

## COUNCIL MINUTES

January 16, 2024  
Council Chambers  
7:00 P.M.

**President Harris called the meeting to order**

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

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Houser

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Cole Devore, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Cherry Valley Elementary

**CAUCUS**

**MINUTES of January 2, 2024, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis , Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation**

**APPOINTMENTS**

There are none this meeting

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

There are none this meeting

**REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

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

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

**Both Received and filed without objections**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** - New Liquor Permit Application Sonalmaa Inc., 34 S. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Newark, Ohio 43055

**Ohio Division of Liquor Control** - Transfer Liquor Permit Application from Newark Downtown Center Inc., DBA The Center, 33 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street 1<sup>st</sup> floor & basement, Newark, Ohio 43055 to Historic Arcade II LLC, 33 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street 1<sup>st</sup> floor & basement, Newark, Ohio 43055

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** - First of all I apologize for forgetting to mute my phone. Primarily I want to thank Mr. Houser for making the comment about cold weather and thinking of the people who will be out in that. We have forecasted weather tonight to go into the single digits tonight and a couple more times next week. This is a real struggle for people that end up having to be out there, so please

keep your thoughts in mind for them and those who are trying to help them as well. There are a lot of people who are only one car accident or one health emergency away from being homeless and I think we could all do a better job for that community.

**Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** - You read my mind Steve, I also wanted to thank you for addressing that in your prayers, but we need action. It is really cold and this is just the beginning of the year and it's probably going to continue. We do need more than prayers, we need action, a lot more action. We need affordable housing. I have talked to a number of people who have lost their homes because of losing a job or whatever, bad timing, a car accident, all sorts of things and it could be any one of us. A lot of cities are doing a lot better and we need some action.

#### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

There were none this meeting

#### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

There were none this meeting

#### **RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING**

There were none this meeting

#### **RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING**

There were none this meeting

#### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

##### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Mr. Labutis** - I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate Par Excellence on their breakfast yesterday morning, it was a great program, they had a fantastic speaker, so kudos to them.

**Mr. Marmie** - I need to call a Finance Committee Meeting for February 5<sup>th</sup>. One thing I want to comment, I want to congratulate our Fire Chief and our Deputy Fire Chief, at the end of the fiscal year, half way through the year we were concerned about the overtime dollars being spent on our Fire Department. We had the first half of the year approximately \$695,000 spent. They turned things around they made changes, adjustments, they hired, they did what it took and they not only had a plan, but they executed it well. The second half of the year we're just a little above \$256,000 in overtime, so the turnaround is significant. Without great leadership and also the support of all the folks in our Fire Department, they did a great job in that second half and I appreciate it and not only that, noones life was in jeopardy, they just did more with less and did an effective job with it and I really appreciate everything they did in the second half. I appreciate them all the time, but man that is just something, what they did as far as that turnaround that I appreciate the leadership and Deputy Chief if you could pass that along to the Chief, I appreciate it. Then just one closing remark, I would be remiss if I didn't comment on a couple of losses that this community had. The first of which was just a gentleman who was just service above self, if you've ever known the term service above self, T.D. Griley was just

somebody who did phenomenal things for the Rotary organization, not just here locally, he did it district wide and throughout the United States and internationally. If you look at all the accolades that gentleman had and what he did for this community, what he did for Rotary and international Rotaries, known for the fight and eradication of Polio and all the different things and we lost a really great gentleman and citizen of Newark here recently. Then secondly, we lost a great coach and definitely someone in the Newark Catholic community, Coach Cannizaro recently passed away on Saturday. He'll be missed, he's a record setter, he won 7 State Championships, inducted into not only the Newark Catholic Hall of Fame, but the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame for High School. Just a great individual that served the community, did a lot for Don Edwards Park, was a coach with the World Series teams when they were here and not only that, he was a Postal Delivery guy in our community also that just did a lot and so he will be sorely missed also.

**Mr. Rath** - I will call A Service Committee meeting for Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms. Bline** - I'd like to thank Parks Director Patznick concerning the Town Commons name change to Hope Park. We met with her committee and they voted in favor of making that change and further repurposing that park. It's still kind of fallow and underused so we had a dream session on how we might like to further use that to get more people down there, so when that legislation comes, I would appreciate your support on that. I'd like to thank Mr. Balderson's office and Genesee and Wyoming Railroads for their help in securing the Federal Inspection records for Raccoon Creek Bridge. A few citizens and myself certainly had been questioning concerning the infrastructure, what's going on there and they were very kind to pursue those records. I've submitted copies of this inspection to our City Engineers and to our Council Clerk, if anyone would like to have a look.

**Mr. Cost** - I had a conversation today with Deb Dingus, she's the Director of The United Way of Licking County and she's also the Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church on West Main Street. She and members of her congregation and a number of volunteers are running a warming center and it's making a huge difference. I think today she said they had twenty some people and four dogs at the warming center and they're feeding these people and the animals and housing them and because of the work they are doing those people have a warm place to sleep at night, I think that's to be incredibly admired and I'm hoping that we can lend some help in her direction.

**President Harris** - I just want to thank everybody who attended the Martin Luther King breakfast and everyone that supported it. There was a really good speaker and it was a good breakfast. The next meeting will be Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cost, second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation**

**Jeff Harris, President of Council**