

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 21, 2021
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Ellington called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mark Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Ellington

CAUCUS - Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Ms. Hall, second by Mr. Blake, motion passed by acclamation

MINUTES of June 7, 2021 - Motion by to approve the May 17, 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. Labutis, second by Mr. Barker , carried by acclamation**

APPOINTMENTS – There are none this meeting

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – **Received and filed no objections**

Service – **Received and filed no objections**

Streets – **Received and filed no objections**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

City Auditor, Stephen E. Johnson – Operating report for period ending May 31, 2021

COMMUNICATIONS

Roger Loomis, Water Administrator – properties being sent to lien for past due water, sewer and storm water bills in the amount of \$2,634.53

Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator's Office – Income Tax Revenue Reports for periods ending April 30, 2021 and May 31, 2021 and June 15, 2021

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – New application for Jack Kerouac LLC, 69 W. Church Street

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. – Thank you, Mr. Labutis for remembering my name, I appreciate that! I have a suggestion, that the city as a matter of improving the safety of the citizens, have a series

of bicycle rodeos in conjunction with Nationwide Children's Hospital in order to educate the public on how to properly negotiate road safety on bicycles. I think the car driving public needs to be better educated as well. Bicycle usage is increasing and I do not believe a lot of the public is aware of how to negotiate a road as an adult or a child. I think the education needs to start young. I think we could advertise such a thing through the advocate or on billboards. I know of a number of organizations that would help support such a thing and I think the time is now.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Rath

21-19 AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN TERRITORY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS HORNS HILL ROAD (LOCATED BETWEEN THE ADDRESSES OF 1700 HORNS HILL ROAD) PARCEL TAX ID # 058-286682-01.000 AND 058-286194-00.000, BEING 55.5 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED IN NEWARK TOWNSHIP, TO THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Held for a second reading

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis

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- LIMITED INDUSTRIAL, AND RH-SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE (HIGH DENSITY) DISTRICTS TO DC-DOWNTOWN ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Referred to the Planning Commission

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

21-35 Expedite A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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

Mr. Marmie – We need to expedite this because there are some things that need to be done immediately to meet deadlines.

Motion to waive 2 day reading rule passed 9-0

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

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

21-36 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION **Held for second reading**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Beth Bline, 33 Summit Street – This is just a quick thank you to Mr. Morehead. He made a very quick response to start working on the streets and I've gotten comments from residents that they were shocked at how quick and how responsive he was. This is a great thing and we're just looking forward to working with him.

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. – In respect to Hudson Avenue, there are a series of experimental roundabouts placed near Owens Corning which does get a lot of truck traffic. It seems that the way of communicating the use of these is not clear and could be made a lot clearer. I did see a good example of better communication of that in Bexley, which had a clear map of how to use it, that would improve upon it. But, I think that it's been poorly designed for the application in that particular vicinity because it does get so much truck traffic and the public does not seem to be aware of the proper way of applying it and the signs are not clear. I think it was much better when we had traffic lights there. In respect to downtown because of all the detours we have there, the trucks are having some trouble negotiating the area and are having to actually back up the street and that's not a safe way of using our roads.

MISCELLANEOUS

Assistant Law Director Tricia Moore – I'm always happy to be here and I would like to wish all of the Dad's a Happy Belated Father's Day.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for July 6th. Just a couple things, I want to thank Property Maintenance, they've definitely stepped it up with a couple different things, everything that they're dealing with and the number of yards they are trying to get to that just have not been cut, I again just want to thank them for everything that they do day in and day out, they're out in the field, working hard, there is just too much for them, but they are tackling it one step at a time, I just wanted to comment on that. They're responsive even when they're that busy and it's greatly appreciated. Some other things just going on, it seems like the whole pandemic has kind of calmed down a little bit, but folks are still angry about things. I like the things going on downtown, the positiveness. I do see folks starting to enjoy themselves a lot more and I think that our downtown area looks fantastic, I get compliments on it all the time. To see folks back out and about I think is fantastic I'm very happy about that especially during the warmer weather.

Mr. Rath – I'll call a Service Committee meeting for Tuesday, July 6th. I'd like to say thank you to Mr. Rhodes and the Street Department for resolving a street flooding issue in my ward.

Mr. Blake – I have several thank you's to give out. I as well had some properties with high grass that were reported and Joe Paul and George got on it pretty quickly and I appreciate them. Also in addition in our partnership working with the Parks Department, we had a few calls about some rubbish that was on the sidewalks in different areas and they were able to clean that up so, I want to extend thanks to

Property Maintenance and the Parks Department for getting those areas cleaned up. We had some potholes and Buster was able to send a team out to get those potholes fixed and Director Rhodes, I want to thank him, the South Newark Civic Association had a maintenance issue at the facility which we got repaired and also got the grass cut down at Florence Coble Park and looking at doing some improvements at Florence Coble Park and also at Wells Park, so thank you to Director Rhodes for working on that. I want to give council a quick update. Last week we had a meeting with several different stake holders and Chief McKee was there and BHP and the Hospital and United Way and the Licking County Foundation. Currently right now BHP has a program called Community Outreach Response, they call it COR and basically this is a service provided for our police officers when they are dealing with an individual that's dealing with substance abuse or some type of mental health issue, they can refer that person to this team of BHP employees and counselors that will then follow up with that individual. Many of us know that we have some frequent offenders which this team is currently working with. It's a very successful program that both Chief McKee has spoken to and BHP employees as well. What we're looking to, and part of the discussion it to have a direct outreach person, that this program will no longer be just a referral program, but we will have an employee going to target neighborhoods. We've had many discussions here in council chambers about the neighborhoods, especially along the river from Main Street all the way to Little Texas, where we see a lot of the homeless and these folks that are unsheltered living. So, it looks like we will have a fulltime BHP employee to go out and deal with this, especially substance abuse and mental health. Those are the people that are our repeat frequent offenders that just need some extra attention. So, this person will be able to do some direct outreach, so I'm looking forward to a future announcement that this will actually be implemented. We have very good stake holders and I thought the meeting last week was very successful.

Mr. Harris – I went to the car auction a couple Saturday's ago. It was interesting. There was a burned out Honda Civic, completely burned out that went for 600 bucks. I think the City raked in over \$85,000 that day, it was just amazing the stuff that people were buying, so scrap must be up. I also want to thank the Licking County Park District and the City of Newark for paving the bike trails. The Bike trails in this City and County are probably my favorite thing, I enjoy the bike trails and I'm getting a lot of compliments, people appreciate them getting paved. I want to thank Brian Morehead for helping me with a situations and also, talking about the trucks coming downtown. There are plenty of signs along 13, 16 and 79 that say "turn here", so I don't understand why trucks are coming down here and backing up when there are plenty of signs to let them know what's going on in the city.

President Ellington – Our next council meeting will be Tuesday, July 6th, Monday will be a holiday for the 4th, Committees at 5:45pm and Council at 7:00pm on the 6th. I'd like to thank everyone for coming, appreciate your attention and appreciate your input.

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

Don Ellington, President of Council