

## COUNCIL MINUTES

August 5, 2019

Council Chambers

7:00 P.M.

**7:00 P.M.**- President Ellington called the Monday August 5, 2019 Newark City Council Meeting to order

**ROLL CALL**- Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bubb, Mr. Cost, Mr. Fennell, Mr. Fraizer, Ms. Hall, Mr. Labutis

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Labutis

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**- President Ellington

### CAUCUS

**MINUTES of July 15, 2019** Motion by Mr. Labutis to approve the July 15, 2019 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. Fraizer. **Motion carried by acclamation.**

### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance- **Received & Filed**

### REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

#### COMMUNICATIONS

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control**- new application for Geekeasy Arcade at 17 Arcade Pl, which the City has mailed an objection to the issuance of this permit on the recommendation of the Law Director and Division of Fire.- **Received & Filed**

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control**- new application for Best Fuels LLC at 814 Mt. Vernon Rd. - **Received & Filed**

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control**- transfer application for Fishmore Properties at 126 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St. - **Received & Filed**

**Front Room Furniture, 1660 N 21<sup>st</sup> Street**- notice that the store will be commencing a store closing sale. . - **Received & Filed**

**Ohio EPA**- issued an isolated wetland permit to Warner Farms Development II at 10287 Hazelton-Etna Rd Pataskala. - **Received & Filed**

#### COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

**Haven Browning, 114 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**- the young man discussed with City Council his concerns for him and his sister's safety due to increased traffic on their street from the reconstruction of downtown. He asked that the city put in speed bumps in that area.

**Natasha Hasket, Oakwood Ave**- asked City Council for help regarding their neighbor who is allowing people to live in his garage. The property only has a garage on it and various individuals have been living in it using drugs and vandalizing their property. They stated they have called the police and made reports as well as tried to buy the property from him.

#### RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

**By: Cost, Marmie, Rath, Fraizer**

**19-53 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION- CI**

**(335 Capital Improvement Fund: \$29,000.00- Bldg Maintenance spot work)**

**Motion by Mr. Lang to adopt Resolution No. 19-53, second by Mr. Fraizer**

**Motion passed by a vote of 10-0.**

#### RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

**By: Marmie, Cost, Fraizer**

**19-54 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION-Expedite (231 Adult Probation Grant Fund-\$75.00: SCRAM strap replacement; 100 General Fund-\$25.00: MRT workbook replacement; 231 Adult Probation Grant Fund-\$27,175.00: Grant Renewal; 153 Comp Abs Fund-\$29,500.00: Payout Thomas Strum)**

**Motion by Mr. Marmie to waive the two day reading rule for Resolution No. 19-54, second by Mr. Cost**

**Mr. Marmie-** there are units that need to be replaced and payouts that need to be expedited.

**Motion passed by a vote of 10-0.**

**Motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-54 by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Fraizer**

**Motion passed by a vote of 10-0.**

#### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Nancy Welu, 7441 Stewart Rd-** thanked Haven Browning for coming tonight and being civically engaged in the City. She revisited the comments that were made by Council members from the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the homeless situation in Newark. Newark Homeless Outreach, John's Helping Hands, the Champions in Community and Action, Crossroads Crusaders, Think Tank on Poverty, Freedom School in Licking County and Pastor and Mrs. Perry have all been at the four meetings that we have had since May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have been discussing different issues and exchanging information with one another. She recited some "life events" as she referred to them that the different groups have been getting from people off of the streets. She stated that we not only need coordination of services we need more services for these people. She stated that the poverty rate in Newark is a little over 20%. We need better transportation so folks can get to better paying jobs and we need more low income housing options.

**Chris Gargus, Director for the Champions group, 103 Swainford Dr Heath** – we have been working with the grass roots groups for the last years to year and a half so we have seen what is going on downtown. He shared some success stories from their organization and it has made him realize they are doing a little bit even if it is one person at a time. This is collaboration and I wouldn't know about half of the people that we've helped if it wasn't for the other groups.

**Linda Mossholder, 224 Greenmeadow Dr** – she discussed a day in the life of a young woman who was recently released from jail who was trying to get services and all the different places and agencies she drove her to to get a photo ID because without a photo ID you can't receive services. She stated that we don't have enough services in Licking County and we can't get people into them soon enough.

**Patricia Perry, Newark Homeless Outreach, 282 N 21<sup>st</sup> St-** she discussed the overdoses that have occurred and the need for the needle exchange program. She stated they are working on harm reduction and providing for people in the gaps of services.

They will be holding their 5<sup>th</sup> annual overdose awareness rally on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 at the Canal Market. We partnered with the Licking County Health Department and they are going to be at the Outreach on this Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> to give HEP A shots to everybody that is living out on the streets or is low income no questions asked. Licking County has 60 confirmed cases of HEP A

**Beth Bline, 33 Summit St-** she was advocating the need for a women's shelter because women are selling themselves for food, shelter and drugs. She stated she has seen cases of sex trafficking also.

**Daniel Crawford, 163 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St-** he stated that in regards to the homelessness we are applying a band aid when there is a gash that it needs to cover up. We have a broken system and part of what is broken is our sense of community and compassion for one another. We need to find better solutions for things that are not working in our system.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Mr. Lang-** Mr. Browning thank you for sitting through a very lengthy meeting and thank you for showing respect for what is being done here by putting on a bow tie and coming down today. I think that it says a lot about the job that your mom is doing raising you and your schooling that you came down here really well prepared. You definitely did your homework and we appreciate that you did your homework. Some of us up here have numbers and what that means is each one of who have a number in front of us represents a different part of the city and the part of the city that I think your address falls in is the First Ward, Ms. Dee Hall. I would recommend get in touch with her after the meeting and she can talk to you about the next steps. I can tell you what I do when folks get in touch with me we usually talk to the

Engineering Department because they have experts on how traffic flows through a different area and they can take a look to see what we can do. I was happy to hear that it was important to you to protect your little sister. I try to teach my son how important that is too. You are going to get really far in life by looking out for her the way that you did. You should be real proud of yourself how you came to this body today. Thank you so much for coming. Ms. Welu, Mr. Gargus, Ms. Mossholder, Ms. Perry, Ms. Bline thank you for sharing all of the stories that you did, it sounds like the groups are doing a really great job of exchanging information and I would encourage you to keep doing that. Thank you for taking the effort to do that on your own. It did sound like there was a wide range of people that you described with a lot of different reasons for why they might be in the situation that they are in. Nancy hit the nail on the head when she asked why. We don't know why, I think that there are a lot of answers to those questions. Sometimes it can be easy to make assumptions based on conventional wisdom. What popped in my head was, are there opportunities because you guys are very trusted with the grass roots campaign in a way that I wouldn't be trusted or others. Is there an opportunity to work with Dennison or another research institution to collect data on this to help us answer some of these questions?

**Mr. Marmie-** called a Finance Committee Meeting

**Mr. Rath-** called a Service Committee Meeting

**Mr. Blake-** as I sit here listening to your stories and by the way I would sit here and listen to all of you, the time and work that you do on a daily basis, your volunteering your time, your efforts, your energy, you're coordinating all these groups so if we sit here for an hour or two we only had two pieces of legislation. Thank you for the work that you are doing. That is most appreciated. As I sit here there is a range of emotions. Think about what we heard tonight. We heard a young man who lives across the street from my mom so I know you well, we heard him advocating, we heard people who have advocated that we have known for years advocating in our community for improvement. Basically you are identifying a gap that needs to be filled. It would be nice to get those social services agency heads and you together so we can coordinate so we can bring a better improvement. You're here tonight to share with us; this is your way of getting information out. There is really no other structure or resource for you to share this information except for coming here to Council. I thank you for the work that you are doing, you identified so many needs. I do have a time limit on my miscellaneous comments but I thank you for coming tonight. It is a bigger issue, we are seeing some efforts in some ways but what is the bigger plan for housing our community? What is the work force housing plan that we have in this community? Not just certain areas but for each neighborhood. Where are we going with housing for senior citizens, college students and low income? It is a variety of housing issues that we need. How are people getting from one place to another? How are we solving these bigger issues? I appreciate you coming here because often times it's not until citizens comments we as a council have a discussion about some of these topics which frankly a lot of us are not aware of on a regular basis. Thank you for your coordination. Thank you for doing what you are doing

**Mr. Cost-** I would like to thank everyone for coming in. I know how to reach other members, I know how to reach the administration, I know how to reach the nonprofit groups but it would be nice to have a list of the different grass roots groups that are functioning and a contact person. I would like to thank the young man for coming that is very encouraging. The first suggestion that I would make would be to see if we could get some more speed and traffic enforcement. If there is that kind of problem it is worth looking at. I appreciate you bringing us that information.

**Mr. Fennell-** Mr. Browning thank you for coming tonight, I was very impressed by how well prepared you were as well. I definitely dig your bow tie. We expect great things from you in the city and it is incredible to see someone so young be so engaged and so articulate. To everybody else who came and spoke about people experiencing homelessness in our community this is a multi-faceted problem and I think that we all know that. From people experiencing homelessness for a variety of reasons, people who are being trafficked does not discriminate it hits every single walk of life. It is important for us to be reminded and that is exactly what you did. Beyond sharing the hardships and the stories that will hit your heart I also appreciated hearing the stories of recovery because I think that it is important when you are facing something so big and seemingly unsurmountable to hear that it is possible to be able to recover, that it is possible for people to have hope and that all of the efforts mean something and can mean something to individuals. It just further reminds me how important it is that we focus on harm reduction until we can get all of the organizations and the services that we need to get because we need to help these citizens experiencing homelessness in our community to survive until they are ready for help. Thank you for everything that you have done and thank you for coming. Please keep coming and reminding us and keep doing the incredible work that you are doing.

**Mr. Fraizer-** I want to start off with it nice receiving the best hometown award, the HHCA picnic was a success we had 40-60 people there and the Newark skate park opening on August 24th. The question earlier was what are my thoughts from March 2019 to today and I would say that you guys talking to one another, sharing information and documenting stories is a step in the right direction. When we see the progress that is being made with the Licking County Transit Authority as well as the Evans Foundation and the Licking County Land Bank revitalizing properties I think that we are moving in the right direction both as a county and a city. It is always going to be hard to say are you doing enough and is

enough being done because it will never feel like enough is being done. What the grass roots are doing are meeting people at the individual level, as you said Chris one person at a time. What we are seeing is with that one person at a time you identify that need and try to locate temporary assistance and try to find a permanence in the community. Linda when I hear you taking people into your house it is very humbling to me and the compassion and love that you guys have. Feel free to let me know what I can do to help and assist.

**Ms. Hall-** Haven thank you for coming tonight, I believe you are in my ward so we can talk a little bit tonight after Council. I want to thank all of you for the work that you do and coming tonight and sharing your stories. It keeps the awareness going. We have a new company on the square it is Newark Cultural Art Center, it is the building right next to LA Paloma. It is just getting started, it started in January I just became aware of it and I think it is going to be great for Newark. He is offering weaving, ceramics, art lessons and painting lessons. It is beautiful up there where the ballet studio used to be check it out [newarkculturalartscenter.com](http://newarkculturalartscenter.com)

**Mr. Labutis-** I want to congratulate our Newark Fire and EMS they received the American Heart Association 2019 Mission Life Line Goal Plus award. What that means is in those critical moments when they show up and are servicing patients and getting them to the hospital they are doing the best job that they can and setting them up for the best possible outcome once they get to the hospital. The care they are giving in those critical moments are the most important care that they will receive because it determines their end result. It is the highest award given by the American Heart Association. Congrats to the Fire Department and EMS for all of the hard work that they do in those most critical moments. I want to thank City Council, administration and various city employees for their prayers and support for the loss of my father. I received a nice floral arrangement and multiple visitations all the support from you was extremely important. Mr. Browning you did a fantastic job. I have a couple of kids a little bit older than you and when my daughter was born I told my son his number one job in life until she is old enough is to protect your sister. He has taken that to heart. Good job mom. To everyone else who spoke regarding the homelessness I appreciate the success stories, in any endeavor you have to celebrate the wins. That is the motivation that will carry to the final goal. I appreciate hearing those completion stories and the things that you are doing.

**President Ellington-** Haven good job tonight and I like the bowtie. I do appreciate citizen comments it is part of your right and you should do that. It is important to come and talk to City Council. Our next meetings are August 19<sup>th</sup> Committee at 5:45 and Council at 7:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Motion by Mr. Cost, second by Mr. Labutis. Motion carried by acclamation