

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 2, 2021
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Ellington called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Eric Miller, Second Church of Christ, Newark

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Ellington

CAUCUS - Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Ms. Hall, Second by Mr. Blake Motion passed 9-0 Mr. Barker – I will be abstaining this evening from Ordinance 21-20

MINUTES of July 19, 2021 - Motion by to approve the July 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 **Motion by Mr. Labutis , second by Mr. Barker, passed by acclamation**

APPOINTMENTS – There are none this meeting

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – **Received and filed no objections**

Capital Improvements – **Received and filed no objections**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

COMMUNICATIONS - Ohio Division of Liquor Control – Transfer application for KWIK N KOLD 21 LLC, DBA KWIK N KOLD, 998 N. 21st St

PUBLIC HEARING

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Harris, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Marmie

21-10 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 774 HUDSON AVENUE, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, FROM THAT OF LB – LIMITED INTENSITY BUSINESS DISTRICT TO MB – MEDIUM INTENSITY BUSINESS DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO

Planning Commission has recommended denying passage or approval of Ordinance 21-10

President Ellington – The Planning Commission has recommended denying this, so passage will take 7 votes for it.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr.Marmie

Mr. Rath - Seeing how the Planning Commission has recommended we decline this and there is nobody here to speak in favor of it, I will be voting to decline it and encourage the rest of the council members to do so also.

Motion failed 9-0

PUBLIC HEARING

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Harris, Mr. Marmie

21-20 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS MULTIPLE PARCELS LOCATED ON WEST MAIN STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO , FROM THAT OF GC-GENERAL COMMERCIAL, LC-LIMITED COMMERCIAL, LI- LIMIT4ED INDUSTRIAL, AND RH-SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE (HIGH DENSITY) DISTRICTS TO DC-DOWNTOWN ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Planning Commission has recommended passage and approval of Ordinance 21- 20

Alice Lees, 181 Jefferson Street – I have lived there 20 years and it's directly across from whatever that is. I'd just like to know how would Mr. Anderson like it if we put Legend Valley across from his house. We've got kids and grandkids. They don't only play music on weekends, they play it every night of the week and the lights are on all the time. I don't think it's fair for all the property owners to have to put up with all the loud music and the lights. I just have one more question, is Mr. Anderson going to reside there, or do the property owners that live there just have to put up with whatever we have to put up with. It's loud music. Like I said, if it was just weekends it would be one thing, it's every night of the week. Our neighborhood or used to be, family oriented and I just hope this council will respect all of us and take everything into consideration. All the property owners that live on Jefferson Street. I think that's only fair, I've lived there 20 years, me and my husband have. Thank you, that's all I wanted to say. It's changed the whole neighborhood. We don't live in Columbus and we don't want it to be Columbus. That's a quiet little neighborhood and they've turned it into something else. That's all I have to say and thank you for letting me speak.

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - I can't see how we can proceed on this when we haven't continued working on the noise ordinance. AS far as I can see we have not continued on that very important issue which affects the entire city. I think the community has some rights here too.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr.Bubb

Mr. Blake – I just want to express the sentiments of the residents on Jefferson Street. I had the opportunity to meet several of the residents, even before the Planning Commission meeting, I had the chance to walk down the street and talk to several of the residents that live down there. The chief concern is the noise. I think everyone is in agreement on wanting to see progress in the city, but the concerns about the noise levels and the location of the stage are very valid . I think at the Planning Commission meeting Director Rhodes even mentioned bringing up the noise ordinance and having a discussion about that, so I do agree that is most definitely the chief concern about the Newark Station. Just the relationship between the

development and the residents on Jefferson Street. So, if we can continue to work on that and agree to some mutual benefits then that would be a positive. I do plan to vote for this because development is important for our City.

Mr. Marmie – I too understand the concerns about the noise and I anticipate there to be some progress hopefully in that attention has been drawn to it. This zoning change will not change the bands being able to be there in any way. I'm in support of this change, but I am also in support of doing things to try to assist in making sure that neighborhood is protected against loud bands or anything along those lines. I think that a noise ordinance is a direction to go to ensure that could be helpful, but I am also in support of this because it does not have an impact on whether a loud band can play there by changing the zoning.

Mr. Rath – I support this as well as Mr. Marmie said, what we are passing here is not going to effect the ability to have bands or live music there. As far as the noise ordinance goes, there is work being done on that, there is progress being made on that and you will see progress on that in the future. So the noise ordinance will come forward as being worked on in the very near future. And I'll also address cell phones in public meetings. But I am supporting this.

Motion passed 8-0 with Mr. Barker abstaining

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Dr. – First of all I would like to thank Chief McKee for coming to the South Newark Civic Association picnic on Saturday. He spoke to the residents there and addressed all of their questions. I was especially appreciative of his desire to become involved in the community. He said that was one of his number one priorities and that was something that was very good to hear. So, I wanted to thank him and make sure he got the compliment he deserves. I also found out that, we were talking about Green Meadow and when he was a K-9 officer, he actually only lived two houses down from me. I remember the dog, but I don't remember him. It was really nice to have him there. I know this is not a question and answer period, but I read today that there are still monies available for rental assistance. I want to make sure that is clarified. We are seeing more people who are receiving eviction notices now because the moratorium is over and we just want to make sure there is every opportunity for them to be able to pay back rent and not have to go through the eviction process. I would like to make sure that money is available. It's on the City Webpage but not on any other information portal like on 211 if someone was to try to find out if federal assistance was available, so just making sure the public is aware of that would be helpful. The other topic and it's one I've brought up before is making sure there is some kind of community input on use of the Rescue Act Funds. I remember at the last meeting, Mayor, you said that you were entertaining suggestions. Are those suggestions coming from community members or just council members. I would just like to know how we get our suggestions to you and then to council for approval. It appears the City of Newark will receive somewhere around \$18 million, probably in two separate parts and the preliminary guidelines are already available so I'm sure some of those have been discussed, the final guidelines as of 4pm today were not available, at least I could not find them so, as soon as those are available it would be helpful to have some clarification on how to apply for those funds.

Dave Patterson, 61 West Main Street – My wife Karen and I own the house at 61 and 63 West Main Street. Many of the old timers in this town remember it as the McGonagle Funeral Home. I sent an email to Mr. Blake earlier today expressing my concern and he suggested maybe I should come tonight, so, thank you for having me. This house was built in 1850 and we believe it is one of the oldest houses left in town. We've spent in the last several years tens of thousands of dollars on renovation and preservation of this beautiful house, but more than just an old home it has a historic aspect to it. It was built by Mathew Newkirk who established the first banking system in Newark, he was the Grand Poobah of the International Organization of Odd Fellows, he was one of the founding members of the 2nd Presbyterian Church and he ran Newkirk Dry goods which is where Earthworks Sound Studio is right now, he ran that for years, so he was, where you are back in his day. In the last several years we've rented it out as a Quilt Retreat known as the Newkirk Guest house, we wanted to kind of honor him. Believe it or not quilt retreats are a popular thing. We've averaged about 600 bed nights per year. These are people that come to Newark from around the state and some from outside of the state. We provide them a wonderful place to stay as well as a list of local restaurants, shops, events, all of that stuff. The ladies love coming here, they bring their wallets and they experience our town. I'm not going to be the first one to tell you this, but crime and homelessness is an issue. This year alone we've had multiple guests car windows smashed and broke into, countless homeless people encamping themselves behind our air conditioning units. Believe it or not, a naked woman in broad daylight vandalizing another air conditioning unit and just Saturday night we had a guy that turned over one of our a/c units, he threw 2 bricks through the window, snatched 2 pillows off one of the beds by reaching through the broken glass and all of this while our guests were there. When the police arrived, he was still hanging around with our pillows because he was setting up camp. The officer told us that he was a "regular". He asked us if we wanted to press charges. But really, what's the point. If he's a "regular" do I want him holding a grudge against me when he gets back out? Needless to say, the ladies that were there gathered their things and they left and we were just going to eat the cost of the weekend. Every day I come to work, I hold my breath at what I'm, going to find. Sleeping bags by the a/c units, my trash can stole, trash and cigarette butts on my front porch. The police station is right down our alley, visible from our parking lot. We've been there on many occasions begging them to cruise through the alley and make their presence known when they go by the property. I know they can't be everywhere all the time, but it's not even out of their way to get to their parking lot by going through my parking lot, but it doesn't happen. We are also members of the DNA, we've made them aware of the problem, we've paid the extra money that Fred Ernest put together that we thought was going to go towards additional police presence. We've been community minded, we're committed to the town, we give to the Midland, 31 West, whatever cause is going to build the town we give to it. But now we're at a crossroads. We've spent so much time, energy and money on providing an attraction that bring business to all of Newark's local establishments, but we no longer in good conscience bring little old ladies to this town where they have to fear for their belongings or their safety. We've cancelled all of our future bookings, and there were a lot of them and we've moved them to our other

establishment which is in Millersburg, Ohio, Holmes County. That's money this town is not going to see. Currently we've closed the Newkirk Guesthouse for business. What you know now, would you want your mom staying the night there? It saddens me, this is my hometown and I really want to bring the money here, but that has come to a screeching halt, the tax dollars that were generated, the patronage of Newark is going to go somewhere else. We consider ourselves the current caretakers of the property. We're considering investing in added security. Monitoring systems, all of this stuff, but is that going to be in vain. What are we going to do about the problem? To keep the "regulars" from destroying what we're trying to build. We are unsure at this time if we are ever going to reopen the Newkirk Guesthouse and I think that's a loss for everyone.

Resident Ellington – Thank you Mr. Patterson, the Safety Director is here tonight so maybe he can talk with you after the meeting.

Tammy Evans, 213 South 4th Street – I live on the corner of 4th and National. Like him, I'm a new homeowner, we just paid our house off last year. We are in the middle of the construction, exactly where they started their construction down 4th Street. I've had my truck broken into and a \$1,000 worth of tools taken out of it. Someone came onto my property and stole a statue off my property. I'm fed up. I've called the police, they don't come, there's not enough officers. They told me there's not enough officers and they can't hire anybody because nobody wants to be a cop in Newark because we're being zoned in as Columbus. I was raised in Columbus. I was born here, but raised in Columbus. We are not Columbus. It makes me mad that they told me we're being treated as if we are part of Columbus. Why? What are you guys doing that we can't hire police officers in this town. As he said, "regulars". I live right by Circle K, so their "regulars" are there constantly 24 hours a day. An officer told me at a meeting that I had with Jeremy Blake that they have "regulars". They take them to the jail, they arrest them for vandalizing, they cough and pretend they're sick and the jail releases them right away. You're not teaching them anything. They're not getting punished for anything. If they take them to the jail and they think they're sick, take their buttes down to the hospital, do a COVID test and if they haven't got COVID, send them back to jail. Why should we as homeowners have to pay the price. I am tired of not having a police presence. For the last year and a half I have had nothing, but bad traffic up and down a "closed" road. I've called officers, asked them to come. I called when they were breaking into the construction equipment. It took two hours to get an officer there, because I had to call Heath and then officers in Heath can't figure out where 4th and National is. I took two hours to get someone there to get the guy that was stealing from the construction crew. I've had homeless people, a girl that the police told me that she has mental issues, drug issues and alcohol issues who wanders around talking to a desk chair in front of my house in 90 some degree weather, okay that's weird, but she's not bothering anybody, until she decided to get on my 80 some year old neighbors porch at night time and stand up on her porch. I'm very protective of my neighbor, that's not going to happen, and I had to chase her off. I called for an officer. It took a while but they came and they started giving me a name. I don't know who she is she just appeared in the neighborhood. I've never seen her before. She also tried to get into the construction crew's truck and they had to chase her off. I've begged the police

to come and just set up across the street from my house. You could pay for every new road in the City just writing tickets on National Drive right now, especially since they opened it. 4th is still closed, but National is wide open with one stop sign that half the people don't even stop for because for a year the road's been closed but they've been driving through it as if they own it. I'm tired of it, I'm fed up with it. My husband lost his mother a year ago, he has put his entire inheritance money on our property trying to fix it up to match what the City Water Department is doing in our neighborhood. Why? So I can watch it be destroyed by homeless who refuse to work, who just flat out don't want to work and now I have a place called The Vertical around the corner from me, who feeds them and lets them bathe and stuff. Why? Get a job, Put them on the road. Get them out of my neighborhood. They're riding bicycles around my neighborhood in packs. They're riding motorized bicycles around my neighborhood all hours of the day and night and them things are noisy. I've got traffic from all over the city coming up and down National Drive and they think it's National Trail Raceway at 100mph. I can't have my grandkids in my yard, I have to put them in the privacy fence in the back yard because I fear somebody's going to pop the corner and take out my house or my kids in my front yard. I'm fed up with it. I haven't seen anything or heard anything from anyone that there is a solution. I just wanted to come up here and say my peace I guess because I'm getting fed up, because I'm not getting answers. It's a year and a half later and I'm still on a construction site that was supposed to have been done at the end of the year. Now we're talking December. I'm still setting there with no lights. I finally complained enough that I got a temporary street light on my corner. I could not see my neighbor's house across the street for the last year because it's been so dark on my corner. They finally put a temporary light up. As far as temporary stop signs, we thought we were going to get those and we haven't gotten those. There was barriers on the house across the street from me on National, they took them down for construction and it was said in the beginning, anything they remove they will replace. The Safety Director says they don't see a reason for it to be there. I've watched that house almost get hit in 30 years, twice and their response is, he needs to move his gas meter to the side of his house, well that's not going to stop somebody from hitting black ice and plowing into his house, is it. Who's in charge of any of this, can any of you answer that.

Brad Campbell, Fredonia – I'm actually from Fredonia, but I work in Newark. Just to follow up on what they're saying, I'd like to be part of the solution. I feel like the middle of the night is prime time for all of these activities and drugs are real bad. I'm trying to focus on Licking County, not just Newark but Licking County as a whole. I want to people to come here for fun, I mean I want people to come from out of town like Cedar Point and things like that. We've got the Buckeyes 45 minutes from here. People come from all over the place to come to this State. I want them to come to Newark. I want Newark to be like the funnest place on the planet. I'm trying to focus on 40 and under. Over 40, I figure you guys have already got it figured out, you've got wives and families and fences and dogs, but under 40 you have no structure, no discipline, no goals, no ambition, none of it, so I'd like to focus on 40 and under. Like bike parks and skate parks and all the things that, because it seems like if you're over 10 years old there's nothing to do. What do you after 2:30 in the morning, you go to sleep, you go to an after party,

you get a DUI because you're drunk or you go to bed, right, but there's only a few things you can do after 2:30 in the morning. I don't know why, but everybody under 40 wants to be up at 3 or 4 in the morning. I don't know why. It's the time normal people go to sleep you know. I feel like if we get some flashlights out at the parks where all of these homeless people are and drug slingers or whatever, I want to volunteer my time to be part of the solution. I don't know anything about anything, I'm a young kid and I figured maybe coming here tonight would help me get to that next step. I went to Explore Licking County, I was running around literally all day earlier. It was weird, because the Works was closed today, it's weird it's Monday everything should be open. I'll go to the Works tomorrow, I feel like they are really good with kids and help out the community. I have all the energy and all the time, I have everything everybody wants and I want to put it towards doing positive things and I hoped you guys could help me, off the record or whatever, thank you for the time.

Kim Blaney, Business address is Rice Street, 1407 Misty Glenn – We're in a position to own all of Rice Street soon and in a position to tear down 5 houses within maybe 6 months, we're in the position to tear down 10 houses within next year. Before we do that we need to come to your committee and see the Planning **Commission**, before we tear down all of those houses and do mortgage releases. So, I'm in the position right now I'd like to be able to get on the agenda for the next meeting and that way we could put anything that's within Property Maintenance behind us and just tear down the structures, but if you could get us on the next agenda I would appreciate it.

President Ellington – If you would email Janine, she will give you the information.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Lang, Mr. Barker, Mr. Harris, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis

21-42 Expedite APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

\$7,900.00(Retirement payout Officer Brett Snelling – additional monies to change in retirement date) \$2,418,500.00 (16 North Project; South 2nd project; UV Disinfection Upgrade) \$35,280.00 (Our Justice Reinvestment and Incentive Grant has been renewed. This money is for the next 6 months of the Grant) \$21,000.00 (Retirement payout for Brian Thomas, retiring 8.20.21) \$15,500.00 (Request to appropriate funds from the Licking County Foundations 2021 Grant for the purchase of an UTV to service the community from NFD Station 5) \$4,592.00 (Request appropriation of funds received from the Energy Cooperative grant for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras) \$442.47 (Request appropriation of funds received from Newark City School for special duty OT for coverage of NHS graduation) \$6,290.03 (Request appropriation of funds

received from sales on GovDeals to supplement equipment supply account to purchase equipment to place in new command car)

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

Mr. Marmie - We have a payout for termination that we always expedite to get them their funds and we have transfers in order to pay some bills and make sure projects are moving forward.

Motion passed 9-0

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

By: Mr. Lang, Mr. Barker, Mr. Harris, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Marmie

21-43 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 335 Capital Improvements Fund, in the amount of \$40,000.00)

Held for 2 weeks

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Lang, Mr. Barker, Mr. Harris, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis

21-44 Expedite A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING

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

Mr. Marmie – This needs expedited in order to meet a deadline to apply for this grant

Motion passed 9-0

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

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Daniel Crawford, 163 S. 2nd Street – I promise I don't always plan on speaking every time. Number one, keep forgetting to bring this up, in previous council meetings on minutes or on the agenda for Finance items we've always had in parentheses a summary of what was being voted on, my friend who moved to Pennsylvania had brought it up and they brought it back so hopefully we can bring that back. It just makes it easier to not have to bounce back and forth from council to committee meeting minutes.

Secondly, as an advocate for homeless people, I've mentioned before when I was younger I've been homeless at least a couple times that I can remember and I know unfortunately as the saying goes desperate times call for desperate measures, so a lot of people who are homeless do sadly turn to criminal activity, you can't deny it, even us homeless advocates you can't deny that crimes happen and need to be addressed, so everyone who is a property owner and sees things happening their concerns need to be addressed too. At the same time, I get sad when I see us in this trend towards, not saying this is the case here, but, a lot of people out there like to demonize homeless people, like they are all criminals, either all of them it's because they're lazy or they all have turned to drugs or they all have mental issues. All of these things contribute in some way to homelessness. Someone can be homeless for a whole variety of reasons. I've mentioned in the past that the homeless people, while some of them are absolutely part of the criminal element, sadly, they are also still people and also because they live here technically still citizens and every one of them still needs to be recognized as being a dignified

human being who have just come upon hard times. And now of course, with the moratorium ended, millions more could end up being homeless. I think right now the numbers are 500,000 somewhere in that area and it's tragic to know that there are so many citizens for one reason or another who see homeless people as being a problem as opposed to being victims of a problem that we're not dealing with. Yes, there are people who definitely do not help themselves I still don't feel that we should let the few who are problematic poison the well, if you will ,for everyone else.

Beth Bline, 33 Summit St. – I am here in proxy for a gentleman who wanted to attend. A Jefferson Street resident, he wasn't able to attend at the last minute. He does indeed have questions about the sound, but he sees it more as an accommodation this year. As best as I can relate his position. This is more of a temporary issue in his understanding of a long term goal of Newark Station. And so, he is wondering, as I am reading, if there may be an accommodation in the meantime, just an accommodation until the building process transitions. Many of the residents are happy for the opportunity that Newark Station's bringing, this is something that we never had in that portion of town before and it is going to be amazing and Mr. Alexander, it was very kind of him to do what he is doing. So, we are asking just for that accommodation until the seasons transition, until schools, people are settled in. And they're also wondering about the cleanup process. They are seeing a lot of things happening and they are aware that toxins were in the building. We discussed that Mr. Alexander is taking responsibility for that cleanup, but still they want to be sure that everything is in the process for their benefit, that the open windows where they are seeing the dust come out of the windows is not contaminated nor harmful to them. I am also concerned about what is going on in our community. This has been going on for a long time, but it's just getting to the point where it's touching and starting to snowball to more and more people. It's been hurting us, all of us and that portion of town for some time. Mr. Blake has made reference to the opportunity for a Social Worker, it's not time for a social worker. There are many services available. Many of the non- profits work with have free services and we do not stigmatize anyone. There is an opportunity, but there is always a choice. I have a choice whether or not I run a stop sign, would it benefit me? Sometimes yes, but there is still a choice. My behavior will affect someone else, there's a choice. So, where I was coming with that Social Worker, what process, there has to be transparency as to what core is being taught through that social worker. Are they teaching victimization, oppression or are they teaching responsibility and opportunities to grow. Because it will affect everyone because it may well land in south Newark, so I'm just wondering if those donors, you know I see their hearts, do they know what will be taught. Do they know what the bounds are. Do they know what the processes are involved in the goals of this. Or, would they rather support hiring another police officer \$85,000. I thank you for the opportunity.

Brad Campbell, 6621 North Street, Granville – I feel like the solution could be we have a lot of abandoned corporate buildings like the basket, cherry valley, I feel like we could utilize these get some Psychiatrists get some therapy, get some chaplains, give them a hand up instead of a hand out. Make them earn it. I feel like if we do that with the homeless or with the drugs or the less fortunate, who knows you may have kids that are in trouble too we should be able to help them. I feel like we could

utilize these giant buildings for good instead of nothing. The basket is a tourist attraction, let's utilize that, let's put some blown glass and some skills in there. Knitting, all of these things that people know how to do that they could teach our less fortunate people. We can do this, we have to work as a team, I'm only one person I need you guys help, so any way you guys could help me help you that would be great.

Director of Community & Economic Development, Mark Mauter – I just want to address the issue that Linda brought up earlier tonight about the eviction moratorium expiring as of July 31st. The Community Development Department is very well aware of this as are our city partners and by that I mean the non- profits. Our department has worked very closely with Deb Tegtmeyer and the Licking County Coalition for Housing, LEADS and Jobs and Family Services throughout this entire COVID event because we all receive funding to help with rental assistance. The city made a commitment to devote the majority of our Committee Development Block Grant Corona Virus Funds to rental and mortgage assistance. We still have plenty of funds to help people, I want to make that abundantly clear and we are continuing to work with these non-profit organizations. We think we've done a pretty good job of putting the word out that this is how you contact us, working with Coalition for Housing, LEADS and Jobs and Family Services, the places people are probably going to go if they need this type of assistance. We've met probably on a weekly basis throughout this past year and a half so that we are sure we are doing a good job of coordinating with each other and making sure we didn't have people slipping through the cracks. That money is from the federal government and its intent was to help people not go homeless and that has been our primary objective throughout all of this. What I want to make abundantly clear too though is the Department of Housing and Urban Development that our CDBG COVID funds come from makes it crystal clear that to in order to be a recipient of these funds you have to prove that your loss of income which didn't allow you to make that rental payment or mortgage payment was a direct result of COVID. As long as you can make that happen, our applicants coming to us, we have plenty of funds to help people from the city of Newark. So council is crystal clear, we've been doing an outstanding job of working with and coordinating with all of the non-profits in the community, we're working diligently and very hard to make sure that money gets to those people who need it, but they have to be able to show proof that it was a result of COVID. If they can do that, we're ready to help.

Mayor Jeff Hall – I want to thank everyone for coming in and sharing their concerns this evening. I will be up here afterwards signing legislation if anybody wants to talk with me I'm certainly available and my team and directors do listen at council. They work very hard. You've brought some situations that aren't always easy, but they certainly are working on them and again I'll be up here if anyone want to stalk to me.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for 2 weeks from tonight. I took a lot of notes tonight. There's a lot of information and appreciate everyone coming out. I think there's a common theme here that can definitely be addressed and I know our administration our Safety Department and safety forces definitely do care and they are trying real hard and I believe that some

of these things will be addressed it's not a quick fix with everything, but I do believe in them and I believe in their ability and I appreciate all of you bringing particulars to us. The thing that helps us here on council, we don't make the day to day decisions on our police force or anything like that. Their priorities because we don't know all of them all the time during the day. That doesn't mean we can't just put a bug, hey what's been happening down on 4th Street, what's been happening on National Drive, any progress there or anything like that, just keeping it out front I think it will be helpful for us to understand and know that also. So, I do appreciate you coming here. If you weren't here for the Finance Committee meeting, I asked for the Mayor to come to the next Finance Committee meeting in order to give us an update on the American Rescue Act Funds and give us some information on that kind of where we're at, what priorities are we trying to set and some of that discussion will be at our next Finance Committee meeting. One thing I want to bring up that was not brought up and I know it's an issue that we're seeing, a lot of our businesses are struggling right now and one of the biggest struggles is they can't get enough help. There is plenty of work available out there and I would like to see where some of these issues that are happening could help solve other problems. We have businesses that are reducing hours or shutting down completely. Brewskys is shutting down because they cannot get enough help to cover both the drive thru and the pizza. That's sad, I love Brewskys, my family loves it and it's going to be a loss for our family, we're hoping they are going to be able to open back up. Things like that are happening in our community and I don't know what we need to do, but we need to make sure folks are out there applying for these positions and wanting to work and wanting to just get better. I know a lot of businesses are saying that high school and college kids are not applying for jobs like they used to, I don't know what it is we can do to assist with that other than just encouragement but, it's an issue that is real out there. It is hurting our businesses which will in turn hurt our tax revenue, so we want to make sure we are encouraging that. If anyone has any additional ideas I know it's something near and dear to my heart because I don't want to see any of these businesses go down, reduce income or reduce hours. I kind of got a kick out of the McDonalds sign, that said, "hey our milkshake machine works, do you want to?"

Mr. Rath – I'll call a Service Committee meeting for Monday the 16th. There's a lot of information tonight and we do appreciate you guys coming forward and bringing it to us. Mr. Patterson, I think I heard you say that you do 600 room nights a year and that's gone. That's amazing. I hope that's not a permanent loss because that's a huge loss to the city of Newark.

Mr. Barker – I want to thank everyone for coming tonight, those who spoke and even if you didn't speak just attending and knowing what your government is doing is your right. Would also like to give a shout out to Director Rhodes and the park staff and everyone that has worked on Horns Hill Park we had a great event up at Horns Hill Park that councilmen Labutis, Harris and I attended and we got to ride the trails. Not on bikes, there would've been a video of that, I know you would all like to see that, we may do it sometime, you never know, but we are very lucky to have the great parks team that we have and their work shined that day. The Trek company gave a very generous donation to the park and I know it's already going to be put to use for our citizens and those who use the trails. It was said that

we have people who came from Utah to ride on our trails, so we have quite the gem here in Newark on Horns Hill. I've got a lot of calls recently and had discussions with Director Rhodes about the Hudson Avenue round a bouts and I want you to know are working diligently on that. We've heard the communities calls on that and I know we are all working on that. Brad I wanted to address one of the things you said was 40 and unders don't know what to do. We have a great organization in town, I know the Mayor touts it, The Young Leaders of Licking County, 21-40 is that age range, I myself am Vice President of the Board and we do a ton on that, so I would encourage you to go to Youngleadersoflc.com and look into that and contact the folks at the chamber that run that for us as well.

Mr. Blake – I want to say thank you to the residents that came out tonight, Mr. Patterson, you emailed me earlier and I'm glad you were able to fit it into your schedule to be here tonight, if you get with the Safety Director, maybe there can be some immediate things that happen there. I guess there's not enough time to talk about everyone's specific issue, but the broader issue in the work I've been focusing on, specifically substance abuse and mental health issues. When you talk about the "regulars" or high frequency people that our police officers and firefighters are dealing with when they talk about those regulars, most times they're dealing with some type of substance abuse or mental health issues. So, what that tells me also putting on my hat as President of BHP is we need to get some direct services to these people so they are not trespassing and breaking into people's private property. We heard a few months ago from a business that was having issues with break -ins and trespassing on private property. If someone is committing those crimes, then yes, the police need to arrest them and they need to go through those proper channels of whatever needs to be done. But for those frequent people we need someone who is hired fulltime to be able to go out and identify those people and to get them into the right avenue of care. That's what needs to occur. I'm very proud to have worked with the Licking County Foundation, the Hospital, Jobs and family Services and the Mental Health Recovery Board to raise the money to hire someone, not a volunteer, our volunteers along with our churches do great grassroots work, but this persons job would be to work directly with residents first and say hey we know you've had someone in your back yard or on your front porch, we need to identify those people, so first of all it's not all on the police officers shoulders. In the last 3 days I've heard our Police Chief speak Saturday at the South Newark Civic Association Event and he spoke today at Kiwanis and I've heard twice now say they are very understaffed. We need to hire more officers. I appreciate the comments during Finance Committee hearing what we are going to do with these American Rescue Act Dollars. Other cities are using those dollars to hire more police officers. That's an option. I hope we seriously consider that. But for the specific use of dealing with substance abuse and mental health issues this position, the neighborhood outreach specialist, and we have it open right now, go to BHP's website and click on employment and they are accepting applications, so there's a question what values and morals that person has, we're accepting applications for that position right now, so if anyone is interested or knows someone who would fit that position, because it's going to take a lot of relationship building. Not only with the homeless individuals, but with residents and law enforcement.

Ultimately I do want to say kudos to our Chief, just in the last few days speaking and working with the residents at the South Newark Civic Association event and today at Kiwanis and the message was very clear that he wants to hire more people to do more proactive work. Basically our officers are going from call to call to call and are not able to develop any type of relationship in our neighborhoods, but he once ran the neighborhood impact unit and that unit is not what it used to be, so I'm hoping we can find the federal dollars to hire more officers, that's what our Chief is asking for. I've hear him say that twice now. Kudos to him I think we have a wonderful Police Chief and if a person is committing a crime then yes the police need to be involved, but for these high frequency people we can get them into the right avenue of care with mental health and substance abuse issues. The last thing I will say Mr. President and then I'll yield, but BHP is going to be opening an urgent care facility right on East Main Street within the next few months, so I think that will assist greatly, even if the police do get involved they will have someplace to take these individuals. So, if they don't take them to jail it would be nice to get them the right services, so , that's appositive thing. I just hope we can be open to ideas, be open to working on issues, it's not going to take just one council member it's going to take everyone in this room to solve this. I appreciate everyone who came out tonight to talk about the issue and we need to keep these conversations going, thank you so much.

Mr. Bubb – I need to call a Personnel Committee Meeting for two weeks.

Mr. Fennell – I would also like to thank everybody for coming out tonight. I know that there's a lot of frustration and a lot of issues brought up and a lot of stories that were shared and I just really appreciate everybody coming out and engaging in this process, this is part of it, this is how change happens. I also had a brief meeting with Chief McKee and I just want to say that he is doing an incredible job, it's a very difficult way that came about and I can't imagine the challenges with everything we are facing right now as a city, so I just want to congratulate him.

Mr. Harris – I too want to thank everyone for coming tonight and I hope Mr. Patterson we get you squared away so we can get you back open I think that's very important to the city. Hopefully we can get 4th Street and National Drive taken care of. A couple months back I had a meeting with the Police Chief and the Mayor and some others and we were talking about hiring police officers and it's something that we all want to do, but also there is a process in doing it. You know you have ot get background checks on people and they have to pass certain tests and stuff so, I know it's something that you guys want now and I want now, but sometimes these things take time, so hopefully in the next few months we can get some more officers back on the street, take care of some of these problems and get things going in the right direction. I too want to thank the parks department and everybody that's been working up on Horns Hill Park, if you haven't been up there you need to take a drive up there, I think it's a really nice park, I think they said a couple Saturday's ago they said they counted 6 different license plates from out of state, 6 different states. That's pretty cool that people are coming to Newark Ohio to ride bikes.

Mr. Labutis – I would like to thank everyone who came out this evening and shared your concerns. Those are things that we don't always know, so bring those to us and as Mr. Marmie says we can

always follow up as well to see what's happening. Also echoing Mr. Barker and Mr. Harris, kudos to the parks department, Director Rhodes and all the work they're doing at Horns Hill, people are coming into ride those trails, there is also a lot of volunteer work that has been done as well by citizens and riders that love that sport, they put their hearts into so it's nice to see them buy into it as well.

President Ellington – Mr. Bubb I would like to thank you for filling in for me last meeting, I appreciate that, I understand I wasn't excused, but I appreciate you filling in for me. Everett I am sorry I missed your last meeting two weeks ago, I certainly want to add my thanks for all the work you've done over the years, I really appreciate it, thank you. Also, I'd like to add my appreciation to everyone that spoke tonight, you know we might not be able to solve everything that we talked about this evening, but these are some things that we do need to hear, so appreciate you coming, thank you.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn by Mr. Labutis , seconded by Mr.Harris passed by acclamation

Don Ellington, President of Council