

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
September 12, 2017

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday September 11, 2017 following the Finance Committee with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath
Bill Cost Jr
Mark Fraizer
Carol Floyd
Ryan Bubb

We wish to report:

1. **Resolution No. 17-63** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to accept bids and sell certain surplus personal property now owned by the City of Newark, Ohio, and declaring that such property is no longer needed for any municipal purpose, and declaring an emergency was considered.

Director Rhodes- we would like to have an auction at the Service Complex in October 28th. The reason for the emergency is we need to meet deadlines for advertisement and public notices. We have about 81 vehicles, bicycles, office furniture and various items from departments.

**Motion by Mr. Cost to send to full Council, second by Mr. Fraizer
Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**

2. **Resolution No. 17-64** authorizing the director of public service to prepare and submit applications to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvements Program and to execute contracts as required was considered.

Brian Morehead- about this time every year we do a grant or loan request, this year it will be a grant request for two projects. We have been cooperating with the City of Heath and the Port Authority and the Licking County Engineer. The first project that we want to participate in is the improvement of the railroad crossing on Thornwood Drive. This would smooth out the grade to it; replace the crossing and put lights and gates there. The total project cost is between \$900,000.00 and a million dollars. Our participation would be a grant request of \$250,000.00. The City of Heath is asking for

\$250,000.00, the County Engineer is asking for \$150,000.00 and the remainder is anticipated to be funded by the Ohio Rail Development Commission and the Jobs Ohio Program.

Mr. Rath- so this would be no out of pocket expense it would be grant funded?

Brian Morehead- exactly. The second project that we will apply for will be a street resurfacing project. We have historically received between \$450,000.00 to \$550,000.00 a year from this program so to make up the difference we will look at a street resurfacing project in the \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00 range. That is only going to get us 4 or 5 of the major streets on the list but it is \$200,000.00 to 250,000.00 we didn't have.

Mr. Rath- I am a little confused, we are going to ask for \$250,000.00 grant for the railroad crossing and that is going to take away \$250,000.00 from our streets?

Brian Morehead- yes

Mr. Rath- why would we do that?

Brian Morehead- the railroad crossing is something that needs to be done for the improvement of Thornwood Drive and we have an opportunity now with the Ohio Rail Development Commission putting money in for the railroad crossing and Jobs Ohio putting in money with the Port Authority, Heath and Licking County also cooperating at this time. The idea is while everybody is interested in doing that project right now so let's cooperate. It's all about timing; we are going to have to improve Thornwood Drive on down the south whenever we can. The new Thornwood Crossing Bridge will be a big thing but once the bridge has been constructed then we are going to have to take pieces on down Thornwood to get through the rest of Newark.

Mr. Rath- so when they do the railroad crossing project, the crossing will be satisfactory to plug into all the other pieces?

Brian Morehead- correct it will be widened out, the grades will be designed for a wider roadway down through there for higher speeds and there will be lights and gates at the crossing also.

Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send to full Council, second by Mr. Fraizer

Mr. Fraizer- the railroad crossing is technically in Heath correct?

Brian Morehead- it is actually split, the project area of the northwest corner is in the City of Newark, the northeast corner is in Heath, the southeast corner is in Heath and I believe the southwest corner is in Union Township.

Mr. Fraizer- so that is why the County is involved too?

Brian Morehead- yes

Mr. Fraizer- are they committed for future projects to finish Thornwood holistically?

Brian Morehead- the City of Newark won't be participating on further south because that will be the County and Heath to deal with however we have a pretty big chunk to go from the railroad crossing north which will be 100% our cost.

Mr. Fraizer- so this is at the border?

Brian Morehead- yes this is where everybody comes together

Mr. Marmie- more just a comment to his questions. It would definitely be to their best interest and they would get more out of it after we get to that certain point and they have been part of the discussions all along so they are well aware of what our intent is and what their possibilities are. They are going to benefit from it because where it is going to connect towards the industrial park where they get a lot of revenue.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. **Ordinance No. 17-39** authorizing and directing the Newark City Safety Director to certify to the Licking County Auditor the sum of \$165, 262.06 incurred by the Newark City Property Maintenance Department with respect to property maintenance violations to be placed as a lien upon certain parcels of real property situated in the City of Newark, Ohio was considered.

Director Baum- if you don't pay your property maintenance fines we will eventually take it to the County Auditor who will apply it to your taxes.

Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send to full Council, second by Mr. Bubb

Mr. Fraizer- as far as the dollar amounts they seem to be lower than other years because we have had some astronomical ones does that mean things are getting better and people are reacting to property maintenance in a positive way that we don't have to have reoccurring fees or what is the trend?

Director Baum- to some degree but last year because of the additional quarter I believe you ended up with more fines because you were actually getting more time in the fines last year. Joe Paul anticipated that question and let me know why. However they are collecting more money than in years past.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Jeff Rath, Chair