

## COUNCIL MINUTES

May 3, 2021  
Council Chambers  
7:00 P.M.

**President Ellington called the meeting to order**

**ROLL CALL** – Mr. Harris, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bubb, Mr. Fennell. Ms. Hall

**INVOCATION** – **Mr. Blake** – Members of Council I would like to introduce Rev. Michelle Dayton, she came to Newark last July and she's with Trinity Episcopal Church on the other side of the square. She's active with NAACP and the Newark Alliance Ministers Association, we just want to welcome her tonight to lead us in prayer over our city.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Ellington**

**CAUCUS: Motion to excuse Ms. Hall by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Blake, passed by acclamation**

**MINUTES of April 19, 2021** - Motion by to approve the April 19, 2021 Newark City Council Minutes as presented and the reading be dispensed with in view of the fact each member of Council has received written summary of same, second by **Motion to approve by Mr. Barker , second by Mr. Labutis , carried by acclamation**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Mayor Hall** – Announcement of Erik J. McKee as newly appointed Chief for the Newark Division of Police

**Mayor Hall** – I just want to welcome Erik on board. We actually swore in a new female officer this morning and the Department's running great. Obviously still carrying a little grief on the passing of Steve Baum, but I think that Erik and the team's doing a great job, so I'd like to welcome him on board. Two weeks from tonight there will be a ceremonial swearing in of Chief McKee. We will be somewhat limited on space, he has some family coming in.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance - **Received and filed no objections**  
Service – **Received and filed no objections**  
Capital Improvements – **Received and filed no objections**  
Personnel – **Received and filed no objections**

### **REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**Brenda Cooper** – Income Tax Reports Ending 4-15-2021

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Marcia Phelps, Clerk of Courts** – Need for Consideration of Improvements

**Trish Perry, Newark Homeless Outreach** – Steps of Change-Stomping Stigma, 5-15-2021

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** – New application for Incredible Pizza Co.

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** – Notice to Legislative Authorities regarding expiration of liquor permits in this political subdivision on July1, 2021 and the legislative authorities right to object to renewal of liquor permits.

## COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

**Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Dr.** – First I'd like to give an update on the COVID Vaccinations that we did at the Homeless Outreach. All but 2 of the 22 people came back for the second dose. One person actually did not get a first dose there, she got it at OSU and she's in a wheelchair, so she was unable to arrange with transit to get her there for her second dose so, they allowed her to get her second dose there. We also vaccinated 10 new people, so the Health Department will be coming back every 3 weeks for a while to make sure we keep updated on that. The other thing I would like to mention that recently came to my attention, there's going to be a webinar, and I will forward this information to Janine in the form of an email. It's called "Maximizing Historic Stimulus to Solve Homelessness and Support Vulnerable Communities", it will be on May 13<sup>th</sup> and is targeted toward elected officials and community leaders. So, it would be an opportunity to see how this money that's coming down from the government could be used to address the homelessness issue. Again, I would like the community to be informed of how the city plans to use their money that's coming down. It should be coming down very soon. I think the Treasury Department is going to start releasing it in May with the guidelines and again just asking that we have some opportunity or community input.

## ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

**By: Mr. Fennell, Mr. Bubb, Mr. Marmie**

**21-15** AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PART OF A TWENTY (20) FOOT WIDE ALLEY AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF LUCIUS SMITH'S ADDITION, AS RECORDED IN VOLUME 2, PAGE 156 OF THE LICKING COUNTY PLAT RECORDS, AND RENUMBERED IN VOLUME 52, PAGE 19 OF THE LICKING COUNTY DEED RECORDS; SAID ALLEY IS LOCATED SOUTH OF EAST RAILROAD STREET, BETWEEN SOUTH SECOND AND SOUTH THIRD STREETS.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Fennell, second by Mr. Lang**

**Motion passed 9-0**

## ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

**By: Mr. Bubb, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Lang, Mr. Rath**

**21-16** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE AND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF Service, DIVISION OF Cemetery/Parks BY AMENDING THE POSITION OF Secretary 1 TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF Office Manager/Account Clerk, AND SETTING

THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE

**Held 2 weeks for second reading**

**By: Mr. Bubb, Mr. Marmie, Lang, Mr. Rath**

**21-17** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE AND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF Service, DIVISION OF Street/Traffic Control BY CREATING THE CLASSIFICATION OF Data Technician/Sign Fabricator, AND SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE

**Held 2 weeks for second reading**

#### **RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Lang, Mr. Rath, Mr. Bubb**

**21-21** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 9-0**

#### **RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING**

**By: Mr. Rath**

**21-25** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ANIMAL WELFARE FUNCTIONS

**Held 2 weeks for second reading**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Lang, Mr. Rath**

**21-26 Expedite** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

**Motion to waive 2 day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr.**

**Mr. Marmie** – We need to expedite this because we have some accounts that we need to do some rearranging to make sure it's in the appropriate accounts as well as some bills that need to be paid immediately. Especially storm water and sewer.

**Motion to waive 2 day reading rule passed 9-0**

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 9-0**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Lang, Mr. Rath**

**21-27** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2022 OHIO TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS PROGRAMS: SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP), THE IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (IDEP), AND THE DRUGGED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (DDEP)

**Held 2 weeks for second reading**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Lang, Mr. Rath**

**21-28 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
Held 2 weeks for second reading**

**By: Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath**

**21-29 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
Held 2 weeks for second reading**

**By: Marmie, Mr. Rath**

**21-30 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY  
FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF OHIO 2021 NATUREWORKS GRANT.**

**Held 2 weeks for second reading**

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Callie Rucker, 130 Delmar Ave** – I would like to say good evening to everyone and glad that everyone's back. Sometimes things have to be reinforced. Sometimes when people have a job to do they forget about the rest of the people, this is just my opinion. It's a community, we have to work together, it's like networking and a lot of times when people get voted in, this is my opinion, you can't find them when you need something. The kids are being traumatized and it seems like they want to get rid of the older generation, again this is just my opinion. It seems like a surplus of the area are living better than other areas, if you get my drift. I am the type of person, if you have been blessed, you have to reach back and pull the other people forward, not make fun of them. I'm seeing a lot of times people make fun of other people because they are not where they're at. I always tell people never make fun of anybody because if you do, what goes around comes around and I see this all the time. I am an advocate for education. In order for the younger generation to survive we have be behind them 150% because they are our future. Another thing I'm looking at, they're handing kids things on a gold platter, the drugs, the alcohol, the cigarettes, the guns. They're handed to them on a silver platter and just my opinion again, it's a political thing and a money making situation. You have to be open to a lot of things and you have to talk to the younger generation and not at them. We have to treat them with dignity, pride and respect. Always tell them go to school and get the education because education is something no one can take away from you. I think I've said enough and me being an advocate for education, I'm getting ready to give teachers over at the Wilson Middle School, which I've been doing for years and years, a teacher appreciation luncheon. If you know anyone who has been a teacher I invite them to come, because a teacher is one of the hardest jobs you can have. I chose Wilson because I like the energy that I get from them and Mr. Davis over there, so if anyone would like to come it will be Thursday. The things the teachers and kids went through I went through right along with them. I hope people take this into consideration because the kids, the way they're being treated, me personally, I don't like it. They've been traumatized. They need to leave this younger generation alone. Some of

them act better than we do, it's sad to say because we're supposed to set an example for them. They're traumatized. Ask me how I know, because I interact with them every day. They're trying to separate them. We've got to understand. They're going to break bread together, they're going to worship together, they're going to work together. Whatever kids do, they're going to do that. We have to let them make their decisions. Some of them are just dying to get their education, but they're denied a lot of stuff. I see this from my point of view. Thursday you're welcome to come and say thank you to the teachers, they start eating at 10am.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Assistant Law Director. Tricia Moore** – I'm happy to be here tonight, it's awesome to see things getting back to normal and doing in person meetings instead of zoom. I wanted to give a shout out to the COTC Officer Academy in conjunction with the Licking County Sheriff's office who held a great event this past Saturday the Twilight Blue-line 5k run, the funds from this run went to the Officer Thomas Cottrell Fund as well as the Stuff the Backpack Program at the Sheriff's Office. So if you've never participated in the twilight run, it's a great event on the bike path, it was a great run and just want to tell them thank you for putting that together and if you haven't done it, try it next year, it's fun.

**Mayor Hall** – It is May and there are a few things going on this week and later in the month. Friday night the Farmer's market starts, the first one from 4-7pm, I think that's going to be welcome, we had a tough year last year, there will still be face coverings and protections, but I think it's important to reach out and support those vendors. Also, the Chamber is putting on a Cinco de Mayo sip and stroll downtown. With this Council's blessing we have a DORA in the downtown and this will open up beyond the limits of each individual bar. There's been a lot of hard work put into this, looks like it's going to be dry and in the upper 50's, so just a little cool but I don't think that will put a damper on anything. The downtown businesses are welcome and ready for that to help fuel business. They've been doing pretty good, but I encourage everyone to join in the downtown across the community as summers on it's way. It's 4-9pm.

**Mr. Harris** – It's good to be back and see every council member in person. I want to thank Granville Christian Academy middle and high school students for doing some cleanup Friday along the bike trail on the east side. Saturday will be the east end clean-up starting at 8am until noon. The trash dumpster will be at Carson Elementary. I also want to tell the Mayor I think he did a great job of picking the new Police Chief. I've talked to a couple officers and they're really happy with the choice. I'd like to welcome former council member John Uible out there.

**Mr. Labutis** – I too am very happy with Chief McKee, that was a fantastic pick and I'm looking forward to working with him as well. Also would like to thank Granville Christian Academy for their work on Friday. They were at 12 different locations in the city, the middle school and high school students came to do their community service and I thank them for that.

**Mr. Lang** – I wanted to thank Linda for sharing the work that you're doing with Newark Homeless Outreach to get the folks vaccinated, good work and sounds like it's been very successful, hopefully those numbers continue. I wanted to congratulate Chief McKee, he's coming in under sad circumstances but I think he's going to be a good fit for the department, I've received good feedback already from some of the officer's I've spoken with. I'd like to thank our engineer Brian Morehead and Director Rhodes for getting our paving list finalized, I

know we're going to be getting it out to bid next month. About \$1.6 million of paving this year, it's going to be a busy summer and inconvenient to say the least but, we'll end up with some new roads which I'm real excited about and of course I'm really excited to hear that we've selected a contractor for the roundabout at Sharon Valley Road and Country Club. It's going to be a great addition for the 5<sup>th</sup> ward, I've gotten a lot of positive feedback for that already, again it will be inconvenient but when it's all said and done it's going to improve traffic flow around there.

**Mr. Marmie** – I will call a Finance Committee meeting for 2 weeks and I think the fix for King Road is it's going to be right turn only. I also want to thank Brian Morehead and David Rhodes for the paving list. It's an aggressive undertaking for the summer and I appreciate that because we really do need a number of roads paved, so I want to thank them. I also want to congratulate Chief McKee. I reached out to him as soon as it was announced, he was very quick to respond, so that's always a good sign when you're in my position. I think he will be great to work with. Everybody else as far as the officers and Captains, they're all supportive of each other and are supportive of us, so I'm really looking forward to working with him. I also just want to put a bit of a shout out for Horn's Hill. There's a lot of bike riders out there every weekend and they're just having a blast and they're doing it and keeping it clean, they maintain the trails, I saw them cutting out a new trail this last weekend, so they're up there not only enjoying themselves, but working on the trails also. We're getting folks from all over the State of Ohio, even outside the State of Ohio coming in just to ride those trails. I think it's fantastic for our community. I want to thank Director Rhodes, he had to push that and it's been fantastic for that area.

**Mr. Rath** – Welcome to Assistant Law Director Moore, glad to have you here tonight. You're welcome to talk about anything you want as long as it's not Clemson. I want to welcome Chief McKee and congratulate him on his promotion. It's funny a couple people asked me for his phone number and when I sent it to them reminded me I need to update my contact information because I still had him listed as Sgt. McKee. Glad to see him here. Mr. Uible, it's good to see you here as well, we need another shiny doe in the area, another thinker like you and I. It's great to have you here. I'd like to thank the Christian Academy for coming out and doing some clean-up. I know they did some of that in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward. I appreciate that very much. It was great to see the paving list, like Mr. Marmie said, it's a very impressive list. I was happy to see that we're using some CDBG money for that as well. I will call a service Committee meeting for the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Barker** – First, I think I'd like to say that I'm glad I don't have to frantically search for the flag for you as when we were on zoom, I'm glad for that. Congratulations to newly appointed Chief McKee. I know I've talked to Chief as well as some other deputies, who have said, while they're still mourning, they do have great respect for our new Chief and really look forward to seeing what direction he takes the department. The Mayor mentioned it, the DORA this Friday, I would encourage the community to take part in that. It's something that during COVID Councilman Rath had been talking about for a while. I'm glad we were able to get it for downtown. I also, as Councilman Marmie had said, encourage everyone to check out Horn's Hill Park. I was fortunate enough as Park's Chair to be in on a call last week in regards to a Grant the city is looking to get to enhance the playground area at Horn's Hill. O that's something we're aggressively working on to create an even more family friendly environment than it already is

today. I know there's a Facebook group that the riders have up there and they're posting on it all the time. They've even create a shuttle to get bikes back to the top of the hill from the bottom. It's great to see that engagement in our city parks.

**Mr. Blake** – I want to remind everyone that Thursday is the National Day of Prayer and our guest pastor tonight, being a part of the Newark Area Ministerial Association, they are releasing a video which will reflect a remembrance of the day, so that's to come out. I also want to give kudos to Service Director Rhodes and the engineer's office and anyone involved with the construction work on State Route 13 and South 4<sup>th</sup> Street. It's going very well. I was down there Saturday and they have really wide sidewalks and the part down by National Dive is already being paved and it's looking very nice. As the work starts coming up to the downtown it's going to be quite beautiful. I also want to give my congratulations to Chief McKee. I did speak with him last week to congratulate him and I look forward to working with him. I look forward to having a one on one meeting once he gets settled in and I also want to bring him to Kiwanis to meet a bunch of Kiwanians. Speaking of Kiwanis, the Newark High School Kiwanis Key Club has a walkathon this Saturday, May 8th , 1pm-330pm at the Evans Complex. There's no cost but they are accepting donations to support the Nationwide Children's Hospital. The Wildcat 5 is this Saturday if you're looking to do something like that.

**Mr. Bubb** – It's nice to be back here in Council Chambers. In over a year we've only been here twice. I'm still not quite sure about the chairs. I do miss the bench seating, I just thought it was kind of part of Newark's history in Council Chambers, but I'll get used to it. I did get confirmation tonight from Service Director Rhodes that Hollander pool will be back open this year so, if any of your constituents ask, it will be open and I think there will be some additions to the pool as well. I as well wish Erik McKee the best as new Police Chief and I do have full confidence that the hiring process was followed accurately.

**Mr. Fennell** – I would also like to offer a warm welcome to Chief McKee and wish him the best in his new position. I know this is a difficult time for our police force and having a new leader during these times is a very important role to fill and I have every faith that he will do so beautifully. I wish him the best.

**President Ellington** – I don't think anyone up here is happier to be back than me. I might be a little more technology challenged than some of the younger folks up here, so it's great to be back. I will say that Spencer did a great job of getting us on Zoom and making sure the meetings went well. We had very few glitches, except for last meeting at my house, but everything went great so I appreciate all the work on that, you did a great job. Thank you. Also, welcome to Assistant Law Director Moore, sitting in for Director Sassen tonight. I'm not sure where he is, probably Clemson, he likes to vacation there. Also, Mr. Morehead, thank you so much for the paving list, I think we're going to see a lot of improvements in the City over this next 6 months, or whatever it takes to get this paving done. Janine, our Clerk did a great job tonight, I would say our new clerk, but she's been our clerk for about a year but this is probably the 1<sup>st</sup> or second, third meeting she's done, now we're getting back in the swing of things. Our next meeting will be May 17<sup>th</sup>, Committees at 545pm and Full Council Meeting will start promptly at 7pm and with that is there a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn by Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Lang, passed by acclamation

**Don Ellington, President of Council**