

## Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark, Ohio  
September 30, 2014

There was a meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers on Monday September 29, 2014, immediately following the Finance Committee. These members were present:

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

We wish to Report:

1. **Resolution No. 14-79** in support of administration efforts to compel repairs of certain railroad crossings and railroad bridges/roadway underpasses within the City of Newark and encouraging the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to act on complaints filed in regard thereto and to assist in compelling repairs thereto by the responsible parties was considered.

**Director Rhodes-** we have been working diligently in my office along with Councilman Blake and a few other Council members on railroad crossings within the city. What we are asking for is this resolution of support to support our efforts to make our railroad crossings better. The following are a list of the railroad crossings that are being asked to be repaired:

<b>South 21<sup>st</sup> St</b>	<b>Oakwood Ave</b>	<b>O'Bannon Ave</b>	<b>Union St</b>
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**Railroad Bridges/Underpasses:**

<b>South 2<sup>nd</sup> St</b>	<b>South 3<sup>rd</sup> St</b>	<b>South Fourth St</b>	<b>South Fifth St</b>
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This has taken a lot of work to get in and get filed

**Mr. Blake-** I just wanted to say to the Mayor and Director Rhodes and people within his office, Engineer's office and traffic study. This is not a new issue. We actually found that there was a memo from the Utilities Public Commission of Ohio from 2011 dealing with South 21<sup>st</sup> Street. They knew back then that the crossing was deteriorating. We found another study from 2012 which Ms. Elkins in Director Rhodes office found. So the railroad has known for a long time that the railroad at South 21<sup>st</sup> Street and other crossings have been an issue for us and our residents for a long time. I applaud the efforts of this administration to sort of put their feet to the fire and take responsibility for their property and wanting to maintain it.

These are heavily trafficked roads by residents for residential use and for commerce uses. It is just amazing that they have taken so long to do something with these

properties. I am very much in support of the request that has been put into the Public Utilities Commissions' file from Director Rhodes office. I hope that with this vote tonight and Council's vote will compel them to take action with these crossings and underpasses. I would urge a yes vote on this resolution.

**Director Rhodes-** it is our intent with the support of Council to forward the resolution to show them that City Council is in support of the administration action on this.

**Mr. Cost-** would you say that some of this has reached a certain point, are there safety issues in your point of view or is it more appearance?

**Director Rhodes-** some of the complaints are concerned about safety, whether they are actual safety issues or not is up to everybody to determine themselves but the conditions are deteriorating and the conditions need to be addressed and they need to be addressed now. Some of the phones calls in don't get the right response they don't get people's attention that is why we went to this method. We have filled out their forms they provide on their website and we have turned them in with the proper documentation and we have officially lodged a come on help us out let's fix our railroad crossings. This is one more step in that because we are going to put this resolution of support right back into them so they know not only is the administration but Council also would like our crossings fix we would like them maintained. They are a company doing business inside the city limits of Newark Ohio and they need to keep their end of the bargain up.

**Mr. Blake-** if I could just add to your point of safety. We do have supporting materials from Newark City Schools. Jason Key the Transportation Supervisor wrote a letter of support for the City's request to have railroad crossings repaired. The basis of his support was for the safety of the students being transported across the tracks.

**Motion by Mr. Rolletta to send to full Council, second by Mr. Blake**

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

2. **Ordinance No. 14-30** authorizing and directing the Newark City Safety Director to certify to the Licking County Auditor, the sum of \$131,198.40 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.

**Joe Paul-** this is a request on behalf of the Safety Director to lien outstanding property maintenance violations. This is the same document that we come to you with at least twice a year.

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

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

Bill Cost Jr, Chair