

## COUNCIL MINUTES

April 20, 2020

On YouTube streaming via Zoom

7:00 P.M.

### **President Ellington called the meeting to order**

**ROLL CALL** – Mr. Harris, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bubba, Mr. Fennell, Ms Hall

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Labutis

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**- President Ellington

**CAUCUS** - President Ellington

**MINUTES of April 6, 2020** - Motion by Mr. Barker to approve the April 6, 2020 Newark City Council Minutes as presented and the reading be dispensed with in view of the fact each member of Council has received written summary of same, second by Mr. Labutis. **Motion carried by acclamation**

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance **Received & Filed**

Service **Received & Filed**

### **REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**Judge David N. Stansbury** - Licking County Municipal Court 2019 Annual Report,

**President Ellington** - The Judge said he would be willing to come back at a later date to discuss this when the situation is more normal **Received & Filed**

**City Auditor, Stephen E. Johnson** – Operating Report for Period Ending March 31, 2020 **Received & Filed**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Debbie & Philip Hamrick, 86 Morgan Ave** – Pertaining to the sewer drains in that area **Received & Filed**

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** – Application for liquor license for Licking County Settlers **Received & Filed**

**City Engineer, Brian Morehead** – Hope Timber Ohio EPA Class IV Compost Facility registration letter **Received & Filed**

### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

**By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Lang**

**20-15** AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION TO PUBLIC USE OF A 16 FOOT WIDE ALLEY RUNNING SOUTH FROM LINWOOD AVENUE, LOCATED EAST OF O'BANNON AVENUE.

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 20-15 by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Barker**

**Motion passed 10-0**

### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

### **RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING**

## RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

**By: Mr. Rath**

**20-22** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ODOT WINTER CONTRACT (018-21) FOR ROAD SALT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

**Motion by Mr. Rath to adopt 20-22, Second by Mr. Bubb**

**Mr. Rath** – This is an emergency because we need to meet ODOT deadlines

**Motion passed 10-0**

**By: Mr. Marmie**

**20-23** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION – EXPEDITE

**Motion by Mr. Marmie to waive the two day reading rule, second by Mr. Bubb**

**Motion passed by 10-0**

**Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt Resolution 20-23, second by Mr. Bubb**

**Motion passed 10-0**

**By: Mr. Marmie**

**20-24** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
**Held for a second reading**

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Mayor Hall** – I want to give a little bit of an update and some thank you's. First thank you to Council for meeting and using technology, it is critically important to keep legislation moving on, if nothing else, the financial pieces. The City keeps rolling as it needs to, at a little bit of a trim down model, but it still takes money to run it and thank you all for providing that opportunity for the citizens to weigh in and watch. The Tax Department while they aren't meeting with people individually, people are still able to drop off their returns and have them prepared by our staff and be notified when they are ready for their signatures. The tax deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup> was extended by three months to July 15<sup>th</sup> that applies all the way down to our local. That gives more time to get them in. Engineering and Zoning are still working hard and interacting. Some work is done remotely, they are issuing a lot of permits. The water Department is still working, although we are not currently turning off anyone's water right now, I just want to remind everyone that the bill still accrues and if you don't pay we want to remind you so that no citizen gets in arrears too much. If you have any questions you can certainly call in. We have worked well with the Courts since day one as anyone who is incarcerated needs arraignment on the following day so we've worked with the Judges and Marcia Phelps, Clerk of Courts, has done a wonderful job and that is the reason why City Hall is still open to the public until 2:00pm each day. So the Courts can get their work done. The Auditors Department is keeping us online. Street and Traffic are still working out in the neighborhoods and fixing many things. Parks & Cemetery, our grass is growing again and they're doing a nice job of trimming along the interstate and of course in the Cemetery. Last but not least, the Newark Fire and Police Departments jobs are interacting with the public. They kind of have to take a waiver on the social distancing. Our hearts go out to them and everyone in the City who has to interact with citizens daily. We have prepared them with some good equipment to try to help with this. They have also had great interaction with Licking Memorial Health Systems. I couldn't be happier with the direction all of our employees have done, kudos to all of them. I know the buzz word now as we conclude is about reopening. Just to remind everyone City Hall hasn't closed, we've stayed open as a shell. To go back to full operation is going to be under the direction of Dr. Amy Acton and the Governor and working with the Courts here. They will take direction from Columbus as to how they work into full operation again. Again thank you to Council.

**Director Baum** – I would just like to reiterate what the Mayor has said about public safety. I have thanked both of the Chiefs privately, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank them publicly for their

professionalism during this time. Also the members of FOP 127 and IAFF 109, they've all done an outstanding job in these trying times.

**Mr. Lang** – I would just like to remind folks that we do still have an election going on. We still have a few more days to request an absentee ballot. The deadline for doing that is April 25<sup>th</sup> at noon. The Board of Elections said if you can't print an application yet you probably won't get it in time if you request it from them. They have instructions on their website as to how you can fill it out yourself and turn it in. I want to make sure everyone who wants to vote gets a chance to, which should be everyone. Your ballot has to be post marked by the 27<sup>th</sup> or the Board of Elections has a box outside where you can drop it off on the 28<sup>th</sup>. April 28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline that you have to have it to them by one way or another.

**Mr. Rath** – I will call a Service Committee Meeting for May 4<sup>th</sup> to be held wherever we are meeting.

**Mr. Blake** – Since this is now our second meeting on Zoom. I just want to give Council a quick update. Mr. Fennell, Ms. Hall and I all met with Chief Connor over Zoom and I think it might be valuable at some point for the Safety Committee to have the Police and Fire Chief in to give an update about what their fellow team members are experiencing on the street. I appreciate the Mayor's update here tonight, but I think just having some dialogue/conversation about what's happening with the departments would be valuable. I found it informative and I think that both the Police Chief and Fire Chief would be open to that. I also think that as much as possible we need to still conduct our business. I know that I asked for a Street Committee Meeting for Mr. Morehead to provide some information on the map to determine what streets are to be paved on which dates, that's an outstanding email that I've had out there for a while. I know we've talked about having a Street Committee Meeting to discuss that, so I hope we can perform that at some point. Lastly, I hope that we have a budget review. Obviously this is going to have a big impact on our local economy and tax collections and I know we are meeting by Zoom, but these discussions can still happen. I want to urge us all to embrace the technology we have to continue these discussions.

**Mr. Fennell** – I would also like to commend the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and all of the officers that are out there working. It was really enlightening to hear of all the precautions they are taking and they are all doing an incredible job. I just wanted to voice that.

**Ms. Hall** – I just want everyone to continue to be safe and well.

**Mr. Harris** – This question is for the Mayor. I had a call from a citizen today who was upset that Horn's Hill Park is closed. He said he and his wife always go there to walk. I told him it was closed due to the Governor closing all parks in the state. I told him that it would most likely open when the Governor says it's ok to do so, is that correct?

**Mayor Hall** – Yes, correct.

**President Ellington** – I want to send my thanks out to Mr. Barker for helping me with this meeting. He and Mr. Lang are doing a very nice job technology wise and I appreciate it. Thank you to everyone for being here tonight. I'm not sure what we will be doing for the first meeting in May. Maybe this again, but stay tuned and as soon as we know for sure, I'll let you know. I'm thinking we may have to have at least one more meeting like this.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Labutis, second by Mr. Harris. Passed by acclamation.**