

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 6, 2020

Meeting Held via Zoom and streamed live via YouTube

7:00 P.M.

President Ellington called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Blake

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Ellington

CAUCUS

MINUTES of June 15, 2020 - Motion by to approve the June 15, 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 **Motion to approve by Mr. Labutis, second by Mr. Marmie carried by acclamation**

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Hall – Appointment of nine members to the Human Relations Commission Board. Dr. David Koontz, Barb Quackenbush, Alvin Taylor, Megan Evans, Rev. Michael Noble, Bob German, Brittany Fairburn, Heather Stasel, Jeff Harris. Members are to serve staggered terms with subsequent appointments to be four year terms.

The Human Relations Committee was established in July of 2007. Since I have been Mayor it has been pretty much dormant and not enforced. We had a variety of people who were interested in activating the committee and getting it rolling again. I solicited several different people to get input for people to be on that committee and got quite a few requests and then made the decision of the nine that will serve on the committee. Its purpose is based pretty much around discrimination in employment, lending practices and the legislation is pretty well defined, so we're pretty excited and we think the timing is good. I think we do a phenomenal job in the City but as I've always said, I think we can always do better in everything. As an example, OSU Newark 20 years ago was about 2 percent diversified and is now nearly 40 percent maybe 30 percent, so, in Newark itself diversity is its strength in so many ways, so we really think this will be a good group to meet and talk about education in the community and how to get mutual understanding and respect among all individuals and groups and work forward. We will give updates to council on that as they meet and as they work, so I would respectfully ask council to accept the list of nine individuals to be on this committee.

Appointment passed by acclamation

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance **Received & Filed with no objections**

Service **Received & Filed with no objections**

Rules **Received & Filed with no objections**

Capital Improvements **Received & Filed with no objections**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

COMMUNICATIONS

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – new application for Liquor License for James T. Young, DBA Sand Hollow Speak Easy, 57 S. 3rd Street, Newark, Ohio

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

President Ellington – We will wait and see if anyone calls in.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Marmie and Mr. Rath

20-39 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDED SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE HERINAFTER NAMES ORGANIZATIONS TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES INCLUDED WITHIN NEWARK'S FY 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN.

Motion to approve by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Rath

Motion Passed 10-0

By: Mr. Rath

20-40 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL AND OTHER UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Labutis

Motion Passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Lang

20-41 CI A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(335 Capital Improvements Fund-\$24,000 – Machinery & Equipment Supplies/Parts)

Held for second reading on 7/20/20

By: Mr. Marmie

20-42 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(100 General Fund \$3,750.00-Maintenance Building & Grounds, new lights for downtown fountain)

Held for second reading on 7/20/20

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

President Ellington – This is our second opportunity tonight for citizens to call in. The information for call-in procedures is in your chat box on YouTube. We'll give it a minute to see if we have anyone calling in.

We were talking earlier, I'm not sure what we're going to do in two weeks. I think at this point we're just going to have to play it by ear. Director Sassen said we have the ability to do the meetings this way at least until the end of July, do I think we'll just have to see how it goes the next week or so to decide if we are going to Zoom again or go back to council chambers. This is just an FYI. It appears there is no one calling in.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Hall – Friday night at the Farmers Market we had a small very safe by social distancing ceremony to welcome in the new Hometown Hero banners that adorn Main Street and Church Street. I've had a lot of great comments on those. They've done a wonderful job and want to thank the steering committee that's from the private sector and from our side, Parks Director Jeff Hotchkiss is a part of that. They do a great job a lot of good job, a lot of great compliments as we honor our heroes that are out there either active duty or past duty as veterans or have given the ultimate sacrifice. There was a small very sweet and nice ceremony because of COVID but I think it made a lot of big hearts swell.

Mr. Blake – I'm thankful that we now have members appointed to the Human Relations Commission for our city. I hope that those appointed tonight will serve to be inclusive and take to action to better our community for everyone. Another local unit being reactivated is our local NAACP. I'll be happy to share more information with council members as the details and more information is forth coming. I'm excited for the many people and leaders in our community who are stepping up to take leadership roles to advance a welcoming city for all of our people. Race is something that we each need to become comfortable talking about to understand. Particularly I just want to say thank you Councilman Marmie

for attending the Juneteenth Event that was hosted a few weeks ago, I thought it was very nice that he came to that. I also want to invite everyone to come to the courthouse square this Saturday at 4:00pm. This will be Newark's fifth protest to bring people together. Everyone on the Zoom meeting is welcome to attend and I hope you take a few moments to come. These events create a space for people to share ideas and to organize and so I hope you can join us.

President Ellington – We actually have a phone call that has come in, so I'm going to go ahead and take him out of order and let him speak. If you can, just give us your name and address for the record and then go ahead sir. Apparently they hung up. Let me know if they call back in.

Mr. Fennell – I'm really thrilled to see that we have the Human Relations Commission back up and running. I think it's a fantastic thing to have in our city and I'm really glad to see that. I would also like to encourage everyone if you're able to attend this Saturday's protest, I think we also need to very considerate right now of people with coronavirus going up a bit here in Ohio again that for the time being you please be careful, wear a mask to protect your fellow citizens out there, especially when you're in closer proximity like you might be this Saturday. I just encourage everyone to take care of themselves and the people around them as much as possible.

Mr. Harris – I would like to echo the Mayor. I was at the Farmers Market Friday and that was a nice little ceremony. Also on Wednesday I attended the funeral for the veteran that had no family and what a great turnout from the community. There were probably about 500 people there. It just shows how big our community is coming out in support of things. Also, my understanding is that on Thursday night at the square there's going to be something called "Call to Worship", where people are going to come down and have prayer and pray for our country and if anything, that's what's going to bring our country back together, is prayer. That's supposed to be at 7:00pm.

Mr. Labutis – I have just a few folks to thank this evening. Joe Paul with Property Maintenance has helped me with a few issues in the ward recently and a thank you to our Service Director David Rhodes and Newark Fire Department for getting our American Flag back up in front of City Hall this past weekend prior to Independence Day. Thank you to those gentleman for all of those things.

Mr. Lang – I just have a couple of thank yous that I want to extend to the Newark Police Department. The first is for the incident near or on OSU/COTC campus. I know they apprehended an individual with a firearm very quickly. Also, and more importantly there was an issue with a racist vandal for lack of a better term who was going around the Londondale, Stonewall area, which is our neighborhood, putting some nasty things out in the public. Thank you to the Street Department as well, they got out and cleaned those up so there were only a few people who actually saw what the individual had to say, but then fantastic work by the police department to apprehend the individual very fast in a matter of days. I was very impressed to hear how quickly they nailed that down, so thank you to the Police Department for all the things they did in the past few weeks in the Londondale area.

Mr. Marmie – The Juneteenth celebration that Jeremy mentioned was a very good celebration in which Jeremy and Jeff Harris were both there with me. We just kind of went around the crowd and got to see a lot of old friends, it was nice seeing some folks that we hadn't been able to see for a while, folks that come to city council very often, so it was nice talking with them. One thing I would like to know at some point because I keep getting questions and especially the 4th of July weekend I received a few questions in particular about where we're at with the noise ordinance. I think Ms. Hall was trying to spearhead that. They're asking because of the fireworks of course, and I think there's been a recent change in Ohio's laws as far as dealing with fireworks, so that might be something to look at as far as time for those etc. because the cities can set parameters to those. So, I would just like to know at some point what's happening with that and where we're at so that when I get questions I can update folks and let them know where we are. I will also call a Finance Committee Meeting for two weeks.

Mr. Rath – I just wanted to say that like Mr. Harris, I attended the Lt. Dennis Vietnam veteran funeral at Cedar Hill Cemetery and it was an impressive showing. I had some friends of mine come out that are on the Columbus Police Department. They heard about this story and they didn't want it to go unattended. They drove all the way out here from Columbus and were as shocked as I was when we came over the hill and saw all the cars, all the motorcycles, all the people. It was impressive to say the least and it made me proud to be able to attend that. I also want to say thank you to Director Rhodes and our Fire Department for being able to get our American flag back up. Hopefully we'll see our City and State flags back up, but thanks to them for getting the American flag back up in time for Independence Day. Oh, someone mentioned a socially distanced event on the Market Square, for those of you who don't know there's going to be another socially distanced, maybe or maybe not, ceremony on the Market Square. Next time you see me in this meeting, I will no longer be Mr. Rath, I will be part of Mr. and Mrs. Rath. I will be married next time we meet. I just wanted to put that out there. I'll call a Service Committee Meeting for two weeks.

Mr. Barker – I would just like to give a shout out to Director Rhodes, Director Baum and the Newark Police on the incident that Councilman Lang discussed on Londondale. Councilman Lang and I were both made aware of that early and got on the ball and got with them and they were both extremely efficient in getting both the NPD involved and the

Street Department, so thank you both for that. I would also like to thank Director Rhodes, today I received a call of some vandalism at Cedar Hill Cemetery at the mausoleum, he got right on the ball with parks Director Hotchkiss and got that taken care of. I appreciate that. I also, on his first day, had the privilege of having lunch with HR Director Spurgeon, and I hope his first couple of weeks back in the city of Newark have gone well.

President Ellington – Thank you to Mr. Barker for putting this together again on such short notice. I know we weren't planning on this but I appreciate you stepping up and putting this together in such a quick manner. Again, I'd like to thank all of you for just hanging in there with us and doing the best we can in these tough times so, stay healthy and is there a motion to adjourn?

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Labutis, second by Mr. Harris, passed by acclamation

At 7:25pm we are adjourned