

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 20, 2020

Meeting Held via Zoom and streamed live via YouTube

7:00 P.M.

President Ellington called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Ellington

CAUCUS

MINUTES of July 7, 2020 - Motion by to approve the July 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 **Motion to approve by Mr. Labutis, second by Mr. Barker carried by acclamation**

APPOINTMENTS

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance **Received & Filed with no objections**

Service **Received & Filed with no objections**

Streets **Received & Filed with no objections**

Safety **Received & Filed with no objections**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

City Auditor, Stephen E. Johnson - Operating report for period ending June 30, 2020

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Doug Ute, Superintendent of Newark City Schools, 106 Opal Lane, Prospect, Ohio – First of all, thank you President Ellington and members of City Council, I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm nearing less than two weeks in my official capacity as Superintendent of the Newark City Schools. Let me just take this opportunity to thank council members and the mayor and the city of Newark for eleven great years in Newark. I really feel with our building project and everything we've done here we've had great cooperation from the city and the city leaders and I want to personally thank you for that and thank you for your leadership in Newark. I know that I'm joined by a few board members who are just joining in tonight from the district and I appreciate their leadership. Tim Carr and Warren Weber and I think Tom Bline is on here as well. Our purpose tonight is to talk to you about consideration for receiving some funds from the CARES Act that the city will be receiving to be used for the schools. I would share with you that since March we've incurred a lot of costs related to this virus, as you well know, as you have also. Now we're looking at a long term plan with this virus and what it means to us marching forward here in our district. As we hopefully bring back well over 6,000 students this fall, to just share with you our plan, we're looking at all kinds of options because it seems to change weekly. We're obviously working with the Governor's office, Ohio Department of Education and the Health Department, which has been very helpful. Chad Brown has been a great help. Our goal is to get our 6,000 plus students back into our buildings, but we're also offering an online virtual opportunity through the Newark Digital Academy. With that, there are some costs that the district is going to incur that directly relate to student and staff safety. That could be anything from shields on desks to separate students, to masks and certainly sanitizing. All the costs we would incur in cleaning each day and on the weekends, those types of things. Plus from a technological stand point I'm under the belief that we're going to have a group of students that stay home and learn. As an example, we passed out over 1300 devices last spring so that our students would have the opportunity to learn at home during this situation. With that when you put a device in a home where some parents might have 2, 3 or 4, we have one family with 8 students in their household, so one device

in a house is rather difficult. We are in hopes that we'll be able to help our students in a one to one ratio. The new superintendent coming in, Mr. Dave Lewis, and by the way, you're really going to like Dave, he's a great guy he's fitting in here well in Newark and he's getting off to a great start in this difficult time, but I know it's Dave's goal to try to put a device in every student's hands. Some of the things we learned from parents last spring is that as some of them went off to work, the older ones dominated the house and maybe the second grader didn't have that opportunity. So from the stand point of the costs we're incurring, and we're not asking for full fledged support, the board is certainly putting in their share, but it's just difficult moving forward. We're thankful that as a school district we were in a very solid financial position when the virus hit, we got some federal money, but what I am concerned about in Newark and I know that our board and Mr. Valladares, our treasurer certainly is, is what's the impact of income tax collection in Newark which generates over \$9 million a year for the schools, and that's going to take a hit. So, all these funds we're trying to secure to pay for all those things I talked about are very important to us as a district. Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight. I appreciate everything each of you do to lead our community and I'll be happy to answer any questions or have any board member that's on here add to what I had to say or anything I forgot.

President Ellington – Thank you Doug. We all appreciate it, you certainly stepped in as the right person at the right time and your tenure has been terrific and thank you for all that you have done for the Newark City Schools, we appreciate it.

Tim Carr, 1554 Independence Dr., Newark, Oh – I am the board president for Newark City Schools and have the privilege of working almost 6,700 incredible kids and that's why we're here talking to you today. We believe in our children, we know they're the future, but they're also the now and they need some help now. Plexiglass partitions for the lower grade classrooms, they sit at tables, and if there could be some plexiglass partitions between them, it would allow them to be a little safer and also see and hear their friends and be in a less dangerous situation. I think all of us are concerned about everyone catching this, as I get older I realize that I'm in the dangerous range. Finally, we need technology. We're going to need an increase in the number of computers and devices and capacity to facilitate that. Julio Valladares has worked out an incredible plan to increase our technology over the next five years, but there could be some costs that are unaccounted for as far as what we'll be experiencing in the next 2-3 months. That's what we're thinking about when we come to you. I humbly ask for help if you can give it, I know there's a lot of needs and a lot of people out there who need resources, but I appreciate your consideration and thank you very much for a chance to speak.

Warren Weber, 896 Jean Ct., Newark, Ohio, Newark City School Board Member – I would just like to echo what Doug and Tim said. Also, we feed our kids breakfast, lunch and in some cases dinner. We talked about having the blended learning where we feed kid's breakfast and lunch Monday and Tuesday while they're in school and then give them food for Wednesday through Friday. Then the kids that are there Thursday and Friday will get food for Monday – Wednesday and in some cases over the weekend because they don't have enough to eat and it costs money. Then we talk about technology and making sure our kids get the best education we can possibly give them. We're just like all of you, we don't know how long this will last or what all the ramifications are, but we just humbly ask that you consider us on your decision about how your funds will be distributed this year. Thank you for your time.

Lesha Farias, St Vincent De Paul, 116 Smithview Dr – I appreciate everything the Superintendent Ute and the others from the board have said. It's critical that we provide those things so the children can be safe in school, but at the same time we have to make sure their families are stable. Children cannot go to school if their families are being evicted from their homes. I would really like the mayor of Newark to call the mayor of Zanesville, who has put together a package, they have received \$894k, they have put \$200 towards WIFI and PPE for their children plus nutritional food, they've put \$100k towards child care facilities because if a parent is an essential worker and has to go to work, they need to make sure that their child can be in school if the parent cannot be at home. So, I hope that in Newark we make sure that we also have facilities so the children can be in school if the parents are not there. Also, the mayor of Zanesville put together \$150k for economic relief for rent, utilities and security deposits so if people are losing their home or facing eviction they can get assistance so they can be stable in their home. I know there's also funding in the CARES Act fund for care of the homeless and to allow COVID compliance for people who are out on the streets, but unless Newark would put in a moratorium on evictions we're going to see so many more parents and families out on the streets because they cannot afford to stay in their homes. So, I would hope that Newark will take a comprehensive look at what can be done with the monies and I appreciate the time. Thank you.

President Ellington – Thanks folks from the school board. I just want to give a quick update, I spoke to Dave Rhodes today, maybe the mayor will want to chime in, he has not made any particular plans for this CARES money, they're working on plans for it. I know he's aware of the school needs and talked about possibly some funding for school lunches and facilities. So, I know he is aware of your situation.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Rath

20-18 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 44 N. WESTMOOR AVENUE, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, FROM THAT OF GO-GENERAL OFFICE DISTRICT, TO MB-MEDIUM INTENSITY BUSINESS DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Referred to Planning Commission for 8/11/20

By: Mr. Rath

20-19 AN ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING APPROXIMATELY 0.29 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. LOCATED IN NEWARK TOWNSHIP, TO THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Director Sassen – Just to refresh everyone’s memory, Ordinance 20-19 and 20-20 are mirror opposites of each other, they obviously cannot both pass. If council wants to consent you can move forward on 20-19 at which point you could allow 20-20 to die for lack of motion. We’ve been through this process before but I just thought I should refresh everyone’s memory.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Rath

20-20 AN ORDINANCE OBJECTING TO THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 0.29 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED IN NEWARK TOWNSHIP, TO THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance dies for lack of motion

By: Mr. Fennell

20-21 AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A TWELVE (12) FOOT WIDE ALLEY AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF THE WILLIAM C. MAHOLM’S SUBDIVISION OF OUTLOT NO. 66 OF BRADLEY BUCKINGHAM’S ADDITION IN THE TOWN OF NEWARK, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 184 OF THE LICKING COUNTY PLAT RECORDS; SAID ALLEY IS LOCATED AT THE REAR OF PROPERTIES AT 206, 208 AND 210 EDDY STREET.

Held for 2 weeks for second reading

By: Mr. Marmie

20-22 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$965,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE CITY’S COST, AND A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY OWNER’S COST IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR HORNS HILL ROAD SANITARY SEWER PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Rath, motion passed 9-0 with Mr. Bubb abstaining

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Lang

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

(335 Capital Improvement Fund-\$24,000.00 – Machinery & Equipment Supplies/Parts)

Motion to adopt by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie

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

(100 General Fund \$3,757.00- Maintenance Building & Grounds, new lights for downtown fountain)

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Bubb, motion passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie

20-43 Expedite A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(297 Safer Grant Fund \$15,382.55-Holiday Bank Fire \$13,382.55; Quartermaster \$2,000)

(100 General Fund \$12,000 – EMS Credit Invoices)

(100 General Fund \$93,667 – City Match for Safer Grant)

(153 Comp Abs Fund \$24,000 – Payout for retiring firefighter James Webster)

(153 Comp Abs Fund \$8,500 – Payout for retiring officer Earl Roe)

(153 Comp Abs Fund \$16,100 – Payout for Cheri Caudell)

(929 Inter Intra Government Fund – JEDZ 1, 2nd qtr. 2020)

Motion to remove 2 day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Bubb, motion passed 10-0

Mr. Marmie – We have a couple payouts that we always expedite to get individuals their money as soon as possible, we also have some taxes from JEDZ that we have to get to appropriate entities and we also have some bills that are due and we need to expedite those.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Bubb, passed 10-0

By Mr. Rath

20-44 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STATEMENT INDICATING WHAT SERVICES, IF ANY, THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, WILL PROVIDE FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.29 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED IN NEWARK TOWNSHIP, A TERRITORY PROPOSED FOR EXPEDITED II ANNEXATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Barker, passed 10-0

Mr. Rath – 20-44 and 20-45 are both declared an emergency for meeting filing deadlines

By: Mr. Rath

20-45 A RESOLUTION REGARDING A BUFFER ZONE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 0.29 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED IN NEWARK TOWNSHIP; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 10-0

By:Mr.Rath

20-46 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND AUDITOR TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO REQUEST SUCH FUNDS AS MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FUND UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES) AND TO EXPEND SUCH FUNDS ONLY TO COVER COSTS CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 5001 OF THE CARES ACT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Bubb, motion passed 10-0

Mr. Rath – We are declaring an emergency on this due to filing deadlines

Mr. Lang – I did receive a couple calls about this particular ordinance. I checked with the Law Director to understand exactly what we're doing here. I think it's pretty clear that all we are doing here tonight is passing some legislation that the city can go after these funds and procure them. Then obviously we will have to come up with a system for figuring out where all those funds will go. I know talking with director Rhodes, the city has already incurred some costs related to cleaning the building after we had the positive test and there were some costs related to trying to outfit the city chambers, I don't think that will exhaust the funds coming in by any means but certainly there are some costs there. After talking with Director Rhodes and I would implore the Mayor as well to look at as a community there is a broader need beyond just the immediate needs of the facilities of the city, so I think it was great to hear from the school board tonight and Doug, I appreciated your comments. Having 2 kids myself going to the school district I am personally interested in making sure we don't leave the schools out and obviously there are demands on this money beyond the schools as well, so I think we need to take a holistic view as we look how to spend that money. I just implore the Mayor to put a process in place so we can get these funds to where they need to go and spread them around the community as best we can. I know there are competing priorities, but hopefully we can find an equitable way to do that.

Mr. Blake – With the schools being on the call tonight I guess I'm confused. So all entities have to request dollars through the city? I'm not clear on what the process is and what they need our actions from?

Mayor Hall - I can comment. Some of it we're still pulling together. The legislation tonight is one step that's required. There are time frames involved. It has to be used for this virus period, it cannot be used for anything in the future. There are a lot of guidelines. The CARES program and funding was formulated pretty quickly. We are making sure all the T's are crossed and I's dotted and reading all the specifics of section 5001 and going through it. It was the piece for county and local government. So I had conversations last week with the county because the money passes through the county treasurer, so we're just making sure everything stays in order. Councilman Lang said it right, we are soliciting input, knowing the great need from many directions and just making sure that it's all done properly. There will likely be an audit down the road. It could be a state audit or a federal audit since they are federal dollars. We just want to be sure that no one is getting into something that would not be okay. I'm dealing with the Office of Budget Management in Columbus and flushing ideas through them, there are things that are obvious and things that are not quite as obvious that would be needed and could be paid for. It moved quickly through congress and out to us but it still has a lot of gray areas and specifics missing. I kind of compare it to our CDBG Funds, that's taken decades to get to where it's at today, it's very specific and somewhat easy to deploy to our sub recipient grants, surely our department does a wonderful job of that. This one's a little different. I solicit input. We want to ensure the employees of the city have the safeties around them so that we can continue to help the community. The county government also has money and then if there are funds that are not used by us they are turned back to the county, the county takes a piece and then it goes all the way back to the federal government. We are kind of at a fact and information gathering time, I'll just leave it at that. The requests I don't think are anything formal other than giving us ideas, surely anyone who has any input please pass it along to us.

Mr. Lang – I just wanted to add briefly to kind of answer Jeremy's question, talking with Director Sassen, he share with me the Department of Treasury guidelines for how the funds had been used. I'll circulate that to the rest of council. It expands on it, there are 3 prongs to the legislation we're passing tonight, necessary expenditures not accounted for in the budget that were encountered during this time March 31 to December 31 of this year. Then it expands on each of those so you can get a better sense of what can fall into each of those buckets and what we can use. I think that would give a better understanding then of course if there are ideas we can talk with the administration about those.

President Ellington – This is just a resolution at the first step where we can request funds, is that correct Mayor?

Mayor Hall – Yes.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Dr., Newark, Ohio – I would just like clarification on to whom we send our recommendations for use of the CARES funds. Do we send that to our council person or to the Mayor?

President Ellington – You can send them to the council clerk and she can compile them and get them to the Mayor.

Linda Mossholder – Are there two separate parts? I know the county has been allocated \$2.5 million CARES Funds to be managed by Ken Oswalt, is there another pot coming to the city or is the city going to take some of the county's money?

Mayor Hall – Its \$2.4- million to the county and this is in addition to that \$2.4 million. I don't have the link right now but if you Google it I think you can find it. It is based government funds formula which no one completely understands, but they needed to use that formula because it was already in place. The County has its piece \$2.4 million, the city \$1.4 million. Each of the cities and communities throughout Licking County have their piece too.

MISCELLANEOUS

Director of Development, Mark Mauter – I am very happy to report that over the last several weeks Community Development and Property Maintenance have teamed up to put on several city clean up days. One on June 27th when we worked on the south side and more recently this past Saturday on July 18th we worked on the northern side, which was primarily Hudson Avenue, north to Channel Street, south to Route 16, east to about Clinton Street and west to about Central Avenue. We are very pleased to report that it's one of our most successful clean up days to date. We are pleased we were able to have good collaboration and cooperation with Property Maintenance and it turned out to be a very successful cleanup day. I just wanted to report that to City Council and to anyone else who is listening in this evening.

Law Director Sassen – Mr. President I didn't know if you wanted to speak about continuing meetings on Zoom? At this point it's fairly simple, we can continue to have all of our otherwise public meetings on Zoom as long as the State remains under a state of emergency. Technically that state of emergency expires July 31st, but given the way numbers are going and the trends we're seeing I suspect that will be continued. This process as long as council chooses to do so can remain in effect as long as that state of emergency is in effect or until December 30th of this year whatever comes first. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Hall – I would just encourage everyone to continue patronizing our businesses within the city limits. The Chamber has declared this eat out week to help the restaurants. Of course I wouldn't say that without saying use safety standards, social distancing, masks, hand washing and sanitizing, all those things that have gotten us this far. Don't forget the Farmers market is still on Tuesday and Friday. It has been pretty devastating to a lot of these businesses, sometimes we can get through the day and not feel that, but they are feeling it. They want to thank everyone who is patronizing them and of course you can always do take out. Many of them will even run out to your car for you. So, it doesn't mean you have to go indoors and eat, many have outdoor dining as well. I want to congratulate and thank Doug Ute for many wonderful years at Newark City Schools, he is a true collaborator and communicator that has just done a Phenomenal job and we are much better off for that. Our schools are the backbone of our city. I wish him the best of luck as he moves on to his next venture in life. The school board has done a nice job for his replacement. Big shoes to fill, but Dave Lewis will do a nice job I believe and we're anxious to have good relationships with him. This is the final week of Barry Connell being our police chief. He made that quite evident the day after I appointed him five years ago. He really had a focus of five years and he has brought some nice collaboration into the department. We talked about being more proactive instead of just reactive and we have some great new hires on board in the past couple years, they're doing a great job. So I want to thank Chief Connell publicly and wish him the best of luck in retirement and hope he enjoys it. At the same time this will be the last week for Director Steve Baum as Safety Director as he will become the new Police Chief. I want to thank him for doing a great job as Safety Director and I look forward to working with him as Police Chief.

Mr. Bubb – I first want to wish fellow Councilman Jeff Rath the best. I attended his wedding on Saturday at the Canal Market District and it was really nice, I certainly wish you and Jen the best. I would also like to echo the Mayor's sentiments about local businesses, the local workers need the support and a lot of their livelihoods depend on this, so I would encourage everyone to get out and support them. I want to wish Barry Connell the best on his retirement and congratulate Steve Baum on becoming the new Police Chief.

Mr. Fennell – I would like to thank Mr. Mauter and his team for setting up the neighborhood cleanup. This may have been particularly successful because people have a little bit more time around their houses, I know I've done extra

cleaning as well. Thank you so much for setting that up, I know my neighborhood was a part of that and we certainly appreciate it. To everyone who spoke tonight, school board members, Doug Ute, Lesha Farias, Linda Mossholder, thank you for continuing to be engaged in the community and make sure you send in those recommendations. I think more minds on this the better. I'd like to thank Chief Connell for all of his service to the city and I would also like to remind people to continue to wear masks and practice social distancing and keep yourselves as healthy as possible.

Ms. Hall – I want to thank our safety forces, our firefighters and police officers. It's a difficult time, extra caution is necessary and over the past few weeks I've worked with Director Baum and Deputy Chief Logan on some issues, nothing was ignored, they were able to take care of some "stuff" so to speak and I just really wanted to thank them for their efforts. Also, everyone in the administration having extra work to do and hanging in there and didn't miss a beat, so thank you very much.

Mr. Harris – About a week and a half ago there was a prayer rally down on the square, Councilman Labutis and I were there and it was a really nice rally. Three or four churches came together and prayed for our city and our nation and our country and like I always say, that's what's going to change our nation and country. They're planning on having another one and inviting more churches. I want to thank Mr. Rhodes, I had an issue on the Cherry Valley bike trail and he got the parks people out there to take care of it.

Mr. Labutis – First I would like to thank Service Director Rhodes for helping me with an issue with a constituent. I'd like to thank Chief Connell for his service to the city over the past five years and also welcome and continue to work with Director Baum as he becomes Police Chief and continue our working relationship as Safety Committee Chair. And last but not least, I'd like to announce that there's a park in the 4th Ward at the corner of 9th and Columbia Streets that we'll be renovating over the next few months. If you're driving on Rt. 16 east you can see it from 16. Right now there is currently a swing set and one rocker animal there, those will all be replaced with newer items. I've had the chance to speak with some constituents and neighbors in that area and they are all very excited. There are a lot of little children in the area that will benefit from that and I will continue to update the council as that come about and a ribbon cutting date in the future. If you would like to see pictures, they're online on my Facebook, Instagram and twitter.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for two weeks from tonight. I too want to congratulate Mr. Rath on his marriage, it was a beautiful ceremony and both he and Jen were very happy and I was happy they were able to share that experience with me I definitely enjoyed it. I also want to thank Director Baum for everything that he's done as far as Safety Director, I want to wish him good fortune as Police Chief and I'm sure we'll be working together on other items in the future.

Mr. Rath – The Mayor said something about going out to eat and we went out to dinner at Red Oak this week with my brother who was in town for the wedding and we certainly did our fair share of infusing money into the Newark economy this weekend. We absolutely love the City of Newark. I want to congratulate Doug Ute on his retirement and say thank you to him and all of the board members who have supported him. They've been very successful in elevating **our** education system here in Newark. I want to congratulate Barry Connell and thank him for his five years of service as our Police Chief and I want to wish him all the luck and all the best in his future endeavors. Also, congratulations to Steve Baum for his promotion to Police Chief and thank him for his service as our Safety Director and I will call a Service Committee Meeting in two weeks.

Mr. Barker – I want to thank Joe Paul in Property maintenance. I had some constituents call about what looked like a hay field over in the 3rd Ward on Dickerson and he was able to get that mowed within a day and I appreciate that. My sincere congratulations to Director Baum on his promotion to Police Chief and thank you to current Chief Connell for all of his work. He worked extremely hard last year with me on the Licking County Court House lighting security plan. A plan that worked flawlessly, so I truly appreciate what Chief Connell did. I know Chief Baum, when we can have an event of a size like that will do the same.

Mr. Blake – I want to offer my thanks to Director Mauter, we also had a cleanup in the south end, so thank you to him and the work he did to have that cleanup occur. I just want to point out tonight that we're still getting calls and messages dealing with the homeless issue. I actually had a call from the Second Church of Christ on West main Street, Rev. Eric Miller had called me and Rosemary Decker, who actually lives in Councilman Labutis' ward, but there are some homeless issues occurring in that neighborhood around Day Avenue and Williams Street so hopefully we can continue to find ways to properly address those concerns and help those that are in need. I hope that with the schools and some other interested folks that spoke out tonight that we are able to get a process in place as far as distributing funds from the CARES Act. There's obviously interest in that. Hopefully it can be communicated out how to apply for those funds and how those decisions will be made as to how to distribute them. I want to thank Doug Ute, we have worked together on several different issues, particularly with Ben Franklin School, he's just a class act and I want to thank him for everything he's done. He's really been a partner to the kids and families and the community at large. I want to add a few public comments in regards to Chief Barry Connell retiring. Twenty years ago volunteering with the south end block

watch is when I first met Barry Connell, he was a K9 unit officer at that time and gave a demonstration to the neighborhood. I want to say it's been a pleasure working with Barry over the years. I've seen him empathize with residents and the troubles existing in our neighborhoods with drug addiction and crime, he was one of the first to embrace the program and build trust with them with their addictions and not just more jail time. I'm not sure how many of you are familiar with the NARI Program which I believe will be part of Chief Connell's legacy at the NPD. He also helped with many other safety issues, but particularly in the south end we had a big Halloween event at Don Edwards park a few years ago called Spooky Town Bash and Barry helped us get our beer garden set up for that, so I appreciate him working with us on that and it was a good event for the south end neighborhood. I also want to point out that Barry always came out and showed up and wanted to build relationships with everyone in our community and he and his wife often attended the Black History programs at Trinity AME church and I understand that now Barry is going to be a board member on the new non-profit to promote diversity in our community, The Lions for Racial Justice. So, thank you for everything you have done and continue to do. We know that you take your duty seriously, but at the same time you're very approachable and yes, I laugh at some of your jokes sometimes. So, from my perspective and the neighborhoods that I represent I just want to say thank you to Chief Connell for your good deeds and acts of kindness to help others and may you enjoy your retirement with your wife.

President Ellington – I also would like to offer my congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Rath. It was a very nice, very lovely wedding. Congratulations also to Barry, who is retiring and I am sure has a lot going on. Also, my congratulations go to soon to be Chief Baum, I think you will do an excellent job. One more thing, ex Council person Carol Floyd, I'm sure all of you know her. Most of us served with her. Besides being my eight grade Civics teacher at Lincoln, she is turning 80 tomorrow. So if anyone would like to give her a call or send her a card I think that would be great.

ADJOURNMENT.

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Labutis , second by Mr. Harris , passed by acclamation
At 8:02 pm we are adjourned**