

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 1, 2021
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Ellington called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Jeremy Blake

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES of October 18, 2021 - Motion by to approve the October 18, 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

Mayor Jeff Hall – Reappointing City of Newark Engineer, Brian Morehead to the Newark CIC (Community Improvement Corporation), known as Newark Development Partners. Term to begin January 1, 2022 and expire December 31, 2024

Mayor Hall – Brian does a wonderful job on there and it's a good thing to have our Engineer involved to not only keep us informed but to give his 2 cents. I appreciate his good work.

Appointment was passed by acclamation

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – **Received and filed no objections**

Service– **Received and filed no objections**

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

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

None this meeting

COMMUNICATIONS

None this meeting

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Dave Lipstreu, 40 N. 40th Street – Just with respect to the Ordinance on 2nd reading, I just had

questions, if the improvements on those projects, are they actually in, since you're accepting for dedication are they actually physically in, Conor's Pass and the additional right of way on 21st Street. I haven't been up to Conor's Pass and just wondered if those streets are actually in yet or if they had been bonded/guaranteed prior to putting them in. The other comment is I would like to congratulate the city on the wildflower plantings that have been done on the various off-ramps on SR16. Very effective, very helpful pollinators, it's a good sign, I'm happy to see it. I talked to the guy from the Ohio Prairie Group where the seed comes from the other day and he told me he was working for the city, so =congratulations, keep up the good work, thank you.

Caleb Chapman, 9397 Swisher Rd - Good evening Council, this is my second time attending City Council, but I read over the minutes of the last several meetings and I'd like to speak to a reoccurring theme that my fellow citizens have touched upon. My church has a warming center just down the road from here for the homeless every Saturday morning from 8:30 – 11 am, they provide food, a place to rest for a few minutes, hot showers, laundry and most importantly prayer for specific needs. I'm well aware Newark has a serious homeless problem but living outside the city I do not deal with it day in and day out like most of the people in this room. It weighed heavy on my heart to hear how many people are fearful, not just for their kids playing in the park or their home being broken into when they're away, but even afraid to sit on their own front porch. It was also extremely disheartening, but not surprising to hear how the local police are failing the citizens of Newark. What is probably the most frustrating part of that situation is we all have money taken from our paychecks to fund said police regardless of how they serve the community. This is what I would like to speak to. The government police have failed this City this State and this Country. We saw video proof time and time again last summer of people's property and body's assaulted while police across the country stood by and watched. In 1989 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that police agencies are not obligated to provide protection to citizens in *Chaney vs Winnebago* as well as the town of *Castle Rock vs Gonzales* in 2005. We need a different source of security. We need to let private enterprise succeed where the public sector has failed. In 1980 a small town in Northeastern Ohio called *Reminderville* contracted with a private security firm. This took place after the Summit County Sherrifs Department quoted the community \$180,000 per year for emergency response and an occasional patrol. For half the price corporate security provided twice as many patrol cars and a 6 minutes response time, compared to the 45 minute response time of the sherrifs department. Unfortunately, this experiment disturbed local officials who set up their own police department to the detriment of the tax payer at a higher cost in 1983. Another example of privatized services is from *Oro Valley Arizona*. A contract was agreed in 1975 with a flat yearly fee of \$35,000 to be paid to a company *World Metro*, a savings over what the same state services would cost. Over controlled policing was still retained by the town. During their time securing *Oro Valley*, the company employed some innovative operating methods and initiated protocols where residents who planned to be away from their house would leave their address with the company and the property would be check on twice every 24 hours. Burglaries fell from 14 per month to an average of .7 per month, however, the *World Metro* contract encountered opposition from the *Arizona Law Enforcement Officers Association Council*, who refused access to training programs and refused to grant accreditations. When the State Attorney questioned the legality of the arrangement *World Metro* decided to pull out. Notably

when the town took over full provisions again in 1977 many costs increased. One change was to replace the civilian employees with World Metro uniformed officers on higher salaries. By 1982 the police budget of Oro Valley was \$241,000 when World Metro had done the job for \$35,000. I know what I'm proposing sounds extreme, but please let me tell you what extreme really is. Extreme is having random cars parked in your yards with strangers inside passed out from overdosing, extreme is finding a dead body on the edge of your property, extreme is seeing people walk around publicly indecent with no fear of repercussions, extreme is being too afraid to sit out on your front porch because you don't know who might approach you. I would close with one final point. I would like to encourage anyone who is physically able to brush up on any necessary training and responsibly carry a firearm or keep one close by at all times. The fastest police response time in the world can't compete with your own and an armed society is a polite society. Thank you.

Scott Staley, Tech Auto Sales, 379 Union Street – I do think the Newark police are doing a fantastic job in the circumstances that they have. I signed a five year lease January 1, 2021. In the short ten months that I've been in town doing business, the homeless population broke into my building seeking shelter, they've used my cars to abuse drugs and alcohol. I've picked up their empty beer cans and liquor bottles, their syringes, their needles on a daily basis. My building has also been broken into by thieves, luckily they weren't armed and I've scared them off so far. Newark has drug addicts overdosing on the sidewalks and dying in residents back yards. Fact. In the last 2 weeks I've had \$4,500 worth of converters stolen from cars on my lot in less than 2 minutes. These are professional criminals. I've read the minutes of the last years meetings in this very office. These issues are being brought to your attention with little to no result every time. I've talked to many residents and business owners in Newark. Many have the same issues, with drug addicts, criminals, homeless people. Some have far worse issues than mine. I read a very interesting quote the other day, hopefully it doesn't ring true in this room. You cannot leave those who have created the problem in charge of the solution. History dictates, your current policies and solutions are ineffective. As a very invested business owner and citizen, what are your new policies and solutions for these major problems, if any?

Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Dr. – After listening to the last two speakers and their comments, one of the things I would like to address, is we cannot expect our police to take care of the homeless situation or the unsheltered situation. Yes, increased safety would be helpful. Back in 2018 we recognized that we had a homeless situation in Licking County. At that time a group actually went over to Columbus to visit some shelters and a group was formed to kind of address this. In July of 2018 a group got together and actually the Dollar General building was purchased for the purpose of possibly being a low barrier shelter. After that, there was a task force that was formed. The task force consisted of people who were business people, people from the Newark Development Partners, United Way, one of the things we actually requested was a person who was actually on the streets with the unsheltered. At that time there were several grass roots organizations, one was the Licking County Champions, another one was the Crusaders and the Newark Homeless Outreach and there was another one the St. Johns Helping Hands. We needed to select someone, I am retired so they felt I had the most time to develop this so I was selected to be on that group. That group did an RFP, ended up hiring two consultants, one was analytical insights who spent months having public forums, meeting with

stakeholders and the result of their process was the 2020 action plan. The other consultant was hired to address the low barrier shelter. Her name was Sally Luken, she had a lot of experience in working with shelters, she worked to try to figure out how the Family Dollar building could be converted into a low barrier shelter, unfortunately she ran into some issues with the people she was working with and asked to terminate her contract. After she terminated her contract, a small group of people were designated to work on the shelter. When Sally terminated her contract I had asked what was being done with the shelter and I was told a small group had been put together to look for alternatives to putting together the low barrier shelter. This was at the end of October 2020. In the end of October I received a letter saying the task force was no longer necessary and we were being terminated. I asked at that time what was going to be done with the low barrier shelter. I got an email from Mr. DeLawder saying a small group was looking at it and there would be some plans in December. In January there was an article in the newspaper saying that the building was going to be made into a Thrift Store. This is why some of the problems still exist. During COVID the shelters that we have in town like the Salvation Army and the Haven were at reduced capacity. When you're short of shelters to begin with and then you have to operate at reduced capacity, that just creates more people on the streets. I am sure that maybe some people are committing crimes and I have no problem if you are committing a crime that you are prosecuted for it, however, if somebody is arrested for criminal trespassing they may serve, maybe 30 days, I don't know these sentences, but right after that is served, they're right back out on the street with nowhere to go. What I would like to ask in the future is for this Council to maybe re- look at the homeless action plan. It is very long. This is a copy of it, I'm not offering to make 100 copies for Council but it is on the Licking County Coalition's website. So, look at that. Some action has been taken. We know there is a lack of affordable housing here in Newark and another consultant has been hired to look at possible ways to increase the affordable housing. Another measure that has been taken is a recommendation to provide more mental health services or a coordinated effort to maybe assist law enforcement with people who are on the streets and I know that a council person, Mr. Blake, has secured some funds to make that position happen. So, one of things I would like to propose is maybe for council to designate someone to revisit the homeless plan because we are not going to arrest the situation away. Thank you.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

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

21-33 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION TO PUBLIC USE OF ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT THE INTERSECTION OF MOULL STREET AND NORTH 21st STREET.

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

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

21-34 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION TO PUBLIC USE OF THE STREETS IN CONOR'S PASS SUBDIVISION, PHASE 1

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

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

21-64 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF NECESSARY SERVICES REGARDING THE COMPOSTING, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF LEAVES, BRUSH, GRASS, TREES AND STUMPS WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

21-65 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Held 2 weeks for 2nd reading

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

21-66 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. Lang

Mr. Marmie – We have some bills that need to be paid right away and also have a payout that we try to get the funds to them quickly.

Motion to waive 2 day reading rule passed 8-0

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

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

21-67 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PARK NATIONAL BANK FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE CRUISERS FOR THE DIVISION OF POLICE

Held 2 weeks for 2nd reading

By: Mr. Rath, Barker, Mr. Marmie

21-68 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH PATHWAYS OF CENTRAL OHIO, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A RETAINING WALL

Held 2 weeks for 2nd reading

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Rosanna Allen, 1095 Empire Dr. – I have concerns in the form of questions and I have some ideas that I would just like to throw out here, so just bear with me please. I've been made aware that we are getting a lot of people without shelter from places like Columbus, Cleveland and etc. because they are looking for safe areas to live. Apparently Licking County is considered a safe haven for them which now means that our homelessness is rising. Is it possible that there are more areas without shelter that those are living at or do we have numbers and if so, who keeps track? I'm also aware that there are programs that help with jobs for those that are homeless, other programs that clean them up to prepare them to go to jobs, if so are there numbers of those who have actually received jobs or shelter? Do the Law Enforcement Officers only sweep camps at the request of whose property they are on? Is trespassing the only reason for the sweep? Does the City have unused land that could be used for camps where they won't be considered trespassing? If so, is it possible that an area could be used with the concept of a campground? Maybe a name, parcel number or lot number that would give them an address at least until there is some sort of housing available. Maybe even try to designate a head person for the areas to help enforce cleanliness in the area. In Columbus there was a place. In Columbus there was a place with a person designated, his name was Daryl and the camp was even called Daryl's place. He also worked, but he rode a bike to a certain point then caught a bus that was provided to take him to and from that place then he rode his bike back to the camp. Then it would take building of relationships do something like this. Has the City tried or can the city do contracts with land owners by railroad tracks and bridges that the area is kept clean? I would ask because the homeless are there anyway. Would the city be willing to provide porta potties in these areas? If so, would the city be willing to contract with someone to keep them clean? This would help in the area of human waste which is a health issue. Is it possible to put a dumpster at least close to these sites and designated areas for garbage, maybe garbage bags could be donated by local businesses to save some money. This could help with keeping the areas clean. If so, is it possible for inmates to go get the bags from point A to point B or however it is that they do when they clean around the streets and freeways? That will save some money. Maybe if those without shelter are made to feel as if they are part of the community and see that the city is willing to work with them, they might be more willing to let others in if the help is being offered. It could be an incentive if these things are provided and they would have to keep the area clean, which on the other hand is hard to do if the things needed to keep the area clean aren't provided. Has it been considered how they are to get to all these programs that have been set up for them, maybe transportation vouchers for them, maybe a couple of passenger vans could be

an option. How does one get identification without an address? How are applications completed with no address? Accounts opened with no address. How can they get contacted after work with no phones, email or address? Do those without shelter qualify for any money or government funds? If so, is there something set up in any of our programs to assist them with that? Or is the issue no address? Are there any programs that help with health outside of mental health issues, how is that communicated to them? Have there been or are there any talks of transition programs to help them to permanent housing. What does it take to set up a transition program and get government funds for maybe vacant homes to purchase or refurbish or is this something the city can help get funds for, I don't know. The reason for asking is what about the cost for halfway houses or boarding houses for them, that would at least give them time to clean up to find a job. That would also help create jobs, They could transition from a halfway house to a boarding house until they finish their programs and then transition to a low income based place. Campaign and get the community involved and get businesses to adopt someone without shelter and build a relationship with them and then they might get to the point where they would actually hire them. The same with porta potty and garbage businesses, maybe they would be willing to adopt an area to provide a free service. Individually, those of us who care, we can also adopt one, do a drive by, waive, drop off a meal every now and then. Unsheltered people have needs. They want to keep clean but they don't have any way to do it. Keeping warm, toilet paper, a couple bottles of water, just anything to show them we care. This City is responsible for providing some sort of shelter for those who are made to feel hopeless and helpless because of being homeless and it should be held accountable for not doing so. The shelter that did not happen on the east side for whatever reason was wrong. So, my last question is this. What are the plans to make this wrong right? In some cases helping others might take a village, but in ours, it should take our city.

Jim Guy, 42 N, 22ND Street – I've been listening to comments made by my fellow citizens tonight. This is my first Newark City Council that I've attended =, but I've read the minutes and watched some of the sessions on line. Good luck to all of you that are running for re-election tomorrow. I want to start by saying thank you to the street department for paving the street in front of my house recently, it was over due and is much better. Upon reading and watching Council Meetings it occurs to me that there is a lot of agreement by city officials that Newark has it's share of problems and that changes need to occur to solve those problems. However, it appears to me there are not a lot of solutions being proposed to fix those problems, just a lot of head shaking and talk. I have been working with City Council members, the Mayor's office and several city department managers for well over two years to try to have a code violation enforced in or near my Ward. To date, nothing has been accomplished. It seems to me within two years, a code violation should've been able to be fixed. I get referred to one person or another department, they usually call back quickly, they listen to me, they're kind and polite, but still nothing ever gets done. The can just keeps getting kicked down the road. I have a question for City Council. When was the last time one of you has walked around in your Ward? I'm specifically addressing the code violation about trees and shrubs growing over and above sidewalks, that I believe is city code 1028. When trees grow into or block our roadways they are a safety issue and are taken

care of properly. When the same occurs on sidewalks, safety is not an issue. Most of West Main had handicapped ramps put in at the corners so that people in wheelchairs could use that sidewalk and there are places where they can't get by on sidewalks because homeowners will not keep their sidewalks paved and in good condition and the trees and shrubs have overgrown the sidewalk. I believe it should be a joint venture with our city officials and also the citizens watching over the city. Part of the city code defines what is the homeowners responsibility in maintaining that property, but when the homeowner is unwilling to assume that responsibility it then becomes the burden of the city to take that on. Section 1028.05 gives the public service director the authority to have those bushes and trees trimmed or removed to meet the code. After two years, why am I the one who has to alert Council of this? Another issue I would like to bring to Council's attention are cracked sidewalks. These are also a safety issue. I believe it's time to pass a code, if there's not one already, on the maintenance of sidewalks. Children and adults use the sidewalks daily just as cars use the roads. They should expect to be able to use them without fear of tripping. Finally I would like to use a story to highlight the speeding car issues that I've heard about at recent Council Meetings that other citizens have brought up. When I first started driving I was told by others do not speed on such and such a street. Not even one mile over the limit or you will get a ticket. As a result very few people would go fast on this road, which made it safer for everyone. If the police would enforce violations mores strictly, perhaps there would be fewer violations. Thank you for listening.

Patricia Perry, 282 N. 21st Street – The homeless population is not coming from out of town. We see 100 plus people a week and they're all right here from our county. Some of them have lived here, moved away, came back to help family members who were ill,, the family members died and they were thrown out with nowhere to go. With the moratorium off of evictions, we're seeing more and more people. Kids. I just talked to a person this week who is a man with a 16 year old son living in his car. He works, but he only makes \$14 and hour, he don't have any credit, he can't get a place. So, he's living in a car. So, I just want to make sure everybody knows it is our problem here, it is not other counties being bussed in as some people want to say. The main reason I am here is Mr. Marmie spoke about fentanyl test strips being illegal. I just wanted to make a few comments about that. There is currently a house bill 456 that is in committee that is to take the testing strips off of the illegal paraphernalia. Right here in Licking County we do have several places that distribute the fentanyl testing strips. Shepherd Hill, LMH they give out a little packet that comes with 2 testing strips, the instructions on how to use them and a resource guide for treatment. Which is the same that we do with the ones that we get. These are life saving to many people and many lives are saved all the time. Cleveland last year did a 500 strip test pilot, they analyzed all the data on how many lives were saved by the group of people that they had a rapport with. Then they expanded their program. They got a \$15k grant from the County. So, as everybody says that it's illegal, it is saving lives and I for one am about saving lives and that's what it's about. Thank you.

Nancy Welu, 7441 Stewart Rd. – I'm also here representing the Newark Homeless Outreach. We're going to be having a public health clinic this Saturday, I have some fliers if anyone would like one.

We're partnering as we have for the last three years since I've been involved, with several different community entities. From youth church groups to boy scouts, last weekend Northridge High School came out and passed out blankets I believe. For the public health clinic we're partnering with the Licking County Health Department, the Central Outreach Wellness Center and Family Health Services of East Central Ohio. We are a street outreach so we will be outside doing this next Saturday. We'll be doing Hep-C testing and treatment, Flu Vaccines, if you haven't had a flu shot come on down, rapid HIV testing, this is the second time we will be doing this Hep-A Vaccines 1st and 2nd dose, I will be getting my second dose, so if you want a Hep-A Vaccine and COVID Vaccines 1st, 2nd and booster. Since the Newark Homeless Outreach came into existence about 4 years ago, it's grown and it's grown into something that we can put on this public health clinic for the community because we have community support. The only reason we are in existence is because of the community and we serve the community, we're a gap service. We're there to help people survive one more day whether so it's they can get into housing like the man and his son living in their car or perhaps they have a substance use disorder, so they can get into recovery or get help. That's what we're there for. If you've been down on East Main, you'll notice that we're building a building. Hopefully it will be done in a week or so, as promised, there's a whole other story going on there. It will be for storage. It will not be a shelter, it will truly be for storage because we are getting donations from the community that we have stored all over Newark in our various homes and garages and basements and my husband would dearly love to take his garage back over. If you have any questions, if you'd like a flier, I have them. I just want to say I am so proud of this group and what it's become and what it's doing for the community. Thank you.

Daniel Crawford, 163 S. 2nd Street – Empathy goes a long way. I guess you could call that the word of the day in it's own right. All of these stories you hear about with their fears about the homeless and all that, I'm not exactly non-empathetic they're worried about what's going on in your own backyard, if you will, I'm glad we're hearing from them so we can see what needs to be addressed, but also I am happy and proud of the stories I hear from Newark Homeless Outreach, I'm proud that I call these people my friends. I get kind of excited when I hear about something they're doing, but the important thing is there is very much a need that has to be addressed, there's a gap as she put it, in services. Of course there are some things the city doesn't have the ability to be able to take care of or the ability to do, but I think empathy can teach us to obviously not demonize these people who are struggling but to see how they got to where they are now. Part of my ability to be empathetic is because as I've mentioned many times before my own issue with homelessness as a child. So when you see how other people end up in that position and how it's a very complex, diverse story, you know that no two stories are the same and there's a whole host of people who are homeless who have never committed a crime, they're just trying to survive. Of course, there are some who are the criminal element that need to be addressed and that's when it's good to hear from citizens, there's also a matter of being proactive as the gentleman who spoke earlier asked how often do councilman walk around their wards. I think that's important to be proactive, reach out to citizens find out what's on their mind and see what need to be addressed. Of course I'm going to continue to be an advocate for the homeless

regardless of how tomorrow's election goes. If I'm lucky to be elected to serve among you I'll be a fierce advocate on council, of course if I'm not elected you'll continue to see me up here bugging you. About tomorrow, I want to wish the best of luck to everyone and also to you Spencer and you Bill. I'm very excited for tomorrow and we'll see how it goes, make sure you do your civic duty, vote and have a good one.

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. – I just want to say that just knowing that the Newark Homeless outreach exists and does as much as they do, makes me feel so proud of this city. That we have this element of grass roots things happening, it's just incredible and I mention it to a number of people in other cities all the time. I want to thank you guys. It takes a village and thank you for this incredible leadership.

Beth Bline, 33 Summit Street – Wow, there's a lot of testimony tonight and a lot of points to be made, but I am wondering who is advocating for the residents. As I've spoken to people they haven't had anyone to advocate for them if they've spent thousands of dollars on security systems and fences to keep the tools of addiction out of their yards. I spoke to a resident who pulled out a bag of 40 needles, she has 6 kids and the kids brought her a bag of needles and said hey mom, what do I do with this? And so who pays and raises money for the residents for these security systems, tens of thousands maybe even 100,000 dollars in security systems. I just spoke to a resident who spent 9 grand on a fence to keep people from overrunning their property and to keep the needles out because they have grandchildren. Where do they get the needles from? People want to know. Where are they getting these tools of addiction, where are they getting these test strips, people want to know. I agree fentanyl is deadly, but in order to need a test strip you've got to have fentanyl, so you get more test strips, you get more fentanyl and it's just a growing beast. If you don't have fentanyl, you don't need test strips. So, it's a logical problem, I don't know, but I do know that 4 grams of fentanyl, we go around and speak about this with champions, is the size of Abraham Lincoln's beard on a penny is fatal. The people at Salvation Army are picking this test strips up out of the children's play area and who is safe? Who is advocating for the residents? Who can say oh wow you could've put \$5,000 into your house, but no, you've got to get a security system. You just had to spend 3 grand on a fence, well, sorry about your carpet. Speaking to a shelter, in my perspective, it's not the city's job to provide a shelter. As non-profits we are given thousands of dollars every year, through grants and a number of opportunities and to target a compassion instead of shot gunning things to meet needs when to target a compassion, let's build. I've lived all over the country and we did a thing in Florida called the Shepherds Project and We put our money together, we get together and we buy homes. That's what Champions is doing right now. They don't stay there, they don't stay stuck as in a bunch of "government sponsored" things, they don't stay stuck, they transition and that's key. Do they want to transition? There are many programs here like the Look Up Center that teach people life skills, in fact I just had a friend that graduated from one of their job programs. It's a great. We're at program overload, in fact it is so good that people are coming from other places to be here because we are so good at meeting needs. The key is do they want to transition or do they want to remain in services? All of us have been in rough places in our

lives and transitioned. It takes a step and you need to build courage to do it, but you need to do it and there needs to be boundaries and limits. You may participate in this behavior but then you are responsible for yourself. Then personal choice, do you want to change. Another thing that needs to be defined is Low barrier, because what does that mean? People are afraid of it. Does that mean they're using drugs, they're giving needles out, what does that mean? Can they overdose? People are very compassionate and want to target an answer, they want to be part of an answer, but they don't want to be enabling. I know that's the big E word, but it is something that is a real factor. We do not want to enable non-productive behaviors because there tends to be overflow as we're finding out with needles and the like. I do appreciate the heart. We all want to part of the answer. Most of us have been in place like that, I know I have, but there's a choice. I want to thank the city. During this run for city council, they have put up with me not knowing processes, not knowing technicalities. I will get citizen requests and I have been privileged to hang street lights, work on storm drains and sink holes and speeding deterrents, getting streets on the paving list, working on flooding issues and it's a lot of fun. So, I want to thank David Rhodes, Brian Morehead, Roger Loomis, Nick Shultz, he has been so patient with me, and Tim Hickman and I am sure there are people I missed, but for their emails and being so patient with me as they explain processes to me so that I can relate them to citizens. And I want to honor Mr. Blake and thank you for your time.

MISCELLANEOUS

City Auditor, Ryan Bubb – Just a couple of updates this evening. As I mentioned last time we had a retirement in our office, we acted swiftly to fill that position and hired Amber Laryson, she'll be starting on November 14th so stop up in a couple weeks and introduce yourself to Amber. As promised, we're working diligently on the budget along with the leadership of Mr. Jim Weisent, we're having 2-3 departments come in per day to get this to you on early December, that's our goal. I believe Ms Paul will be in, in the morning, so Don, if you're up at 9am stop in and we'll welcome your input.

Law Director, Tricia Moore – Good evening, thank you all for coming and for your comments I do appreciate all that you are doing. First, regarding the fentanyl testing strips, they are illegal to possess. Because the bill is sitting in committee, it doesn't make it a law. The current law in the State of Ohio is that fentanyl strips are listed as a drug paraphernalia used to test illegal substances, so until that changes, and I believe Mr. Marmie's response was in regards to asking for funds from the City to provide those strips which seems to be contradicting when tomorrow I could charge somebody for possession. So, if Ohio decides to exempt those strips then Ohio decides to exempt them but as it stands today they are still illegal and believe the exact statement from 292514 is Testing equipment for identifying, analyzing the strength of effectiveness or purity of a controlled substance. I just wanted to address that issue. Second of all, speaking as a Law Director and a Prosecutor, I see our police every day at work. There are a lot of issues we have to tackle every day around this city. A lot of issues that go beyond the

police reach. The comment that arrests aren't always the answer, that's true, but as the Law Director they're kind of a key for me. I don't want you to think that in the long run when we charge people, for criminal trespassing, for example that we are just wanting to throw them in jail, that's not what we do. . I am a member of the LIFT treatment team, I watch miracles happen every day in court. I watch people break their addictions and succeed and go on to live productive lives and there is no greater satisfaction for me in my job, but the key to that is I have to have a conviction and once I have a conviction I can get them into services. For example, In criminal trespassing, I have someone come in, I talk with the victim, and ask what do they need, what can I do for them. I'm not just looking to throw them in jail, what can I do for them. Do they need and alcohol/drug assessment to address an addiction, do they need a mental health evaluation to get them hooked up with services, can the Adult Probation Department help them seek counseling and that's me staying in my lane as a prosecutor, but that's an idea of how we can use arrests and use prosecutions to get people on the right path. That's what we try to do. The days of people going to jail for 30 days with the COVID situation is not a reality at this time. That's how we do things and I just wanted to clarify that. And arrests are sometimes needed because we do have to protect the people who are being terrorized.SO, it's two fold for us, how can I protect the people who are being terrorized and get help so this doesn't happen again. So, that's our role.

Mayor Hall – I want to thank everyone for coming in and sharing your opinions and ideas, this is what public forums are about. Certainly on Monday nights here, we appreciate that input. A lot of what the city does and there's a balance of many things, decisions, process and one of those is financial and I'm not here to say that's the only problem, but I want everyone to understand that Newark has a 1.75% income tax, Columbus is 2.5%. If we had Columbus', which is way too high, we would have \$10 million more dollars a year. That solves a lot of problems as far as hiring more police, more fire, equipment, whatever ideas that people have to make our community better. So, I do want you to understand that we are about the 16th largest city in Ohio by population, but as far as income tax collection we are number 47. So, if you put that into perspective, many cities smaller than us have more income that's because of a higher rate or higher gross pay, there's a balance there. People are working real hard, the Auditor's Office and the Council here to balance the budget. A balanced budget means we can't spend more than what we bring in, it just makes sense. I get it in Washington, but that's just part of the problem, spending more than what you have. People down the road from us and our kids will be paying that huge service to that debt. I have been in a room before and had to find \$4,000 for the budget to make things balance and I have asked my director's I need a thousand from each of you, it's just how it works and we are a good strong city because of that, but also we have challenges at times and I say it all the time, a lower income tax rate is great for people who have lower income, I don't like people to not be able to afford to live because of high income taxes or high utilities. Our water rates, just water service is in the bottom 25 percentile

in the State of Ohio. We work on that when we try to keep the system up we try to keep it affordable. It does challenge us at times. We just got a new ladder truck. \$1.4 million, you do it every 25 years, but you have to do it. It's to fight fires and save lives. I would agree with our Law Director that our Police Force is doing a wonderful job. They're doing a wonderful job with what is given to them, if they had 20 more officers, I don't believe it would get rid of crime, but I believe we would have quicker response to some calls. We're talking about those things every week. Hopefully the reporting software will help, there are many things that go into it not to replace an officer but to supplement an officer. I'll jump from that to thank the downtown businesses and everyone that helped with safe trick or treat around the square. It was a great thing this year, thank goodness the rain held off about 7:30 the spigots came on, but it's a great night for the kids, they just had a wonderful fun time and certainly with COVID the last couple years they've been challenged. We put together packets my wife and I and we handed out 1,000, so we know at least 1,000 kids came through, we had a few left, the businesses get excited they set up tables, our candy is paid for, we've had fundraisers the past few years for soup and salad and a lot of our employees donate to that, it doesn't come out of the general fund, so anyway it was a great night and the kids enjoyed it.

Mr. Blake – Thank you, once again we've hear comments from residents, business people, business owners and once again we're sitting here thanking you for coming, but really what the undertone is, you're looking for action, looking for a forum to provide some type of action for solutions. There's not going to be any single answer to homelessness in our city. But, I believe we can proved a way, whether it's through the safety Committee of this Council or an ad hoc committee, there needs to be an avenue so discussion can occur, let's have the police chief come in. What from his perspective are he and his officers dealing with, we approved the reporting software earlier, but let's have the chief come and talk to us about what are the challenges and opportunities for our division of police. That's something I think we could do, because our people are coming every two weeks and sharing their experiences out there in our community and council should take some kind of action. Working together for solutions. I don't believe that the city will solve all homeless issues in our city, I'm very proud to serve on the board of BHP, I've been doing that for a while. Just an invitation to November's Council and the public, this Thursday at 11:30 we are opening and Urgent Care Facility at 104 E, Main Street which is the old KP Hall, this is going to be a needed service, because I do believe that we do have a fine police department. Our division of police are over taxed. Hopefully this will be a way to alleviate some of the workload because our officers aren't trained to deal with people with severe mental illness or substance abuse issues. They'll take them to the hospital and a doctor will evaluate them for a period of time but then they are released. We've heard testimony about people dancing in the streets and having schizophrenic episodes, dealing with bipolar episodes, those people are examples of social services like BHP can step in and get them out of the neighborhood and into avenues of care. When we hear people say they are fearful and are

concerned about safety for their own property and homes, many times many of us know who those people are and if we can get them into an avenue of care or use this Urgent Care and the employee for outreach I think it will be positive for the community. That's just one piece of it because homelessness deals with housing, and as I have been looking at it with mental health and substance abuse or they're just dealing with situations where they're couch surfing. I really think this council could take action and have the police chief and fire chief come and give us testimony. I do want to give a thank you, South 4th Street looks beautiful, Director Rhodes, Mayor, City Officials, South 4th Street, south of the railroad is open, the lights are wonderful, it looks great and I think it's a very worthy project. My mom is here so I have to give shout out. South 2nd Street has a corner store and they're starting a new thing where they're going to have guest chefs and to help this small business from 3-8pm if you're looking to get dinner, they're going to sell 35-50 dinners, first come first served. Many people remember my grandma Mattie, she won several awards in our rib fest contest years ago, many times at Park National Bank she was called the VP of ribs, I don't know if mom's going to get any of those titles but we're going to go down and sell some dinners Saturday to help the store on 2nd Street and the significance of that is because at some point 2nd Street is going to be torn up and this small business is going to be effected heavily and how we'll get traffic in and out of there when it's torn up we'll have to put some heads together to figure that out. So, we want to support them now if we can, Saturday from 3-8pm if you want to get a dinner come on down.

Sean Fennell – I'll be brief. If you haven't voted, please show up and do your duty and support everybody up here, for those of us not running, like myself, we have an easier time, but I wish the best of luck to all the candidates out there, I know first- hand how stressful it is, this is a very stressful time for lots of people. I really do appreciate all the work you are putting in because it shows you do care about the city and you're proving that to everybody in this room. To the Newark Homeless Outreach, also Daniel, you are correct, I believe that leading with empathy is the way to approach this situation and if you want a beautiful example of what that looks like, on the ground, every weekend, the outreach does that. So, if you haven't volunteered at the outreach and you want to understand the situation better, join them. They will welcome you, I have served food with them as well as coat drives and they are an incredible organization and an important part of the solution and it is multi-faceted and complicated and it will take a huge amount of effort. I know this past couple years has been distracting for a lot of people because we are dealing with a 100 year pandemic, so it's understandable how this fell off the radar, but it's back on and you coming in and speaking, that's what put it back on the radar.

Jeff Harris – Like the Law Director and the Mayor said, I am struggling with the statement that our local police have failed. Our local police haven't failed, the men and women put their lives on the line every day for us and I suggest maybe you go out and ride with the police department, find out what they really do and maybe have a better understanding about the

statement you made. And also, maybe the people have failed in this country. We're not the same kind of people we were 20 years ago. Don't get on the police, maybe start getting on the people to do a little bit better. You know that just irks me. Anyway, don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday night you get an extra hours sleep. I wish everyone well tomorrow. Those that are running, stay busy, find something to do all day. I always believe that God has a plan and God has a bill and he'll let you know tomorrow night.

Mark Labutis – Mr. Guy, after the meeting I would like to chat with you and I want to thank you for coming in tonight and sharing your concerns.

Mr. Lang – Thank you everybody for coming in tonight, obviously there's a common theme. It doesn't necessarily line up with the things I'm hearing when I'm walking and knocking on doors in my area of town, but everybody's got their different concerns about the city. I would say tomorrow is an exciting day for the city, I don't know if we've ever had 17 candidates on the ballot for council at the same time, so if you want choice, you've got plenty of options tomorrow, 8 seats up here could change. That's a pretty dramatic day. I'm excited to see what happens and I wish everyone well. I think it's been a hard fought campaign with a lot of candidates that have worked really hard, so I want to commend everyone who has given a lot of hours to give back to your community, whether you are successful or not, if you push out an incumbent and get on council, you have certainly shaped the conversation and had an impact, so I just want to commend everybody for giving of their time.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee Meeting. I also want to thank everybody who has come out and provided their input. I've looked at my role and what action needs to be taken and the action needed is we need to increase our safety services and this council needs to support that. We need to support everything we can for the police chief as far as his hiring process, encouragement, the sad news is there's not enough names on the list, but we do need to increase that and make sure we're supporting everything we can for safety services and that's first and paramount the money we spend from this council should be focused right there. That's why our city government is in place and that's the action this council should take. Every decision we make we should be thinking about the safety of our citizens whether it's a budgetary issue or something else. The Mayor's indicated, his words were true, you only have so many funds, you need to spend it wisely and on what's the highest priority. Safety of our citizens is definitely the highest priority. We need to make sure we take care of that. We have to do that within the law and not outside the law. Like the Law Director has indicated, if the law changes then we would probably change our minds about some things. But, while the law is in place we must adhere to the law. Mr. Guy, I'll talk with Mr. Labutis and see if there's any advice I can provide as far as experience in getting things done or some explanation. I want to wish everybody who has been campaigning the best good fortune and the best of luck in the election. I want the citizens to be served and represented in a good way and I think all the candidates are quality candidates and I believe the citizens will be represented well. The last

thing I want to bring up is Mr. Lang and I were fortunate enough to meet with Mr. Morehead and Mr. Rhodes, Rep, Frazier, AEP and the Broadband providers. We're in the process discussing it, seeing what we can do, how can we help, if there is any area of Newark that does not have broadband, bring it to our attention any citizen in a residential area who doesn't have it, the focus on these funds is residential so we need to make sure we focus on those areas first. There's a deadline on the application process for that so if there is an area we need to include that on the application. There are a couple of areas that have been noted and some larger plans but those are down the road. We just want to do our best to make sure it's available to all citizens, especially we saw the need last year with our kids and home school during the pandemic, I know Newark City Schools had to put some hotspots out there to help, hopefully we can remedy that situation as well.

Mr. Rath – First I'll call a Service Committee meeting for the 15th. I want to remind everybody to do their civic duty and vote. The city put down the final coat on 40th Street that should look pretty nice today. Mr. Lipstreu I did ask Mr. Hickman tonight, since we have a drag strip up and down 40th Street and he's going to get a speed trailer out there. Saturday night my wife Jenna and I came down and volunteered at the Boos n Brews event, I don't know if anyone knew about that, but it was a phenomenal night back here on Church Street in front of 31 West and the future Stein Brewing and Moes BBQ, they actually blocked off the block and brought in a huge stage had some music and a lot of craft beer and some food trucks and even with as much rain as we had they sold 350 tickets to it, it was a great event and look forward to having that come back, that was a good time. On the broadband, just want to let you know there is a thing called emergency broadband benefit. I don't know if you guys are aware of this or not, but if somebody is receiving government assistance of some fashion, there's a list of criteria, but they can get up to a \$50 credit for internet access, which should pay for everything. It's the same for Spectrum or Windstream and goes until 6 months after the pandemic is declared over. So, if you know anyone who needs that have them go online and apply. I appreciate everyone coming out tonight. I really do appreciate all that you do with the outreach and that we have people here who care enough to do that. The city supports you guys as much as possible, financially, morally and spiritually. Mr. Chapman, suffice to say you didn't gain a whole lot of fans tonight with your comments. I will say I did agree with one statement that you made and that is an armed society is a polite society. I practice that, I preach that. How wonderful it would be if we didn't have to be armed to be polite.

Spencer Barker – We live in a very special city. Newark is very special. It shows tonight with everyone coming here and speaking. The past couple months we've been asked do people know and care what's happening in city council and you all are showing tonight that you care and know what's happening and you want to be a part of it. We have a lot of services here in Newark and the think I've said many times is it's time for these services to come together to help everybody and that's something I feel very strongly about. The amount of services we provide

people we shouldn't have people falling through the cracks, but we do yet still to this day have that. So with that it's time for people to come together, we hear it and talk about it. I can tell each of you here tonight we have these discussions with our safety services and Safety Director and Director Rhodes and the Mayor and his team. We're talking about these things trying to find solutions within the law that we can work on and we can work with Outreach and other grass roots organizations. None of this is falling on deaf ears, I want to assure everyone of that. We're here to help. The Council is here to help, the administration is here to help. Newark's a special place and we don't want that to go away at all. I'd like to thank Director's Hickman and Rhodes, they received an email earlier today that I was made aware of some individuals dumping furniture and tires and trash into the river and that's just not something we can have so I know tomorrow one of the first things will be how do we stop that. Also some property maintenance issues we've been made aware of, of individuals stripping out cars. It's private property, what can we do, I'm not sure, but I know they will get on it because we need to help these people. We can't be the solution for everything, but we can help. I would echo all the comments here of get out and vote tomorrow, it's your civic duty.

President Ellington – I would just thank everyone for coming this evening and expressing your opinions, we certainly do appreciate that. This is your Newark City Council and we welcome your opinions. With that, it has been a very long meeting, don't forget to vote tomorrow as everyone has said.

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

Don Ellington, President of Council