

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 18, 2017

Council Chambers

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M. - President Ellington called the Monday December 18, 2017 Newark City Council Meeting to order.

ROLL CALL- Mr. Fraizer, Ms. Hall, Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Blake, Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd

INVOCATION – Mrs. Floyd

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS- Rule 11 Resolution 17-103 appropriating monies for current expenses of the municipal corporation.

Motion by Mrs. Floyd to excuse Mr. Bubb and Mr. Mangus, second by Mr. Marmie. Motion carried by acclamation.

MINUTES of December 4, 2017- Motion by Mr. Rath to approve the November 6, 2017 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**

Service- **Received & Filed**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Stephen E. Johnson, City of Newark Auditor- operating report for the period ending November 30, 2017.- **Received & Filed**

COMMUNICATIONS

State of the City by Mayor Hall

Roger Loomis, Utility Superintendent- liens to be applied to properties for past due water, sewer and storm sewer bills.- **Received & Filed**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Tonya Cooper, 64 Poplar Ave- she is with the Newark Think Tank on Poverty, she spoke out against the gazebo being removed and closing of the walk bridge. She spoke out asking for help for those addicted to drugs and giving sexual offenders who have served their time a second chance by allowing them in the homeless shelters. She stated her complaints about nothing being done about her neighbors that she calls the Police on for abusing each other and using drugs. She stated due to being on a fixed income she can't afford to move from this neighborhood.

Lesha Farias, 116 Smithview Dr- there is going to be a warming shelter opening here in Newark, we just came from a meeting tonight where we discussed the number of homeless in our community that have contacted us and that there is nowhere to put them as well as the number of people who don't have enough to live on. As I see the development of downtown I see the removal of the gazebo and the closing of the McDonalds. She stated the people who can't afford to make it on their own through no fault of their own are being pushed away and that they want the gazebo to be returned as a symbol to the people of this community; not the ones who have money and can go downtown and go out to eat or go to the Midland but the citizens of Newark who are not those citizens but who should have equal access to their community. She stated that they have over 1300 signatures from their on line petition as well as collecting signatures at the Courthouse lighting so they asked Jeremy Blake to put forth an amendment and for it to be seconded and discussed until somebody takes responsibility for the removal of the gazebo. The city and the Mayor who authorized the removal should return it or rebuild it as a vital public space for the people of this community.

David Greene, 1791 Olympic Court- what is popularly accepted on this Council at the moment is that the removal of the gazebo was necessary and as the Mayor says a progressive thing to do and somehow moving it to the east side where it will be restored somehow is the solution to some problem of making downtown Newark a more enticing environment for business. I question who's agenda this is. I question whether it is the citizens and communities agenda or whether it

is the agenda of real estate developers who want to see a certain kind of Newark. I want to strongly support the fact there are about 1500 signatures on petitioners. One of the Council people told me that a few of these signatures were from other places. I don't think that's very consequential, I think that is the kind of thing that you attack when you want to question the legality of something not the legitimacy of it. I think that at least 1000 maybe more signatures are from people who live in Newark or close to Newark signed those petitions and that is important. He encouraged the amendment that Jeremy was going to propose to amend the budget to allow for funds to be set aside for the restoration of the gazebo to take place. He also encouraged the recognition that it was a mistake to remove the gazebo. Whose agenda that we are dealing with here is not the agenda of people who are making profit from the improvement of Newark only and their concern about the community is very small compared to their concern about their own real estate development or interest.

Daniel Crawford, 163 S 2nd St- expressed how upset he was to find out that Mr. Blake was proposing an amendment to the budget to allow funding for the restoration of the gazebo and couldn't get another member of Council to support it. He felt as though if a Council person had an idea that it deserved a vote that there had been plenty of things voted out of Committee that should probably not have been but was to give everyone on Council a chance to vote on it. He stated that the gazebo was a symbol that was torn down without the obvious support of the majority of the citizens of Newark. He stated that he was tired of them coming here for answers as to where the money came from to tear it down and not getting any answers. He asked that the amendment be proposed whether or not there will be a second. He asked that the language even be changed to allow for a foundation to be built and allow the citizen an opportunity to raise the rest of the money themselves. If we can do that means we want a gazebo on our square.

Jen Kanagy, 2584 Uplandview Ct- she thanked Jeremy Blake for coming to the gazebo meetings they have been holding and for listening to the people. She read an email that she sent to the Democrats on Sunday that asked them to get together to agree on an amendment to bring forward at Council. This isn't just about the gazebo it is about holding the Mayor and the elected officials accountable and City Council accountable after giving themselves a raise. This is also about closing the Fire Station, closing the McDonalds, the lack of affordable housing, lack of public transportation and the gentrification of Newark. She stated her battery was dead in her car and went into Wendy's to see if she could get someone to jump it and noticed all of the homeless that were in Wendy's and thought that this Wendy's was going to get closed because the McDonalds got closed. She stated that she thinks that the foot bridge will also get closed. She stated that the gazebo group isn't asking for \$50,000.00 they are asking for something reasonable to force a vote and hold elected officials accountable. She suggested \$39,628.16 or even half of that be expended for the purposes of returning the gazebo to the Courthouse square and refurbishing it. The larger sum is what the Council raises will cost the city for a fully funded four year term. Surely Council can get behind giving taxpayers the same amount of money one time that they voted to give themselves over a course of a full term. I would ask someone even Mr. Rath that I would hate to see run to the left of the Democrats I ask someone to bring Jeremy's amendment forward to be discussed even if you vote no.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

By: Marmie, Floyd, Cost, Rath, Fraizer

17-61 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK OHIO DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018. GF

Motion by Mr. Marmie to waive the two day reading rule for Ordinance No. 17-61, second by Mrs. Floyd

Mr. Marmie- this needs to be expedited in order to be effective January 1st when our fiscal year begins.

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt Ordinance 17-61, second by Mrs. Floyd

Mr. Blake- this is our General Fund operating budget for 2018 and I think that as part of the budget this does include Capital Improvement dollars. I want to thank the Law Director, City Auditor and Deputy Auditor for meeting with me. For the last several months we have seen people come in about the gazebo and talk about what can be done about the gazebo, the decision to move it and how we best move forward. I did float the idea about wanting to present an amendment that would earmark \$50,000.00 out of the Capital Improvement Budget which is a fund listed within this legislation but being a legislator also I know that the math isn't there to support it, so I am not going to be offering the amendment but I do want to encourage the administration to look at capital improvement dollars or even using the unappropriated balance that is going to be \$30-40,000.00 at the end of the year to put back the gazebo. I know some members of Council have some concerns about using certain dollars for putting this structure back but again I think that it symbolizes so much more. My name has been thrown out many times tonight, I do disagree with the decision that was made to remove the gazebo so I am just looking for a way to put it back because I do think it symbolizes so much more.

It symbolizes civic agency, the diversity in our community, there are so many symbols associated with that structure that just having it in the heart of our city is something that is important. I'm not going to offer the amendment tonight because the numbers aren't there to support it but I do hope that the administration looks at the capital improvement dollars or some other funding to place some type of structure back.

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

By: Marmie, Floyd, Cost, Rath, Fraizer

17-62 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK OHIO DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018. ALL OTHER

Motion by Mr. Marmie to waive the two day reading rule for Ordinance No. 17-62, second by Mrs. Floyd

Mr. Marmie- we need to expedite this in order to make it effective January 1st.

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt Ordinance 17-62, second by Mrs. Floyd

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

By: Marmie, Floyd, Cost, Rath, Fraizer

17-63 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK OHIO DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018. GRANTS

Motion by Mr. Marmie to waive the two day reading rule for Ordinance No. 17-63, second by Mrs. Floyd

Mr. Marmie- we need to expedite this in order to make it effective January 1st.

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt Ordinance 17-63, second by Mrs. Floyd

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

By: Rath, Marmie, Cost, Floyd, Fraizer

17-93 PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION WITH ODOT FOR THE RESURFACING OF PORTIONS OF STATE ROUTE 16 AND STATE ROUTE 79

Motion by Mr. Rath to adopt Resolution No. 17-93, second by Mr. Fraizer

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Rath, Marmie, Floyd, Cost, Fraizer

17-94 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND LICKING COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FOR THE CONTINUED PROVISION OF EMERGENCY 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES ON BEHALF OF ALL CITY OF NEWARK SAFETY FORCES

Held for a second reading

By: Rath, Floyd, Cost, Marmie

17-98 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR CERTAIN ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, FOR 2018.

Held for a second reading

By: Marmie, Floyd, Cost, Rath

17-99 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.- EXPEDITE (100, General Fund- \$455.00:SCRAM Unit repayments from defendants; 231, Adult Probation Grant Fund- \$34,829.00 PIIG grant money; 954, Law Library Fund- \$ 6,500.00: Over collection; 255, State Highway Fund- \$ 7,450.00)

Motion by Mr. Marmie to waive the two day reading rule, second Mrs. Floyd

Mr. Marmie- these are end of the year adjustments that we have to make to close out 2017 budget.

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 17-99, second by Mrs. Floyd

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

By: Marmie, Rath, Floyd, Cost, Fraizer

17-100 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUMIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) A ONE YEAR USE OF FUNDS/ACTION PLAN ALONG WITH AN APPLICATION FOR FY 2018 FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (CDBG), AS REQUIRED BY 24 CFR PART 91.220, FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS RELATED TO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Held for a second reading

By: Rath, Floyd, Cost, Fraizer

17-101 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR THE YEARS 2017 THROUGH 2020.

Held for a second reading

By: Marmie, Floyd, Cost, Rath, Fraizer

17-102 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO MAKE APPLICATION TO AND ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE LOG POND RUN MAINTENANCE ACCESS PROJECT, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Rath to adopt Resolution No. 17-102, second by Mr. Fraizer

Mr. Rath- there is an emergency clause because we need to meet deadlines for filing.

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Alesha Farias, 116 Smithview- to add to our concerns about the removal of the gazebo and the closing of the McDonalds we will be watching very closely what happens to Candlewick Commons because we are very concerned about the citizens who have been living there and called that home for a long time. We also have to keep in mind the people that use the footbridge are the least healthy people in our community that don't have access to transportation. These are the same people who have to use bicycles because they don't have cars, these are the same people who have to walk because they don't have warm coats so I think that it is easy for us to say that it's not a problem we can just close that but it is a very important way for people to get around this community.

Dawn Pettit, Moull St- she read her letter that she wrote to the Editor of the Advocate. Who paid to move the gazebo, it is a simply request. Who paid to have the Courthouse gazebo dissembled? This request is anything but simple for our elected office holders. The Newark Mayor's office has said the removal was paid for by private donations but have no records of who donated, how much was donated or how much money was distributed. A city source actually said that the money was funneled through the County Commissioners Office but after a request for information was filed the Commissioner's Office spokesperson said no money came through that office. So what is the answer? The Newark residents and let's include those who live in the county since it involves the County Courthouse have a right to know where the funding came from or should we be content to let elected officials do as they like without having to account for the actions that they take or the money that they receive on behalf of a community. The Mayor announced his decision to remove the gazebo just days before the work began because he knew there was support to keep it in place. Some members of Council said that they opposed the removal but that there was nothing that they could do. To this day there hasn't even been a symbolic resolution of opposition proposed on Council floor or a consideration of an amendment tonight. Also to this day there has been no accountability as to where the money came from the led to the dismantling of an iconic downtown structure. Is that what we really want?

Aaron Dagers, 536 Keller Ln- I think there is definitely a transparency issue here and the Mayor owes the people of Newark and Licking County as to where those private donations come from. He wants to claim he was transparent but won't tell us where those private donations had come from. That is a major issue and the people deserve to know that. I

want to thank Carol Floyd for years of service not just here on City Council but over 50 years out there fighting for the people within the Democratic Party and beyond. I owe you a debt of gratitude for the things you have done over the years Carol. Hopefully we see you still active and participating.

That transparency issue is obvious Mayor and if anyone on this body thinks that it is going away anytime soon you are kidding yourself.

MISCELLANEOUS

Safety Director Baum- the Newark Police Department, Heath Police Department, Hebron Police Department and Pataskala Police Department went together and did a cram the cruiser event; they collected just over 5,000 pounds of food and just under \$2,000.00 in cash. As we speak the Heath Police Department is leading with participation from officers and deputies from other agencies a shop with a cop night in Heath. All of the officers participating thank you very much. I will let you know here soon but I gave 5 potential new firefighters their conditional offers so as long as they jump through the three hoops they still have to jump through we will have a swearing in here still this year.

Law Director Sassen- in the 12 years as Law Director I have had the great fortune of sitting next to only two 7th Ward Councilmembers, Reverend Raul and the honorable Carol Floyd so I have been very lucky in that regard. I thanked Reverend Raul for his sense of humor which is not normally what you would expect out of a Lutheran pastor but he had a fantastic sense of humor. I thank you Mrs. Floyd for your calming influence on me over the past years which has come in handy on a number of occasions. I appreciate your depth of experience and judgement. I will miss your presence on Monday night very much but I seriously doubt it is the last we have heard of Carol Floyd.

Mayor Hall- I would like to thank Carol for her ten years here on Council, you will be deeply missed. Thank you so much Carol.

Mr. Fraizer- 49,000.00 people in the city of Newark, 22.3% poverty rate, 1/3 of our kids are in poverty; I get it we have a lot of issues in our community. It takes a community for us to be uplifted. We don't want to see anyone left behind we want to economic prosperity for everyone. Everybody should be privy to city services, opportunity and advancement. A lot of this seems to be frustration that is much more macro than micro where we see different things in our community, we see change, we see some progress, we see some regress. We appreciate your comments, we appreciate your concern and we absolutely have a lot of work to do. When it comes to the future of the downtown square and the buildings and the facilities I think that there is a better way that a line item is funded. We don't know how much it would cost nor do we have the plans in place to actually execute it. I think that the public private partnership has been great for us. When it comes to school education support and the opportunity that we have with school carpentry classes and civic organizations like the Rotary we have a lot of opportunities to build a gazebo and have it funded and have a plan in place if that is the desire of our citizens are. I encourage you to think outside of the box but let's see what is really practical for our community. We have a general fund budget that balanced by the skin of our teeth and to put a line item in there that would take away from firefighters, other capital improvements, street repairs; we are not funding the rainy day fund. It is a real issue for me to do a line item without a plan in place. I'd like to see more planning; I'd like to see more opportunity. When it comes to me being a 7th Ward citizen, Carol thank you for the work that you have done on this Council, representing my ward extremely well and your compassion and understanding of our city. Those years of experience really add up from the school system all the way to City Council and I don't even want to guess the number of years of civic service. Thank you so much for what you have done and welcoming me to this Council and showing me the true way to work together between party lines to get things accomplished for this city.

Ms. Hall- Carol I want to thank you for everything, four years went really fast. Your patience is really wonderful. You're knowledgeable and you are going to be missed but I don't doubt that you are going to be staying very busy for a long time so I just want to thank you. I want to thank everybody here in the audience for being here tonight. I don't know what the answers are but we all have a tough job and are really concerned about our residents and what you want. We can't always have our way. We sometimes agree and sometimes we agree to disagree. I wish you well and have a nice holiday.

Mr. Lang- Carol it has been a pleasure serving with you the past several months I wish we could have served together a little longer but I only came on in July. I did enjoy going to the Legend Elementary and speaking and all the different civics lessons over the last few months. I think everybody on here can agree that your knowledge and expertise is sorely going to be missed. There were a number of comments tonight about the gazebo once again, a lot of miss information as well. There were some pretty passionate speeches about an amendment that was never brought forward and was never circulated to this entire body to request support for. There were numbers cited from a petition and Mr. Greene I know we had spoken and I appreciate your comments and that you felt that it was a bit of a cop out for me to say that are those people from the State of Ohio let alone the City of Newark. I think that is important. I represent the people of Newark, I represent the people of the 5th Ward, and I represent you as a 5th Ward citizen. It doesn't matter to me what a

person from Florida thinks about the gazebo maybe they lived here at one time but they don't anymore and they are not part of the body that I represent so I think it is important if we are going to circulate a petition and we are going to talk about numbers that those numbers be verified and we look at people who are living in the City of Newark as part of that. I think that Jeremy mentioned that this would have come out of Capital Improvements, given the number of people that I talked to their number one concern was getting roads paved and our capital improvements budget, it was not the gazebo. I have called and text a number of people to get a sense because I understand that there is a lot of passion for the people who are upset about it being removed but there are also a lot of people who quite frankly when I ask them about the gazebo they say what gazebo? I don't go downtown that often it's not that important to me. While I appreciate that there is a lot of passion in this room I think that it is important to recognize that there are a lot more people out there than are represented here. There is a lot of negativity going around, there was a comment on Facebook that I read from somebody on this body who I'm not going to call by name said that I would say most people referring to this body of fellow Councilmembers do not do it for the right reasons. I give the benefit of the doubt to everyone on this board. I think everyone up here is really doing their best and all of the elected official are really doing their best for the community and are in it for the right reasons. Both sides of the isle I will give you the benefit of the doubt. Mr. Blake I know that you were looking at proposing an amendment I would have been happy to entertain the idea and been happy to debate it with you but I understand if you think that the numbers aren't there not proposing it. I would like to read a little quote that somebody sent me in a holiday card. This is a list of Christmas gift suggestions. To your enemy forgiveness, to your opponent tolerance, to an elderly friend or relative patience, to a good friend time, to someone who helps gratitude, to someone who needs it encouragement, to every child a good example, to yourself respect, to your community service, and to all charity.

Mr. Marmie- our next Finance Committee will be January 8th, we will not be having a Finance Committee meeting next week. At this time I will introduce the final piece of legislation for 2017. I would like to invoke Rule 11 and bring Resolution 17-103 for a reading.

By: Mr. Marmie, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Cost, Mr. Rath

Resolution 17-103 appropriating monies for current expenses of the municipal corporation.

Motion to waive the two day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, second by Mrs. Floyd

Mr. Marmie- this is something that happened in the Probation Department that we didn't get on the agenda in time. We talked about it in committee to make sure that there was full disclosure. This has to be done this year especially when we are dealing with grant money so it needs to be expedited.

Motion to waive the two day reading rule passed by a vote of 8-0.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 17-103 by Mr. Marmie, second by Mrs. Floyd

Motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Marmie- I will echo with Jonathan there is a lot of passion in the room this evening. Are we truly being respectful when we say that individuals who are trying to improve our downtown are doing it for their own self-worth when Mr. McClain has given numerous dollars to try to better the community and I don't see him trying to recoup any of those funds at all? He is a perfect example of somebody who wants to leave a mark on his community. We have had numerous people over the years that have done that. There have been all kinds of generous individuals who have done it not for any kind of a return. So to label anyone who provides funds to the downtown are doing it only for their own self benefit I don't see that. I keep hearing things about the closing of McDonalds the government has nothing to do with the opening and closing of McDonalds. I would love for that McDonalds to stay there because I love the sausage burrito breakfast and I love getting it when I am coming downtown now I am going to have to go out of my way. I appreciated it being down here. Who knows McDonalds may open another one down here somewhere and I would fully support that too. I'm not going to have any say in it. Symbolic resolutions, resolutions of support are not done by this body it is a waste of taxpayer money because we have to do filings. We did a way of any kind of resolutions of support unless it was something that was required for an application to obtain something or something along those measures. I knew nothing about an amendment and I am the Finance Chair. It was never brought to my attention, I never received one email about an amendment, and I never knew what it was about. I do know that money can't be taken out of capital improvements during this initial phase there is no line item in order for that to happen. To say that we could just earmark it, there is no way to do that in the manner in which the budget is passed. I have been here 16 years and I study the budget backwards and forwards there's no way for it to happen, I don't know how it would have. Also hearing a lot of comments about the foot bridge and making assumptions that the closing of it is going to happen. I will admit that the folks at St. Francis that is their solution, that is what their desire is because they see a safety concern for their children and parishioners and they don't have any other solution in mind and they know that it would irradiate their concerns. This body has discussed it in the way to do what we can to help out and that is what our commitment is. Here is the

thing we were made aware of a concern about citizens from people who have a church and a school within our community. There is a safety concern, if there is a failure to act that is one of the main things that causes liability so therefore there could be a liability exposure if one child was injured and we failed to act as a city. We are acting now, we are discussing, and we have made no decisions. The administration hasn't made any decisions all we doing is listening and trying to do is come up with solutions. Any of you here said that you know what is going to happen bring a viable solution to protect those children down there. Help us out that is exactly what we asked at the only meeting that this was discussed at. Just like any other child at any other school we wish them to be protected. Carol I have served with you the longest on this body and I can tell you that I will miss you tremendously. We serve on a number of committees together and I appreciate that I can talk to you, you and I can talk about anything and even if we disagree we don't hold it against each other and we know at the end of the day we are still going to care for each other. I respect you tremendously. I have learned a lot from you, your calmness, your ability to talk about things logically, our passion and I'm hooked on teaching those kids with you now too. You will be missed by this body but I know that you won't be missed by the City of Newark because I know you are still going to help. All I am going to say is until we meet again, I am not going to say good bye because you and I are not done yet.

Mr. Rath- it is no secret Carol how I feel about you I have told you before up here and I have said it to you privately so I will say it again publicly, you will absolutely be missed. I appreciate your influence and your experience, your knowledge and wisdom as well as the lessons you have taught us and those you have taught others. You have been a valuable asset. I wish everyone in the room and the town of Newark a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Blake- I want to wish Carol the best she has been a mentor obviously a teacher. There are 49,000 people in Newark and so few of us will get this unique opportunity to serve the citizens. You can be a leader in our community but to be an elected leader is something special and you have done it with distinction and honor. I need to make some clarifying remarks. I have been on Council now for 4 years and the various legislation that I have worked on from the LGBT to Ban the Box and getting our trash haulers to have a recycling option I worked in a manner where I tried to develop a coalition even before it gets to this body before it gets to this vote and I real basically didn't have time to develop this coalition. I sent an email to our Law Director last week and I met with our City Auditor and he did confirm the language that I was going to propose which would have added a Section 2 to Ordinance 17-61 would have been a workable solution as far as earmarking dollars. I did work with those people before I could propose it but before you can do anything you have to have an idea. Working with our legal counsel and our Chief Financial Officer I was going to get the idea but then after talking to members of my caucus it just wasn't going to fly so it was like why propose something that would have been more divisive versus than anything else? That is why I didn't offer it tonight. I do think that it does symbolize something, where do we want our city to go? I appreciate the Mayor's comments in his State of the City Address, I do think that there are a lot of good things happening in our community but I am fearful that we need to improve and better handle our communications with open public not just certain segments of our population but with everyone to make sure that everyone feels like they are on board. We have the Vision 2028 plan coming out and I think there's so much positive momentum going forward I just want to make sure that we have things going forward for each segment of our community so no one feels like they are being marginalized. I really enjoyed the Advocate article recently that talked about the unemployment rate in our community but also recognizing that the poverty rate reflects the quality of life in our community. Kay Hartman had a really good quote in there stating that yes people are working but what really is their quality of life? Are they receiving the wages and benefits that they need? The passion of what many of you spoke about tonight reflects what was in that article and we have to address those concerns. Thank you for coming tonight and bringing that up even more. It is time to for action to take place instead of just words.

Mr. Cost- I don't think that it is a secret that I didn't want to see the gazebo moved in the first place either but I also have to admit that I couldn't justify spending city tax dollars to move it back. Correct me if I am wrong but the county has agreed to rebuild the gazebo on the land where the children's home used to be. If the county can rebuild it there they could rebuild it somewhere else as well. They could rebuild it on the grounds of the Courthouse. As realtors say it is location, location, location. I don't see a reason for us to expend city tax dollars if the county has already agreed to pay to replace it. It is a little different perspective but I think that it should be discussed. I want to thank Jeremy for discussing the issue I want to thank people for coming in and discussing it. I don't view this is an us versus them kind of thing. It's not how I look at life. I want to see what we can do that is in the best interest of the city of Newark. While we are on that subject Carol I want to thank you for everything that you have done for this city. What you have meant to this City Council and the things that you have done here and most importantly what an incredible friend you have been and I hope that continues on for many, many years.

President Ellington- Carol in 10 years you have done so many positive things for this city. I have never known you to have an agenda except for what is best for the City of Newark when you have been up here voting. I would like to thank

you for all of your hard work. Who knew back in the 8th grade at Lincoln Junior High School and you were teaching Civics that I would have the honor to be here and serve on Council with you. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Floyd- I want to say a couple of things before I go into the speech that I have been preparing for about three months now. I would like to thank Mike Mangus, he's not here tonight but this is his last Council meeting. His daughter who is a dancer and has been studying dance for a long time had an important recital tonight but he has worked very hard for the community as well and I would like to thank him. As far as the many comments that you made tonight and I will get into those pretty soon but I agree with a lot of what you said, you all know that I was opposed to the gazebo being moved in the first place. I agree with Mr. Cost that may be a better solution to it than anything else. My concern is that I have heard all kinds of other things added to the gazebo tonight in terms of McDonalds moving and the homeless and the walk bridge like they are all lumped together. I volunteer at the United Way a couple of days a week and I am on a couple of committees at the United Way so I know that Deb Dingus is worried about the homeless all of the time. We talk about it every chance I have the chance to talk to her and she has talked about the warming shelter several times. I agree with what Mr. Marmie said on the walk bridge, don't just assume that is going to happen. That is my Ward, St. Francis is my Ward, the bridge is my Ward, Pearl Street is my Ward. I am totally opposed to closing that walk bridge. I know that the city is putting some lighting there, they have installed some fencing. I am a retired school teacher so taking care of the kids at the school is very important but you don't close a public walk bridge. There was talk that they could walk over to Mt. Vernon Road now that the bridge is open but that still is a long way. I am basically a pretty optimistic, positive person; a lot of good things have happened in Newark and I don't want everything else to become a downer. I have basically enjoyed my time on City Council. I had to really be coaxed into this. I was replacing Bill Raul who was retiring and Marc Guthrie told me that it was only two meetings a month, not it's not. I have been here through three administrations, the Bain, Diebold and now 6 years for the Hall administration. I have seen a whole lot of different Council members up here like Doug said he and I have been here the longest. I think that as long as we are working for the city, as long as we are caring about the city, I don't see many issues that are Republican or Democrat. I think that if I discussed the National Tax Bill with people up here we would disagree on lots of things but in terms of what happens in Newark we have had some disagreements but we have had very few in the 10 ¾ years I have been here we have had very few straight party line votes. We had some that were 6-5 that were basically not set party line, there would be some cross over, maybe a zoning issue, and those are really tough. I think that we do our best work when we work together to try to solve problems. My line has always been you can agree to disagree without being disagreeable. You do best when you sit down and talk to one another and try to work out some problems. When I was trying to decide a couple of years ago whether I wanted to run for re-election, it was like my knees don't like going door to door knocking and climbing those stairs and I knew most of downtown would be done in terms of the construction, I knew the bridge would be done and I decided that would be a good time to go out when things were going well. That doesn't mean we don't have problems, we do. I agree with Jeremy I like the article that was in the paper the other day. It was something that I was already thinking about, like I said I volunteer at the United Way and the United Way has just done a study and found that in Newark 21% of the population is below the poverty line. Another 34% of the population is what is called the working poor. These are people who have a job, probably not making a lot of money and probably not got any benefits, they may or may not have a car or it is one that may not always work so they are always close to the edge. I live three blocks from here and am surrounded by rental properties so I understand those issues. I taught at Lincoln for 30 years, subbed for another 13 and I grew up in that area so I know what the community is like, what the issues are as far as that is concerned. I have been on the Newark Vision 2028 group; I was on the group that studied transportation I think that is a major issue for Newark. I think that is something that has to be worked on. I know we had a proposal 5-6 years ago of set bus lines, somebody came with a plan and that is wonderful if you have the money to do it but we don't; partly because we have been cut by the State a whole lot. We have lost a lot of money from the State over the years. I was on a transportation committee and probably the most effective meeting we had Brian Morehead was in charge of it but we also had Bill McDonald from OSU, Rob Montagnese from the Hospital and we had Jim Matesich from Matesich Distributing business people who came up with some really creative ideas but I didn't see them at other meetings and nothing specifically happened. I know some people in this room have signed up for the transportation committee going forward but I think that we need to include private businesses because in this day and age when there is not a lot of government money available we have to count on working with private businesses to get some of these things accomplished and I think that there are things that can be done going forward but you have to work together to try to do it. I know that housing is a problem, I have heard the term gentrification used several times it is something that cities all over the country are facing as old building are torn down or are rehabbed and then more expensive apartments and things are put in and I know that is an issue, that is an issue in my neighborhood for people who are there. But again I think that going forward as a community we have to work on those kinds of things. I look forward to continuing to work for the city of Newark. I talked about being on a committee to study the Charter to see what we can do if we want to

change that in any way and the Mayor has talked to me about being on a couple of other committees. I think we do understand that Newark has problems and that when you have 55% of the population that doesn't have a whole lot of money to live on and one bad tire or one medical emergency can put you on the edge it is something that as we are making decisions up here we have to consider. I am leaving but I will be around. I have a feeling that I will be on lots of committees and show up at things and if there are things I can do for Council I will be glad to do that.

President Ellington- City Hall will be closed December 25th and 26th also January 1st. Our next Council meeting is Tuesday January 2nd. At 6:30 P.M. our new and returning Councilmembers will be sworn in and then the Council meeting will follow at 7:00 P.M. Thank you for your attention. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion by Mr. Cost, second by Mr. Rath. Motion carried by acclamation.