

## COUNCIL MINUTES

**December 1, 2014**

Council Chambers

7:00 P.M.

**7:00 P.M.**- President Ellington called the Monday December 1, 2014 Newark City Council meeting to order.

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

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Johnson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**- President Ellington

**CAUCUS** – Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Johnson. **Motion carried by acclamation**

**MINUTES**- November 17, 2014 Motion by Mr. Cost, second by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes as presented and the reading be dispensed with in view of the fact each member of Council has received written summary of same. **Motion carried by acclamation**

### REPORTS STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance- **Received and Filed**

Service- **Received and Filed**

### REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

**Barb Jobes, City Tax Administrator** - Income Tax Collection Reports ending November 15, 2014- **Received and Filed**

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Paul Moran**- comments made at the November 17, 2014 Council meeting regarding more businesses downtown and the condition of the area around Mound City Ball Park. - **Received and Filed**

**Rhonda Loomis**- her comments made at the November 17, 2014 Council Meeting and a document she entered for public record regarding a grievance filed by Ms. Shumaker in 1999. - **Received and Filed**

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control**- notice to the legislative body on the procedure in which to file an objection to a liquor permit in the event that may be necessary. - **Received and Filed**

**Roger Loomis, Utility Superintendent**- lien document totaling \$27,681.83 for unpaid water, storm water and sewer bills. - **Received and Filed**

**Ohio EPA**- public notice of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit to discharge pollutants to State Waters- **Received and Filed**

### COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

**Nancy Channel**- 1225 B Pine View Trail, I feel that I am speaking for the majority of people in Licking County because I do read the local paper, listen to the news and talk to a lot of people. Most of this information has come from our local Newark Advocate. Most people's concerns are how are we going to pay our bills and make ends meet with the cost of living, taxes, health care, utilities, food and all of our expenses going up while our wages and income are stagnate. A research survey this year found that 50% of Americans believe their income is trailing the cost of living. We have more people than ever on food stamps, disabilities and social programs that are not paying a lot of the taxes so it puts the burden on the ones who are paying. Now let's talk about the taxes that we pay. I would say that everything that we purchase has lots of taxes on them. We have our local taxes, schools, cities, state, federal, property and many more. Businesses are getting more taxes put on them with the health care regulations. Every layer of government wants to get into the citizens wallets. We have a national debt of 15 trillion dollars and over 100 trillion of unfunded liabilities of pensions, Medicare, mandates and much more. Figure it all up we pay more than 50% of our income in taxes. Let's think about the projects that our lawmakers have going on in our local community. I know some of them are a mandate and some of them are the desires of our lawmakers. Bottom line they are going to require more taxes from the Licking County resident. We have the exchange on Cherry Valley Rd that has been talked about for a long time. We have the sewer project going on around the square with the new roundabouts and the two

way traffic projected to cost anywhere around 18 million to I think there were bids up to 23 million and that are water and sewer bills will have to pay for some of the costs so I am sure this will be an increase in our water bills. I have read several letters to the Editor and talked to a lot of people that do not want the roundabouts and the two way traffic. We have the continual work for our roads and bridges that are deteriorating. The County Engineer said he will need 10.9 million for the repair of roads and bridges for the next year. I would like to know where all the money for roads and bridges has gone that we have designated and voted on through the years. Where did it go, why do we not have it here? Why are roads and bridges not being kept up to par? I know some of that money has gone to bike path repairs not roads and bridges although the bike path has roads and bridges. Then oh yes we are in the process of putting in a new bike path in Licking County. On the first two phases of the new bike path they said they needed \$511,560.00 and \$750,000.00. Bike paths are very expensive to maintain because they have roads and bridges and expenses just like our roads and bridges. I believe that by building up to three more bike paths you are creating an unfunded liability for the citizens of Licking County. A few years ago when there was a levy on the ballot to maintain the bike paths it was voted down like 10 or 11 times then it was passed the people who were working on the bike paths went out and got people to vote on it. I think the people of Licking County said we can't afford the bike path. In light of the roads and bridges levy being voted down recently, what do you think they would say if they knew you were planning on putting in more bike paths to increase our taxes. I know you are going to say that a lot of the funding is grant money well grant money is still our money it does not fall out of the sky, we have to repay it or our grandkids will be repaying it and where will they get that money with incomes dropping? Recently the County Commissioners voted a new conveyance tax of 1% on us so that when we sell our houses or property we have to pay \$100.00 for every hundred thousand dollars. This will bring that tax up to 3% because they already had 2%. There was also a \$5.00 increase on our license fees and I believe that brings that up to \$20.00. The scariest part of this is that there is no end in sight because no elected politician or any unelected bureaucrat seems to care that the world in which the taxpayers live they are being asked to make impossible decisions on whether to pay their mortgage, feed their children or sell their homes because they can't afford the taxes. Every time you put a new tax on the taxpayer you are taking money out of our pockets that needs to be used to feed our families, pay utilities, living expenses and anything else we want to purchase. I am sure that our founding fathers did not intend for our money to be spent like you want to spend it. You ask taxpayers to take a cut every time you put a new tax on us. It is time for our local government to cut their budget and projects that are not necessary such as the bike path. As in a recent article pertaining to a Council meeting Councilman Marmie said "when we are asking our taxpayers to pay more we should make sure we are very frugal with our money. I also saw a quote where Councilman Marc Guthrie said a similar statement to that. Please listen to your fellow Councilmembers.

**Anna Roehl**-1293 Granville Rd, she stated that during her retirement she has become concerned about our Country and the decisions elected officials are making so she started attending various local city, county and state government meetings and Tea Party meetings. The Tea Party stands for taxed enough already. American citizens, Republicans and Democrats who are fed up with both parties as most Americans are, they are trying to preserve and protect our Constitution, liberty, freedom, property rights, religious rights, everything this great nation was founded on for everyone yet the government and news media are referring to them as sources of the problem with our country and going as far as to say they are terrorists just for posting their opinion or having concern. When did good become bad and bad become good? Everything that was good years ago in our nation is being attacked. Family values, prayers in public schools, churches, freedom of speech, pro-life, integrity ethical values. Now children are having children by multiple fathers. It is not politically correct to use God's name. It is ok to have an abortion but saving the life of an animal is extremely important. I love animals and have rescued animals in the past so I have nothing against animals. When pregnancy can be prevented multiple ways nowadays why are thousands of babies being killed? Obviously there are no morals just do as you wish and taxpayers will pay the consequences. Also careful what you say because it is not politically correct to say God Bless or Merry Christmas. We don't want to offend anyone. What happened to the non-believers just walking away or not responding to something that they don't like. Non-believers are not required to attend church or celebrate Christmas. What if the tables were turned and believers started protesting and forcing non-believers to go to church? To tell you the truth this group of people trying to tell me and everyone else how to live is offending me. Have you noticed that police officers can't do their jobs? If they obey the law and take action against a criminal

their livelihood and reputation is in jeopardy. Recent example Ferguson Missouri. Where were Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson when two black men 14 and 17 years old shot and killed an 18 month old baby because the mother didn't have a purse on her or any money on her? This happened in Atlanta about a year ago. Why is this Country so divided? Blacks, whites, Republicans, Democrats, what is really driving this trend and what is the true agenda behind the scenes? I guarantee you that there is a purpose to all of this hatred and violence going on in our nation. We are born as Americans first not Democrats, not Republicans, Tea Party or Libertarians however the two party system works because they help balance the interest of all people. If the people aren't pleased with our elected officials than the elections allow us to voice our opinions but today America is under attack and is slowly changing by the present movement in Washington. We now have more corruption, voter fraud, officials saying one thing but doing another. This should be alarming to all of us whether you are an elected official or a citizen. Stop and think little by little how slowly things are changing and what has been happening in the last 20 years and more since 2009. No Federal budget, open borders and illegal immigrants having access to benefits they never worked for while our own citizens are becoming homeless. Let us not forget about jobs going overseas, unemployment, forced health care, decline in our education systems, IRS scandalizes, the attack on military and our families and Obama releasing terrorists and now amnesty for the millions of illegal aliens. How about the lawlessness of this President while our Congress does nothing? Isn't this alarming to you? I have attended meetings over the last four years and believe that our local officials are good people and working hard to do the right thing in both parties however I have some concerns as to how decisions are made and what I have witnessed. Some of us attended a Commissioners meeting over a year ago and we stated that we had concerns about Newark accepting federal grants but was assured by the Commissioners that Newark does not deal in grants. Several months later we attended the LCATS open house, I spoke to Jerry Newton and someone from the TJ Evans Foundation and asked how much of the bike trails was being funded by the federal grants. They looked at me and made it clear that there were no federal grants involved it was private donations and the foundation. Other citizens who attended also had concerns about what they had learned or did not learn. We decided to research our concerns and present our finding to the next LCATS meeting. I will report what I discovered and reported on. After reading and reviewing 17 articles about the Newark, Granville, Heath and Pataskala bike paths it revealed the total estimated costs was over \$6,400,000.00, grants received were over \$4,400,000.00 and costs to the cities was 1.4 million, TJ Evans Foundation \$160,000.00. I asked LCATS why I was told no grants were used when it is simply not true. I got no response. I also asked why TJ Evans gets all the credit when taxpayers' dollars are being used for these bike trails. Along with grants come stipulations and conditions and it allows the Federal Government to have more control over communities. One good example is Common Core. Do you have any idea how Common Core was embedded into our local schools and what the real goal of Common Core is? If you don't you should. The real truth about the Obama health care law is starting to surface and so will the Common Core in a few years. Do you trust the Federal Government with our children's future or are you the best one to decide what to teach them. Remember Hilary Clinton it takes a village to raise a child? Do you agree or do our children belong to the government or do you feel that the parents are responsible to raise their children and become responsible adults. When Obama says "transforming America" do you really understand the meaning? When Obama says America needs to share the wealth do you think of the extreme elite who will be taxed higher or is it the middle class is the wealthy. At a convention I attended this fall a report showed that most Democrats and Republicans have the same concern about what is transforming in America and all believe in the Constitution and the American dream. Again let me say I truly believe we have local elected officials who want to do good but if our local politicians are too busy to research and understand how their decision today will affect our future, allow time to meet with concerned citizens and listen with an open heart then to whom do we turn? We need to start with our own community if we ever have a chance to save our country. I implore you to take your Republican, Democrat hat off, we are all Americans first and we need to come and work together for the future of our generation.

## **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

**By: Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Cost**

**14-38** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE, AND POSITION AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE, DIVISION OF STREET MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC CONTROL BY COMBINING THE TWO (2) DEPARTMENTS AND CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL CREW LEADER SENIOR, ONE (1) SIGN FABRICATOR/IMPOUND CLERK, ONE (1) ASSISTANT STREET/TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT, AND ABOLISH ONE (1) CLERK TYPIST/SIGN FABRICATOR, ONE (1) TRAFFIC CONTROL OPERATIONS MANAGER, AND ONE (1) STREET MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS MANAGER.

**President Ellington-** I did want to mention before we discuss this that Mrs. Floyd and I as the Personnel Committee asked attended a meeting with the Union and the administration the other day.

**Motion by Mrs. Floyd to adopt Ordinance 14-38, second by Mr. Johnson**

**Mrs. Floyd-** I know there are still some concerns but I do think it will make those two departments as combined more efficient organization for the City of Newark and I think it is important .

**Mr. Guthrie-** I considered offering an amendment on this but I am not going to do so. First let me thank Mr. Buskirk. I talked with him for a minute here before this meeting. I wanted to make sure the administration is comfortable with the pay range for the Street Sign Fabricator position that is taking on the new duties of the impound lot. It sounds like they are comfortable with the pay range as it is. I am going to vote for this. I think going back to when I was first elected Council President I raised the issue of merging Streets and Traffic and it was not very popular at the time but I have always felt that it made sense. I do think that it will produce some efficiencies. I am pleased that this legislation is going to result in eliminating a pretty well paid management position and it is also going to give a worker a chance to step up into a Senior Crew Leader position. I still believe that there are legitimate concerns about the job descriptions. It is not really an issue that Council can resolve. I fear that it could be a costly experience for the City because I think that it could result in grievances and be in arbitration over these issues but I think that the process needs to play itself out. The only other thing that I did want to say is because I did mention that I almost offered an amendment and to be frank with you I almost offered an amendment to raise that position to a 32. The reason that I am not going to do it is because I think the administration has to be comfortable with it and I don't sense that would be the case. The one thing that has bothered me all day, I have worried about this all day long about whether or not because pretty much everybody in this room knows that the likely person that is going to go into this position is the current Sign Fabricator who happens to be the Union President. I hope that this is not a situation where the Union President, I am a little ahead of myself, I have said for years the lousiest job on the face of the earth to me would be being the Union President because everybody in the management team cannot care a whole lot for a Union President because it is just natural that it be adversarial because they have to represent the interest of their entire union. So I hope that we are doing the right thing by categorizing this as a 30 and we may well be but I just hope that we are being fair in this situation to this individual but I will be voting in the affirmative.

**Mr. Rath entered the meeting at 7:28**

**Mr. Cost-** am I mistaken I thought that the pay range was a 31

**Mr. Ellington-** it is

**Mr. Guthrie-** I'm sorry, I apologize

**Mr. Cost-** ok I just wanted to make sure that was clarified

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

## **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

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

**14-39** CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 2023 CHERRY VALLEY ROAD, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, FROM THAT OF MFC (MULTI-FAMILY CONDO) ZONING DISTRICT, TO MFR (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE) ZONING DISTRICT. **Referred to the Planning Commission**

## RESOLUTIONS ON THE SECOND READING

**By: Mr. Blake, Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Marmie**

**14-90** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING AND DISAPPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ( **100 General Fund: \$1,180.10- Reimbursements to DOD from Summer youth Program; Disappropriation 100 General Fund: \$ 8,505.40- Summer youth program completed; Disappropriation 293 AG Demo Grant Fund: \$21,347.39 Final allocation from Licking County for Phase III less than last estimate approved by Council; Disappropriation 232 Transit Fund: \$90,997.11- Closing of Transit; Disappropriation 296 Police Grant Fund: \$120,000.00- closing out Safe Routes to School Program; Disappropriation 260 Revolving Loan Fund: \$25,000.00- CDBG RLF Contingency; Disappropriation 234 Brownfield Clean Up: \$300,000.00- Professional Services and Services General; Disappropriation 265 Housing Development Action Grant Fund: \$106,662.24- Closing of HoDag; Disappropriation 262 Home Revolving Fund: \$114,700.00- Contingency Salaries, Services General, Contingency; 360 LPA Fund: \$234,671.00-Consulting Services paid by ODOT instead of the city)**

**Motion by Mr. Blake to adopt Resolution 14-90, second by Mrs. Floyd**

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

**By: Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Blake**

**14-91** A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND RATIFYING AN UPDATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Motion to adopt Resolution 14-91 by Mr. Cost, second by Mr. Bubb**

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

## RESOLUTIONS ON THE FIRST READING

**Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Blake**

**14-92** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
(**661: Sewer Dept Fund-Vehicles: \$203,106.00**)

**Held for a Second Reading**

**Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Mrs. Floyd, Mr. Blake**

**14-93** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION-EXPEDITE  
(**153: Comp Abs-Payout Sandy Trowbridge: \$9,430.00**)

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

**Mr. Blake-** this needs to be expedited because it is a payout to an employee

**Motion to waive the two day reading rule passed by a vote of 10-0.**

**Motion by Mr. Blake to adopt Resolution 14-93, second by Mrs. Floyd**

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

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

**14-94** 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 2015.

**Held for a Second Reading**

## COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

**Tim Waldren-** 167 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St, I could tell you this about the bike trails that would shock you, I used to work for the County for 6 years, I used to work on them. I maintained them, I took care of them, I designed them and I know how they fund them. You would be shocked to know where the money comes from to fund the bike trails it is not the people you think that it is that pays for it. I used to like the bike trails when I was working on them but then I found out how much money was coming out of my own pocket when some organization was stating that they fund it. The bike trail along 16 and the bridge over 16 was paid for with left over highway gasoline tax money, 4 million dollars. I know this because I was at the meeting but there is a plaque on the bridge saying someone else funded that bridge. The same thing for museums in the city. He stated that only 96,000 people have went there in the last five years and that most of them has been captive audience which means students who had to go because the teacher wanted to go. Most people are mad about the round a bouts. I went to most of the meetings, all but two because I was in the hospital for one and sick for the other. You guys didn't listen when I said that nobody wanted them. That is why that levy didn't pass. If you had listened to the people you might have gotten that levy passed. Don't spend money on bike trails and round a bouts and don't give rich Gilbert people tax breaks for buildings that nobody wants.

**Anna Roehl-** 1293 Granville Rd, we all should be concerned with what is really and truly going on. Let's talk about these bike trails. There was something recently within the last couple three weeks on one of the news media shows about the roads and bridges. It's not just in Licking County and we know that and it's not just in Ohio, this is nationwide. So why are our roads and bridges all over the country deteriorating but yet the Federal Government encourages us to spend all of this money and gives us grants to build bike paths? I have an idea why because I have done some research that I am not going to talk about right now. These are things that our elected officials need to realize. I know you all are busy and doing the best you can but it is your responsibility to really understand what is going on. The bike trails don't bring people into your community. Your schools, your roads, your bridges, less crime that brings people into your community. I as a citizen the more digging in I do and the more I learn the more scared I get not just for this country but our community. Put your American hats on and forget about your Republican, Democrat, white and black and come together and work for this country because if we can't as citizens come to our elected officials then how do we expect to use that up motion and get to the state and federal government. If you don't understand what is actually happening and why all this money you are getting is grants and is going to bike paths rather than roads and bridges you are going to be shocked 10-15 years from now.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Director Spurgeon-** on behalf of Mayor Hall and the grateful city I just want to publicly thank our safety forces. November 5<sup>th</sup> was a difficult day. Mayor was having a team meeting and we heard the words that nobody wants to hear that an officer had been shot. The good news is that both of the officers are back on duty. As soon as the scene was secured Mayor and I went down. We couldn't be more proud. We were proud also of our friends at Fire and how they responded and helped provide safety in that community. I just wanted to take an opportunity to thank them publicly.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Mayor Hall-** I want to extend condolences to the family of Dave Calhoun. Dave was a past Community Development Director with the City of Newark under Bruce Bain and he just recently passed.

**Mr. Cost-** called for a Service Committee meeting.

**Mrs. Floyd-** took the opportunity to tell everyone of events that are upcoming around the city. On Thursday night there is something downtown called Sights and Sounds. It is a tour of 7 downtown churches. You start at the Second Presbyterian Church and go through all the church and end up at St. Francis. On Friday there is the cookie walk downtown. Tickets are \$15.00 and there are 22 businesses participating where you pick up cookies. Friday night the Polar Express is also at the Midland which is one of my favorite things to see. Kids come in wearing their pajamas, they get a little bell and the conductor clicks their ticket. She also commented on the beautiful presentation of The Nutcracker that happened at the Midland Theatre and that it is a local presentation that has been done for the last 10 years. Next Sunday is the Newark Granville symphony Orchestra at the Midland. They play the first half of the concert then the Newark High School Choir and Granville High School

Choir come in and stand behind the Orchestra and do some Christmas songs. It is absolutely gorgeous. December 13<sup>th</sup> State Farm has a family day downtown. State Farm employees and their families come downtown and go to different venues. The Midland plays Happy Feet, there are places for them to eat, things for the kids to do and the stores have special deals. I just want you to be aware that there is a lot going on downtown. There is a lot of talk that there isn't but there is a lot going on downtown over the next couple of weeks.

**Mr. Guthrie-** I am glad that the Mayor mentioned Dave Calhoun. I think that Dave also did a stint as Service Director. I went to school with Dave in Heath and he was a fine fellow. I was really shocked when I saw his obituary. I want to mention a man I met at McDonalds named Mark Mathews. He was a WWII veteran that lives right here in our community. He is a quality fellow and is one of those seniors that you could just listen to all day and I just wanted to mention that I had the opportunity to cross paths with that great veteran. I also wanted to chime in on what Carol said about downtown. Last night I sat around the square listening to the chimes and walked around. It was really neat to see the families that were down there just walking around the square. It is so beautiful and I hope that everybody gets a chance to do that with their families. I want to mention an issue that I brought up a few weeks ago regarding the worker's comp refund. It is my understanding that the General Fund refund was a little over \$200,000.00. I suggested at the time when I brought it up that we should try to figure out a way to add at least one police officer and one firefighter. I still feel that way. I hope that next week when the Finance Committee looks at the budget some consideration to using that. At the time there was some concern expressed about that being a one-time refund but there was an article in the paper on October 29<sup>th</sup> indicating that reduction will continue so we will have another \$200,000.00 plus next year. I would like to see those funds earmarked to add at least one more police officer and one more firefighter. Sometimes when I think about the fact that in 2001 when we passed the Safety Levy with a .50% income tax, it was sold on more man power, both police and fire. We are at or below in both divisions where we were in 2001 and that is with Council approving the EMS billing which has brought another million or million and a half dollars into this city and yet being completely flat on personnel. I am very hopeful that the Finance Committee and the administration will look closely at that because I think that we need to start getting our numbers up and make the safety of our citizens the number one priority.

**Mr. Johnson-** the courthouse lighting is absolutely gorgeous and it was a wonderful evening when they did the lighting.

**Mr. Marmie-** I too can agree with a number of things that were discussed this evening. Some of the items discussed my role here as a Councilmember is not weighted to the decision making of, however those that are impacted by our decisions here; the comment about why we offer grants for certain things but not for paving. In our city we do have something called CDBG funds which we could and do utilize some funds which are grants funds towards paving however there are some of those funds that we do not use towards paving and I too would agree that if one of the priorities in the city were paving that should also be somewhere that we look for additional dollars to put towards that use. I wouldn't say that I fear for things but would I say that we could make improvements, and we need to make strides towards that. There are things that are broken within our government that need to be fixed. I still believe in the two party governments or the multi-party system and believe that it is the right thing to do. Sometimes I think things go a rye and hopefully it will come back and be corrected. It takes individuals that can do things that can make those changes and differences. I think that is what this Council is doing whether it is the small dollars, the grant funds that we can utilize somewhere else or the decisions that we make towards the budget as far as what financial increases we can make whether it be staffing. We look at what we budget and what we determine is appropriate as far as a percentage of the budget towards certain things such as payroll and we need to work within that payroll to make sure the staffing is appropriate to the payroll. We would all like to see additional police officers and firefighters, additional people working on our streets, and additional people making sure the grass is cut but unfortunately our funds don't allow us to have that kind of staffing hopefully we will be able to make those changes or efficiencies to overcome that.

**Mr. Rath-** I apology for my tardiness. I want to remind everyone that today is the opening of deer gun season. I wish everybody good luck and be careful and that was not my reason for being late. Until Saturday night I am going to refrain from saying Go Bucks!

**Mr. Blake-** I want to remind folks that on December 11<sup>th</sup> the south end will be receiving a special visitor from the North Pole. We are having our annual Christmas party with the South End Civic Association at Ben Franklin School at 6:00 P.M. Last year we had about 150 people at the Buckingham House and we needed a larger space to accommodate people coming through

the door. Seraphina's Tea and Coffee Works will be providing a cookie station and Park National Bank is working with us for volunteers for h'orderves and things of that nature. It is not just the south end community it is open to everybody. We see it as a thank you party for different collaborations and partnerships we have made throughout the year. This Friday I am looking forward to going to a Development Conference at The Ohio State University. I am looking forward to learning about economic development and development issues and how partnerships and collaborations work there. We will have a Finance Committee meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. and if needed we will also have a meeting on Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 following the Planning Commission meeting in anticipation of the Mayor's budget.

**President Ellington**- our next committee meeting will be Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30, our next Council meeting will be on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. and since this is a 5 Monday month there will not be a meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Therefore our last meeting of 2014 will be a committee meeting on December 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT- Motion by Mr. Cost, second by Mr. Rath to adjourn 7:59 P.M.**