

## COUNCIL MINUTES

April 17 , 2023  
Council Chambers  
7:00 P.M.

**President Pro-Tem Harris called the meeting to order**

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

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Houser

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Diamond Schooler, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Carson Elementary

**CAUCUS** - Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse President Ellington, second by Mr. Rath, motion passed by acclamation

**MINUTES of April 3, 2023, Motion to approve by Mr. Barker , second by Mr. Houser , passed by acclamation**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

There are none this meeting

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance -**Received and Filed with no objections**

Service-**Received and Filed with no objections**

### **REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**City Auditor, Ryan T. Bubb** – Operating report for period ending March 31, 2023

**Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator’s Office** – Income Tax Revenue Reports for period ending March 31, 2023

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** - New Liquor License Application for Family Dollar Stores of Ohio LLC dba Family Dollar Store 31283, 1280 E. Main St., Newark, Oh 43055

**Department of The Air Force , Air Force Civil Engineer Center** - Restoration Advisory Board information at the former Newark Air Force Base

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - This is not a debate with Council, it’s not a question and answer session, it’s an opportunity for you to speak, we ask that you be respectful, no personal attacks, how many are here to speak for the cemetery? Just four of you? Ma’am you didn’t speak last meeting, if you would come up to the lectern and I ask that we keep our comments to 3 minutes each and I need your name and address for the record please.

## COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

**Karen Spoonemore, 101 Fleek Ave.** - I was here just to decorate the stone. That little girl that was here is my great niece and that's my nephew buried with my dad and they put stuff on his stone and it disappeared and all the kids that are back here, that's my family, they are the ones that decorated it.

**Bill Jefferson, 817 Larkspur Dr.** - I am because of the disgusting way that they treated the flags that they pulled off of the graves at the cemetery. I mean I seen the pictures of the flags stuffed in a trash can, laying on the ground and whoever's in charge of that cemetery, they must not have any respect for flags or veterans and they must not really know their job. And IO don't know how you people feel about it, I don't know if there's any veterans sitting up here in front of me, but if you're a veteran. To see that display of flags is totally disgusting and you people need to do something about it.

### Out of order comment from the audience

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - No, we're not doing that. No comments, no clapping, we're not doing that tonight, okay. These are the rules of Council, if you can't follow the rules then we'll have to ask you to leave. That's the way it is tonight.

**Loren Barber , 424 Thomas Ave.** - I'd like to add to Mr. Jefferson's comment, the Newark Advocate article that was just put out Friday, the statement there from Ms. Patznick, was those barrels are there so we can respectfully burn these flags. I don't know how many of you have seen the pictures, I want to really take issue with that description of respectful. That sounded more like you're just trying to minimize the situation. So, I will be brief Mr. Harris, unlike last time. I do want to say the workers there Rusty, Joshua and Davon. These guys are great, I mean they're beyond that, they're fine ambassadors of this City. When they talk to me, when they talk to people there with concerns you can see the sincerity in them. These men are not in any way responsible for what our concerns are today. I wanted to briefly touch on, I think it was unfortunate last week that things got out of hand and there were outbursts and Mr. Ellington was put in a position of trying to maintain order in an environment he probably wasn't expecting every meeting. So, I noticed in the video he was sitting up there really trying to take in what was going on, asking questions, clarifying, regardless of what dynamics came out of that I do want to recognize Mr. Ellington for what I thought was doing his job and then the outburst that occurred I'm going to address in a moment, there was a reason for that. Mayor Hall, I'd like to address the rest of this to you or at least most of it. Your comments in the Advocate, first off, I had questioned about when that policy that was at the end of the article was written, because it seems like it was held up to the community like oh, this has been in place since 1931. Me reading it, I really doubt that so I would like to pose a question to Council, if someone could find out when was that written because I thought it was somewhat deceptive in the sense of the community looking at that and saying well look it says right there it's been that way since you know Roosevelt was President. The other thing I want to address to you Mr. Hall is you made the statement in the paper that these borders are a safety hazard and are dangerous and what I'd like to ask of you and I'll stop by and pick it up anytime, if you could get together the workmens comp. claims from the number of people that have been injured in the last 20 years by a border, I'd like to have that information because if you're going to hold that up as the reason, it must be pretty severe. The uproar that happened last week became that way because

of a blatant statement that wasn't true. I don't come in here and accuse people of hiding things, using the strong word lying, being dishonest, but that's what blew up because there were a bunch of people here that knew that the statement that caused all of that and drew Mr. Ellington in was false and it's actually really hard to sit here when something like that happens. So, the gentleman last week, passed his phone around to all of you, I don't know the way you might like to approach this best, but the claims the superintendent stood here two weeks ago and looked at Mr. Ellington and said, the cemetery had no hand in removing these objects unless they were broken, faded or whatever. I come in to show you guys that isn't true. So, in my mind there was a misrepresentation in public by the superintendent and the Council and the way I'd like to show you that, these are some of the things, I don't know if you want to pass them down individually.

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - Just set them on the table.

**Mr. Barber** - This is only a portion of the things that were recovered, if anyone recognizes your property feel free to take it. This is only what we could reach down in the dumpster each one of these is pristine, as I said the cemetery workers they don't need to, they have enough on their hands trying to weed wack, I'm sure they didn't want to carry these to the dumpster. I believe they were things that toppled off of the base of the stone and the logical thing to do would be to put them back instead of transporting them an acre and a half or so to the dumpster, these guys are busy, so maybe that had some directive to do that. That really meant something to some child or at least her mother. I consider this and I'm going to use strong terms, this is desecration of the grave. This is desecration, this is expensive, in the dumpster. This I folded up, but it didn't blow away. Then the issue with the carousel that was presented to Ms. Patznick, I don't know where it is, here it is, she found it in the dumpster, it's broken, no I'm sorry, that's part of it, but what I take issue with is that two weeks ago the superintendent stood here and looked at these people and said I have no idea where this property is, it must've blown away. It didn't blow away and there was not one suggestion, maybe you people might want to go up and look around the dumpster, maybe we made a mistake and picked up something that wasn't chipped. Not even that was kind of throw out to get this to blow over, I considered that deception. I believe two weeks ago the management at that cemetery knew where these things were. So, I don't come in and make accusations without proof and if I had more boxes and wanted to dig deeper I could've brought you more. But these things were taken from the base of a grave. I went to my grave today, my granddaughter left a little dog like this, I put it between the stones, it's a double stone, you know I found it actually blown out today. So, blowing off, it's kind of like, if they blow off, they're ours, grab'em, get'em these guys had to be directed, they don't do it themselves. If that's the policy and I come with solutions, how about anybody who wants to put something on the base of a grave have some silicon, clear silicone, a lot of people are doing that. They silicone these things, that'll keep them from blowing off, that'll keep them from getting in the way of the mowers, you know, we're willing to do anything. I mean we're willing to compromise we're not here saying it's one way or no way. To the issue of the flags which is on video, the issue of the superintendent standing up here telling, look at Mr. Ellington, he said did the cemetery have anything to do with this, No, he told them, no. Can you categorize that from a city official, whatever that falls under, whatever category that falls under. I'm wrapping up. The last thing is tax payer money okay., We had a windstorm, we were all warned, I brought in my deck umbrella. There's a multi thousand dollar tent out

there shredded because someone didn't have the wherewithal in that management to bring that in. Another one's ordered now, who's paying for it? That's mismanagement of property, I nothing else malfeasance, but I see nothing in the cemetery's management, like Mr. Jefferson said, everything that's occurred in the last, since this came to light, has been unacceptable. Those burn bits, the flags, the excuses. Those flags didn't blow across that lawn, they were harvested, the majority of them were harvested. We can prove that. So, I do want to say, lastly, I spoke with Mr. Rhodes. I want to let everybody know, we're making progress, Mr. Rhodes is looking at solutions. Mr. Rhodes is indicating to me that he's going to take all of our concerns, you'll be able to have an angel for your baby.

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - You need to wrap it up please.

**Mr. Barber** - I just wanted to give Mr. Rhodes credit. I thought it might temper the rest of the comments, anyway, we're making progress.

**Chad Varrasso, 36 Parker Ave.** - I have family that's buried at the cemetery, my brother passed way 4 years ago, before I had him laid to rest there, because he was cremated, and I went to the office and I talked to the lady. I asked the lady personally, I said hey ma'am, if I have my brother laid to rest here am I allowed to put mulch and whatnot a border for my brother for his kids to come and whatnot. She said Yeah, you can do it as long as we don't know about it, we don't care. So, I did that. Now it's become a big issue and people grieve different, everybody grieves different, his kids and family they all go there and bring trinkets and whatnot. Our grave hasn't been touched yet and I know it's going to be, I'm willing to do what I gotta do to make it compliant, but I do have a big cross on there, it was on the front page of the paper. I had that personally handmade out of a tree, cost me five hundred bucks and that's something where his kids can find his grave, hey I can see it from the road, let's go see my dad. You know a marker where everyone can see it. If I've gotta move that, I don't want to because he doesn't have a headstone, he just has a marker, I feel if I've got people coming from out of state who want to know where it's at, hey look for the cross. It's a big wooden cross, I know you guys probably saw it in the Advocate. It does get out of hand, I get that, but there should be some leeway here, the lady told me I could do what I wanted to do with the grave and that's what I did. I have the opportunity to respect my brother, I go up there when he passed, I go up there on that date and I go up there on his birthday and clean it up, holidays whatnot, the kids come up and we even sit out there and eat pizza and reminisce, you know, it's what we do. Like I said, everybody grieves different. Little sentimental things, like the cross I had made and I had three small ones made and gave to each kid and that's what represents him, they go to the graveyard and there's a big one. I don't know if you could tell from the picture, but we also put little ones there and little candles trying to light it up on his birthday or whatnot, It's just sentimental and I know everybody grieves and they'll act different like I said, but I feel stuff like that should be allowed, not extreme, it is big, but he doesn't have a headstone he just has a marker.

**Craig Connelly, 2926 Granview Rd., Granville** - My wife has family buried in Cedar Hill, parent and grandparents, we go every Memorial Day and plant flowers and meander through the aisles and kind of take note of different mementos and things that bring to the attention that this person is still remembered. I think it's kind of cold that we cannot remember that a cemetery is for the living, it's not for the dead. This is a memorial where people can come and leave a memento or something that reminds them of their deceased parent, child, grandparent

etc. I think it's very important and I think you're missing the point here when we start cleaning graves to make it just a cold stone.

**Desiree Blake, 125 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street** - I sympathize with everyone else here. I want to let you guys know, my daughter is Jericha Blake, she's deaf and she made the USA Death Sports Federation Team, for the 2023 World Championship Deaf Bowling. She's the only one from Ohio, little Newark, Ohio and they're going to Munich, Germany. I just wanted to let you guys know that we're going to bring that gold back home and celebrate, here's a picture of her if you guys want to look, but I just want to let you guys know what's going on and we're representing Ohio.

#### ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting

#### ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting

#### RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

23-27 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION )\$57,468.16-(Funding of recently created Criminalist position in the Division of Police) (\$219,336.70 -Four unfilled officer positions were erroneously converted to unfunded positions in the 2023 budget. Amounts requested are for April thru December 2023 for those four positions)

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

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

23-30 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

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

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

23-31 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE LICKING COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 10-0**

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

23-32 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND OTHER AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF A SEWER LINE

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 10-0**

**RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING**

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

23-33 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF OHIO 2023 NATUREWORKS GRANT.

**Held until May 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

23-34 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, COPS HIRING PROGRAM.

**Held until May 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

23-39 Exp APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$8,086.55-(Additional money needed for retrospective rating program)( \$53,031.00 -Overage in Accounts)( \$53,151.00-Purchase of additional SCRAM GPS Units and Restitution payment for damaged/destroyed SCRAM Unit funds to purchase new equipment)( \$248,000.00 -Sanitary and Stormwater Lift Stations telemetry system upgrades)

**Motion to waive the 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. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie**

**23-40** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ODOT WINTER CONTRACT (018-24) FOR ROAD SALT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Barker**

**Mr. Rath** - I realize this is on the first reading, but we do have an emergency clause in this and the reason for that is to meet ODOT's deadlines.

**Motion passed 10-0**

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

**23-41** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

**Held until May 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

**23-42** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO REDUCE THE LIEN PREVIOUSLY PLACED AGAINST THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT AND KNOWN AS 11 MORRIS STREET, NEWARK, OHIO

**Held until May 1st**

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Loren Barber, 424 Thomas Ave.** - In the course of us being forced to look into this issue there are a number of other questions that have come up and the closer you look the more questions there are and I'm going to ask if Council maybe for the next meeting could have responses to this, but we were under the impression that the prior supervisor was retiring, we now find out that another position has been created, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent, for years that position cost so much money was run by one person, we now have two and I picture around a table after decades of the City thing, we just don't have help at Cedar Hill, we don't have the funding at Cedar Hill to keep up on the place. The table where someone said, okay we've got three employees, we've got one Superintendent, we've got some payroll money here what are we going to do, let's make another Superintendent. That's a huge question. So, what the citizens are asking is, the hours that each of these individuals spend at that cemetery, what their duties are, to justify it. That much management over three individuals, I'm not including the secretary. In my corporate experience you might have a Superintendent over 20 people doing pretty complex things. SO, that in itself I'm questioning, is there some money we can free up in this City, looking at City vehicles that could just stay on site and then be used for field trips or whatever, is there a lease that can be gotten rid of, why do we have two Superintendents, it boggles my mind, when all we've been hearing for decades is that cemetery really needs some people out there mowing that grass. So, if the Council could look into justifying why we have two Superintendent positions, one just created. Maybe that's why we should go to Council meetings, was that brought up here, was that voted on here that we need to spend that money on another person. Or, did it happen some other way. The last question is also historically, from the time I was 16 years old, the care takers house had the care take in it, it was someone who was employed by the cemetery. I now find out, that isn't the case. This is the Assistant Supervisors nephew living there. Now that house if you're just going to farm it out to non-employees of the cemetery, I see that as a revenue source, maybe he's paying market value rent on that house, if not, that certainly needs looked into. That's the first time that house was used in a manner that it wasn't created for.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Chance Patznick, Cemetery Superintendent** - I've talked to some of you guys before, I wanted to address some of the concerns I heard from the crowd. I know you sir, you had a concern about the flags, I totally get it. As soon as I saw that picture, it was at 8:30 on a Saturday, as

soon as I got that picture I called the guys and myself and an equipment operator went to the cemetery and we picked those up. That's not something that I think is okay, it's not something any of the guys think is okay, so immediately as soon as I got that picture we went there and we took care of that. We picked those flags up and MS. Bline took those flags and they are going to be disposed of properly at the VFW. It's not acceptable, you are exactly right and as soon as that was brought to my attention it was addressed and they are being disposed of properly. The barrels that they were placed in are not trash cans, they are burn barrels, they've been burned at the cemetery for years and years and if that's something that we have to look into, disposing of them in a different way, that's something that we can do because that shouldn't have happened, you are absolutely correct, as soon as it was brought to my attention it was addressed. It was addressed by Ms. Bline, which I do appreciate. Another one of your comments is about items being found in a dumpster and that isn't the case. We have an area by the dumpster where there are some planters

**Out of order comment from the audience**

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - We're not having this guys, you're not going to accuse someone of doing that, you can go sir.

**Ms. Patznick** - So as far as the dumpsters, they were not found in the dumpster, we have items that have been back by those dumpsters for literally years and those items are products of cleanups that were done because of maintenance issues. There are items that have been accumulating back there for years and years and I'm not necessarily proud to say we have things back there that haven't been cleaned up, we have a messy maintenance barn. It's become a catch all for just about everything and some of those items have been from cleanups that have happened in the past, years in the past. As far as the items back there, they were not in the dumpster, we would not have thrown those away. As far as the windblown items I mentioned before those were thrown away, but items that were being put there clearly were not being thrown away, they've accumulated over years because of random cleanups that needed done because of maintenance issues. Like I said I'm not proud of the fact that we don't have a very well kept maintenance building, but it's something that we're whittling away at and we're taking care of and we're taking strides to improve that.

**Mr. Labutis** - I want to thank everyone this evening for coming out and sharing your concerns, I certainly appreciate that, I also want to congratulate Ms. Blake on your daughter, I hope she does well and I'm sure she'll represent us well.

**Mr. Lang** - I guess one question I should answer for Mr. Barber as Chair of the Personnel Committee, if there are new positions created they do go through the Personnel Committee and we vote on those. If there are unfilled positions that then get filled they don't necessarily come through Personnel Committee, but we do ultimately see positions created and abolished. I'll have to look at the question he asked about the Assistant Superintendent. I appreciate everybody coming, I know this is not an easy topic for anybody involved here. We all have loved ones that we've lost, we've all been involved in the grieving process. I think it's something that everybody needs to keep in mind that there are people on both sides of these communications and I've had a hard time watching some of the personal attacks that have come down on Social Media and in this room and I think as a community it is important that we recognize we're all people here. We're here because we care and we're here to listen and I think Director Rhodes does a nice job of listening to people, he's working on some things with Chance and I'm hopeful



that moving forward we're going to see some improvements in the way that we communicate with folks at the cemetery going forward.

**Mr. Marmie** - First of all, I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for May 1<sup>st</sup>. I also want to thank everybody for coming this evening. I will first start out with, what happened with the flags, as a veteran, I was not very happy about. As soon as I saw the pictures and the video, I got right on the horn trying to figure out what is going on. I did recognize they were burn barrels, but there is also a procedure with flags and the destruction of flags in a manner, I'm glad to hear the Ms. Patznick has proper procedures that she's setting forth of those and the ones that were on the ground are just never acceptable. I thank everybody again for coming, as Mr. Lang alluded to, there are a lot of different things that are being discussed in making sure that things are fair and equitable. The rules that I have abided by for the last, see how old I am, for the last 40 plus years as my loved ones have been buries, I've known about the dates, I've known about having to have my real flowers out there, the artificial ones out there, I've known about it for that many years. I've actually been accused of being a rule abider and I want to thank you because I do abide by rules. There are rules and what I appreciate is an employee who takes care of enforcing those rules. Now, as that employee, things have been addressed now and her management who ultimately makes the decision to approve or deny those rules is considering it, but when an employee does their job and they follow the rules and what they are asked to do and then you have individuals attacking and trying to say that employee needs to be terminated, I am in disagreement with. If an employee is doing their job and what their management has told them to do, unless it is illegal, then I think that employee should not be terminated for something like that. To ask them something and to attack an individual who is doing their job as directed, then that's uncalled for in my opinion. I think that Ms. Patznick has a tough position because she is coming in and trying to make sure that the cemetery that she is taking care of is respectable as far as the looks, there has been criticism that the grounds have not been kept and she wants to make sure that cemetery is looking good and making sure that the grass is cut and it's maintained in a proper manner. You do have folks on both sides. You have things that if every individual did things and just skirted the rules a little bit, if everybody out there did it, what would that cemetery look like. So, there has to be rules and I know Director Rhodes has indicated that there's going to be something coming out hopefully next week, as far as the rules that are going to be in place. I'm anxious to see what those are myself and we'll abide by that. As somebody who visits the cemetery and who has loved ones there, those are the rules and I need to abide by them just like I need to abide by all the rules within the City and all the Laws in the City. I hope everybody gets to grieve in the manner in which they desire. I know that Cedar Hill Cemetery rules have not been as strict as other rules of other cemeteries in the vicinity and I know that even those rules have been laxed a little bit and I think that the condition of the cemetery sometimes has suffered because of that. I hope we come to a compromise that everybody can still grieve and visit their loved ones that have passed and they can still have that time with family members. I know I'm the same way, I'll go out there and I'll sit there and talk to my parents or grandparents and there are just things that I do that some folks might call it silly, but it's my way of grieving, my way of dealing and coping. So, I hope that everybody gets that and I have faith that Director Rhodes is doing the best that he can with the decisions that are going to come forward and I know that the Mayor is involved in some of those conversations, I'm sure he is, Director Rhodes keeps him informed of anything.

So, again, I think next week we'll hear about all of that and I hope everybody can really just have peace with it. One more thing, Ms. Blake, congratulations, Jericha, I'm so happy for you and the family, represent us well, you always do and everybody in your family does, so congratulations again and I wish her good fortune.

**Mr. Rath** - I want to thank everybody for coming tonight I always appreciate and love to see people come out to participate in their local government, personally, I definitely appreciate that. This morning I had the honor of attending a swearing in ceremony where we had six brand new firefighter/medics sworn in this morning. I think that's the largest class we've had sworn in in a single ceremony since he was sworn in since, I don't know what year. It's exciting to see six young, eager individuals signing up and stepping forward and helping us out in the Fire Department, that's great. Ms. Blake, congratulations to you and Jericha, that's astonishing and we look forward to hearing how she did. I will call a Service Committee Meeting for May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mr. Rine** - I want to thank everyone for coming down, I wish it was on better terms. Loren, when you opened that box, I could feel it, the energy. The only thing I would ask of you is just to give us some time, one thing I've learned being new is we may be kind of slow, we're reactionary to things, so the administration is on it and I would say by next Council meeting we will have some answers for you. MS. Blake, good luck to your daughter, hopefully she represents Ohio well in Deutschland.

**Mr. Barker** - I just want to thank everyone for coming out this evening, as I said last week, I think it's always good to hear no matter what it is, positive, negative, we need to hear it. If we don't hear it, we don't know. Ms. Blake, we can't wait to celebrate Jericha when she comes back with that gold as you said, so good luck to her in Germany. I also wanted to congratulate, I didn't get to make it this morning to the fire station for the swearing in of those 6 new firefighter/paramedics, but congratulations and welcome them to the City, I know we're looking forward to them. Unfortunately, East morning at my church I had to call 911 for someone who had a medical episode and our paramedic crew that came were fantastic, took care of the gentleman right away. As a Council member I could not have been prouder that day of how our men responded to that incident, so I really want to thank them for that.

**Ms. Bline** - I'd like to again thank everyone for coming out. I wish again, to mirror what everyone was saying, I wish this was quick, I wish it was easier, but there's a process and I have confidence in Mr. Rhodes, he's a good listener and believe it or not everyone's comments have been logged and they do matter, they really do. Loren, thank you and I appreciate the understanding that you gave in the beginning in your comments because as someone said, we're all people and we do feel. We have to make the same accommodations and as much as I would like to do what I can to my loved ones, I too have to follow the rules. Please keep coming. Things are changing rapidly and we're going to need your input and your wisdom and need what it looks like on your corner of the block because things are accelerating at a rate governmentally that we need to stay involved. Please come back. That being said, we had a wonderful south end Newark cleanup over the weekend, we had wonderful volunteers, some are sitting here, thank you. We got to take care of some new areas that there had been some unacceptable things going on there and so gratefully, things are taken care of, they're cleaned up and we're going to continue in that forward motion in those areas. It's people from the Newark High Honor Society, Newark Digital Academy, Dennison, they were all in my group and I am so grateful. We've got a fireman in our midst that was here and I'm so grateful for him.

We're just going to keep moving forward, taking back ground, fallow ground that is being reclaimed for positive things. Also, along that line Easter morning we had our first acoustic concert and picnic in the park at Easy Street Park. That is a reclaimed area that had gone fallow for several years and had several negative behaviours going on there as well, but now, it was just a wonderful time. I've gotten many messages and phone calls as a result and I thought wow, it sounded negative, but when I continued to read them they were like why didn't you invite us. So, next time we'll have a lot more people there, there's no sales of anything, just bring your food, like they say ya'll come. It was a good time. Congratulations to the firemen, that's just a wonderful thing.

**Ms. Hottinger** - I don't know if I can say anything that hasn't already been said. I think you did a very nice job, Mr. Marmie, in your comments, a lot of my comments would've been the same as yours. It's a very emotional issue, losing someone, everyone handles it differently. It's not something that is a fun time to go through whether it's day one or day 365 or two years later or whatever, it's not something you get over right away. I will say that debate is good, debate is healthy in government. We're not always going to agree on the outcome or results, but the more input we can have, the better we'll be. So, although we're not going to make everyone happy, not everyone's going to be happy in the audience, not everyone's going to be happy up here, but I think that we can do the best and try to do to make compromises when appropriate and to stick with rules when appropriate. I think and I hope that we'll be able to do that and I support Chance, I support Dave Rhodes, the Mayor. We all have the best intentions in mind. No one is deliberately trying to be hurtful or negative, we just look at it from different sides. So I'm hopeful that we can come together and we're not always going to agree and we're not all going to be satisfied with what the answer is, but at least we can put our ideas forward, so I appreciate the ideas. I appreciate the debate in government, it's very healthy. It would be nice to see a lot more people come to our meetings, not just when you're upset about something, but maybe when you have some good ideas because we certainly don't have all the ideas, so come back. I just want to say congratulations to you Ms. Blake and Jericha and what a great way to represent our City so thanks for sharing that with us.

**Mr. Houser** - I also want to thank everybody for coming out, obviously a very difficult issue, I think the administration will look at it and come up with something, I guess I'll feel better about the policies being enforced at the cemetery. I want to thank Lindsey Brighton, they're going to be starting a drainage project on O'Bannon over in east Newark and we've been looking at that for close to a year now. As Council woman Bline said I was also at the South Newark Civic Association cleanup, it's always great to pick up trash, we've got more than we'd like to have around Newark. I also want to say congratulations to Jericha, that's an amazing accomplishment, we're all wishing her the best.

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - I want to thank everyone tonight for being respectful and courteous to everyone tonight and as everyone said, it's a hard situation and we'll get through it we'll come up with a solution. I want to remind everybody that the cemetery, not only do they take care of the cemetery, they also do the parks. So, they have all the parks plus the cemetery so they do have a lot on them.

**Out of order comment form audience**

**President Pro-Tem Harris** - You can't speak, you can't speak. I don't care, you can't speak. He can't speak. So, we need to remember that they do a lot of things. As Mr. Barber said, they do a

good job. I've been up there several times and especially around Memorial Day they have that place looking really good for the nice ceremony. I want to remind everybody that Saturday is the Log Pond Run River Cleanup from 9-noon, I think it's at Hudson Avenue and Clinton Street by the old Central Church there, that's where they'll meet and then May 20<sup>th</sup> will be the east end cleanup. Next meeting is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Houser , second by Mr. Rath , passed by acclamation, with that we are adjourned**

**Jeff Harris, President Pro-Tem of Council**