

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 2 , 2023
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL - Ms. Bline, Mr. Chute, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Mr. Rath, Mr. Rine, Mr. Barker

INVOCATION – Mr. Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Jacob and Vivien Lang, Legend Elementary

CAUCUS Mr. Lang - Motion to Invoke Rule 21 for 23-40-B to be reconsidered, Second by Mr. Marmie, Motion to reconsider passed 10-0

Motion by Mr. Lang to amend 23---40-B to 23-40-C to correct errors in section 4 the reference to 10% should have been 16% and there should be an exhibit removed, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion to amend passed 10-0

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

23-40-C AN ORDINANCE SETTING COMPENSATION AND STATING POLICY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN APPOINTED POSITIONS OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

MINUTES of September 18, 2023 Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis , Second by Mr. Houser, Passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

There are none this meeting

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - **Received and Filed without Objection**

Street - **Received and Filed without Objection**

Service- **Received and Filed without Objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

There are none this meeting

COMMUNICATIONS

Terrace Gardens , 85 West Church Street, Newark, Oh - Partnership with The Finch Group dba TFG Housing Resources to rehab the project.

Licking County Courthouse Lighting Committee - The Community Lighting Fundraising Campaign will run through Friday, October 20th, contact Spencer Barker for more information.

Chance Patznick, Superintendent Parks and Cemetery - Safe trick or treat on the Square, Thursday October 26th, 5:30-7pm

PRESENTATION - Scott Brown from The Auditor of State's Office - State Auditor's Award of Distinction for the 2022 Audit

Scott Brown - I serve as State Auditor Keith Faber's liaison, it's my honor to be here this evening on behalf of Auditor Faber to present the City of Newark with the Auditor of State Award with Distinction. This award actually puts your City in a very select group, our office audits over 6,000 entities every year and each year less than 4% are actually eligible for this award. The Auditor of State Award with Distinction is presented to local governments and school districts and other entities upon completion of a financial audit that need these criteria to be considered a clean report. The entities must file financial reports with the auditor's office by statutory due date without extension on a GAP accounting basis and a comprehensive financial report. The audit does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, uniform guidance finding. Further the entities management letters contains no further comments. This award really represents the hard work of all of Newark's employees and the financial staff who made every effort every day to maintain accounting excellence. I'd like to recognize Council, the Administration and the Fiscal Department that have done an outstanding job watching over every dollar. Specifically we'd like to recognize Ryan Bubb for his leadership, professionalism and exceptional commitment to fiscal integrity. On behalf of Auditor Faber, I'd like to present the City of Newark with the Auditor of State's Award of Distinction.

Ryan Bubb - Thank you very much I'll be very brief with my comments, you're only as good as those around you. With that being said if Jackie Williams and Jim Weisant would come forward. Jackie led the process here on this audit. As the first whole year in office, this was the first year we had zero items on the management letter, we've cleaned everything up. We've put processes in place and there are zero items on the management letter, as he said we are in elite company less than 4%, I couldn't be more thankful for the staff around me Jackie, Jim, Tanner Marmie, Kenda Menter, Rhonda Wilfong and Debbie Pritz. So, we're very thankful, very thankful for the support of Council, we will continue to do the great communication we have with you and hey we hope to be here every year. So, thank you very much and Scott I really appreciate you coming down. Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

23-29 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 74 SOUTH 30TH STREET, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO,

PARCEL TAX ID#054-221880-00.000 FROM THAT OF LB-LIMITED INTENSITY BUSINESS DISTRICT TO GO- GENERAL OFFICE DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO

Upon consideration of the information presented, the following actions are recommended:

- 1. The zoning classification for the parcel at 74 South 30th Street shall be changed to GO - General Office District. Ordinance 23-29 is recommended for passage and approval by Council.*

Mr. Harris - Is there any one to speak for or against? The Planning Commission has recommended approval. We will close the hearing.

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

Mr. Rath - It has been recommended by the Planning Commission that we make this change based on their opinions, I would ask everyone else to support this and vote yes as well.

Motion passed 10-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Lisa Howard, 68 West National Dr. - I'm here, I spoke with my Councilwoman Ms. Bline and she has been absolutely amazing to work with and has helped me with a few things moving into the house my grandparents rented back in 1960, that's how long it's been in our family. It used to be a great neighborhood, I believe it still could be a great neighborhood. I've been brought up here my entire life, I work for the County, I'm a 911 dispatcher, so I serve people and I love to do that, but when I come home I like to feel like I'm safe in my own home and I don't feel that way. I've had to install cameras, I've had some theft right out of my yard, overnight mostly, I believe, but now the cameras are there. It's picked up some really awful activity that is in the property next to mine. I've done some research, I know that it is owned by an LLC, but there is shadiness going on there. The property is awful. There is trash everywhere, Ms. Bline has helped me and she's contacted the right people for me, but it's still going on and it's not only in my neighborhood in the south end, but it's in other neighborhoods I can assure you of that I answer the phone every single day. As a citizen I am just coming to Council saying we need to really focus on situations like this for our citizens. I do the very best I can, I believe I'm a good citizen, I keep care of my property, that's the way my grandparents would've wanted it. I'm thankful that I am able to live in that house, it's been in our family for over 60 years and I want to continue to live there, but we need to do something. Not only that, but with the Safety Forces as well, with Newark Fire and Newark Police, there's not enough of them. I know they have to watch their budgets and everything, but it's tuff listening to people on the phone asking us over and over again, where are they at, are they coming? And you have a medic out of service because there's not enough of the guys to work, it's very tuff for them, so I'm just coming to Council to say, I hope you can help our City. I love this City, I've live here my whole life like I said and again thank you Ms. Bline for all that you've done for my family and for trying to get this cleaned up. I don't know what you can do, but maybe passing some sort of law. I know people are allowed to purchase property , but when they do that and then let it go it creates an eyesore, it creates rodents, it creates all kinds of havoc, so I appreciate your time listening to me and thank you very much.

Tim Bubb, County Commissioner - Since I came for auspicious occasion of the Auditor's recognition, let me just share a couple things with you that come to mind that effect the City of Newark. County Transit initiated this summer the first fixed route that travels east and west on Main Street, I'm sure you're all aware of that, it's been very successful, it's served about 2,000 people already just since this summer taking people anywhere from aging to downtown to the hospital and medical complexes. What I want to make you aware of is starting later this month we're going to initiate the second fixed route, it will be a north route. They are going to call it the 21st Street route, basically it will connect downtown with 21st Street up the Health Department and out to the Newark Campus of OSU/COTC and back. This is the second, there will be four fixed routes serving the community and I hope that possibly the third one can be initiated before the end of the year. I want to make you all aware of it because this will give us a kind of crossing effect so people can move east and west will have a north south connect ion as well to a lot of critical services as well as the Newark Campus and the Health Department on the north end. The tentative start date for fixed route number two will be the 23rd of October, it appears we'll be ready to go on that date, so we'll be announcing shortly, some corporate partners and some folks are going to help underwrite the cost of that for the first year and we're excited about that. The first route has turned out to be excellent, the routes that follow may be western Licking County routes that follow this year and next, but the goal is to serve people that are transportation challenged. So, I wanted to make you aware and fell free to share that with your constituents. We'll have more on the exact bus stop places shortly, we'll have a map for you to see. I do want to compliment the Administration and thank the Engineering Department for helping to identify bus stops in Newark and we're getting signs ready to put up with the cooperation of the Engineer's Department. So, Mayor thank you very much for that and thanks to your Service Department. That's one item, second item, we're doing some construction in downtown Newark on some County facilities, including the Administration building, the President asked me about that earlier. We've finished the Courthouse exterior this summer, we're all ready for Christmas, but we're doing some extensive work to the County Administration Building at 20 South 2nd Street which is about a half century old building, as is this building, they get old, got to take care of them. We're going to do some interesting things to the front of the building, Jeff, that's all I'm going to say about it for now, we have a little hole there, like a cavity, but we're going to fill it and we'll have a little more about that as we get closer. We're also doing some significant repairs to the former City and now the County parking garage, which is a free parking garage on South 2nd Street. Re-doing the upper deck and also the ramp. We're also doing some extensive work to a County building at First and East Main Street which is the Adult Probation Office and my hope is that we will have all three of those projects done before snow flies, assuming that the snow is going to fly. Other than that, nice to see you all.

Mr. Spivey, 45 S. Morris Street - I'm here to speak on what's going on out there in the east end. We've got homeless people everywhere. I've been there all my life and I've never seen it this bad. They don't have nowhere to stay and they stand in the forest and in the weeds and things. I don't understand, you've got the Salvation Army there, they're sleeping outside all night on the sidewalk. People come by

to go to the store, you know we've got businesses out there, Savalot you've got a lot of places opening up DorMar, a door business on Arch Street. There are some people out there that are very sick, I don't think they should be out there laying out there in 90 degrees with no clothes on, you open up that blue building on the corner to help them, they don't do that. They're everywhere. Last week I happened to come out of my house, there was a young man laying on the railroad tracks, I went over there to see if they were alright. I got him up off the tracks and talked to him and he just started flipping, something was wrong. Two days prior to that I saw him coming down East Main. No one seems to care. Everybody drives out that way because you've got shopping out there. Then you've got some of them out there robbing people. You know they go to work in the morning and people try breaking into their garage, you wake up in the morning, you're liable to have one laying outside your house asleep.

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - The first speaker, I can empathize with her position. When I lived in the house before where I am now there was a steady stream of drug dealers living next door and I brought it to the police's attention and their suggestion was that I let them know what time the drug actions were going to take place, like I know that, (inaudible) and my life was threatened and that was the best that the police were able to do. I consulted the person who owned the building and his comment was well, at least they pay the rent and that's as far as that went until the next drug dealer moved into that house. I was reminded by the police that it was a quiet street. Things are not always what they seem. In terms of the last guy, I appreciate your sensitivity (inaudible). It tears me up what's going on in this City and across this country because of the way the problem is being handled. So, I'm going to keep this short for now and would like to be able to speak further later.

Desiree Blake, 125 S. Second Street - First I want to thank Mike and Beth for coming to the South Newark Civic Association meetings. I would like to invite everyone to come to the next meeting to talk about what we can do about the railroad problem down in Little Texas, then you guys can hear the folks about what's going on, the railroad's fumes and trash and everything, so I would just like to invite you guys, I'll give Beth Mike the dates when we will have our next meeting, so I'd just like to invite you all to come and listen to the people about what's going on down there because it's been going on for a long time and we're trying to get this solved, but ow we're going to do it, I feel let's get you guys involved and back them up because there is a lot of illness going on with the fumes and it's unsafe. I just invite you all to come and just listen to the folks because we are part of Newark too, even though they always called it Little Texas, they're part of the south end too and they just want to be heard so you will know what's going on with the railroads.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Lang, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie

23-50 AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE PAY RANGE FOR THE POSITION OF STREET/TRAFFIC CONTROL OPERATIONS MANAGER IN THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE DIVISION OF STREET MAINTENANCE AND AMENDING THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF AND SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFOR

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

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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

23-51 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 1725 MT. VERNON ROAD, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #058-286716-00.000 AND TAX ID # 058-286554-03.000 FROM THAT OF NEWTON TOWNSHIP (B2) TO GC - GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO

Motion to amend by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Lang

Point of Order by Mr. Marmie, you cannot have a motion to amend unless there has been a motion to adopt, it has to go to Planning Commission and then come back

Referred to Planning Commission

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

23-52 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 1572 LEMAE AVENUE AND 1573 LEMAE AVENUE, CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, PARCEL TAX ID #096-288666-00.000 AND PARCEL TAX ID#096-288534-00.000 FROM THAT OF NEWARK TOWNSHIP TO SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE - RM - MEDIUM DENSITY ZONING DISTRICT, ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO

Referred to Planning Commission

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Chute, Ms. Bline, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang, Mr. Rine

23-78 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUMIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) A ONE YEAR USE OF FUNDS/ACTION PLAN ALONG WITH AN APPLICATION FOR FY 2024 FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (CDBG), AS REQUIRED BY 24 CFR PART 91.220, FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS RELATED TO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang

Mr. Marmie - I just want to put notice out there that with this resolution comes the applications that will be sent out with CDBG funds. I just want to make it clear that any organization that submits an application for CDBG that is not in support of the issues of homelessness that we are trying to make sure that things are cleaned up and in compliance, it's not against the law to be homeless, but we should not be enabling those homeless in order to commit crimes and do other things, so any of those organizations that have in the past received CDBG funds I'm just saying that I will not be in support of those organizations if they are not in support of the direction that we are going.

Motion passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Lang, Mr. Labutis

23-80 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

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

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Neely, Mr. Chute, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang

23-81 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PARK NATIONAL BANK FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NON-TRANSPORT MEDIC UNITS FOR THE DIVISION OF FIRE.

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

23-83 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 2024 BODY WORN CAMERA GRANT FUNDING.

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. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

23-84 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Held until 10-16-23

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

23-85 Exp APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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, Ms. Bline

23-86 A RESOLUTION 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.

Held until 10-16-23

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - I've been reflecting a lot on the last meeting that we had and trying to understand exactly why that happened. It was crazy, It was a circus. So, I talked to a number of friends about the situation and they pointed me and I do often read newspapers from various sources and this one for instance is from the US (inaudible). I'm wearing a fish today because it reminds me of Jesus' teachings and that probably sounds a little odd coming from me, but the Bible talks about feeding people a lot. His first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding feast, then he turns 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish into a meal for 5,000 people. So, with the focus of food on the table it's no surprise that Pope Francis came down hard on those who are not working toward feeding the hungry around the world, the planet has enough food for us all, but it seems there is a lack of willingness to share it with everyone and he said during a homily for the general assembly of (inaudible) he continued to say that (inaudible) will have to face God's judgement and they will have to answer for the care of the environment or lack thereof. I'm sorry, here's another quote. The Pope says pray for the hungry, offer them food, that is what prayer is about. In addition, Pope Francis has (inaudible) properly care for the poor, in which the homeless are included. And this is from (inaudible), there's hundreds of them so I will not share all of them with you, you're welcome. (Inaudible) we have to state without mincing words that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor. May we never abandon them. Just as the commandment thou shall not kill (inaudible) today we also have to say thou shall not to an economy of exclusion and inequity, such exclusion kills. So, how can it not be news that an elderly homeless person dies from exposure, but it is news that the stock market loses 2 points, this is a case of exclusion. May we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving, this is a case of inequality.

President Harris - Do you have anything else?

Ms. Volen-Smith - Well, the Pope has a lot to say.

President Harris - We're not going there. We get what you're saying.

Ms. Volen-Smith - I hope so, I think last week was very misguided and again I can see a lot of

what was said last time were folks that have been said here before.

MISCELLANEOUS

Doug Vermaaten, NFD - First I would like to thank President Harris for taking time last week to come in and ride with the Division of Fire and EMS. Personally my gratitude is not because you came and saw the members and what they do every day for our citizens, but because you actually got me out of my office for a couple of hours so I'm very grateful for that. So, with that I want to extend the opportunity to all of Council please take me up on my offer to come ride for a couple of hours and see what our men and women do for our citizens every day, the way President Harris got to see. I even drove lights and sirens for the first time in over a year. At 10 this morning we swore in our 80th uniformed member to our roster, this is the last person from our lateral transfer process that was conducted in January of this year. The decision to alter requirements allowing EMT's to apply has afforded the EMS a larger pool of candidates from which to choose. The Division used the same approach for conducting our entry level testing for the Civil Service exam, thanks to the approval from Mayor Hall's Administration along with financial support from City Council, today Chief Metzger forwarded 4 names from the Civil Service list to Director Hickman for conditional offers of employment, once through our pre-employment process, these 4 individuals will bring our uniformed staffing to 84 members, thus putting us at our full budget staffing, something this Division has not accomplished in several years. Getting the staffing to 84 personnel will give us the ability to reinstate the ambulance on the west end of the City, help decrease overtime caused by vacancies in daily staffing and decrease our reliance on mutual aid. This staffing number is an important feat, I want everybody to remember in January of this year we had 16 vacancies inside our agency. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the support of Mayor Hall and his Administration, the overwhelming support from City Council along with our interagency cooperation assisting us in expediting the hiring process. Obtaining this staffing level provides better safety for our citizens and for our firefighters alike. As we move toward 2024, the Division of Fire and EMS hopes to continue this forward momentum and increasing our roster to our authorized strength of 93 uniformed personnel. On behalf of Fire Chief Metzger, I would like to personally and publicly thank this Council and Mayor Hall's Administration for your continued support of your Safety Forces and for having the faith in the agencies Chiefs to protect this community. Thank you.

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor- Just real quick I wanted to inform Council and the leadership that Mr. Weisent and I have started the budget process for 2024, we do hope to get it to you by late November at the latest December for the budget for next year.

Tricia Moore, Law Director - I just want to say congratulations to all of the Auditor's Office.

Mayor Hall - I want to extend those same congratulations, they do a phenomenal job. I think one time alone on the general fund, the 100 number there were 400 or 500 accounts under that alone, so you can imagine how complex it is. They do a great job keeping track of it and that's why we are all the better for it. Congratulations again Ryan and everybody.

Ms. Bline - Before I get into further comments, I'd like to wish a happy birthday to our youngest consistent attendee, her birthday is tomorrow, so happy birthday young lady. I also would like to thank the Street and parks Departments for their consistent help in cleaning up when

homeless come in and dump or leave things that are very difficult for us as a whole to pick up, they've been awesome. I'd also like to thank the Wells Park neighborhood, they come out early in the morning and pick up things in the street and the park. I really appreciate them, I don't know if they are watching. I'd like to thank the PUCO, I don't know if they are watching either, but they've been very helpful in working through some utility issues that have been long standing and I was amazed at their efficiency, so thank you. Congratulations Mr. Bubb and office. Now, all of the enabling has created a kill zone within our communities. I can't tell you what's happening to our neighborhoods. I know a lot of folks don't live within the eyespot or smell zone or anything that's happening but it's creating a gangrene that's literally rotting out our streets and our neighborhoods. It's time. People come in and hand out needles and wonder why we have overdoses and then tax payers fund ambulance rides over and over again. Do I want to see anybody die, no, but I would like to see a more conscious effort of considering taxpayer funds and how they're used as you are coming into our City to donate things that are not helping in the long run. So, please consider the residents, please consider what's happening. It's something that's been seeded and grown over time and now we have a harvest of a mess.

Mr. Chute - Just briefly I'd like to congratulate Auditor Bubb along with everybody else. I'd also like to congratulate the Division of Fire, it's no small feat what you have done in very short order to me, so congratulations, I'm glad to see you're getting towards full strength.

Mr. Houser - I also along with everybody else want to congratulate Auditor Bubb and his office on that award, that's spectacular and much appreciated. Mr. Spivey I just want to thank you for coming out and expressing your concerns, it's something I hear pretty much daily at this point, especially from people in your area South Morris and that entire stretch of East Main Street, it's consistently a problem, I think at the last Council meeting we saw several people speak out with a lot of the same concerns that you have and so I'll be connecting with you after. I also want to address some comments made in citizens comments. The last meeting we had people expressing their concerns with the homeless and criminal activity, it's disappointing to me that's referred to as a circus. That's really disappointing. Those are citizens who, as Beth commented, live that reality every day, so I think that's disappointing if that's what's considered a circus. The other thing I'll mention is religion and Jesus was quoted as a reason to feed the homeless, one of the things I respected about Jesus' ministry was he was not afraid to tell people when they were wrong and they needed to change their way of living. That's the only thing I will say on that.

Mr. Labutis - I'd like to thank Auditor Bubb and his office for all of their hard work in earning that award and all you do for the City. Also to the Fire Department appreciate all of the hard work you are putting forward to get back to full staffing, I appreciate that and I'd like to thank Chief McKee for helping me with a property that's been a situation for the past few weeks.

Mr. Lang - Congratulations Auditor Bubb and your department that's fine work, I think we can start introducing you now as our award winning auditor as we did with your predecessor. Doug thanks for coming and sharing the great details from the Fire Department, it's really great work by everyone there to get up to full staff so thanks for sharing that. I personally would love to take you up on that offer, it's been a couple of years since I went out with the Fire Department and Police Department, so love to get back out there. Then, last, I'll just thank my kids for

sitting through the meeting tonight, they did a great job with the pledge and I appreciate them sitting here and watching how our City functions.

Mr. Marmie - I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for the 16th of October. I want to congratulate Auditor Bubb and his entire department, although I'm not demeaning the award at all, but we already knew how great your office was running. We appreciate the communication, you mentioned that in your remarks, that is just what this is all about. It's been a teamwork effort and well deserving award, but we all knew it even before tonight, so thank you very much for all you do every day. I want to comment, Chief, great news, I knew great things were happening, so continue what you're doing, I think we've started on the right direction with a lot of different things and I'm happy for you and the Chief for what's happening in your department and thank you very much for the update. Good news about the County transit, I hope that all of that works, I know that it's not an easy task and there's a lot of different moving parts to it and there are changes out of our control, but I appreciate the updates from Commissioner Bubb also. Finally, I too am disappointed, first of all I didn't even know where it was coming from as far as it was referenced to, but the circus comment, demeaning comments towards individuals that came and spoke from their heart about their concerns and I'm a firm believer in helping those that need help when they're down on their luck and that's what Jesus did and the only problem I focus back to, it isn't a crime to be homeless, it isn't a crime to be down on your luck and have needs that the City and other organizations helps with. Folks who want help we are willing to help them out, but also, Jesus had the 10 commandments and you do not break those 10 commandments, you do not break the laws our municipality has put into place and that's where it all comes back to. It is not a crime to be homeless, it is not a crime to be poor, that's where we are willing to help out. What is a crime is to commit crimes, stop committing the crimes. Don't litter when you're getting free food or free supplies and things like that, that is what we're talking about.

Mr. Neely - I would also like to echo Auditor Bubb, Deputy Auditor Weisent and all the Auditor staff, you guys are doing a great job. Deputy Chief Vermaaten congratulations on getting almost to full staffing, you guys also do an amazing job. Thanks to our safety forces, you're getting the EMS back up in the west side, I look forward to that.

Mr. Rath - First I want to thank the Lang kids for doing the pledge, thank you very much and if I can embarrass you any more I would. Congratulation to Ryan Bubb, Jackie and Jim and the rest of the Auditor's staff, you guys do a great job and we really appreciate it, nothing less than what was expected from you, but you guys are doing great. Before I go too much further I want to call a Service Committee meeting so I don't forget about that. Lisa Howard, are you still here? Not enough police officers, you are absolutely right, there are not enough police officers. If you know anybody who wants to be a police officer in the City of Newark send them down, have them apply we'll take them. I've talked to the Chief and Deputy Chief, they need to hire them in groups of six instead of hiring a group of six lets hire a group of 12, you're absolutely correct we need more people in that position. They're only budgeted for so much, my comments were be greedy in setting up your budget next year and let us worry about getting that passed. We've absolutely got their backs on that. As far as the Fire Department, Doug thank you for the update on that certainly appreciate you getting my medic back in service, although it was not out full time. Mr. Spivey I know you talked about people being out in front of Salvation Army and all over the place, man I feel for you brother. There are several reasons

why there are so many people there, one is they only have so many beds, so when those beds are full they can't take anymore. Two is, they have standards, when you break those standards, you've burnt that bridge and you aren't allowed in there anymore. There are quite a few people around that aren't allowed there any more, same goes for St. Vincent DePaul. There are things that you can and cannot do when you go in there and if you do some of those things that you cannot do, you cannot any longer come back. You're absolutely right though, we need to work more on that. Mr. Houser, I love what you said tonight, I couldn't have said it any better. Nice job. Mr. Marmie, I am right there with you brother, we are not giving money to enablers. As far as the circus comments go, I will just tell you consider the source.

Mr. Rine - I'd like to congratulate Auditor Bubb, I can't think of a better man or crew. With the homeless issue, it really is two different worlds, they don't know our name, we don't know theirs. I had a conversation with a few of them, they didn't know who I was, they thought I was from Columbus. So, it's something that we really can't conform to, it's hard not to, because what's a person going to do, but we as a community cannot conform to this epidemic that we are having, so we need to stand together and do something about it before it does something to us.

Mr. Barker - First Auditor Bubb, congratulations, you and your team do fantastic work, Deputy Auditor Weisent, great job. I'm very proud of the work you do in your office to keep the finances straight. There is a lot been said here tonight, I'm going to go on a couple, three things here. Mr. Spivey thank you for coming in. I met with the Salvation Army Board of Directors last week, Councilman Houser and I are meeting with them again next week with the Sgt. They have a very clear path that they want to be a good partner with the City and they understand there are some issues on their front step. They are going through a strategic process right now, I got to see a little bit of it last week, we'll hopefully see more this coming week, I know help from law enforcement is one of the things they have at the top of their list and that goes back to we don't have enough officers right now, we need more, we understand that and we want more officers, it's just hard to find them. So, we hear everybody, what the problems are, when you come to Council we appreciate that. I don't appreciate the circus comment because I thought at the last meeting everyone was very respectful on how they discussed their issues and this is the forum to address the issues and if we don't know about it we can't help fix it. I feel like a broken record, I feel like I say that every time we have people come in, if we don't know, we can't help. With that, I'd also like to congratulate the Fire Department on bringing their staffing up, I know as Councilman Rath said, getting the 3rd ward's medic back up is high priority, I've gotten phone calls on that it's going to be nice to get back to those people and let them know the good news on that.

President Harris - Mr. Bubb, congratulations on your award, Lang kids, thank you very much, I think your dad said he'll buy you guys pizza tonight. Ice cream, there you go. I was off my game tonight, I think that Brown's loss really affected me. Our next meeting is October 16th.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council