighters would enable the opportunity of transitioning part time firefighters to full time firefighters and enable experience and careers that go hand in hand. It would be possible to have a better idea of the qualification of a full time candidate first hand and allow full time firefighters to have a greater understanding of the demands of their community. This will not take away from full time careers but provide necessary staffing in times when the budget doesn't allow for additional full time firefighters. We will be able to have adequate staffing levels with an augmented staff instead of low staffing levels in a single model. Part time firefighters would not benefit our community. Part time firefighters would stabilize the overtime pay and improve staffing levels and develop local firefighters with greater experience. It would provide the possibility of providing additional wages locally to a greater number of individuals improves out tax base and will attract additional residents due to improved safety, employment and service. The goal is not to remove overtime or replace our firefighters with part time employees but in times when there are 11 firefighters out on sick or disability our firefighters can maintain their staffing without over working our dedicated professionals. The benefits speak for themselves. Better response time, higher staffing levels and reduced budgetary constraints. It is an obvious solution and it will prevent any additional unnecessary safety levy and the city plunging into the rainy day savings fund to maintain daily operations. Delaying action doesn't have financial impact. To delay action causes further spending and has a waterfall effect of pushing back the planning, the approving, and the interviewing and eventual hiring. It is naïve to state that what you are doing by delaying this does not have an impact. It is the only way to have the recommended 9-14 firefighters to enable a stabilization of staffing. To continue to not act will only create greater danger to the public when they need help and will continue to drain the firefighters risking their lives. To continue to spend the \$218,686.00 by July 4th or \$31,284.00 per month in overtime will compound this problem with delay. I hope that you judicially look at these options and realize inaction does have dire consequences for our community. Best of luck next week I hope that

you all really look at this issue and find a solution.

Yvonne Gonzales, 228 Boyleston Ave- asked the Law Director if it was illegal for landlords to collect rent for Metro housing knowing that their tenants are dealing drugs. She stated that she has made Joyce Thorpe and Barry Cost aware of what is going on.

William Butcher, 263 Union St- wants Union St paved and the alley fixed and paved.

Paul Moran, 63 N 4th St- brought property maintenance violations regarding 325 W Main St, the former Westinghouse plant, to Council members attention. He stated that there are broken windows, overgrowth, boards hanging and falling off. He also stated that the sidewalks are neglected.

Daniel Crawford, 163 S 2nd St- Economic growth should always be celebrated. As of late, we've heard and read a great deal of praise about job creation at the national, state, and even local level. Then again, we need to be sure that the gains are enjoyed by all who are willing to work hard. Right now, despite our large pool of citizens ready and able to work as productive members of society; their options leave much to be desired. You may ask yourself: how can we turn things around? Aren't we all merely at the market's unpredictable mercy? Not entirely. At a local level, the government can contribute to minimizing income inequality in part by reserving its tax incentives for the creation of living wage jobs. Let's be honest, the people of Newark need something better and more reliable than part-time or temporary work. What will it take to build the economy we need? What are the prospective job-creators telling us that they want? What are we asking the businesses already here to contribute? What is the game plan and at what point are we supposed to see the fruits thereof? How much revenue has the city lost as a result of the tax abatements we've given? In what way have the people of Newark benefited from their city government starving itself? Would it not be preferable to withhold these types of temporary tax breaks for the businesses willing to both pay their fair share when the time comes as well as replace the revenue lost by way of hiring workers to be paid enough that their income taxes can pick up the tab? Not only would this help us turn the corner in tax collection, but it could rebuild our social mobility, thus making Newark a better, more satisfying place to live. Although making a tax-free appeal to newcomers is part of a locale's duties to inspire growth, one thing that needs to change in every community is the duration of said abatements and the ability to get an eternal series of renewals each time it expires. At a certain point this free ride has to end, and a cap should be set. If your business is unwilling to or incapable of contributing to the city's services like everyone else, then perhaps it is time to reevaluate your goals. What is the point of property taxes if every eligible property isn't taxed consistently? After all, who inherits the burden of taxes when a few aren't paying their part? The answer is that everyone pays a higher price both in our direct taxation and in the indirect cost through the services cut when there isn't enough money. For this reason, we need a serious conversation about how best to develop a sustainable future. Through a smarter set of policies, we can set out to attract the jobs Newark needs and begin to restore our hope. No one likes to talk about taxes, but we can't pretend that our only budget problem is that we spend too much on wasteful things like paying firefighters and police dispatchers. Pledging an incentive to new businesses is understandable, and it would be great if we could continue to offer everyone this perk in perpetuity. However, just as it is unrealistic and fiscally irresponsible for us to say we're going to fully fund every project that we'd like the city to tackle; it is likewise inappropriate for us to keep passing the proverbial buck on funding the city. Again, I'm not saying that we should eradicate tax abatements altogether, just that we utilize such in a way which will benefit the whole of Newark in the long-run.

This past Thursday's meeting at the library was extremely productive. I appreciate Mr. Fraizer's comments. We need as much input as possible and I thought that there were a lot of incredibly ideas at the meeting. I hope that we continue to see that trend in the future with the public coming together offering their input.

Sheryl Sturgis, 213 Boyleston Ave- asked if they could get property maintenance out on their street regarding the vacant houses. She stated they have problems with four wheelers going down their street and sidewalks.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Blake- called for a Finance Committee meeting and advised the women in the audience that Property Maintenance is under the Safety Director as well and they should speak with him after the meeting.

Mr. Cost- called for a Service Committee meeting

Mrs. Floyd- called for a Personnel Committee meeting to discuss both part time firefighters and part time safety inspectors. The final Community Round Table meeting is this coming Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church at noon with Mr. Mark Mauter there to make a presentation about Newark and all that is going on downtown. I would like to encourage everyone to go to South Second Street that is finished and take a look at it because it looks really nice and it gives you a clue as to what downtown will look like when it is done. As the east part of South Second Street gets under way Wendy's drive thru is going to be impossible to get to so if we as citizens and members of Council could occasionally go to Lapaloma or Wendy's that are going to be harder to get to and support those businesses because it is going to be torn up for several months. I think Wendy's will take a big hit so if we could park somewhere and walk over there it would be very helpful.

Mr. Guthrie- first I want to thank Councilman Blake for the meeting that he hosted at the library. I think it was very good and I think we heard some very good input from citizens and got some good ideas. The one thing that I wanted to mention about the part time issue is that I heard some folks saying and there has been some blogging that by Council not acting on Ordinance 15-21 we stopped the administration from looking at part time firefighters or stopped them from researching. There is nothing in this legislation that stops anybody from researching anything. Our charter in my opinion is clear that Council creates positions and it is our duty to pass this kind of legislation and to do our due diligence I have been researching other communities and I know I am not the only one who has done this to find out how it works and doesn't work. Some communities said they had tremendous turn over. The cost of the turn over because of the equipment is significant. I think that it is incumbent upon all of us to do our own research. There is nothing in this legislation that stops anybody from researching this issue. It is not about research. It is about this Council doing what our charter says our responsibility is.

Mr. Marmie- regarding 39 S 6th St and 45 S 6th St which are the only ones that I see in that area and are both owned by Ross Hines. As far as alleys, I have heard a lot of comments about alleys needing to be paved but it is a matter of priority because we are still filling potholes and making repairs to our streets before they get to the alleys. I know that the administration would love to get to those quicker but it is a lesser priority than our streets at this point. He encouraged people to go on the City's website and go to See Click Fix which is the best way to communicate with the Street Department. He stated that he knew they looked at that consistently and react to it very efficiently.

Mr. Rath- Mrs. Floyd has an excellent idea to go downtown and patronize those businesses that are going to be tough to get to. I will remind everybody is back and open so if you want to park some place park at the parking garage and take a stroll. It is closer to do that than it is to walk from Elder-Beerman to Dick's in the mall. Come on downtown.

President Ellington- thank you to everybody for coming tonight. The next meeting will be Monday August 10th. Committees will meet at 5:30 P.M. City Council meets again on Monday August 17th at 7:00 P.M. This is a five Monday month so there will not be a meeting on Monday the 24th. Committees will then meet on Monday August 31st.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion by Mr. Rath to adjourn, second by Mr. Cost. Motion carried by acclamation. 7:40 P.M.