

## Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark, Ohio  
June 17, 2014

There was a special meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers on Monday June 16, 2014. These members were present:

Bill Cost Jr.	Ryan Bubb
Jeff Rath	Alex Rolletta
Jeremy Blake	

We wish to Report:

1. **Ordinance No. 14-17** authorizing and directing the Newark City Safety Director to certify to the Licking County Auditor, the sum of \$224,952.03 incurred by the Newark City Property Maintenance Department with respect to the demolition and correction of any other safety violations to be placed as a lien upon certain parcels of real property situated in the City of Newark, Ohio was considered.

**Director Spurgeon**- first of all I would like to thank you for your consideration I know that we are all very busy and this is not a normal night for committee however this is for the greater good of the community and I do appreciate your time. The piece before you if I could give you a little historical analysis; we had a structure behind City Hall that our friends in the Fire Department determined back in 2008 I believe, was unfit for occupancy. With their risk mitigation policy they were not going to go in unless to save a life. Fast forward to late 2013 there was a parapet wall that I deemed unsafe, I felt it was going to fall and quite possibly hurt somebody. As a matter of fact Columbus has experienced the same type of tragedy. So we put together a funding plan that could address the property out back. As you know our Mayor has committed to improving safety through esthetics. We have lived up to that promise. I made a promise that we would robustly go after these monies to put them back in the public treasury. I stand before you tonight asking permission and your support for this special assessment.

**Mr. Bubb**- Director Spurgeon this price was closer to \$300,000.00

**Director Spurgeon**- you are correct Mr. Bubb. I met with our Director of Law on this. There are three different components to this financial model I spoke of earlier. There is a \$75,000.00 requirement of the public treasury. I would term that revenue

neutral because this Council gave our Service Director permission to auction off some properties that weren't being used by the City. We also harvested money from the Ohio Attorney General's Office which was in the \$150,000.00 neighborhood and then the third component, our Mayor and Director Rhodes upon hearing of this problem were notified and were able to go out through the CIC and raise \$75,000.00 of private funds. There was a commitment made and I am happy to report that the promise has been executed, those funds are in the public treasury.

**Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mr. Rath**

**Mr. Guthrie-** my question is that the amount appears to be lower; I think that Mr. Bubb was alluding to it, than the total package. Is there some reason, what aren't we asking for?

**Director Spurgeon-** I believe what Mr. Guthrie is referring to is the \$75,000.00 that was a private donation to the CIC. I met with the Law Director because and again this is unconventional to what I am used to and he advised me that this is the lawful way to pursue it and we can't lawfully pursue that \$75,000.00 private donation.

**Mr. Rath-** the Law Director is in the audience maybe we should hear from him

**Law Director-** if I could just add to what Bill said there were three components to the funds that were used to demolish the structure. I wasn't comfortable adding that portion that represented private donations to the special assessment. There really are two avenues of collection that we can and will be pursuing for these funds. One is this special assessment; the second would be a separate litigation against the property owner. That litigation would be for the full amount if we went that far. I didn't feel the special assessment was appropriate from the private contribution that is why the numbers are really different.

**Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**

**Bill Cost Jr, Chair**