

## COUNCIL MINUTES

October 16, 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. Rath, Mr. Rine, Mr. Barker

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Houser

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Cecilia Chute, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Calvin Chute, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Legend Elementary

### **CAUCUS**

**Motion by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang to excuse Mr. Neely, passed by acclamation**

**MINUTES of October 2, 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**

Service- **Received and Filed without Objection**

### **REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**City Auditor, Ryan T. Bubb** – Operating report for period ending September 30, 2023

**Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator's Office** – Income Tax Revenue Reports for period ending September 30, 2023

**COTC and The Ohio State University Newark** - Development of a Public Art Master Plan for the Newark Campus

**All Received and filed without objection**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** - New Liquor Application Christy's Pizza LLC, 15 E. Church St., Newark, Ohio 43055

**Marathon Pipe Line LLC** - "Call Before You Dig" 811 phone number

**COTC and The Ohio State University Newark** - Development of a Public Art Master Plan for the Newark Campus

## **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** - Before I start my comments, I'd like to add my hopes and prayers for the Palestinian people (inaudible). Last Council meeting there was some objection to the term circus. I suppose it's not always good to use metaphorical speech (inaudible), and so that could cause some heartburn. I think in this case it's not without justification, in that there were a couple, several people that made some very heartfelt and impassioned statements to problems that they were experiencing (inaudible). Then there were a couple of people, a couple of statements made, that previously debunked, inflammatory accounts of busloads of homeless people being brought to Newark and a very apples to oranges sort of comparison (inaudible) and expecting Newark to deal with them. First of all, the City of Columbus funds their warming center, there are a number of volunteers, but they do have people that are paid to monitor it. (inaudible) In Columbus when the weather is of dangerous temperatures and they define dangerous temperatures as freezing. In Newark the warming shelter is not open until it reached 10 degrees. I don't know how many of you have slept outside in freezing weather, I've done it before with (inaudible) equipment, they don't have equipment. Those sort of statements cheapen the very real comments that these people made and especially when I hear Council members use terms like kill zone, gangrene, literally rotting out and then they talk about giving out needles. My understanding was that Licking County Health Department has not allowed needle exchanges (inaudible).

## **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

There were none this meeting

## **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

There were none this meeting

## **RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING**

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

**23-84** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ( \$270,000.00 -Additional Funding for Water Treatment Chemicals due to increased bid price for 2023)

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, Motion passed 9-0**

**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.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 9-0**

## **RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING**

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

**23-87 Exp** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ( \$15,187,000.00 -South Second Street project) (\$15,000.00 -Additional Amount needed for note renewal) (\$45,000.00 -Credit Card processing fees and Water Note Renewal Fees)( \$63,756.00 -AFSCME Raises) (\$3,545.00 -AFSCME Raises)( \$96,343.00 -AFSCME Raises) (\$53,366.00 -AFSCME Raises) (\$26,120.00 -AFSCME Raises) (\$31,957.00 -AFSCME Raises)( \$79,818.00 -AFSCME Raises)

**Motion to waive the 2 day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, Motion passed 9-0**

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, second by Mr. Lang, Motion passed 9-0**

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

**23-88** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PARTICIPATE WITH A DEVELOPER IN THE COST FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OFFSITE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WILL PROVIDE BENEFIT TO AREAS BEYOND THE DEVELOPER'S NEED.  
**Held until 11-6-23**

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

**23-89** - Resurfacing with related work along SR 13 in Licking County. Scope of work to include preventative maintenance work on bridges within the resurfacing project limits. Scope of work within city will include resurfacing and replacement of curb ramps as needed.

**Held until 11-6-23**

#### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** - I just want to say and (inaudible) the Council's desire to help the homeless and I did participate in the study in 2020 (inaudible). I sent an email to Janine earlier this evening prior to the meeting with a link to the (inaudible) project, of a model where ending (inaudible). I think this is a very important issue, something that we need to address and it's getting worse where something needs to change.

**Desiree Blake, 125 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street** - I just want to know when you guys get ready to start South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street with the new pipelines, if the citizens on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street will know ahead of time before they get started so they can be prepared. If someone can let me know then I can go to their houses and let them know what's going on.

**Katie Rice-Jones, 1115 Wilmington Ct.** - My home is right on Country Club Drive and I'm amazed at how much traffic we have on there, it's like North 21<sup>st</sup> Street and I've almost met my everlasting twice in the last year. When they did construction on that road they were going to take out the big dip, well it's bigger now than it was before where they put in the three lanes. When you go south there is one speed sign down by Londondale Pkwy., it says 35mph. There is one when you go south and it's at The Ohio State University, one sign 35mph. The speed there is unbelievable, when you come off Krebbs Drive, there's a lane there going south a left turn

only that goes into University Drive. Well, a year ago Memorial Day, I was coming home and I was going north in the curb lane and I looked to see if anyone was coming and there wasn't and as soon as I started to turn into Krebbs Drive, there was a black truck, he missed me about this much, I would've been dead and if anybody would've been coming south, everybody would've been dead, it was terrible. So, that scared the bejesus out of me. So, now, just this past week, I was coming home and I was in the curb lane and I looked and there were three cars coming they had to be going 60-70mph, they're using it as a pass lane, so I sit there and got around that one. Okay, the next day I used the left lane to go through University Drive and I pulled into the left lane and I'm sitting there and here comes this woman in this car and she stops this far from my car and she's looking at me like what are you doing? I went like this, so instead of pulling to the curb lane, she passed too. Someone's going to get killed there and it's probably going to be me. So, I would like to see a no passing sign go up somehow or get rid of the lane into the University Drive and make a passing lane there and put some speed limits up. Nobody knows what the speed limit is there and the cops could be making a fortune if they just sat up there because they're just speeding up there day in and day out, I don't understand what's going on, but I wanted to bring it to your attention and hopefully somebody does something about it before me or somebody else meets their everlasting there. I'm 87 and I'm not ready to hang it up yet, so I would like to see something done.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Tricia Moore, Law Director** - Congratulations to the Cleveland Browns.

**Ms. Bline** - I'd like to thank Property Maintenance for all their interventions, they helped clean up a situation for a resident recently where criminal activity was overflowing from it, so grateful to them for that. I'd like to thank the Street Department they do so many great things and Lindsey Brighton, there was a toxic dump under a bridge and I went down there and cleaned it up, they had been cooking chemicals over a fire and so I was able to get that taken care of, but in the meantime the refuse and everything else had been dumped into the river and it was a tremendous stench, so I want to thank the Street Department again and Lindsey Brighton for cleaning that up. Christian Life Center came out again and we were able to clean up a large portion, this time focusing on south Newark. The highway, we went from the Heath entry clear into downtown, so we got a lot done that weekend. And I'll tell you I am so grateful for the pavement it's a beautiful thing to see that going down. So, thank you for that and I have to say WhoDey, they won too.

**Mr. Houser** - Just a couple brief things. I want to thank Superintendent Patznick for her work on getting some lights installed on the bike path in east Newark I think those are going to be a big help in helping to deter and prevent the crime issues we've been having down there, so I appreciate her work on that. I also want to thank the Street Department for their work in paving alleys in east Newark.

**Mr. Lang** - Ms. Jones, thank you for coming, I appreciate the information. Thinking about it, I drive through there a lot, You're right, we do need to take a look at that, I remember a few weeks ago turning out of Krebbs there and thinking how do people turn out of here every day

with people just coming up over that hill pretty fast. So, I think it's probably worth having our engineering team take a look at it, we always rely on their expertise where to put signs, but I think it's time to have them take a look at that and then I'll reach out and see about having the speed trailer being put up and get some patrol in the area and hopefully slow things down and make it a little safer.

**Mr. Marmie** - I need to call a Finance Committee Meeting for November 6<sup>th</sup>. The only other thing, I want to thank Director Rhodes, they had a successful auction on October 7<sup>th</sup> on some items that the City gets to sell off and it was very beneficial.

**Mr. Rath** - I also will congratulate the Browns for not losing on Sunday. I will call a Service Committee Meeting for November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Barker** - Ms. Jones thank you for coming in, as Mr. Lang said, we'll follow up on that and Deputy Chief Brnjic is here and was making notes while you were talking, so he'll be on it as well. So, thank you, like I always say, we don't know unless you tell us or call us, so I appreciate you coming in tonight to let us know.

**President Harris** - I want to let everybody know that the Browns won. Friday evening I attended an event downtown on the square, a breast cancer awareness event and it was called "We will Rise". It was a nice event, there were several there, there was a 25 year survivor, there was one there that was a 20 year survivor, two that were 14 and one that was 4 months, so It's always good to hear about survivors. You know it's not just breast cancer, it's all cancer that we need to support, so that was a nice event. The last thing, Saturday evening the Humane Society had their furball auction, the Law Director was there, Spencer was there Mr. Houser was there, and myself, it was a nice event, raised a lot of money for their organization. At the end of the night they had a DJ and a dance floor and there was some dancing going on, Mr. Houser was out there dancing, so Spencer, do you want to queue up the video of that? Our next meeting will be November 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Jeff Harris, President of Council**