

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 6, 2014

Council Chambers

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M. - Mr. Ellington called the January 6, 2014 Newark City Council meeting to order.

ROLL CALL-Mr. Blake, Mr. Bubb, Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Guthrie, Ms. Hall, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Rolletta

INVOCATION – Mrs. Floyd

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Mr. Ellington

CAUCUS- Mr. Marmie: this evening the vote is going to be on the Committee assignments, as the minority leader I just wanted to voice a concern as far as a precedence that is being set regarding the chairmanship of the Finance Committee. Never in the history since we have had our Charter has there been somebody that chaired that committee that has not had experience on Council. We understand that it is a partisan decision on that however in the spirit of wanting to get along and wanting to continue the relationship that has occurred with Council for the past two years the members of the minority will vote in support of all of the Committee assignments.

MINUTES- December 16, 2013, motion by Mr. Rath, second by Mrs. Floyd that the minutes of December 16, 2013 be approved as presented and the reading be dispensed with in view of the fact each member of Council has received written summary of same. Motion passed by acclamation.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Hall- reappointment of Julie Barrett as an alternate on the Licking County Transit Board. The three year term began January 1, 2014 and will expire December 31st, 2016. - **No Objections, passed by acclamation**

Proposed Newark City Council Committee assignments for 2014-2015:

Finance

Blake – Chair
Marmie – Vice Chair
Bubb
Floyd
Cost

Capital Improvements

Hall– Chair
Rath – Vice Chair
Johnson
Cost
Rolletta

Service

Cost – Chair
Rath – Vice Chair
Blake
Rolletta
Bubb

Safety

Rolletta – Chair
Johnson – Vice Chair
Guthrie
Floyd
Rath

Personnel

Floyd – Chair
Bubb – Vice Chair
Marmie
Guthrie
Rolletta

Recreation

Guthrie - Chair
Rath – Vice Chair
Hall

Street

Johnson – Chair
Hall – Vice Chair
Floyd
Rath
Rolletta
Blake
Marmie

Rules

Marmie – Chair
Floyd – Vice Chair
Guthrie

Economic Development

Rath – Chair
 Cost – Vice Chair
 Blake
 Hall
 Johnson

Ways and Means

Bubb – Chair
 Blake – Vice Chair
 Marmie

Budget Review

Mayor – Chair
 Marmie – Vice Chair
 Auditor
 Service Director
 Bubb
 Floyd
 Blake

Co-Chaplains

Floyd
 Johnson

President Pro-tem

Guthrie

Minority Leader

Marmie

Majority Leader

Floyd

Committee Assignments were approved by acclamation.

REPORTS STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance- **Received & Filed**
 Safety- **Received & Filed**

REPORTS CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Jeff Hall – State of the City message: Tonight I am pleased to report on our great City of Newark. Having now completed two years of service, our administration has continued to work to change local government, focus on resources in a most efficient yet productive manner. We continue to achieve gains by operating in a team work fashion with the emphasis on communication, financial planner and due diligence through research and of course open dialogue. We continue to focus on 5 key areas to make Newark an even better city to live, work and raise our children. These 5 areas are maintaining strong safety forces, strengthening our neighborhoods, promoting efficient and production economic development, supporting our local schools then of course improving government operations.

Maintaining strong safety forces- this is always a challenging area as the costs involved but we do believe it is the strength of our city. This year we were able to use capital improvement dollars to buy new medic units for the Fire Department that are running well and doing good. We were also able to purchase a police cruiser on the detective side. We were happy to implement a Fire Prevention Grant. We used Fire Prevention dollars over a period of the year and installed approximately 150 smoke alarms, replaced 50 batteries on smoke alarms and put in knock boxes. This was open to all the residents in the City of Newark. It focused a little more on low income and the elderly but it was a great program that worked well. We squeezed a few more dollars at the end of the year and were able to put a few more units in.

New drug testing equipment, we have a forensic lab on the west side of town. We test drugs for their authenticity that were confiscated prior to indictment charges. It is one of 17 forensic labs throughout the state that accesses BCI&I in determining and getting proof of evidence to a grand jury. We are very fortunate to be able to test many of those substances locally and have that evidence in line for when the grand jury does meet. The Attorney General’s office of the State of Ohio did come out and change those qualifications a little over a year ago and said we needed to have a chemist on duty. The person had to have a degree in chemistry and have a certain type of machine that tested those substances. We participated in that program and reached out with the Attorney General’s office and created a good relationship, we got a \$60,000.00 machine free of charge, and we got all of the

training of the new chemist free of charge. She drove from here to London Ohio for 6 months 5 days a week for the training. That further enhances the efforts of the grand jury because when you do indictments you don't want your evidence thrown out for non-authenticity.

We had an EMA, emergency management agency, table top exercise this past year. That is what government is about, safety forces in times of crisis. The challenge that we always have is working together as different entities. In these types of exercises we are working across boundaries and jurisdictions. We are working with the Sherriff's department and State Patrol. This is called a table top because there isn't an actual on scene event; the EMA Director from Muskingum County came in and surprised everyone with what the situation was going to be. He turned it over and then asked how do you respond? I got to observe this and was very impressed; they did an outstanding job on that. We have phenomenal fire and police resources, whether it is in the City of Newark or within Licking County.

Our neighborhoods watch groups continue to grow and that is good because we can't be on all streets in all neighborhoods at all hours of the day no matter how many people we could or could not hire. At the end of the day we count on the citizens to give us information, whether it is a crime suspect, potential burglary or pothole. We want that information from those neighborhoods. The neighborhood watch programs are facilitated by the Newark Police Department. A couple of Sergeants will go to the meetings and give them the structure of it and tell them what to do and what not to do. What not to do is just as important as what to do when you are in a neighborhood watch group.

Strengthening our neighborhood, as a town over 200 years old, 20th largest city in Ohio it is always a challenging when we reach out. We built a good relationship with Habitat for Humanity and we were proud to cut that ribbon on the new Habitat house on Arlington Ave in December. Their plan is a wonderful plan for long term housing for people; they really build some ownership into that property as it moves forward.

The Moving Ohio Forward grant or Demo Grant we administered it across the county, more than 71 structures that were dilapidated were torn down, in Newark alone about 41 structures. While those dollars are not necessarily available this year in that magnitude we will still strive and we will still look in areas where we can get additional dollars to tear down properties that are beyond rehabilitation. We are surely not looking to tear down structures of integrity or structures that could be rebuilt.

Flory Park, the park system is extremely important throughout the city with economic development and with standard of living. There was a lot of damage during the windstorm of 2012 to Flory Park. We built a partnership with the YMCA on that piece of property. We cleared the property out completely; we had volunteer groups from Newark High School picking up sticks and rocks which I spoke to them and told them it wasn't just picking up sticks and rocks, it is a great thing, it will look great on resumes and applications to universities. The YMCA has some future plans for that park that they have not released. I think that you may see something coming up this summer. There is a bridge that crosses over to their outdoor pool and it is a great location for that.

Everett Park, we had the Advocate day of caring. We had nearly 48 volunteers there on one Saturday. Pretty much every structure on Everett Park got painted and we got a lot of weeding done. There were so many volunteers that we were able to get the Courthouse grounds done at the same time.

We were able to come back with the new season coming in and finish up Country Club Drive. I think everybody has seen the big beneficial use of widening that road for the amount of traffic OSU-Newark and COTC handles out there.

The project on Beacon Road was a challenging project. It was about a \$325,000.00 project. It had a strong clay base underneath that road so it would not hold on to any asphalt. There wasn't any other way to do it other than tear it down to dirt and start all back over building in curbing to maintain the integrity of the street. A great collaboration and job by the Engineering Department on that. We had a lot of paving across the City this past season; we were able to achieve that through good efficient use of dollars, grant dollars and State Capital Improvement dollars.

Promoting effective economic development, I truly believe as we get our economy here in Newark going a little better that provides us with additional tax dollars that we can push out into those neighborhoods to improve them. Some of our focus is more on our commercial areas as we go through that. The trio of communities, Heath, Newark and Granville is a unique trio of communities I think. We each have some wonderful strengths we work together and I talk to the Mayor and the City Manager of those cities quite often to try to achieve the best. Everybody who lives in Newark doesn't work in Newark; everybody who lives in Heath doesn't work in Heath. 30% of the people employed at Boeing live in Newark so it is to my advantage to work hard and build good relationships out there. Those are government contracts with Boeing that do come up for renewal occasionally; we work hard to renew those contracts. Every year a few people from the Port Authority go down to Washington to sell our area and to sell the attributes of our hard work force up here. We have a big 15 year contract coming up this year with Boeing as with the Federal Government. 41 of us went to Washington for a day and met on Capitol Hill and when they saw 41 of us around the table they were pretty impressed on we work together, Mayors of adjoining cities, County Commissioners and private sector Engineers, it was a potpourri of everyone. Creating new jobs is great but we have to be sure we solidify existing jobs.

West Church Street Bridge, it was a neighborhood job and sits in the middle of a large business district for this area. We reached out and developed relationships with all of those business owners early so they knew ahead what was coming. I will give Engineering credit they got an A+, B contract that got that bridge done in 60 days. A local company got that bid; I was out there the last day and shook hands with the guys that did the work because they were out there working until 5:30, 6:30, 7:00 some nights as weather and light permitted. It is an improved product over the previous bridge.

Licking County Governmental Preservation Society, that is a County entity, I serve as ex officio on that board and that is to look at the protection of the Courthouse and the old jail. As we work to create this area as a destination and improve Newark as a place to visit which in turn gives good business to all of our businesses. These entities like the old jail on South 3rd Street are irreplaceable. We meet monthly there and discuss what is the future of that and how are we going to maintain that structure.

The Heisey convention, about 80 people come in, this year the ice arena on Sharon Valley Road was host of that convention. Bed Tax dollars collected here in Newark gave enough financial commitment for the operators of the ice arena to get bank loans to put air conditioning in which makes it a 12 month facility now. It is a great mini convention center if you want to call it that. I was at the Heisey Convention a couple of days and talked to people who said that they just loved it.

This year we established Newark Developmental Partners, our local community improvement corporation. We got an Executor in place and as everyone knows we have downtown renovation around the corner. Timing is everything. Using dollars to do the CSO or the sewer separation project which is a mandated project doing it at the right time and you minimize the amount of dollar out of pocket to improve downtown looks. Quality of life is what employers are looking for these days. We maintain strong relationships with private and nonprofit companies that provide donations whether it is the Courthouse fountain, around the area they helps us make the City look a better place.

Don Edwards Park this past year had about 300 baseball games a phenomenal facility that has worked well. Many of those people stay at hotels eat at our restaurants and get to enjoy our community.

Support our local schools, what can I say about Newark City Schools System, I reach out to them on a regular basis. They just finished their 9 year 140,000,000.00 dollar renovation project. We have a graduation rate committee that meets every other month during the school season. I have been involved for 5 years and in those 5 years Newark High's graduation rate has gone from 69% to 86%. Newark High saddles the Digital Program for the entire County which has a lower graduation rate which will lower the graduation rate overall. It is important to understand they believe that is an alternative to traditional classroom education.

Director Spurgeon and I reached out and had dialogue with school officials and had a collaboration of sorts with police and fire in the schools in case something would happen like a shooting we have heard about far too many times in the news. We want to build relationships and have dialogue in place, we didn't want to make a big publicity event out but know that there are background relationships with the schools all the time should anything happen.

Newark High School walk path that is along King Road, that was a great project that came about when we were up there doing utility project and a resident came up to one of us and asked what we could do about putting in a walk path for the kids they saw walking up the street every day. This is government at its best I think. It was about \$100,000.00 project, the school put in \$30,000.00, we had some in kind of about \$25,000.00, grant funds of \$25,000.00 and street funds of about \$25,000.00. The school couldn't saddle the entire cost nor could the city but Community Development Director Mauter and his team reached out and created those relationships and came up with those creative ways to fund projects that are needed in the community.

Call to College continues to be a great program at Newark High I am an ex officio on that Board and read to second graders at Johnny Clem this year, Ben Franklin last year. The program reaches out to the 2nd, 4th and 6th and 8th graders, it has programs to keep them on the track to college.

Improving Government Operations, we constantly strive to do that, costs are ever increasing. The license plate permissive tax at one time was \$5.00 it is \$20.00 now. We quadrupled that in 20 years but at the same time the cost of asphalt went up about 3 ½ to 4 times in cost. We haven't gotten any more miles of pavement out of it, those are the challenges that we face but we know what we need to be doing. Safety forces, we need to plowing snow, our Service Department has done a great job in the last 30 days, what a challenging start to this winter and it is only the 1st week of January. Our budget is usually about \$150,000.00 on road salts in a year, we will obviously surpass that a little bit this year. The challenge with us is the more we salt the less money we have to pave and fix potholes sometimes.

For the 3rd straight year this administration has brought a balanced budget to the table, thanks to the Councilmembers involved that passed it and we got the General Fund in place before January 1. That is outstanding and the right way to do government. Folks say it is the Mayor's budget but trust me it takes all 377 employees and Department Heads with everyone to make that budget and put it together. A balanced budget is the right thing; you should not be able to spend more than you bring in.

As always I appreciate everyone's input on this city, I appreciate you coming on Council nights; I appreciate you speaking at the lectern I know for some people that is a challenge for them. We have a wonderful democratic society that you can get up and speak your peace and this is a great place to do it. If we don't know if something is wrong it is hard to fix it. Along with my team and team means this Council here too I look forward to a great 2014.

Mr. Ellington- thank you Mayor for that positive look back on 2013 and 2014, that was great.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jo Brisson- an email to Council regarding alternatives to Breed Specific Legislation- **Received & Filed**

Robert Pfeifer- his written comments from Council meeting on December 16th regarding Newark and Heath merging into one community and calling it Mound City. - **Received & Filed**

Michael Sobul- Treasurer Granville Exempted Village School District- public notice the a special organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Newark/Granville Community Authority will meet Monday January 6th at 5:30 pm at the Granville Village Administration Building on 130 North Granger Street in Granville.- **Received & Filed**

Michael Milewsky- an email to Council expressing his feelings and opinion on the Good Citizen legislation that passed on December 16, 2013.- **Received & Filed**

Ohio Division of Liquor Control- Request for the transfer of a liquor license permit from Marie Renee LLC dba Sharona's to Garlic Rose Eatery LLC at 5 N 3rd St. - **Received & Filed**

Ohio Division of Liquor Control- Request for a transfer of a liquor license permit from 349 W Church St Inc to Mid Ohio Spirits LLC at 349 W Church St.- **Received & Filed**

Paul Moran- a suggestion to Council to have a Good Citizen Award which would be presented to deserving people at Council meetings.- **Received & Filed**

PUBLIC HEARING

By: Rath, Marmie, Stare, Cost

Ordinance 13-37 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 1550 NORTH 21ST STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, FROM THAT OF NEWARK TOWNSHIP TO MB (MEDIUM INTENSITY BUSINESS) DISTRICT.

There were no citizens in attendance that were there to speak either for or against this matter.

Motion by Mr. Rath to adopt Ordinance 13-37, second by Mr. Bubb

Mr. Rath- this has been through two public hearings and the Planning Commission without any opposition so I would encourage everyone to vote in support of this.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 13-37 was passed by a 10-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Director Sassen- I would just like to take a moment to welcome the new members of Council and I look forward to working with them over the next few years.

Mr. Blake- I would like to thank my family, supporters, friends and colleagues who came out tonight for the swearing in ceremony earlier this evening. I do want to thank Judge Stansbury and my pastor for coming and leading us in a prayer. I also want to thank the Mayor and his administration, already since Election Day we have had some different meetings with City Officials, we are getting adjusted and introductions were made so I do want to thank the Mayor. They have also worked on a few constituents concerns so I will thank Director Rhodes and Director Spurgeon for their help on those things. I am looking forward to a good year and I think we are getting off to a good start.

Mr. Bubb- I would also like to welcome all the new members. I would like to thank the Mayor, good State of the City; it was very encouraging, keep up the good work. Just a quick comment on the committees, I wish everybody the best on it. I saw this a lot the last couple of years, I hope it changes, when there is legislation that comes before a committee, you are on the committee for your experience and your interest in the committee, and I hope you vote on the legislation that is in front of you. I have heard too much in the last couple of years that we will just pass it on so all of Council can vote on it. I wish everybody the best of luck in their committees, new comers, veterans but I hope you vote yes or no on the legislation in front of you and not just pass it on to Council.

Mr. Cost- called for a Service Committee meeting for January 13th. I would like to welcome everybody who has been elected or re-elected to Council.

Mrs. Floyd- I too would like to recognize the new members on Council, I am glad to see all the supporters here and so many people welcoming all the members of Council. It strikes me that the next couple of years is going to be pretty exciting, I think that a lot of things are going to happen; with everything that is going to happen downtown, with the 2 Way on Hudson and Mount Vernon I think that we have a lot to look forward to in the next four years while we are on Council.

Mr. Guthrie- I really appreciate the fact that Mr. Bubb brought up the Committee responsibilities. I was sort of amazed that when I came on Council 8 years ago that we had a situation where committee did that. We voted to send items on to full Council just so full Council could vote on it. I think that I made a comment on one piece of legislation that was before the Safety Committee. I really think the committees have the responsibility to craft this legislation and get good legislation before full Council and if it's not good legislation it should probably stop right there. I am glad that it was mentioned and I think that it is a good idea for us all to be thinking about that during the next two years. I wanted to mention that I am really pleased to see the new faces on Council and the returning faces on Council. In particular, Councilman Blake, I am very pleased to see you chairing the Finance Committee. I am as pleased about that as I can be because I think that you bring a great deal of financial background. As President of the Board of Education your general fund is actually \$20 million dollars larger than our general fund here in our city. That several years of experience you had there and your years as President of the Board of Education, I think that we had a conversation about your background and you had indicated that you had even gone and met with Bond Council in New York to discuss bond issues with the school district and I think that you bring a great deal of experience to this Council and to chair that committee and I am really proud that you are going to be doing that and I congratulate you. The only other thing that I wanted to mention, over the holidays I ran into an old friend who is the president of a bank in Mansfield, actually he is a Newark fellow, some of you may know John Brown Senior and John Brown Jr. John Brown Jr is president of Richland, it is part of Park National. John was telling me that in Richland

County that they are under taking an effort to establish a County Land Bank and I sort of picked his brain on that. He indicated to me Mayor, that one of the things they accomplished with that is that they can leverage more funds for demolition. I had a conversation with Stuart and Mark Mauter via email and I know that there have been some meetings with the County on that possibility and I really think that we should push that concept because I know the City of Mansfield has hundreds of homes that have the potential of being demoed yet. We are now if I understand correctly with the AG grant we are in a position where we have to come up with a big match. If establishing this County land bank which the city would participate in can help us leverage more money to do more demos with less local dollars and I think that it is something that we should pursue.

Ms. Hall- I wanted to thank everybody for your support and for coming out on a cold night. I am looking forward to this coming year and working with Council. I would like to call for a Capital Improvement meeting.

Mr. Johnson- I guess I can welcome the new people and I am one of them. I appreciate the Mayor's comments and I look forward to working with everyone.

Mr. Marmie- welcome to all the new Council members and I look forward to working with everyone on the Council and also with the administration. I appreciate the Mayor's comments, in particular keeping safety forces one of the number one priorities; I really feel that was very evident in his comments. Neighborhood strengthening, I want to thank the Mayor and the administration, Beacon Road has always been a sweet spot of mine considering that is where my parents brought me home to when I was first born. It is great to drive down that street and see the great improvements to my old stomping grounds. As far as economic development I also appreciate what this administration has done. I believe in smart economic development to help support tax revenue and the creating of jobs as long as it is smart economic development and it follows the history of Newark and it follows the Destiny 2020 plan and it is effective and is revenue generating to economic development to either support businesses or to increase the tax revenue. I appreciate what the administration has done with their efforts on that.

Mr. Rath- I would like to along with everybody else welcome the new members of Council, I feel like I am the new guy in the neighborhood. Mayor Hall, great State of the City address, you certainly have accomplished a great deal in the past year. I am excited about that and I am more excited about what is coming in the future. I know a lot of the plans that are in place and I see great things happening in Newark. Compliments to Director Rhodes and Buster and the whole Service Department for their handling of the snow this past week. One thing that I did want to mention and you guys know I have been rallying for this for 4 years now since I have been on Council and everybody laughed at me when I called a safety committee meeting in July to talk about snow during my first year on Council. I drove during the heavy snowfall last week, I drove from my house to here which is all the way down West Main and it was amazing when I started getting downtown but it was like driving from Newark to Heath. The roads down here were perfectly clear, they were wet but they were clear but up by my house on West Main they weren't bad but they were still snow covered. I called Director Rhodes about that and it was plain and simple the reason for that. He treated the roads downtown area with brine. He pre-treated the roads and plowed them. It wasn't like throwing salt down on the roads and coming back 45 minutes later and plowing the snow and the salt off the roads. The brine made a huge difference, I have been rallying for that for 4 years and I am glad to see that it is finally being implemented. Dave has worked very hard this year and I have seen the brine trucks out quite a bit and I think Director Rhodes is coming to us next week to put together some money for another brine truck in a Capital Improvements meeting and I hope we all support that because it is an incredible asset to our snow removal program. Like Mayor Hall said, the more we salt the less dollars we have to pave. The more we use brine the less we have to salt, the more dollars we will have to pave. It is just that simple; I hope that we can get that done.

Mr. Rolletta- I would like to thank my loved ones and everyone for being here tonight. I look forward to working with the other Council members and the administration. I would like to call a Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Ellington- I would like to also add my welcome to our new members tonight, also I would like to thank all of you for attending. It is your Newark City Council; we always welcome you so I would like to thank you for coming. The next Committee meeting will be Monday January 13th at 5:30 p.m. here in Council Chambers and the next Council meeting will be Tuesday January 21st at 7:00 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King Jr holiday on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to discuss there was a motion by Mr. Rath to adjourn, second by Mr. Cost. Adjournment at 7:47 p.m.