

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 7, 2013

Council Chambers

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M. - Mr. Ellington called the January 7, 2013 Newark City Council meeting to order.

ROLL CALL- Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Frost, Mr. Houdeshell, Mrs. Loomis, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Ms. Stare, Mr. Bubb

ABSENT- Mr. Guthrie

INVOCATION – Mrs. Floyd

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Director Spurgeon

CAUCUS- motion by Mrs. Floyd to excuse Mr. Guthrie, second by Mr. Marmie

MINUTES of December 17, 2012. Motion by Mr. Rath, second Mrs. Loomis that the minutes of the December 17, 2012 council meeting be approved 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.

APPOINTMENTS- Mayor Hall reappointed Stuart Moynihan as a board member of Newark Development Partners. Motion by Mr. Frost, second by Mr. Rath, to reappoint Stuart Moynihan as a member of the Board of Newark Development Partners. There were no objections. - Received and Filed

REPORTS STANDING COMMITTEES

REPORTS CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Hall- Annual state of the City Address.

Good Evening. Tonight I am pleased to report on the state of our great city -Newark.

The 2010 census listed Newark's population at 47,573, which makes us the 20th largest city in Ohio. While we are not a small town, we do enjoy the comforts a smaller community has to offer. This is important as we guide Newark into the future. Having been in office only one year, our new Administration has worked diligently in short order to change the "culture of local government" and focus our resources in a most efficient, yet productive manner. We have achieved gains by operating in a teamwork fashion with emphasis on communication, financial planning and due diligence through research and open dialogue. I sought the office of Mayor because, like you, I love our city and want to see it achieve its full potential. As we begin 2013, I want to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year! First off, I am proud and happy to announce that Owens Corning will be adding approximately 100-125 jobs to the Newark facility. This puts people to work and creates revenue for our City. Our Economic Development staff along with our CIC, Newark Development Partners, will continue a strong working relationship with Owens Corning to retain these positions and work to create even more jobs. One year ago, I sat here and spoke about five keys areas we would focus on to make Newark an even better city to live, work and raise our children. These five areas are:

Maintain strong safety forces, strengthen our neighborhoods, promote effective economic development, support local schools, and improve government operations. I will now speak about accomplishments in each of these areas and what to expect for the New Year.

Maintain Strong Safety Forces

I often say that our residents choose to live in a smaller town to enjoy an atmosphere of less crime and a greater sense of security. We go to sleep each evening knowing that if trouble should arise, our local safety forces will respond to help provide us with the protection we need. I am proud to say that our Newark Fire Department and Newark Police Department each provide those services in a professional manner. Capital Improvement dollars were used this past year to purchase eight new police cruisers and order two new fire medic units to improve dependability by replacing aging vehicles. Our fire department proudly received its CFAI accreditation through many hours of hard work and preparation.

Through open communication with our safety departments, we constantly strive to develop additional efficiencies to maintain strong forces with the challenges of ever-rising costs.

Strengthen our neighborhoods

Safety Director Bill Spurgeon and our Property Maintenance Department worked closely with Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's staff to issue nearly fifty demolition orders to tear down vacated and dilapidated houses throughout our community. This was accomplished with funds from AG DeWine's Moving Ohio Forward Grant using non-tax dollars to improve our neighborhoods. Let me repeat that, non-tax dollars. These residential structures were beyond repair and were a haven for crime and unsafe conditions. Through the demolition of these properties, we have reduced a burden on our safety forces, helped stabilize neighborhood property values and allowed our Property Maintenance Department to focus on other areas of need. Fines have been levied throughout the year on property maintenance violators. A strong emphasis will continue to be put on Safe Neighborhoods!

Promote effective economic development

During this past year, along with an economic development team with individuals from the Newark Department of Development, the Licking County Chamber of Commerce, the Licking County CIC-Grow Licking County, the Ohio Department of Development, Jobs Ohio and Columbus 2020, I have participated in proactive meetings on-location at companies such as Owens-Corning, HoloPhane, PCA, Arvin Meritor, and Amor Source to discuss job retention and growth. As I mentioned in my opening, I am thrilled that Owens Corning will be adding 125 jobs to our Newark facility. I wish to thank everyone involved through this process and especially thank the Owens Corning Company for their continued support in our local area. Retention and job-growth efforts across all local industries will remain a top priority of Development Director Mark Mauter and Stuart Moynihan. A strong relationship will remain intact with the non-profit and private companies, along with services organizations throughout the area such as the Licking County YMCA, the Licking County Foundation, the Downtown Newark Association, and all the United Way services agencies to help improve our community. The Newark CIC-Newark Development Partners is moving forward and is currently in the process of selecting an Executive Director to lead the way for focused economic growth in Newark. While the national economy remains fragile, we must plan and be poised to address the needs of our local economy.

Our local parks foster economic growth. Six baseball tournaments have already been reserved for Don Edwards Field this year. This boosts sales at our local hotels and restaurants and is a great opportunity to showcase Newark. We will continue to enhance Hollander Pool through the use of grant funds acquired through the time and efforts of our employee Barbara Gilkes. Barbara continues to drive our grant program which provides supplemental dollars to fund many expenses throughout the City.

Support local schools

Newark is privileged to be the home of an outstanding academic environment from the Newark Public School System to our Catholic Schools to C-TEC and the Ohio State University-Newark/COTC Campus. Throughout 2012, my administration developed a new and refreshing dialogue with all of these schools including meetings with Newark Superintendent Doug Ute, members of the Newark Board of Education, C-TEC Superintendent Joyce Malainy, COTC President Bonnie Coe and OSUN Dean/Director Bill McDonald. In 2013, I will maintain these on-going relationships and continue to participate in the Newark's Graduation Committee and programs such as A Call to College. I will continue to regularly visit our local schools and speak with the students about the importance of an education and career. The Newark Public School System is proud to be in the completion stage of a \$140million renovation project where all of the public school buildings were either completely refurbished or replaced with new structures. I wish to thank the citizens of Newark for their continued support of our school systems. During this past year, through cooperation with Police Chief Sarver and our officers, an increased presence was made around our many schools. In the wake of the Newtown, Connecticut incident, I will be working with Safety Director Spurgeon and Chief Sarver to assist all of our schools with guidance and communication to help make certain our school safety is at its best.

Improve government operations

TEAM Newark is committed to improve government operations within the City of Newark by finding new ways to provide city services at or below current costs and by increasing customer service. In an effort to increase communications in Licking County and share ideas, local leaders organized a Mayors and Managers group. I attended the initial meeting in November 2011 and continue to attend these meetings every other month at various communities across the county.

We have also created strong working relationships with County Officials and departments. These relationships help solve problems and create added efficiencies. For the second straight year, a balanced budget was completed prior to January 1st. This means projected savings begin in the first month of the year so we can realize a full twelve months of efficiency. Because of early and balanced budgeting:

No city layoffs occurred, ensuring quality services to our citizens.

Safety forces were properly funded to ensure Newark's safety. Road resurfacing and maintenance occurs throughout the year. Overtime costs were reduced by nearly \$200,000.

Beginning on January 2, 2013, the City of Newark and Licking County combined Transit Services. While this stopped a wasteful duplication of service, it will also help stabilize and reduce taxpayer expenses so that the area can continue to experience the advantages of public transit needed by many of our citizens.

Through our winter months, snow removal will remain a top priority. We have certainly had a strong beginning to the winter season. Service Director David Rhodes will continue effective communication with proper manpower along with pinpointing salt and fuel expenses. City Engineer Brian Morehead will continue to identify street maintenance needs thus making the best use of available funds. We will continue to work with department heads to improve efficiencies by monitoring spending habits. This past November, in an effort to reduce year-end spending and maximize monetary carry-over, I stopped routine spending by requiring all departments to first contact my office to obtain my approval prior to an expense. I will continue to deploy these methods to conserve funds and maintain our good bond credit rating.

In 2012, City Auditor Steve Johnson and his staff were once again awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in financial reporting. Congratulations!

Following the severe wind storm on June 29th, our city departments kicked into action to help restore our community. Not only did the departments help with clean up above and beyond normal duties and work days, but Roger Loomis and his staff throughout the various water departments never missed a beat by providing clean water through the exceedingly warm days and safe sanitary conditions.

In closing, I wish to thank Service Director David Rhodes, Human Resource Director Mike Buskirk, Development Director Mark Mauter, Safety Director Bill Spurgeon, my Administrative Secretary Jennifer Long, Auditor Steve Johnson, Law Director Doug Sassen, Treasurer Tim Mercer, all eleven City Council members, and all city employees for their hard work this past year. Our gains were achieved through our combined efforts, in other words, teamwork. Nearly 25 employees chose retirement this past year. I want to thank all of them for their many years with the city.

2013 will be another challenging financial year, but we're off to a great start, new jobs, no layoffs, strong safety forces. Budgeting will remain a top priority each and every day. A downtown safety block with a new fire station will soon start construction. Professionalism and customer service has returned to Newark! Along with my team, I look forward to making 2013 a great year.

I want to thank the citizens and employers of Newark. It is my promise to you to work hard every day, along with our fine City Council and wonderful employees, to keep making Newark a great city to live, work and raise our children. Thank you.

PETITION

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC HEARING

By: Mr. Rath, Ms. Stare

12-100 **A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT OF FARMLAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT. Stewart Rd Watson Co., LLC-** No objections, referred to the Service Committee

By: Mr. Rath, Ms. Stare

12-101 **A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT OF FARMLAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT. 2550 River Rd Amacher Gale Jr., Trustee-** No objections, referred to the Service Committee

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

William Butcher- 129 W Main St, announced that he would like to have Newark City Council televised again. He also provided a weather forecast.

David Greene- 1791 Olympic Ct, invited City Council and members of the administration to participate in a celebration of the life of Martin Luther King on Sunday January 20, 2013 at 2:30 P.M. The celebration is sponsored by Trinity A M E Church and the NAACP of Licking County. It will start at Trinity A M E Church.

RESOLUTIONS ON 2nd READING

By: Mr. Rath, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Floyd, Ms. Stare, Mr. Cost

12-99 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO SOLICIT FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN UTILITY SERVICES FOR THE VARIOUS FACILITIES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.**

Motion by Mr. Rath to adopt Resolution 12-99, second by Mr. Bubb

Motion passed by a 9-0 vote. (Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Frost, Mr. Houdeshell, Mrs. Loomis, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Ms. Stare, Mr. Bubb)

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Lesa Best- 205 W Church St, stated that she would like to reiterate what Mr. Butcher said, she too would like to have access to Council and Committee meetings. She stated that it doesn't have to be on cable it could be on line like a lot of other cities are doing. She also stated that by doing so that would be true availability to the citizens of Newark.

ADMINISTRATION

MISCELLANEOUS

Law Director- Congratulated the Mayor on his State of the City Address. He stated that he couldn't begin to tell him how much he enjoyed last year and can't wait for next year.

Mr. Cost- thanked the Mayor for his presentation and for the year that they have had together, being his first year he truly appreciates what they have all done.

Mrs. Floyd- called for a Ways & Means Committee meeting. She stated that it has been a hard working year and a cooperative year and she hopes that it continues. She feels it is worthwhile for them as well as the citizens of Newark.

Mr. Frost- told the Mayor that he is doing an outstanding job. He stated that the Mayor is reducing the cost of government and improving what is being given back to the citizens. He stated that Bill Spurgeon is doing an awesome job and Dave Rhodes is doing an incredible job. He feels that the Mayor has a good team and he is thankful that the Mayor is here doing what he is doing.

Mr. Houdeshell- thanked the Mayor for his speech. He complimented Dave Rhodes for the streets being fantastic this year. He stated that he had people calling him and telling him how nice the streets were during the last storm.

Mrs. Loomis- stated that it has been a good first year for her under Mayor Hall's leadership and professionalism. She addressed Dave Rhodes regarding the streets, she was out this weekend walking around and people commented that this was the first time that they had their streets plowed that many times. She reminded everyone that 100 plus women who care will be meeting January 15th at the Newark Metropolitan Hotel. Thanked David Greene for the invitation and Lesa Best and William Butcher for their comments.

Mr. Marmie- called a Finance Committee meeting. He thanked Mayor Hall, his administration and the City of Newark employees for the last year. He stated that it has been a very good start to the Mayor's tenor and that he looks forward to the year to come. He feels that the way they have been working together this past year he thinks that they will even accomplish more this year. He stated that he appreciates Mayor's opinion and his understanding of the budget. He stated that he looks forward to seeing the Capital Improvements budget.

Mr. Rath- called a Service Committee meeting. He stated that over the past year Mayor has earned and deserves all the accolades that he is receiving, he has done a great job. He stated that he appreciated the time and effort that he has put in. He stated that the Mayor's involvement is a great asset. He himself has been out in the community and witnessed the Mayor running from one function to another. He also stated that he appreciates that from his family, he knows that it is a big sacrifice for them. He thanked Mayor's family for sharing him with us. He asked Director Spurgeon whether they were going to get any reports from the Dog Warden regarding vicious dogs, then complimented Director Rhodes on the snow removal. He stated that he spent time driving around the roads, and spent time asking those who live in Newark about their streets. He said that he even had trash companies reporting back to him whether they were able to make it around on the roads in their trash trucks. He said that everything he heard was and a vast improvement to what they had.

He advised everyone that there is going to be a state of the State overview on Thursday. Stated Representative Jay Hottinger and State Senator Tim Shaffer will be there speaking. It will take place in the ballroom of the Mosanic Lodge. There will be a 6:00 social and they will begin speaking after that. He informed everyone that they will stay 30 minutes to 3 hours depending on how many questions folks have for them.

Ms. Stare- recognized the Mayor and his wonderful cabinet; she stated that they are marvelous. She also recognized David Rhodes and the Street Department for a wonderful job. She wanted to thank other departments that jumped in and helped with the streets. She also stated that she is looking forward to the upcoming year.

Mr. Bubb- stated that the Mayor's State of the City was very encouraging and that 2012 was a great year, he looks forward to an even greater year in 2013. He complimented the Mayor, administration and department heads and Mayor's ability to understand the budgeting process. He said that it was refreshing in government and that as a City Councilman he feels very comfortable that revenue versus expenses is very much understood.

With regards to Property Maintenance and safe neighborhoods that was talked about that evening; he is pleased after the department was basically abandoned two years ago that positive strides have been made to rebuild the department. He stated that he believes it to be an effective department. With the City carry over being a little stronger and the Mayor's ability to manage a budget strong, as the Personnel Chair he went on record encouraging the Mayor to find a way to fund another position in Property Maintenance this year. He stated that he feels we need more boots on the ground and that he has talked about this with many residents throughout this past year. He stated that it not only helps the safety, it helps property values and helps with economic development. He encouraged the Mayor to find a way to fund the position, whatever is fair to everybody, without new costs to the taxpayers. He stated that he looks forward to seeing a Personnel Committee meeting on this soon.

Mr. Ellington- announced that we needed a Street Committee meeting. He thanked the Mayor, his administration as well as the members of Council for all their hard work to make this city a better place for all of us to live. He stated that he enjoyed working with all of them and he appreciates all the work they have done and looks forward to working with them this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to discuss Mr. Rath made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Cost.

Motion was carried by acclamation. Adjournment, 7:31 P.M.