

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 19, 2021
Council Chambers
7:01 P.M.

President Pro-Tem Bubb called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mark Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Pro-Tem Bubb

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

Mr. Marmie – Do we need to excuse President Ellington as well?

Law Director, Doug Sassen – Excused absence is as a courtesy, it's not required.

MINUTES of July 6, 2021 - Motion by to approve the July 6, 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 **Received and filed with no objections**

APPOINTMENTS – There are none this meeting

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – **Received and filed no objections**

Service – **Received and filed no objections**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

City Auditor, Stephen E. Johnson – Operating report for period ending June 30, 2021

Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator's Office – Income Tax Revenue Reports for period ending June 30, 2021

MAYOR HALL – PROCLAMATION

President Pro Tem Bubb – We are moving on to a well deserved proclamation this evening.

Mayor Hall is going to do this on behalf of City Council and the administration for Mr. Everett Mckee, so, Everett, if you would come forward.

Mayor Hall – Everett has diligently recorded these sessions for many years. We have a lot of electronics now and this will free him up on Monday nights to do some things, so I would like to read a proclamation in honor of the thankfulness we have for you.

Whereas, Everett Mckee is being recognized for his commitment and dedication of videotaping Newark City Council meetings for the past several years.

He has volunteered countless hours of work, never asking for compensation, providing a great service to the citizens of Newark by making the work of Newark City Council readily available to view on the City of Newark website.

Everett is wished the absolute best as he will have more time for his many community activities including computer club and dancing.

Newark City Council and the citizens of Newark would like to say a sincere "THANK YOU" for his years of service to our great city.

Now, Therefore, I, Jeff Hall, Mayor of the City of Newark, do hereby proclaim July 19, 2021 as **Everett Mckee Day** in Newark, Ohio, in recognition of his outstanding commitment to Newark.

Mayor Hall – This is your opportunity to say a couple words if you would like to.

Mr. Everett Mckee – I will come back, as a citizen. You know, since I've been doing this I have found that there's a lot of stuff in Newark. Before I did this, I didn't have a clue what was going on. This has been a great experience for me.

Mayor Hall – Thanks again Everett, the citizens appreciate it because they have been able to look in on council and you've done a great job. Thank you Everett.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – New application for Ohio Springs Inc. DBA Sheetz, 815 N. 21st Street

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Dr. – I know this is not a question and answer period, but I am just looking for some clarification. On July 6th I received an email from Barbara from Community Development and basically she was stating that the CDBG application would be opened On July 19th and she said that it would be different this year, that the Mayor is considering a plan to provide American Rescue Act dollars to people who have previously received this money and that we should contact the Mayor if we are interested in receiving those. The balance of the money would be going to infrastructure needs such as speed rehabilitation, economic development and our development partners, demolition and sidewalks. Zit then says if you are a public service please request American Rescue Plan funds. One thing I was interested in was how the CDBG funds are planned to be used. The application did come out today and the information in it said there would be about \$60,000 available for economic development and some other needs. From what I read, I am assuming the balance of the money the City will be receiving will be going to these other issues and that's allowable under the guidelines, it's kind of loose guidelines. One of the concerns I do have is two areas when this money was first initiated were for housing needs and services to people in poverty. As far as I can tell some of the things that this money is supposed to spent on are not going to those areas. The City of Newark does have a poverty rate, it's about 18 %, which is a little higher than the state average. About 76% of people that are at or below poverty level are renting properties. Right now it is very difficult for any of these people to find any affordable rents. Every week we see people at the outreach, who may even

have a voucher, they cannot find a place to rent. So, one of my concerns is that this money is being used for these other purposes, is there any plan for the city to address the affordable housing concern in our community. Also, clarification is needed on how we should apply for the American Rescue Funds, it did say in the initial email that we should email the Mayor, I did so, asking for what information is needed. So, Mr. Mayor, would you like me to hand you the application or mail it to you.

Bill Cost, 1639 Krebs Ct. – I just wanted to say I spoke with Dee today and she’s doing a little better, she’s a little stronger, she’s anxious to get back. She’s at Licking Memorial Hospital again, she’ll be going back to rehab when she leaves there, she’s getting a little more strength and sounds like she’s doing a little better, we hope to see her out and about soon. I assured her that everyone here has only concern for her health and improvement.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

21-38 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt, second by Mr. Lang, Motion passed 8-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker

21-39 Expedite A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Motion by Mr. Marmie to waive two day reading rule, second, by Mr. Barker, motion passed 8-0

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second, by Mr. Barker, motion passed 8-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Rochelle Volen – Smith, 237 Violet Ct. – As we progress with summer and some building plans for various entertainment venues, I was hoping that the city would reconvene it’s research on sound control in preparation for some of the things that are going to be happening later on.

Daniel Crawford, 163, S. 2nd Street – It’s been a minute since I was last here. I mean since I was here last, the pews are gone so that was pretty shocking when I came in. First, I want to say congratulations to Everett, because he does a great job and I’ve had so many awesome conversations with him over the years of him doing this and I think he’s provided a valuable public service and I appreciate him being recognized for that. For Dee, I want to express my concern for her, I didn’t know there was anything going on so hopefully everything is okay and I’m sad to hear that she’s been hospitalized, that’s pretty scary and I thought I hadn’t seen her in the store for a while. Lastly, and I’m like a month

and a half late on this whole issue, but I was watching from home the first meeting of June, kind of behind on some things and trying to read the minutes to get caught up again, but the meeting on June 6th, when obviously this was a big topic of that night and that was when you had a Street Committee meeting and people were coming up with their concerns and I understand when you hear a lot of negative viewpoints it gets uncomfortable or even inconvenient to listen to. Being in the service industry, you don't have the luxury to tell people hey, you know I don't have people here to speak up on behalf of my service so I don't want to listen to you right now. I get it, you think you've been like sidewind, hit with a curve ball that there was something organized without any kind of advance knowledge that's fair, however, I would say it's not fair to the citizens who came with their concerns for someone to shut down the conversation because it wasn't a balanced situation as one perceived. You have to take everything in as you get it, once again, in the service industry we don't have that luxury to tell people stop, we don't want to hear you right now or this is inconvenient for me. We have to listen, especially in management you have to listen to every complaint and of course, the customer is always right is a popular tagline in the service industry and that's right to a certain extent, of course, you think to yourself, not everyone is right, but at the end of the day you have to listen to their concerns to improve your business. The same thing with government. You have to listen to what the concerns of the people are to improve the business of government, if you will. I guess, In summary, when you're in public service, you have to take all of that in there, it all comes with the territory. I'll say one last thing on this before I go, the street issue isn't just something that come up every election cycle. When you go out and talk to people, whether you're running for office or not, one of the most popular topics to talk about is how terrible our streets are. It's a noticeable difference when you go from Heath to Newark in a lot of cases, from any community to Newark. I think we would do better if we just sat and listened to each other, no matter our viewpoints and just tried to hash out the best possible outcome.

Susan Dawid, 154 Bolton Ave. – This is my first meeting, so I hope this isn't redundant from what you've heard in the past. My husband is a school bus driver and he cannot get down Hudson Avenue with the rotary's. So, if he can't get down there with a school bus, I wonder how garbage trucks, trucks going into Owens Corning and especially firetrucks are getting down that street. I know it's in a transition stage and it's being watched, but I just thought I would make a comment to that affect so that you would know about that.

MISCELLANEOUS

Community and Economic Development Director, Mark Mauter – I just want to speak briefly to Linda's comments about the CDBG Budget. I'm responsible for that, we've put a lot of thought into that this year because the effects that COVID has had on our community and certainly the budget. What we also realized is that the City of Newark is going to have a fair amount of money coming from the American Rescue Plan. Those can be sent to non-profits that we have funded for many years such as Licking County Coalition for Housing, Coalition for Care, The Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul and others are really a high priority for us and

we've devoted a large portion of our budget to those non-profits and we will continue to do so, because the American Rescue Plan offers funds to go to those non-profits as well. We are going to devote more of our funds to street rehabilitation, we all know that the city streets in Newark are in desperate need of repair and paving and part of our budget every year goes to help put in the street curb ramps. Whenever a street's paved it's mandated that those curb ramps be installed, so we use our CDBG money to help pay for those improvements for wheelchair accessibility. Again non-profits are still very high priority for us, the Mayor will speak to it a little bit more in his comments shortly, but I do want you to know that it is still a very high priority for us and I wanted to inform council of that as well.

Mayor Hall – American Rescue Plan update, the comment period for the US Treasury interim final ruling was last Friday. So, what they will do now is take those comments, try to re-evaluate the fine print and push it out to us, I expect that to take a couple weeks. It's not going to have everything you can and cannot do but will have a better guideline. Certainly I am looking at everything we can look at through virtual meetings, webinars, but they're kind of waiting on this final reading. We are compiling suggestion ideas for council to look at, they will have to appropriate the money, it will take a few weeks to appropriate as our normal process does. We're trying to give some ideas of what they may or may not do with it. Again, it's in for the long haul, we have until 2024 to spend it, we also have, if it is a longer project in the works, it can go to 2026, but it has to be committed before the end of 2024. So, there's a lot of time here. I got your email, I would suggest you give your application to Mark. We're going to go through the same process applying that way, but one idea is we can free up a little more CDBG money to do more curb ramps for wheelchair accessibility and then use the ARP money to supplement that for the next couple years. We're trying to get creative and people are doing that, just like if you had a decline in budget money this time you can use it to make up that difference and that become general fund money. We don't really have that because property tax has gone up but as we always do, the CDBG money is to be used for low to moderate income, but this might allow a little more flexibility. We're still compiling information we'll wait until the final report gets in and talk to council about proposed uses for that money and not forgetting any of the thoughts you mentioned, it's going to take some time.

Mr. Lang – Mr. Cost, thanks for giving the update on Dee, we're obviously all very concerned about everything going on with her and we pray for her recovery and hope to see her back at council very soon. Mr. Mckee, thank you for your many years of unpaid, volunteer service to this council, it's been a pleasure having you here and hopefully you'll still join us although we won't need your services, but I think it's a testament to your commitment to the community that you would volunteer to show up to all of our council meetings and listen to us clamor on and to make sure the public has an opportunity to view everything we do and provide that transparency, so thank you, really appreciate everything you've done.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee meeting. I also just want everybody to say an extra prayer for Dee Hall. She's just a wonderful woman and this has really set her back as far as, she's wanting to be here, is the biggest thing and I just wish her a speedy recovery. Everett, thank you, thank you, thank you. You've done a fantastic job. You're always here making sure that everything was filmed, your attendance was impeccable. I think you worked your schedule around this, and it didn't go unnoticed. Greatly appreciative of all the service that you've done. I very much hope that you're not going to be a stranger, that you'll come around, because we

would love to have you. So, thank you again. A couple more things quickly, Linda, the American Rescue Plan, those funds, as long as they qualify, any suggestions, ideas, definitely bring those forward. One thing the city can't do, is we can't build housing, it's not what we're in the business for, but if there are ideas that you have that fit and conform into the American Rescue Plan then yes by all means it's going to be considered. We want to utilize those funds effectively and efficiently, but most importantly we have to make sure they qualify. That's what the Mayor was alluding to and make sure we do it the right way. I appreciate you coming and any ideas that anyone has, thank you. Daniel, I'd like to talk to you after the meeting, if at all possible, I'd like to converse with you about some of your comments personally. I appreciate it. Susan, as far as the roundabouts, I think that they work at times, there's still a lot of getting used to. I have heard that trucks with trailers are having some difficulty, that was a first as far as a school bus, I wasn't aware of that, but the safety is first and foremost and that's why we're kind of looking at them, to improve safety on Hudson. I know the administration is monitoring all of that and taking in any kind of input and so appreciate you coming in and telling us about it.

Mr. Rath – I'll call a Service Committee meeting for August. Everett, just want to say thank you, always appreciated having you here and our conversations. Certainly thinking of and praying for Dee and her recovery.

Mr. Barker – Again Everett, thank you so much. I take us back to March 17th of last year when I called you and said, Everett, I need to know how you upload our videos to YouTube because we're not going back in the building for a while. Everett was right there and had all the documentation that I needed, so again thank you for that and not only that but for all your service here to the citizens of Newark for what you do every two weeks. I just want to address a couple things. AS far as Hudson Avenue, I'll just elaborate a little more on Mr. Marmie's comments, we are aware of the issues, they're temporary, we're studying those, I know Director Rhodes has had many conversations with different business owners around there, but I too did not know about the school bus issue, so, we'll definitely make sure that's addressed, so thank you for bringing that forward. I wanted to make sure everyone was aware that July 29th, we're having a little gathering to review all the work at Horns Hill Park, if you saw the update we received, it's a hopping place with over 2,000 people online looking at it, so we'll have an ATV there for people who want to see the trails if you haven't seen them before. Also, on August 9th at Hollander Pool, there will be a city employee celebration and cookout for our great employees at the city. Both of those events are on my calendar and hopefully you'll join us at those and maybe Director Rhodes will join me at climbing the new, he's not looking, the new installation at Hollander Pool, but we'll see.

President Pro Tem Bubb – Thank you Mr. Barker, I look forward to seeing that.

Mr. Blake – Everett, I just want to share my congratulations, and gratitude and thankfulness for the gavel to gavel coverage that you've been providing, like Newark's version of CSPAN, so thank you for doing that, being here for Committee meetings and Full Council meetings, you've provided a very needed service. I remember back in the day when there were debates about trying to get council on, then it was television, channel 19 and things like that. When you first came you were loading them to one website and then over to YouTube and people don't realize you were doing this of your own good will, so thank you very much for that service. I can most definitely tell that things are hopping in the city, my calendar is getting full, a lot of meetings

are occurring. I'm excited about a potential block watch getting started. We have a meeting coming up with the 4th and 5th Street residents and Sgt. Blin about potentially getting a block watch started in that areas, so that's very exciting. I want to give my thanks to Mr. Loomis and Mr. Morehead, mobile traffic is now going through on National Drive. I know that the owner at Carmens Pizza was very happy and it's kind of fitting with this being restaurant week that we open National Drive back up a few days ago. Carmens Pizza had some drop in sales due to construction but local traffic is going through there and he's very happy, so order some pizza from Carmens. A real quick update, the neighborhood outreach position that I've talked about a couple times, we got two more financial commitments, from the Department of Family Jobs and Services, John Fisher, so we're happy to be building a community coalition and I think this is going to really help some people, especially those dealing with substance abuse and mental health disorders that are living along the river, so we're looking forward to getting that outreach position created and up and going so that we can get these services to people in need. The events that are happening, this Saturday night The Night of Hope over hear at 31 West, so you that want to support the Mental Health America, feel free to attend that event and The Main Place down on South Third Street is having the Glen Hopkins Memorial 5K. I walk that, I will admit, so you talked about the bike path earlier, so I'm not a runner, I walk, but that's happening Sunday morning so feel free to do that.

Mr. Fennell – Everett I echo a lot of the sentiments that have been said here, but the service you have provided has been incredibly important for the transparency and full functionality of City Council, so thank you so much for being that person that comes in and does that for us, thank you. I would also like to wish Dee Hall a speedy recovery and to echo some of the sentiments about Hudson Avenue as well. That is a test so thank you so much for bringing the feedback to us, we definitely need that feedback so that we know what's going on.

Mr. Harris – Everett, I'd like to thank you for all of your work you've done for City Council I appreciate that. I would like to wish Dee a fast recovery. A week ago Saturday I had a couple of classmates come in, one lives in Maryland and one lives in Indianapolis, we've been friends since the second grade. One of them was Bryce Peterson's son John, who used to be the Service Director and my other friend was Lance Bloomberg who was Dr. Bloomberg's son. They haven't been to Newark in a long time so we had breakfast and they wanted to take a tour of Newark, so I took them to Horns Hill to see the trails and we came down on the square and we went to the High School because they hadn't seen that since it had been enclosed and they were really impressed. They said we wish we had this back when we were young and I took them over to the Canal Market and they were really impressed with that so, Newark is a great place to live right now, a lot of good things going on and it's good to know that when people come back to town that they like what they see. I'm also excited about paving that's started. It started in July, which is earlier than usual and I thank Brian Morehead for getting that done. And the fact that we are going to spend almost \$3 million in paving is real exciting that's a big number. Last, but not least, I'd like to wish my grandson a Happy Birthday today, he is two years old.

Mr. Labutis – Everett, thank you for all your service for all these years, really appreciate it. You always beat all of us here, you were the first person in and got set up, appreciate that. Also, if everyone could say an extra prayer for Dee, that's the best that we can do for her at this moment.

President Pro Tem Bubb – I too would like to thank you again Everett. You are a very positive person to be around and I really appreciate your service and you donated a lot of your time and you didn't have to do it, but you did, so really , really appreciate it. A few things, reminding everyone it's restaurant week. Try to do all you can to support our local restaurants, they're making an investment in our community that's very important. I'd like to than the Newark Elks Lodge, Staci Swartz, yesterday they organized a bicycle ride, I sponsored it, was not able to ride a bike in it, but I guess they had almost 150 bicycles out in the community and it was quite a big fund raiser for different entities within the city. August 2nd will be our next meeting of City Council, Committees will commence at 5:45pm and Janine, wonderful job, I'll give a very positive report to Mr. Ellington.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn by Mr. Harriss seconded by Mr. Labutis passed by acclamation

Ryan Bubb, President Pro-Tem of Council