

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 6, 2022
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Pro Tem Harris called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL - Mr. Rath, Mr. Rine, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Harris, Ms. Hottinger, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie

INVOCATION – Mark Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Amaril Lopez, 3rd grade and Diana Lopez, 1st grade Carson Elementary

CAUCUS – Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Mr. Ellington, Second by Mr. Lang, passed by acclamation

Ms. Hottinger – I will be abstaining from 22-79-A

MINUTES of August 15 , 2022 - Motion to approve the August 15, 2022 Newark City Council 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 by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Barker, passed by acclamation**

APPOINTMENTS

There were none this meeting

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance **Received & Filed without objection**

Service **Received & Filed without objection**

Personnel **Received & Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

There were none this meeting

Proclamation- Mayor Hall – Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, September 2022

Lori Davis – Emily was 8 years old, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and you don't even think of ovarian cancer in an 8 year old. So, if you have children wives, sisters, any female, please watch for the signs and know the signs there are lots of resources out there that can tell you what to look for because we were misdiagnosed many times because she was 8 years old, so please do you due diligence in that and help the females in your life and do get involved in some of the organizations there are a lot of them that despite Emily's trials she went through in her life they helped her a lot.

COMMUNICATIONS

Spencer Barker – Annual “Light The Night Car Show” returns to downtown Newark on September 10th, 2022

Roger Loomis, Water Administrator – properties being sent to lien for past due water, sewer and storm water bills in the amount of \$11,096.59

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – New application from The Block & Clever, 54 W. Main Street, Newark, Oh 43055

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct. – At the last council meeting we had a gentleman citizen speak out against the problems caused by the homeless. I’d just like to give some thoughts about that. The preamble to the Constitution of our country says that we are to promote general welfare for citizens. There is wording in the Ohio State Constitution as well. People who are homeless need to be helped. I don’t think we should be doing simple handouts, I think we should be helping them. My goal would be to make these homeless people housed and productive and tax paying citizens. Comments were made about problems relating to needles being left around. We have no needle exchange programs in this county which would alleviate that problem and would be helpful for getting these people out of their addictions and helping them to overcome their problems. Problems with public urination and such and yet there are no facilities for some of these people to be able to take care of those functions in a sanitary manner. Something I ran across some time ago, but as a writer I know you can get to truth through fiction. I’ll just read this statement: In a comment with some coworkers today one of them said that the homeless should have to work for their meals just like the rest of us. I said, okay, I know a man who is homeless he would be happy to work, he’s got a business degree, he would be happy to come clean your house, do your yard work, baby sit your kids or just about any other office job, I’ll tell him to come see you. They all just looked at me. I said, mind you he’s homeless so he hasn’t showered for a while, the clothes he has are the ones on his back because he lost all of his stuff last week when he got picked up for vagrancy, they wouldn’t let him go back for his bag. It will be a few weeks before what you’re paying him will be enough to get shelter. Still they stared at me. See it isn’t that easy. He can’t get a job because he’s homeless, no access to hot water or clean clothes. He can’t get access to shelter hot water and clean clothes without a job. You want him to work for his meals, get him out of this vicious circle, stop pretending that all he has to do is get a job. Now this is probably all fiction, but I do know for fact some of the people I see regularly at the homeless outreach is a trained professional. He has some mental issues, that means he needs help. He has a skill that is useful for our society and it’s being wasted.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Lang, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline, Mr. Harris, Mr. Houser

22-20 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE, BY ABOLISHING THE POSITION OF FINANCIAL ANALYST IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT AND CREATING THE POSITION OF FINANCIAL ANALYST IN THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

Motion to adopt by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 10-0

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Mr. Houser, Ms. Bline

22-24 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$310,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE COST OF BURIAL OF OVERHEAD ELECTRIC, CABLE AND TELEPHONE LINES, INCLUDING EASEMENT ACQUISITION AND ALLEY REPAIRS, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERTO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath

22-25 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$870,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW 4TH AND MAIN ROUNDABOUT, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline

22-26 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,590,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE COST OF ROAD, BRIDGE AND BIKE PATH IMPROVEMENT, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, Motion passed 10-0

By:Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath

22-27 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$820,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE

PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE COST OF ICE RINK ROOF REPLACEMENT, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline

22-28 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,550,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF TAMARACK 40TH STREET UPGRADE STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline

22-29 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,340,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline

22-30 AN ORDINANCE CONSOLIDATING SIX BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE ISSUES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline

22-31 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,040,000 SHARON VALLEY ROAD FIRE STATION NO. 5 REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath

22-32 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,660,000 HORNS HILL WATERWORKS ROAD AREA IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath

22-33 AN ORDINANCE CONSOLIDATING BOND ISSUES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Lang, Mr. Barker

22-34 AN ORDINANCE ABOLISHING THE DIVISION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE; ABOLISHING THE DIVISION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL POSITIONS OF THREE TRAFFIC TECHNICIANS AND ONE TRAFFIC/STREET WORKER; CREATING TWO EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE STREET MAINTENANCE DIVISION; AND RECLASSIFYING AND AMENDING THE PAY RANGE AND POSITION AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE STREET MAINTENANCE DIVISION TO ABSORB THE REMAINING DIVISION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL POSITIONS.

Held 2 weeks until 9-19-22

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath

22-70 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION \$300.00 -Request appropriation of funds from rebate on Naloxone purchase back into the EMS Medical Supply Account)
\$259,183.00 -(1-Pool Liner total cost is \$191,683.00 already have \$175k of it; 2-Chase Bldg. heating & cooling project; 3-Traffic signals upgrade; 4-Equipment add ons to 4 NPD vehicles, {\$200k request from 6-20-22})(\$38,300.00 -monies from logging

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Rine, motion passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath

22-73 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$24,980.00 -Check received from PERSCO for a cruiser totaled in a crash was deposited to 100.203.4921-misc. reimbursements, would like appropriated to go toward a replacement cruiser)

Held 2 weeks until 9-19-22

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

22-74 A RESOLUTION 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.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Barker

Mr. Rath – This has the emergency clause to meet advertising deadlines

Motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath

22-75 Exp APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$12,886.00 -Money needed in law Enforcement Supplies to buy 23 SCRAM-CAM Wireless Base Station Kits)(\$22,644.00-(To buy 23 SCRAM-CAM Wireless Base Station Kits)(\$1000.00 --Money needed for Probation Officers to do training)(\$1000.00 -Money needed in Travel/Training for probation officers to do training)(\$146.00 -Money paid to dept. from defendant to replace a SCRAM unit, Varnes Partial payment;Money paid to department from defendant to replace GPS charger, Shawn Fry)(\$13,389.97 -Replenishing account with money from PNB for Polaris Ranger – Paid for upfront)(\$10,535.00 -Replenishing Account to purchase emulsion from Misc. Reimbursements-4921)(\$110,844.00 -South Second Design – Funds Reimbursed from loan)

Motion to waive 2 day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath

22-76 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 BODY WORN CAMERA GRANT FUNDING.

Motion to waive the 2 day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Rath, motion passed 10-0

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Rath, motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

22-77 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO PROCEED WITH THE STEPS NECESSARY TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF ALLEY RUNNING WEST FROM NORTH 4TH STREET IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA AS LEWIS E. CLAGGETT WAY.

Held 2 weeks until 9-19-22

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

22-78 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF BREATHING APPARTUS EQUIPMENT AND RIT PACKS WITHIN THE DIVISION OF FIRE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Ms. Bline

Mr. Rath – The emergency clause is on this because our equipment is going to expire in a very

short period of time, we're not asking for competitive bidding because we want to use the same company that provided this equipment to us.

Motion passed 10-0

By: Mr.Marmie

22-79-A A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING WITH PARK NATIONAL BANK FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) VEHICLES.

Held 2 weeks until 9-19-22

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Desiree Blake, 125 S. Second Street - I know Second Street is going to get done, I was wondering if where the 4 way stop is if you ever thought of putting a light back up there again. Today I was watching and someone almost got hit because the cars are running the stop signs. It's really bad right there in that area. I'm afraid one of these kids is going to get hit and get killed. I know when I was growing up we had a light there, they took the light down maybe when Hartzler School closed, but we need something done right there in that area because there are so many cars running those stop signs and somebody is really going to get hit and hurt real bad or get killed. The intersection is Fleek and 2nd. Another question is why does the speed limit change from 25mph to 35 mph after you pass Fleek on 2nd. Why shouldn't it stay 25 all the way up because when they get past that stop sign they are speeding up there. One of these kids are going to get hurt and I hate to see that, tonight a bicyclist almost got hit because a car ran a stop sign. We need to figure something out after the street gets done put a new light up there or repaint the lines because they do need repainted. The City does need to do something before someone does get killed right in that area.

Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Dr. I'd just like to address some of the comments also made at the last council meeting. There has been an ongoing plea that people are being dropped off in Newark because we have a lot of services. I would just like to know where they are being dropped off. Are they being dropped off on the streets, at the shelters? The two shelters that we do have in Newark are the Salvation Army and St. Vincent Mens Shelter. Both only serve people from Licking County. I called the Salvation Army today to verify that and I spoke to Ashley at St. Vincent Haven, she also verified that. Both of these places require a picture ID. So, somebody coming from Franklin County or somewhere else is not going to be able to stay at the shelter. There was also a question about programming. St. Vincent does have programming, when somebody does check in to the Salvation Army they are assigned a counselor or someone to work with them. There is a limited amount of time they can stay there, they are not staying there for years on end. I'd also just like to give a couple examples of some of the people I have met. One day when it was over 90 degrees we were on East Main Street giving out water. We weren't asking people do you have a place to live, no, anybody who came down East Main Street in that heat we gave a bottle of water including the mailman. One

of the people who came up was a young woman. She was 8 months pregnant and stated she was living in her car. We asked her if she had gone to Licking County Coalition for housing, she had been there and you have to have your homeless status verified, since she was living in her car she was told she had to move her car so they couldn't verify her degree of homelessness. She had also gone to metro to see if she qualified for their assistance and was told there was at least a 4 year waiting list. We suggested she go to an agency that helps pregnant women, she did and was offered free prenatal vitamins. She also is working at a fast food restaurant. This is an example of someone on the street. Another example is a woman I call her Miss Margaret because she has been coming to the outreach for as long as I can remember. She is not literally homeless but was living in a rental unit on East Main St. last year when the water was turned off. Her landlord told her if she went down and paid the back payments for water the water would be turned back on. She has some mental challenges so she used her social security to go pay the water bill it's still not turned on. I said Miss Margaret how do you bathe, she said I just go down to the river and wash. Just one more example, I happen to live next to Charlie Franks and he has a young man who has been around as long as I can remember, yes this man was incarcerated at one point in time. He has been out of prison for over two years and since that time he's been living at the Budget Inn. This person is not homeless he works 10-12 hours a day, he cannot find any place to rent because he has domestic violence charges. He wouldn't be technically considered homeless since he is living at the Budget Inn. He has spent over \$25,000 just living there. One of the things I think we need to keep in mind is the availability of rentals in our community. Rents are going up. The average rent for a 2 bedroom in Licking County is a little over \$1200.00. The average wage earner is \$12.96/hr. it's \$7 less than what you would need to rent a 2 bedroom apartment. People are being given vouchers but cannot find a place to rent. If we do close down the shelters there is just going to be more people on the street. One thing I think we need to consider is several years ago, we hired consultants to study the homeless issue in Licking County. A Homeless Action Plan was developed, you can look at that on the Licking County Coalition for Housing website, it does have some doable things in there. Unless we want to keep hearing the situation for the next couple of years some action needs to be taken. I understand Mr. Romine's concerns, but I am sorry, to call people without shelter and compare them to reptiles is just not acceptable.

Daniel Crawford, 163 S. Second Street – It was not my plan to come back for a while, I've been taking a break from politics in general as part of a promise I made to my kids after the last election. Recent events have compelled me to get back involved ranging from the primary earlier in August to the comments made at the last council meeting. I've been watching the council meetings on you tube throughout the year staying up to date that way and heard Mr. Romine's comments and was just taken aback, absolutely disgusted with the things I was hearing him say. Unfortunately his views are not isolated, there are a lot of people in the city and the county who think the way he does and it's repulsive. I've encountered these thoughts when I've run for City Council myself or even school board. I've heard people say things like conspiracy theory which is what it sounds like about people being dropped off in Newark. As if we have more services than the other counties around us. Absolutely absurd. The notion that the outreach programs are a public nuisance as Mr. Romine said is also utterly ridiculous. If there is anyone who is a public nuisance, it's the people who create the conditions for

homelessness to begin with. People who jack up the rent prices above what people can afford, the employers who do not pay their employees enough to be able to survive or the lack of public transportation. All these things can contribute to the rise of homelessness. Homeless people are not the problem, they are a symptom of the problem in our system. So, instead of sitting by and allowing these ridiculous mindsets to fester, which we can't control what people think, but at least we can try to say hey these people are not to be demonized. We can't call homeless people alligators who shouldn't be fed. We can't compare them, I apologize if I misunderstood the mans comments, but he said human trash, he could've meant leaving trash or calling them human trash, I read it repeatedly and it was kind of hard to decipher what he was trying to say in his ridiculous rant. It's obvious when you hear people make these comments they've probably never experienced it themselves. I heard from Ms. Mossholder someone who lives in the Budget Inn had to spend so much money. In 2001, I think I've mentioned it before, my family and I were living in the Budget Inn because we were in between houses. There are a whole host of reasons why you could end up without a home, it doesn't mean you're trash or some wild animal that should be starved. If we were to shut down all these programs it wouldn't fix the homeless problem you would create the conditions for it to get worse and for people to die because they have a lack of resources. I do appreciate the two members of council who did speak up, Ms. Hottinger and Mr. Harris, I appreciate it. Going forward I am imploring when you see this repulsive mindset rising up, speak up, respect their opinion, but at the same time let them know that's repulsive.

Ms. Curry, 215 East Main Street – I am the owner at Summer Bloom Recovery, we just opened up. Just touching on what everybody else has touched on here. A lot of the drug problem seems to come from the homelessness. That's a lot of trigger for them, so I just wanted to touch and say that we're here, we're trying to help them, we've been open for two weeks now, we've helped a bunch of people, thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor – Just a few items tonight. Nice job Mr. Harris. I want to thank council for their support of the Financial Analyst position and all the bonds and notes that came before you this evening. Two weeks ago, myself, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Weisent and our Bond Counsel took part in an S & P rating, we got the results with a very high rating which will equate to lower interest rates on these bonds coming up, so we're very happy with that and finally I also wanted to mention if anybody is interested our annual comprehensive report is now online with the City. It used to be called CAFR but now it's called the ACFR, so if anybody is looking for something to do in the evening, maybe after a big Browns win Sunday you can read the ACFR it's online.

Tricia Moore, Law Director – I just want to give a shout out to detectives Harris and Jamie Farr at the NPD they ran the Battle of the Badges last weekend at Done Edwards Park, I got to participate in that, shake of the rust a little bit after several years of not playing softball, but it

goes to a great cause getting kids school supplies and backpacks etc., so hopefully they'll do that again next year.

Mayor Hall – This past Friday I was fortunate to attend the CTEC for career signing day, it's their second annual although COVID made it kind of crazy because their first annual was in 2019. It is 45 seniors at CTEC that have signed on for fulltime jobs. So they will have busy years. I sat next to a mother and talked to her and congratulated her son, he's going to be working in Gahanna in electrical trades. He will spend a 40 hour work week at the job and then the next week he does 2 weeks of CTEC in one week. So, I would like to congratulate all of those students in I think 20 different industries, a phenomenal job, they're going to work hard, but what a great way to start out your life. They're going to be workaholics already and that's great. Second, a week ago Saturday there was an Honor the Service event that I attended and participated in at the airport. It was to honor Vietnam Veterans, 48 of them with Licking County addresses lost their lives in that war and I would like to thank the Friendship Club and all the supporters of that event. There were 496 volunteers involved in that. The traveling Vietnam Wall came in and it's 360 feet long, it runs \$12,000 I believe, so there was a lot of good sponsorship there, the families were involved, they had 220 Vietnam Veterans from all around the state that came in, about 500 people in attendance at the time we did the ceremony, so pretty neat. We appreciate this county loves their veterans and active duty. I do want to congratulate Auditor Bubb and his team, that is great when you get good credit ratings, we talk about that a lot, it's like anything else, if you don't have a good rating, you pay a lot more money. They've done a great job and as you know you went through a lot of legislation tonight, but that'll do us good things. Finally, I want to congratulate the Newark High Wildcat football team, they're 2-1 this year having won their last 2 games, pretty exciting games, so hard work and perseverance and determination does pay off, sometimes it takes a few years to get there.

Mr. Rath – I will start off by offering my condolences to the Hottinger family for their loss and I will call a Service Committee meeting for September 19th.

Mr. Rine – I also will share my condolences with you, your family has helped my family out more than anyone has. My Grandma is with your parents and the last time I saw Jay was at my Grandma's funeral.

Mr. Barker – Cheri of course, condolences, I know how it is losing a parent, it's not fun at all, not something anyone ever wants to go through, but it happens unfortunately. As we said earlier, Saturday is Lite the Night Cruise In in downtown Newark. Returning here for the 37th year, I believe it is. We've got a great lineup, they're excited, we're excited to kick that off. That's kind of the kick off for the fund raising for the lighting of the Courthouse. That is this Saturday registration is at 10am and the show goes till 4pm. Also, coming up next week, the Rotary Clubs in town, the Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club is participating in a cleanup day at the YES Club. AS we all probably remember in early 2020 I think it was the YES Club had a fire that ripped through most of the entire building, last week I as a past president of Rotary went and met with them to look at this project. So, we will be over three days doing multiple cleanup projects on the exterior, we did get to look at the interior, it still looks like a car wash inside, they've changed the layout a little bit, it's really what they needed, unfortunately, the circumstances to get there weren't great. We're going to be doing that day, I think they are

hoping to have some type of re-grand opening in October. That will be the 13th – 15th and I encourage any of my fellow council members if you would like to help out, let me know and I'll let you know what days we're doing what.

Ms. Bline – I too Cheri am sorry, I know that's hard. I agree with the Mayor that event was amazing. It was one of the most honoring things I've been to in a long time, that they had that here is fantastic. Just to peak to our honored guests, thank you so much for coming to speak about that crossing, that is a dangerous place sometimes. Homelessness is multifaceted, even within the facets there are facets, but , I would like to address some of the comments that were made and I honor everyone here you have hearts for the people, but I've taken people home who have been dropped off here. One woman in particular, she came to Council to speak, I left, everyone was leaving and she was still standing here. I said where are you going to go? Do you have family here? No. So how did you get here? She said well it was kind of a bus that brought me. So I said well, I'll take you home and she lives in Perry County. I've spoken to many people out on the streets that are not from here and true to point, they can't get shelter because they don't have ID's and because they are not from here and to my recognition of the people I've spoken to it's about 60/40, 60% being from here the other 40% are from out of town. I do work with the women and say if you're ready to go, I'll take you home, but they are not ready, they're scared, they don't know me. So, when they're ready, I'll take them home. That being said, south Newark is a place of great capacity, it's a great treasure, but we need consistency and accountability. One of the things the citizens are working on is accountability with HUD housing because not all housing manager systems are created equal, as Cheri had said and unfortunately there are some managements that are completely detached from what's happening in their complex. So, persons from out of town are coming in that really have no place and because they are coming from out of town what they are bringing with them is really not in the best interest of the community. So citizens are doing a great job of pointing out to HUD this complex is being mismanaged. It's time for accountability. As well, there are other houses here, I can think of probably 15 off the top of my head that are literally rotting into the ground, that could be appropriate housing for people. Again, because they live out of state and it's not the fact that Property Maintenance is not doing their job, they are running around trying to keep track, talk about herding cats, there you go, they are doing a great job, but we are pursuing another process to hold them accountable. This is time we need housing, but we've got to have that consistency and accountability. Also on the 27th after that event, I sat between West Main and Newark Station. There was the Hib, Jugz, Townz and Newark Station all had music events going on at once and that place was vibrating. I saw some things that I didn't think I would see in Newark, as far as things that negatively impact this place. We can do better, we need the sound ordinance to bring consistency and accountability, to save these neighborhoods. I have businesses that are considering coming in to south Newark, do we need them, yes, we need jobs, we need the housing, we need the tax dollars that they're going to bring. But if they come in on a Saturday night and take a tour of these places. We can do better. We need a sound ordinance and we need consistency and accountability that this neighborhood, all of our neighborhoods really deserve. This is a great place and I have high expectations or I wouldn't be here. Thank you, I apologize for the length, but thank you all for your support.

Ms. Hottinger – I just want to thank everybody for the comments, I really appreciate that, just losing a parent and then losing another one 8 months later made it tough, so I appreciate you guys are great. Thank you for the flowers.

Mr. Houser – Just a couple things, I want to remind everyone about the Licking County River Roundup on Saturday, my wife and I will be out there for that, it's always a good event, definitely needed with all the trash we pull out of there. I also wanted to thank you for coming out about the Fleek and Second traffic. There are a couple of comments that I want to make and I will just say that Mr. Romine did have comparisons in his discussion that were probably not appropriate, but I do think it's important to try to capture the message he was trying to give there. I think what he did bring out is interactions that he's having as a citizen of the City that are negative with people who may or may not be homeless, but he was just bringing his side of the story to attention and I think that's a side that needs to be heard. It doesn't need to be expressed maybe in that way, certainly there were comparisons that shouldn't have been put out there. I just want to say that we do need to take into account his perspective, because we have to balance out those perspectives. Lastly Cheri, I just want to say I'm very sorry for both of your parents passing.

Mr. Labutis – I will offer my condolences to Cheri and her family.

Mr. Lang – Cheri it's very good to see you back here, my condolences, losing a parent is hard.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for the 19th. My condolences too, Cheri, thought and prayer continued, I know it need to be continued, been there, so really thinking about you and your family. Just a couple comments, Ms. Blake, I want to comment on the street light and the removal of the street light. Whenever a traffic study is done in the State of Ohio if it is not justifiable to have a traffic light, if a traffic light is placed there by a municipality we are liable for any kind of accidents that may occur. Where if there is something warranted or no traffic study at all then it is at the discretion of the municipality. I remember the traffic study that was done on that intersection and it was not warranted to have it there so that is why it was removed. If there is an issue we need to get our law enforcement or officers to patrol it a little bit, we do not need vehicles running stop signs. So maybe we can step up a little bit of patrolling in that area for a period of time and try to deter that. If a couple of tickets get issued for something like that it spreads like wildfire, it tends to slow it down a little bit so maybe we can do something along those lines. A lot of different comments and opinions about a lot of things tonight and basically around the homeless issue. There are a lot of opinions out there, I am a firm believer and I know those who have seen buses drop folks off downtown on the square. So some of the other solutions that are being presented, bring it on. Bring on the solutions if there's a solution. If we just talk about it nothing's really going to happen. I don't agree with the needle exchange, I think that just promotes drug use, I do not believe in doing that. I can't condone needle use for illegal drugs and I don't think that is a viable solution to anything. I would be interested to find out where you got your statistics for the average salary for Licking County, I don't believe that number, I've seen a couple other numbers, Newark, Ohio is much higher than that. Looking at the census and everything, if you're talking averages, you're talking median, you said average, so I don't believe that's an accurate comment when you say average. You stated Licking County also. Some other things, I agree with Mr. Houser

that some of the mannerisms, the passion that was put into the discussion last council meeting, I don't think he was calling anyone a reptile, I don't believe that was what was happening. Personally, I think he was just using an analogy, Jesus used all kinds of different stories to tell parables and all kinds of different stories that just were out there, so I don't believe that he was calling anybody animals and I don't believe he called anybody trash either. I think he just had a passion, he' frustrated with what is happening to him and he just wanted his voice and his opinion heard. Just like I've heard passion about things said in here by the other individuals that I respect the passion. I don't think he showed immediate disrespect to anybody, as a matter of fact someone showed him disrespect by booing and that is disrespectful. So if somebody cannot provide their opinion and it cannot be done in a respectful manner then what's the difference between the person in the back who didn't remove his cap the entire time including during the pledge of allegiance and boo'd and that individual for giving an opinion. Are we really going to start throwing rocks like that? Which is worse or do we condone or what do we do? I believe that everybody has good ideas and opinions and we should listen to them all and move forward with all of them that we can within our ability and our power and try to come up with solutions. But, compromise means doing some things maybe from both sides of that story and I think that we can move forward in that direction and we can show the folks at the national level that Newark Ohio is not divided like the country is divided and lets work together in order to come up with solutions.

Mr. Harris – Three quick things then we'll get out of here, I want to congratulate Newark Football, that was a good game Friday night, I was there because I wanted to say I made history for winning two games in a row. Also, on September 16th at 7:30 it's the yearly graveyard walk at Cedar Hill Cemetery, I think it's going to be on Civil War Veterans. I want to thank the Lopez girls for the pledge tonight. When I reached out to Julie, the principal she said I have a student for you, then the sister wanted to do it too, she said can they both come, I said sure why not. One last thing, I heard Mr. Rath say I must not be able to hear this side of the room, I wanted you to feel like Mr. Ellington was here tonight.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn by, Mr. Barker second by Mr. Labutis , passed by acclamation

Jeff Harris, President Pro Tem of Council