

Capital Improvements Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
December 17, 2015

The Capital Improvement Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday December 14, 2015 following the Rules Committee with these members present:

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| Dee Hall, Chair | Bill Cost Jr. |
| Jeff Rath | Alex Rolletta |
| Curtis Johnson | |

We wish to Report:

1. **Ordinance No. 15-36** temporarily amending section 890.13 of the codified ordinances of the City of Newark providing for the allocation of income tax revenues was considered.

Director Rhodes- for calendar year 2016 we are asking to amend the Capital Improvement split from 85/15 to 90/10 additional dollars will roll into the General Fund of the city and make a balanced budget.

Ms. Hall- last year was 85/15?

Director Rhodes- no last year was 90/10 we are asking to keep it that way for one more year.

Motion by Mr. Rath to send Ordinance 15-36 to full Council, second by Mr. Johnson

Mr. Marmie- this is the portion of the budget that I am not in support of. The reason why last year's Capital Improvements we had an estimated \$560,000.00 of capital improvement dollars, we all know that it was a tough year whether it be paving or whatever with capital improvements. What is budgeted for this year is \$111,000.00. That's not the only funding mechanism that is the funding mechanism this portion of capital improvements. We also have the EMS money that is going into capital improvements. It is a \$450,000.00 difference from last year to this year. Not all of that is because of this split, only a portion of that is. The bigger portion of it is that last year we had two premium holidays that had over \$350,000.00 that went into capital improvements. So not only are we not getting two premium holidays to go to capital improvements we are going to keep it 90/10. Last year we were told we were doing 90/10 because of the two premium holidays and being able to replenish our capital improvements. I have a concern as far as infrastructure and that priority that we have set for our city government because there is only \$111,000.00 going in there. I will not be in support of this legislation switching that because we are in great jeopardy of even going further back and regressing as far as our street paving goes. We all know that is something that is important to our voters and to the citizens. They want their roads taken care of and we need to make sure we are making the right decisions to support that because infrastructure comes right after safety forces as far as priority in my opinion. It may not be everybody's opinion but that is my opinion.

The fundamental reason we have local government is for the safety of our citizens and infrastructure. I want to support that in everything that I do whether it is in a budget or any other decisions with legislation.

Mr. Rath- I couldn't agree with you more as far as priorities go. Where else do we cut if not capital improvements?

Mr. Marmie- I can tell you being told about this a little over a week ago until now I don't have any ideas with given a week to think about it. As the administration said they had been thinking about all of these things since August. I heard rumors of others things that were being discussed but I wasn't privy to those conversations. I didn't sit down and help develop and construct this budget it was just presented to me. I would welcome the opportunity to look for that. There are some areas in the budget that you can nickel and dime and change somethings. Will it change \$450,000.00 probably not but could it come closer, yes it could. The administration made it clear that there isn't going to be layoffs, that's not their wish to do that and there are some pros to that because decisions for that should have been made well before right now if that was the direction that we needed to go. We can't do anything about the past we just need to play our next play to the best of our ability. So saying that I don't know that we can correct that now given that we are in the eleventh hour however we better correct it for 2017. We need to start that probably February, March in order to make sure we can make those decisions in June, July, and August. We have to be constantly looking. I will commend the administration they are always looking for ways to save money. I will give them that and they have come up with a number of them. We have been a part of that since they have been in office. They definitely look at that whether it be public or private endeavors or whether it be working with the County trying to merge on that. I'll be honest when we do that the reason the Governor says he cuts local government funds is that he believes that is what should happen, counties and cities should merge their services to come up with efficiencies and that was his justification for taking some of that money away. We have done that somewhat. Have we done it completely, no. We are too large for that to happen. I don't have an answer for you in the eleventh hour.

Mr. Rath- I would agree with you and say that \$111,000.00 for capital improvements is woefully inadequate and it's certainly not going to pave a lot of roads but I don't know what else to do either.

Mr. Guthrie- I know that in the meeting I sat in with the Mayor it was clear to me that they had turned every stone. I am grateful they are sun setting the modification for the bonding money on the EMS formula at the end of next year. I think that is a good thing and I am grateful for them doing that. They are sun setting this proposal for next year. Sometimes we can talk about layoffs but in actuality any time we talk about layoffs especially as thin as our city government is right now especially in the situation we are in now we are talking about cutting services. We know that our Police and Fire Departments are razor thin; we know that the Service Department is as thin as it could be and we know people are working hard to try to get the job done. We also worry about ever having a crisis and not having adequate personnel. So it's not just as simple as considering layoffs. It is cutting services beyond where we are now which I think we are beyond the bone, beyond the meat we are in the bone. I don't know how we could cut our services to our citizens any further than we already have.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Dee Hall, Chair