

## Economic Development Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark, Ohio  
October 8, 2019

The Economic Development Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday October 7, 2019 following the Finance Committee with these members in attendance:

Mark Fraizer, Chair  
Jeff Rath  
Bill Cost  
Sean Fennell for Dee Hall  
Jonathan Lang

We wish to report :

1. **Resolution No. 19-72** petitioning the Board of Licking County Commissioners to accept the amendment of the previously established Enterprise Zone and to designate the entire City of Newark as an Enterprise Zone in accordance with sections 5709.61 through 5709.66 of the Ohio Revised Code and declaring an emergency was considered.

**Director Mauter-** this is kind of a housekeeping item because the entire city of Newark is an enterprise zone with the exception of some property that was brought in, in 2001. The enterprise zone for the city of Newark was established back in 1988 so any annexations done post 1988 have to be brought in through resolution with Council. There is a piece of property on the southwest part of town more specifically it is where Thornwood Dr crosses the railroad tracks. There is about 80 acres west of Thornwood Dr and north of the railroad tracks and that area is not currently part of our enterprise zone. We would like to make that inclusive with the rest of the city.

**Mr. Fraizer-** is there a reason for the emergency clause?

**Director Mauter-** there is a lot of activity going on out there, the railroad has been approved to allow truck traffic to cross it, the bridge is in the final stages of planning and getting funding together and the property owner that we are talking about right now does have a possible client that they are talking to about a purchase agreement and that would make it very timely for us to have this in place for that deal to possibly go through.

**Mr. Lang-** if the intent is that the whole city is included in the enterprise zone I'm not sure is there a way that we could just write the legislation so that every time we annex property we don't have to do this?

**Director Sassen-** I don't think so, I gave some thought to that but I don't think so because Council has to have a yea or a nay on including new property, you could say no to this. In the future there may be property for some reason you don't want to include and the Commissioners have to sign off on it as well.

**Motion by Mr. Cost to send to full Council, second by Mr. Rath**

**Mr. Fraizer-** is there any additional services or is this just paperwork item that we are doing for this 80 acres?

**Director Mauter-** correct we are just being it into the fold.

**Mr. Rath-** what is the advantage of being in an enterprise zone versus not?

**Director Mauter-** tax abatements. You have heard me talk about community reinvestment areas in the city of Newark; those are tax abatements that are available for residential, commercial and manufacturing. Enterprise zones don't have the residential component to it; it is tax abatement for commercial, manufacturing and industrial.

**Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**

2. **Resolution No. 19-73** authorizing and directing the Mayor of the City of Newark, Ohio to execute the Joint Economic Development Zone Contract Amendment No. 1 by and between the City of Newark, Ohio and Etna Township, Ohio was considered.

**Director Mauter-** the city of Newark manages the funds for two JEDZ's, JEDZ1 and JEDZ 2. JEDZ1 was established in early 2000 and at that time the contract was set up for distribution of the money that is collected through the City of Newark gets distributed to the JEDZ was set up on an annual basis. The JEDZ's have grown and the amount of money they are taking in has consequently grown so now they are getting more requests to disburse funds and do projects in the areas where JEDZ1 is active. The Board of Director's for the JEDZ1 wants to make a good financial decision to allow these distributions to be done quarterly rather than annually.

**Motion by Mr. Rath to send to full Council, second by Mr. Lang**

**Mr. Fraizer-** what is the next step in this process after it passes out of Council?

**Director Mauter-** the city has to approve it and then Etna Township also has to approve it. Once the two have passed the legislation that will begin the process. Barb Jobes our Tax Administrator oversees the accounting work and she will apply authority but without this resolution of approval by Etna Township and the City of Newark, the two parties involved, that is the only way this can take place. It is a good thing it is going to allow the JEDZ Board to operate more efficiently.

**Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**

Mark Fraizer, Chair