

## COUNCIL MINUTES

June 15, 2020

On YouTube streaming via Zoom

7:00 P.M.

**President Ellington called the meeting to order**

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

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Labutis

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Ellington**

**CAUCUS - President Ellington-** We are going to try to have citizen comments tonight if anyone would like to call in, the number is 301-715-8592, the meeting ID is 896 2329 1461 and the password is 435921. Later in the meeting we will have the opportunity for citizens to comment, you just need to dial in with that number.

**MINUTES of June 1, 2020** - Motion by to approve the June 1, 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. Bubb carried by acclamation**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance **Received & Filed with no objections**

Service **Received & Filed with no objections**

Rules **Received & Filed with no objections**

**REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**City Auditor, Stephen E. Johnson** – Operating report for period ending May 31, 2020

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Natasha Heskett, 42 Oakwood Ave** – Email relating to issues with the property next door at 40 Oakwood Ave.

**President Ellington** – I know that the Chief of Police has been in touch with her.

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

**ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

**RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING**

**RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING**

**By: Mr. Marmie**

**20-38 Expedite -A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

(153 Comp Abs Fund - \$10,700 Payout for retiring Tax Dept. employee Bobbi Stollard) (\$4500 – sick, \$3700 vacation, \$2500 comp)

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

**Mr. Marmie** –This is to pay out a retiring employee and we try to get those done as soon as possible.

**Motion to waive two day reading rule passes 10-0**

**Motion to approve by Mr. Marmie,, second by Mr. Bubb**

Motion passes 10-0

**By: Mr. Marmie**

**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.

**Held for 2 weeks for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

**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.

**Held for 2 weeks for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

**President Ellington** – Mr. Barker, do we have anyone calling in for comments? No, so we will continue with miscellaneous. Do we have any City Officials here tonight to speak?

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Director Baum** – I attended the Black Lives Matter protest on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and I would like to pass out thank you's. I had a great experience. Director Rhodes and I attended along with Chief Connell and some of his people and Sherriff Thorpe. We talked to some of the protesters, everyone was grateful for the police presence. I would like to thank Chief Connell and his people for doing such a fine job planning for the event. I'd also like to thank the protesters for showing up and exercising their right to peacefully protest. I don't think it could've gone much better. We're going to be having another one on June 19<sup>th</sup>. I don't know much about it, but I did get a flyer from a Newark High School student who is planning a candle light vigil Friday night on the square. She simply asked that everyone bring a candle and wear black. Again, I just wanted to reach out to the people that peacefully protested and the Chief and Sherriff and say thank you.

**Mr. Barker** – I would like to thank Director Baum and the NPD and Chief Connell. I saw a video of Officer Carles dancing with some kids at the rally and it was nice to see that it remained peaceful and it looked like everyone had a good time. Thank you to everyone who went to that and who kept the peace and who made it possible for everyone to exercise their first amendment right. I would also like to give a shout out to the crews and people who have been working up at the Horns Hill project. Director Rhodes took me up there last week and I got to meet the teams that are up there working on the Horns Hill trails and they have been successful in getting some local community grants and they are seeing people come from out of state to come ride the trails. There was a social media post about a family that came from Indiana to ride the trails and they had a fantastic time and I'm looking forward to the future development of those trails not only for our residents, but for visitors here to our community. It's a great asset we have that some people don't know about in the Horns Hill area if they've not been up that way. So, I would encourage everyone to take a look at those and again Director Rhodes has been instrumental in that.

**Mr. Blake** – Since our last meeting I've received interest from a number of individuals, people of goodwill and genuine concern wishing to reactivate and serve our city on the Human Relations Commission. I plan to forward these individuals information on to the Mayor since he is the one who actually appoints people to the commission and the Council just confirms he appointments. I'm hoping to get that information to the Mayor this week and then hopefully we can begin that commission anew with everything that's going on in our city and nation at this time. Secondly, not knowing of another opportunity to provide input and all of us having seen the list of candidates for the position of Police Chief, I believe that our city and our citizens deserve the best. It seems to me that our next Police Chief needs to be a leader that will cooperate with all residents, a person that will meet and engage in conversation with each of our constituents and each of us and all elected officials. The Police Chief is a leadership position in our city that requires understanding and creativity to ensure that all of our resident's safety concerns receive a response regardless of the neighborhood that they live in. A person that will gather information before making a decision. A leader that will not use their physical presence to bully or dominate others, but will show empathy and mercy to concerned citizens. I believe the Police Chief needs to be a person of character to lead our patrol officers and the whole department to provide the best quality of service and the Chief should lead by example and be a mentor to those who work in our city. My constituents and the

people that I serve in our city wish for a Police Chief who will uphold their public oath and bring honor and protect and serve all and develop community relations through trust. Finally, I want to invite all of you to the Juneteenth event this Friday evening. The event is being held by young people in our city, particularly Carmen Lewandowski. Carmen is a high school student and she's pulling people together. For those of you who don't know, Juneteenth commemorates the date in 1865 when black Americans who were enslaved in Galveston Texas were informed that slavery had been abolished. This was actually two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The event this Friday if you plan to attend, you can expect prayers from local pastors, there will be an open mic, music and a candle light vigil. The event begins at 6:30pm on Friday. I hope you all accept the invitation and join us this Friday on the Square.

**Mr. Fennell** – I would like to express my gratitude to the black community here in Newark for all of their incredible organization and eloquence in making sure that their voice are heard. I was also watching all of the footage of protests and then in my news feed the footage came up of the protests here in Newark and it was something that actually made me really proud of being in Newark. How everything was handled with our police and all of our citizens, I just want to commend the City of Newark and the citizens of Newark for coming out and really coming together around a difficult issue. I just want to commend everyone on all of the Black Lives Matter protests that are happening and continue to happen throughout the month. I would also like to- remind everyone that this is Pride month also, so happy pride to everyone.

**Ms. Hall** – I wanted to thank Director Rhodes and President Ellington and Director Chad Brown for all of your help in Council Chambers. I think we're all anxious to get back and I think we can work through it and play it by ear, but I think it's going to work and I think it looks great in there. Thank you. I also want to thank Jeff Harris, Director Baum and Property Maintenance for your support and back up at 42 Oakwood. That has been on going and I think things may have calmed down now, I got pulled into that at the beginning and I really needed support, so thank you again. Everyone take care and be safe.

**Mr. Harris** – First I want to thank Mr. Barker for everything he's done for us as far as setting up these meetings and Making sure everything went smoothly .I'm looking forward to getting back into Council Chambers. I also want to thank Service Director Rhodes, Safety Director Baum and Joe Paul, I had a meeting with them a week or so ago. We had some issues about Property Maintenance and as a result of that meeting we are going to try to add another person to Property Maintenance. We just have to get it figured out and maybe at the beginning of next year we will hopefully be able to hire someone in that department. I'm hoping that maybe Mr. Bubb can call a Personnel Committee Meeting for July 6<sup>th</sup> and we can discuss it with everyone.

**Mr. Labutis** – I also want to thank Mr. Barker for all of his work over the past few months to make sure our meetings get online. Secondly, I want to thank Vertical 196 for being the organization to head up a program that from April through the end of May was able to deliver over 27,000 free lunches to various people in need of those over that time period. It started off with 300 per day and ended up being at least 650 that they were delivering every day. Thanks to Scott Hayes and everyone that was involved with that. I know there were many people throughout the community that were involved with that. So, thank you.

**Mr. Lang** – Thank you to everyone who has been working on getting us back into Council Chambers safely or back to a physical meeting, I know we had looked at a number of different options . We had people at the school board working with us and Jeremy, I appreciate what you were doing there. President Ellington, Director Rhodes and Director Chad Brown I appreciate him looking at everything and I'm happy to see the progress that was made there and happy that we were able to come up with a solution that gets us back to a situation that everyone is going to feel comfortable with. I also want to thank Joe Paul, Nick Schultz and George Carter for looking at a couple of issues for me. I appreciate your continued partnership and work.

**Mr. Marmie** – I need to call a Finance Meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. In looking at the Juneteenth Flyer it says it starts at 7:30pm not 6:30, I just wanted to clarify that. I'd like to welcome Bill Spurgeon back to the team. I understand he is going to be our new HR Director, so I want to welcome him back. He was definitely a huge asset previously, he went off and did some bigger and better things with the State and now it's my understanding that he has a passion to come back to Newark and do some more for Newark. I'm very happy to hear that he'll be back joining the Mayor's team.

**Mr. Rath** – I want to call a Service Committee Meeting for July 6<sup>th</sup>. I want to say thank you to Director Baum, Chief Connell and everyone at the Newark Police Department as well as the Licking County Sherriff's Department and everyone else that was in attendance at the rally last week. I was there as well, although you aren't going to find any video capturing me dancing, but none the less I was there, it was a great event . I'm very proud of the City of Newark and the citizens of Newark. I will most likely be down there again this Friday as well. I'm glad to hear about Bill Spurgeon coming back. He was an incredible asset when he was here before and I think he will be great at the HR position. I'm really looking forward to having him in there and having his leadership, that's pretty awesome. In light of all the activities going on in other cities and all of the trends and protests, I just want to say publicly to Director Baum so that he

can relay this to the police department, I personally will never ever cast a vote to defund our police. President Ellington came up with a better slogan, Defend our Police. I think if you want to have better interaction without citizens and our police, I think the best way to do that is to simply put more boots on the streets. That will help relieve a lot of stress, gives them the opportunity to see that they are making a difference, rather than just running from call to call to call. It's a stressful position and I can see how that would build up on you after time, especially if it doesn't look like things are getting any better. Not saying that they aren't. I just want to go on record as saying that I wholeheartedly support them and will continue to do so.

**President Ellington** – I would like to add that I was at the protest a couple Tuesdays ago. Everyone was absolutely very respectful. They did what a protest was supposed to do. They didn't break up anything, they weren't rioting but they got their voices heard and did a great job. I'd like to add my welcome to Bill Spurgeon, our new HR Director, again as Mr. Marmie said, he was part of the team before and did a great job, so I'll be anxious to see him back. Maybe we can have him at Council July 6<sup>th</sup>. My final thanks to Mr. Barker who has put these meetings together, he's done a great job, except for maybe tonight on his audio, but he's done a great job and I really appreciate it. If it was up to me to do these Zoom meetings, we'd still be working on the first one. Thank you so much. Is there a motion to adjourn.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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