

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 6, 2021
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Ellington called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL – Mr, Fennell, Ms. Hall, Mr. Harris, Ms. Hottinger, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Blake

INVOCATION – Jeremy Blake

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Ayers Parkison, 5th grade, Cherry Valley Elementary

CAUCUS – Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Mr. Labutis and Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Blake, motion passed

Rule 11

By: Mr. Rath

21-80 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF LAW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A PETITION TO CONFORM THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK AND THE TOWNSHIP OF GRANVILLE IN LICKING COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second By Mr. Barker

Law Director Moore – This just needs to be done for the County and Township before the new year.

Motion passed 8-0

Ms. Hottinger – I will need to abstain from Ordinances 21-26 and 21-27

MINUTES of November 15, 2021 - Motion by to approve the November 15, 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. Barker , second by Ms. Hottinger , passed by acclamation**

PROPOSED NEWARK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 2021

Finance

Marmie, chair
Blake, vice chair
Barker
Lang
Harris

Capital Improvements

Lang, chair
Hall, vice chair
Rath
Labutis
Fennell

Service

Rath, chair
Harris, vice chair
Barker

Safety

Labutis, chair
Barker, vice chair
Blake

Blake
Cheri Hottinger

Personnel

Labutis, chair
Lang, vice chair
Fennell
Hall
Cheri Hottinger

Street

Fennell, chair
Lang, vice chair
Hall
Rath
Blake
Labutis
Marmie

Economic Development

Harris, chair
Rath, vice chair
Barker
Hall
Lang

Chaplains

Blake
Labutis

President Pro-tem

Harris

Minority Leader

Blake

Fennell
Rath

Recreation

Barker, chair
Fennell, vice chair
Harris

Rules

Blake, chair
Marmie, vice chair
Harris

Ways and Means

Hall, chair
Cheri Hottinger, vice chair
Labutis

Budget Review

Mayor, chair
Marmie, vice chair
Auditor
Service Director
Harris
Treasurer
Blake
Lang

Majority Leader

Marmie

Motion to approve Committee Assignments by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Blake, motion passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Hall – Reappointing Linda Parks and Mark Mauter to the Licking County Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC). Terms beginning January 1, 2022 and expiring December 31, 2023

Mayor Hall - These are reappointments, the group meets once a year and we appreciate them serving on this, the pay is very low, zero and I would ask that you reappoint them to that position. **Passed by acclamation**

Mayor Hall – Reappointing Jack Gienger to the City of Newark Board of Zoning Adjustment. Term begins January 1, 2022 and expires December 31, 2025

Mayor Hall – This is also a reappointment, Jack does a wonderful job, they do have a bit more on their agenda and he has agreed to do that again, it also pays the same amount.

Passed by acclamation

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance
Service

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

COMMUNICATIONS

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – New Liquor permit application for LDY2 Inc, dba J Store, 730 W. Church St., Newark, Oh

Ohio Division of Liquor Control– New Liquor permit application Ernest L. Drumm, dba Drumms Family Billiards, 1987 Coffman Rd, Newark, Oh

Columbia gas of Ohio – 2021 Infrastructure replacement program

PUBLIC HEARING

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker

21-26 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 1991 CHERRY VALLEY ROAD, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, FROM THAT OF MFC-MULTI-FAMILY CONDO DISTRICT TO SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE – RH – HIGH DENSITY DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Planning Commission has recommended, RH – Single-Family Residence, High Density District

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Marmie, motion passed 7-0 with Ms. Hottinger abstaining

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

21-27 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 2023 CHERRY VALLEY ROAD, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, FROM THAT OF MFR – MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT TO SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE – RH – HIGH DENSITY DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO

Planning Commission has recommended, RH – Single-Family Residence, High Density District

Rochelle Vole-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. – I’m so confused by these evidently the two situations are related and I think the public has a right to know if this is going to be used for manufacturing in some way and how is it going to be connected with single -family residence.

Steve Layman, 915 Hawthorne Ln. – I’m a member of the partnership that owns both of these parcels, actually there are 3 parcels involved, there is a combination of zoning, one has already been zoned Single-Family Residential, we’ve been trying for 10 years how to build this and we think we’ve finally figured it out. There’s about 25 acres involved between the 3 parcels, 20 of which you are re-zoning tonight and we want to put 66 single family home sites on the property.

Motion by Mr. Rath to adopt, second by Mr. Marmie. Motion passed 7-0 with Ms. Hottinger abstaining

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Stephen Smith, 237 Violet Ct. – Before I start I just wanted to say I appreciate the good work that Service Director Rhodes and the Street Dept. did replacing the storm sewer by our house. They did the work quickly, efficiently and very well as far as I could see. I was very appreciative of that. On November 1st I was here and several people spoke and I was very dismayed by the lack of compassion I heard on the part of some of the speakers and some of the Council Members. There are several things I want to address, providing low barrier housing for the homeless is actually a money saver based on situations in some other states when comparing the cost of services or housing a homeless person. So not only is it the right thing to do, but it is fiscally responsible. Another issue, fentanyl testing strips and their legality. Many National drug and healthcare serviced support the distribution of fentanyl test strips. They are proven to save lives. I totally don’t approve of people using illegal drugs and they should be provided treatment but they have to survive to get that treatment. I realize they are illegal, but bad laws can be changed. I’ve personally contacted my State Representatives to ask about this. I did get a response from Jay Hottinger who said he would send it up the Health Commission Chair. Hopefully if others would add their voices to that it would get attention. The last thing I want to address is someone spoke about privatized policing or vigilantes and made the statement, an armed society is a polite society. This has been used a lot by gun advocates. That phrase actually came from a novel that was written in the 1940’s , it was an anti-utopian novel, but was taken out of context. A gun is not a defensive weapon it is an offensive weapon.

Several statistics were quoted related to gun ownership and crimes. You are more likely to get hit by a bullet than a car. The statistics are clear that you are more likely to be hurt by that weapon than you are to use it for protection.

Desiree Blake, 125 S. Second St. – I just want to thank Mr. Rhodes and his department for filling the holes on Fleek, they've been there many time this year filling those up and I hear that Fleek is going to get fixed next year hopefully, so we won't have that, with winter coming and stuff, the street's small and I just don't want people to hit my car. Another thing I would like to thank the police department for going over to the garage next door to me, the homeless have been setting fires trying to stay warm and I tried to tell them you're not allowed to stay there but they were there again and the police came and helped clean that mess up. So, I'm hoping that the landlord will do something about the garage, tear it down, the roof is about ready to fall down before someone gets in there and really hurts themselves. If it does fall, then the one beside it will catch and then it will come to my side and then we'll talk about something. Otherwise I just want to thank the police department and property maintenance I appreciate that.

Jessie, Homeless – I'm currently homeless because I helped people out that were homeless, that got me in trouble. Me and my husband have been trying to find a place. The crime rate is going up because of homeless people too. I think there needs to be an apartment complex or something that homeless people can get into because a lot of landlords won't rent to you if you have a background. Those people then end up breaking the law. Salvation Army and other places are packed and you can't get in. Newark has more services for homeless than Lancaster and people from Lancaster and other counties are coming here because of that, but they need to know it's not like what they think it is and they end up in tents. Some of the crimes they do are just them trying to survive and they don't have a choice. They want help but it's not there for them. I want to help these people but I don't know what to do, so someone said for me to come here and speak, that's the beginning. One person I have known a long time, I grew up with her. I'm asking for help for them, it will help the police too. People deserve the help if they want it bad enough. Some of my friends want help but they can never get ahead. God tells me to give people a second chance because people deserve a second chance. I don't want to see any of them die during the winter that would be devastating.

President Ellington – I feel bad for your situation, the homeless situation, but just speaking for me, I'm not sure the City is responsible for housing the homeless. I just don't know how we would do that.

Rochelle Volen – Smith. 237 Violet Ct. – I too would like to thank the Newark Street Maintenance workers for the repair of a caving storm drain on Green Meadow, due to the long detours it took a toll on our street and I am grateful for the fine work. I'm also grateful for the Rotary Club playground it's step in the right direction for children and adults, but it does currently need some repair work. On November 1st there was a suggestion of substituting the police with other options, I personally feel there can be improvement with education but I do not feel a change is necessary as far as policing is concerned. I want to comment on an armed society is a polite society. I think that is a misquote. Gun purchases during the season of enlightenment and peace seem extremely inappropriate. I don't believe arming society makes

them polite, I believe teaching them alternatives is a better solution. By the way it says in the constitution a well regulated militia, not that everybody should have a gun. About the City's drug problem, it's easier to treat the symptoms not the problem. There have been many articles on how pharmaceutical companies have pushed drugs on people without be able giving people the details of the side effects. Opioids have been given to people the help them work through pain and they weren't told how addictive it could be. I feel society has added to the problem. As far as the fentanyl strips, they are intend to test for the unintended presence of the drug, we need that to prevent human loss. Several years ago council announced it was closing several bars and instead we've increased the availability without monitoring how much alcohol is purchased. We've served meals to people in our back yard who have spent too much on alcohol and can't afford to feed their children. We need to consider monitoring the alcohol situation. These are troubled times and people turn to these troubling behaviors. We need to pay attention to all of these problems. I like that we are using mental health services that is also part of the problem.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

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

21-36 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE AND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF Public Service, DIVISION OF Streets/Traffic BY CREATING THE CLASSIFICATION OF Equipment Operator, AND SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE

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

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

21-37 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE NEWARK CITY SAFETY DIRECTOR TO CERTIFY TO THE LICKING COUNTY AUDITOR, THE SUM OF \$285,349.00 INCURRED BY THE NEWARK CITY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT WITH RESPECT TO PROPERTY MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS TO BE PLACED AS A LIEN UPON CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

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

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

21-69 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(\$3,000.00 - Monies from homeless camp clean ups)

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker

21-73 Expedite A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(2763.56-Medical EMS Supplies) (15,000.00-Maint. Bldg&Grounds) (250.00 Travel/Training)
(75,000.00-Fire Overtime) (34,565.00-Furniture&Fixtures)

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

Mr. Marmie – These are some end of the year things that we need to take care of to make sure we get bills paid prior to the end of the year.

Motion to waive 2 day reading rule passed 8-0

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

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker

21-74 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 FIRE ACT GRANT PROGRAMS, IN SUPPORT OF TRAINING PROGRAMS, EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, FUNDING FOR PERSONNEL, FIRE PREVENTION, AND FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

Held 2 weeks for second reading

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker

21-75 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

Held 2 weeks for second reading

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker

21-76 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

Held 2 weeks for second reading

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker

21-77 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NEWARK SPORTS AND EVENTS COMMISSION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PICKLEBALL COURTS AT THE NEWARK MUNICIPAL ICE RINK, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.

Held 2 weeks for second reading

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Daniel Crawford, 163 S. Second Street – I want to say a number of things first I want to say I'm happy to see Dee back. She was gone a big portion of this year I was really worried about her, I haven't even seen her in the store as of late. Also congratulations to everyone who won. It's ever fun to lose, but it's always an awesome experience to be approved to be on the ballot as an option. So, once again thank you for that opportunity. Also, Jeremy, no offense to Beth Bline, but Jeremy was always going to be my first choice. I supported Jeremy and that's the reason I didn't run against him. Jeremy thank you for your service, I thought you were an awesome member of council and I hope that Beth can fill your shoes. Speaking finally about the election, I want to say it's very concerning to me that it's all going to be one party, but that's not you guys fault and I can't say it's the people's fault because they voted for you this is just how it's done. I think this one partisan council and city that we're going to have gives us an opportunity to consider non-partisan elections in this city. After all for the next 2-4 years this is how the city is going to be run, that's not to say that you won't have disagreements amongst you, so if we're going to have an all Republican council why not say just let it go to the ballot and let it go the charter and give people the option to say non-partisan elections. Things shouldn't be reduced to partisan bickering, 90% of the time legislation is passed unanimously regardless of the partisan division. I'm going to keep hammering on it, it was a big campaign issue of mine regardless of my loss I think it's the best thing for the people. The young lady who spoke about being homeless, and anyone who speaks, public speaking is hard, I say this even as someone who has gotten a lot of experience over the years, I grew up being very shy and I know it's very nerve racking coming up here knowing people are looking at you and judging you the whole time, it's a lot of pressure, but if you feel the drive to say something you know you've got to say it so kudos to everyone who speaks. No matter what your positions are it's a beautiful thing about living in a free country. Since the last council meeting a good friend of mine passed away I felt it was important to bring up her name it was Linda Lovell, she was an advocate to the end and she had MS, she had to get around in an electric wheelchair, but that didn't stop her from speaking out or reaching out to people. You might remember my group the 99% we tried in 2014 and 2016 to get an issue on the ballot and in 2016bwe did it. The biggest contributor to that was Linda Lovell, she went out and didn't hesitate to approach anyone and she got so many signatures. I also have a number of pages on Facebook and she was a regular contributor to that and I just can't

keep up with the shoes that she left for me to fill. She was only a year younger than my mom and she reminded me a lot of my mom, she was an amazing human being and I think that the City of Newark lost a great citizen on the 18th and I just wanted to offer that tribute to her. I won't be here much longer, but I will listen to your responses, I have to get back to my kids and I love you all. Merry Christmas.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director – Just briefly, it's good to see you Dee Hall.

I haven't been on council very long, but it's good to see someone sitting there across from me. Second, congratulations to Chief Connor for his service to the city and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

Mayor Hall – I just would like to comment this week ODOT's building was rededicated with Jerry Wray's name on it. Jerry is a local resident he and Eva live here, he was the County Engineer many years ago and was in the office of ODOT Director for 16 years total under Kasich and DeWine and you don't get a building named after you for just showing up for work. He's worked very hard to change

A lot of things for the residents of the State of Ohio, he did some great things and we should be very proud of him for having the building rededicated with his name on the building. With that I congratulate Jerry for everything he has done.

Mr. Fennell – I would also like to welcome back council woman Dee Hall, it is truly wonderful to see you back, well and with us this evening, it's been way too long. Also as Daniel said, it's difficult for many people to get up and speak especially when you are speaking at the podium there and we're all sitting here staring at you, but I did want to call out a couple individuals. Mr. Smith thank you so much for your comments this evening and providing us context I always appreciate that, as someone who works in a library you know how to get to me, you bring up a book, so thank you for that I appreciate the context. Jessie, thank you for sharing your story, it's not easy to come share something so personal especially with a room full of strangers, you truly put face to the issues that we discuss almost every single council, so I agree we need low barrier shelters, we need transitional housing as well with low barriers. We hear you. I'm not exactly sure what the city can do at this point but I know that everybody in this room is dedicated to trying to help. Finally I would like to wish Chief Connor well and thank him for his service.

Ms. Hall – I want to thank council for your patience and your support, the calls, flowers, cards, it's been a long path back. It seems like I've been on a different planet called COVID. They don't know a lot about it and they don't know a lot about the vaccine, I got both at the same time, that was a trip. It's been hard getting back. I've had a lot of support from family and friends. Friends going to Giant Eagle for food for the cats and me. It's good to be back I wish it could've been sooner. Janine thank you for getting me my hard copies for council at least I could see what's going on and thank you to Ill Cost for delivering it to my front porch and keeping me posted to what's going on. There's been a lot of changes, a lot of different faces. I wish the best for the new kids on the block. Call me anytime I always have an opinion. I want to thank Dave Rhodes too, he took care a problem, it wasn't my ward but I got

the call and passed it on and the next day thought, wow you guys did great. I will see you guys next time if I can get a ride. I've had a lot of physical therapy, call me anytime. People with vaccines getting COVID still. Thank you very much.

Jeff Harris – Dee it's good to see you and welcome back. I too would like to thank everyone for speaking. I'm going to say something tonight that's probably not a popular thing, but first of all, everyone up here cares about the City of Newark and all the problems within the city, but no one wants to talk about how to solve the issue. I think one of the biggest ways we can solve the issue, if we get back to bringing God back into our community, taking kids to Sunday School, learning about Jesus, teaching about the Bible and if you do all that stuff, when they get older, they seem to do the right things and if we bring God back into this country and go to church and do the right things, we eliminate a lot of this problem. You can agree or disagree, but that's the way it is. I also want to thank Ayers for doing the pledge, congratulations to Jerry Wray, I had that one there the Mayor stole my thunder and January 17th the Martin Luther King breakfast is going to be happening this year at the Reese Center. I'd like to see everybody that can come to attend that breakfast, it's a good fundraiser for Upward Horizon School.

Cheri Hottinger – Dee it's nice to see you even though I'll only get to serve with you the month of December. It's too bad I like having other females up here. Mrs Volen-Smith regarding the rotary Playground. I am on the board and we actually have a committee we've been talking about we've got money set aside to work with the City to get those repairs that are needed, I've seen it first hand myself and there are some dangers there. I don't know what the timeframe is but will certainly make another note to our board to try to get those things done as soon as we can. I appreciate the comment.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee first thing. Dee, welcome back, I have missed you and am very glad to see you, just in time during the holiday season it's a pleasant surprise actually and I'm very happy you are here and glad you are doing better. I also wanted to let council know I never heard anything back about the cost of putting the aggregates on the ballot, so I reached out to the Board of Elections and talked with them. From what Brian has indicated it would probably not be that expensive to put it on in the Primary. The reason why, there is going to be a Primary, statewide Governor and everything else, so we would share in the cost, if we were to try to put one on a special election or something it would be very costly, but looking at that timeframe, probably less than \$1,000 is what it would cost I just wanted to share that with everyone on council just so you have that additional information for when we will be voting on that in two weeks. Jessie thank you very much for what you had to say you really made some very valid points that resonated in my thoughts and I want to Segway that over to what Mr. Smith and Mrs. Volen-Smith, we've got to stop treating the symptoms, I agree. You've got to get to the cause and root of the problem and handing out things to help folks out, we need to get them back into a situation and give them tools, those that choose to, to get off the streets. Not just give handouts. If folks, like Jessie indicated and she is out there and she hears it that there's a perception that Licking County is better they've got more to give you then they will come. We need to

stop that if that's all that the thought is. If we want them to have a positive perception of Licking County or Newark because Newark is the County Seat, then we want to give Newark will get you off the streets and make you a citizen again and somebody who either rents or owns a home and has a job. They will assist you in getting back to where you want to be. Not just Newark and Licking County is a place to get goods and services. I agree stop treating the symptoms, get to the root of the problem and try to make sure that we address that. Finally, I wish I was commenting on a State Championship tonight, but unfortunately the Newark Catholic football team fell a little short, but it's still going to be the goal to be State Champions, there is no banner hanging in that gymnasium at Newark Catholic that does not say State Champions, so that's always the goal. Now that some of these younger kids have gotten that taste, let's hope they remember that and they will have the drive to succeed and do more. I've been reading a book that's called chasing failure. Failure doesn't have to be a bad thing as long as you earn from it and overcome it. There's an NBA record of most missed shots I don't know if you know who that is, but it is not Shaquille O'Neal, it's Kobe Bryant. He always said I have to practice those shots I've never taken before in order to know what to adjust in order to succeed. Just because there's been a failure in your life, do something about it. Make it something beneficial.

Mr. Rath – I will call a Service Committee Meeting. Mr. Harris I have a response to your unpopular statement. Just a simple one work response, Amen. Dee I want to welcome you back you were sorely missed and I appreciate all you had to go through and glad to see you on your way back up. This time of year I have a tradition and that is to wish Mr. Waldren a Happy Birthday. I'd like to say congratulations to Newark Catholic and Granville both of their football teams. Especially Granville who made it further than they've ever made it before which was awesome. I'd like to wish best of luck to Chief Connor in his future endeavors. I want to say thank you to David Rhodes and Barbara Gilkes, it's been about 4 years I've been asking to have a dog park in the 3rd ward and we're finally getting one in Reddington Park and I believe construction was scheduled to start today. Very excited about that. Mr. Steve Layman, I just wanted to tell him, welcome to the neighborhood. Building 61 homes on Chery Valley Rd., very much looking forward to that development. Congratulations to Jerry Wray, very proud of him, very proud of all our 3rd ward residents, Jerry is a 3rd Ward resident very proud of that. I appreciate all the comments and all the opinions tonight, appreciate your interpretation of the 2nd amendment, although I prefer to rely on the Supreme Court for that thank goodness and I guess I'll sum it up with one of my favorite quotes that reminded me of and that is that 47.6% of all statistics are made up on the spot. If you want to quote me on that, I'll repeat it, 34.8% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

Mr. Barker – I just would echo everyone's comments. We always say that we give truth here. That's one thing I want to point out. Everyone on the council comes here we then take all that feedback back and with the administration and council and with safety forces and Safety Director we have these discussions and we get those calls. So it doesn't stop her, it continues on for us 24/7 when we leave this chamber so we do care very much. I want to do a couple thank you's, Director Rhodes I appreciate his help with a fence issue that was, I don't understand how someone puts a fence 2 feet over on

someone else's property and thinks it's theirs, but Director Rhodes and the Engineering, Department of Zoning helped out greatly. To get this resolved. I also want to thank Roger Loomis and our Water Department team, sometimes they don't get the shout outs they deserve. The day before Thanksgiving I called Roger and said Roger there's water running down my street and I don't know where it's coming from. Roger promptly said why don't you just go plug the hole and I said I don't know where it's coming from. And about 5 minutes after that the water team was there. I don't know what the issue was but it got stopped about 30 minutes later, so this is the time of the year where the cold can affect our water system and Roger you and your team do great work and we and the citizens really appreciate that. I want to say Dee Hall, fantastic to have you back. Very good to see you, I know we talked on the phone a couple times as you were going through everything and it's just good to see you here tonight.

Mr. Blake – Welcome to Dee Hall I'm glad that you're in good health and returned to council, so welcome back. I do want to give some thank you's to Licking Memorial Hospital, Job and Family Services, United Way and the Licking County Foundation, this year I have continued to work with them on funding a neighborhood outreach specialist with a focus on addiction and mental health concerns, that person has finally been hired, they started last week, so they are out there doing good work. Many comments were made about the homeless population and how to address it and one of the avenues that I've been focusing on was specifically looking at addiction and mental health concerns, so that is going to help greatly. I just want to give a report to Council that the Care Now Clinic that opened up across from Speedway on East Main Street has been seeing about a dozen clients a day and so it's most definitely a needed resource that's been needed for a while and word is getting out to the right folks to get care there. It's dealing with substance abuse and mental health issues, trying to get folks into the right avenue of care for the people out on the streets and needing that care BHP is doing a great job with those topics. I want to give a big thanks to Chief Connor, on a side note, I remember when my grandmother passed Chief Connor and the Fire Department came and handled the situation and we as men don't say these things too often, but me and the Chief gave a big hug and I will always remember that and appreciate the compassion and care that he gave and he's done good things for the city but that's just a personal thing that I will always remember him before beside just being there. I wish him best of luck in his new endeavor, but just wanted to thank him publicly for everything he did especially for my family. Other comments that were made, Daniel has left, but I do appreciate him bringing up Linda Lovell. Linda was a member of my church congregation and she was very passionate about public transportation and advocating for issues and Linda was a great person and I'm glad he brought her up tonight that was very fitting. Everyone stay warm, stay safe and stay healthy.

President Ellington – Dee, glad to see you back at council, we missed you. I'd like to thank everyone who spoke tonight we all appreciate your opinions. You may not agree with some of the things we say, but we certainly appreciate you coming and letting us know how you feel. This is your Newark City Council. Our next and last Committee meeting will be December 20th at 5:45pm and our next and last full Council meeting for this year will be that same night the 20th at 7:00pm.

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

Don Ellington, President of Council