

## COUNCIL MINUTES

April 15, 2024  
Council Chambers  
7:00 P.M.

**President Harris called the meeting to order**

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

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Houser

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Ezekial Avery, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Carson Elementary

### **CAUCUS-**

**Mr. Neely** – Mr. President, I will have to abstain from Resolution No. 24-28 due to personal conflict.

**Mr. Houser**- Mr. President, I will be doing the same.

**Mr. Rath** – Mr. President, for Resolutions 24-27 and 24-28, my intent is to table that legislation back to committee.

**MINUTES of April 1, 2024, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

There were none this meeting.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Streets - **Received and Filed without objection**

Service - **Received and Filed without objection**

Recreation - **Received and Filed without objection**

### **REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**City Auditor, Ryan T. Bubb** – Operating report for period ending March 31, 2024

**Received and Filed without Objection**

**Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator's Office** – Income Tax Revenue Reports and Newark Lodging Excise Tax Revenue Report for period ending March 31, 2024

**Received and Filed without Objection**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none this meeting.

## **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Shelby Abey Hawkins, 45 N. Front St.** – I have come to talk about name change of old Towne Commons to Hope Park. A little back story, in late October, 2022, I had talked to Mrs. Bline about a local park that was run down by the homeless, and how we could work to get it back to the way it was before. So, with the help of Bill Eskew, the Boy Scouts, and Shackelfords Disposal, Police Department, Fire Department, and the city, we were able to get it looking so much better. We had a picnic bluegrass concert there, and it has become a very inviting place for the people. The idea of the name change came because, though while we never knew the name of the park, so me and Mrs. Bline came up with the name Hope Park, because it was always our hope to get it restored back to its full potential. Thank you, and have a good night.

**Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** – I wanted to do a shout out and a thank you to Officer Brad Shepherd who came to my rescue today. When I was down on 2<sup>nd</sup> St., they're working on there, and there are a lot of rocks being thrown at cars and things like that, and my car was one of them. My window ended up being completely shattered, and I'm still taking off glass pieces. I was thinking that that would have been very preventable if the city simply put some metal surfaces over the rocks that are getting all over people's lawns and they're really a potential death threat. You should see my window. Anyway, Officer Shepherd did an incredible job. He was so kind and so great at problem solving and righteous, and I can't say enough. We need more like that and we need to give them a raise. So anyway, if you could let him know thank you again. It was appreciated. He is definitely one of the finest. Thanks.

**Desiree Blake, 125 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St** - I'll pick up on what she was saying. They're coming in, 2<sup>nd</sup> St. is getting ready to get redone. They put that one waterline. They couldn't get the top of it all, so they had to dig a hole and go down in there, and when they refilled it, they filled it with the dirt plus the bigger rocks. Well, all the bigger rocks are going everywhere. They're in the yard. I picked up I don't know how many I've got in my yard. Some guy was mowing, and he didn't know the rocks were in his grass, and that's what popped out and hit her car, is what happened today. She was down visiting me. But anyway, that's a little issue that needs to be, someone needs to come down and pick all those rocks up, because I'm getting too old to keep bending down picking rocks up. I know we had new waterlines put in by a contractor, and I've been on them for a few days, and they have not finished putting the dirt in where my line is, and now there are holes there, and I'm worried that once you guys start working on the streets, rats, everything that's going to be coming in. I called them to see if they could come in and put the dirt in and pack it down, because when they put it in, it's just there and then it rains. Then it packs

down, and then you can see underneath the cement part of the sidewalk and how much water is going to go underneath there, and it's going to tear that piece of sidewalk up that they redone. But, I didn't know who else to go to to see what we could do to get that done before that piece of sidewalk they just did gets destroyed by the water that's going underneath it is going to mess it up. That's all I have right now.

**President Harris** – Talk to Brandon after the meeting.

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

There were none this meeting

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

**By: Mr. Houser, Mr. Cost**

**24-14** AN ORDINANCE VACATING PORTIONS OF A FOURTEEN (14) FOOT WIDE ALLEYS AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF LEWIS EVAN'S ADDITION, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 161 OF THE LICKING COUNTY PLAT RECORDS; SAID ALLEYS ARE LOCATED WEST OF VINE STREET, NORTH OF STATE ROUTE 16.

**Held until May 6<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**By: Mr. Chute, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost**

**24-26** CI APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

**Will die due to lack of Motion.**

**By: Mr. Rath**

**24-27** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH JOSH GREER, ALAINA GREER, CAILEIGH HUGHES , AND SPENCER BARKER, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A DRAINAGE SYSTEM

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Lang, Motion to table and return to committee by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Lang. Motion passed 9-0, 1 abstained.**

**By: Mr. Rath**

**24-28** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH JASON DALE HOTTINGER, CHERI LYNN HOTTINGER, AND VARIOUS PROPERTY OWNERS ON STONEWALL DRIVE SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A DRAINAGE SYSTEM

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Lang, Motion to table back to committee by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Lang. Motion passed 8-0, 2 abstained.**

**By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Mr. Cost, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rath**

**24-29** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF OHIO 2024 NATUREWORKS GRANT.

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

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

**By: Mr. Rine, Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline, Mr. Neely**

**24-30** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO PROCEED WITH THE STEPS NECESSARY TO RENAME TOWNE COMMONS PARK AKA FRONT STREET PARK AKA EASY STREET PARK, PARCEL NO. 054-258866-00.000 AS HOPE PARK.  
**Held until May 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Cost, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline, Mr. Neely**

**24-31** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ACCEPT BIDS AND SELL CERTAIN SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY NOW OWNED BY THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, AND DECLARING THAT SUCH PROPERTY IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Mr. Rath** – Mr. President, the reason for the emergency clause is for us to meet advertising deadlines for the event.

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

**By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline, Mr. Cost, Mr. Neely**

**24-32** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWARK FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT #5 AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN.

**Held until May 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct.** – I was talking to some people around where my car was changed, and it seems that in the process of trying to fix 2<sup>nd</sup> St., which I realize is going to take a long time, the plan is to make the alleyway behind, I think it's in your district by the ballpark, into a two-way street for a while. I was told by some of the business people there that they're not very happy with that because they're afraid it will cause some accidents. I feel that that could be very dangerous for the children that are playing there and I think there may be a better solution. Thank you.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Law Director Tricia Moore** – Thank you. I just wanted to thank Janine, I know tonight is your last council night, for all your work and everything you've done here. It's been an honor to work with you. I will be sad to see you go, but I'm excited to welcome Amy. I'm excited to work with you, but you will be missed.

**Mayor Jeff Hall** – I will echo those same words, Janine. It's been great. Enjoy retirement. I'm sure you'll stay busy. You did an outstanding job. It was great working with you. We welcome Amy. You've certainly done a great job tonight already, and I'm real excited about that. They've worked together the last couple of weeks, and I think it's been a great transition in a lot of ways. It's such an important role to keep this meeting flowing in the right direction. Thank you, Amy for doing it, and Janine again, thank you for all your time in this room and the room next door and working throughout City Hall.

**Mr. Neely** – I will echo the same sentiments. Janine, thank you so much for your service to the city. It's been a pleasure sitting beside you these past few months. I hope you enjoy retirement. Amy, welcome as my new neighbor.

**Mr. Rath** - Obviously we're all going to congratulate Janine. We certainly want to embarrass her tonight. We said we weren't going to embarrass you tonight, but I hope you are embarrassed because you deserve it. We certainly appreciate everything that you've done. Good luck with your next chapter. Amy, I think you've got some big shoes to fill. You did a great job tonight, I'm sure you'll continue to do well. I want to call a Service Committee for May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Rine** – Thank you, Janine. For us newbies, you've done wonders. All the knowledge that you've passed on the past couple of years, thank you. Amy, you did a wonderful job. Thank you. I know it's not easy.

**Ms. Bline** – Thank you, Mr. President. Janine, thank you. It's not an easy job. It's a lot of time. Lots and lots of time, and listening to us I'm sure is even worse. Good luck on your great adventures. I think you'll have a great time. Welcome, Amy. Thank you for being here. In response to Ms. Blake's request the first patch near the 2<sup>nd</sup> St. bridge was recorded last week. And the previous one was recorded over the weekend to the one near your house. I understand that's a subcontractor, and they arrived today to examine it. So, I'm sure they'll be back. So, thank you for that. Thank you, Mr. Fox for addressing this issue. Ms. Patznick, thank you for your work in pushing this name change forward, because any place is a place until it has a name. So, I'm looking forward to that legislation hopefully being passed. Thank you, Ms. Abey and friends, for coming out. Making a presentation. I'd like to thank the city and south Newark city association and the sponsors of the south Newark clean up this past weekend. It was tremendous. Councilman Houser came. I'm very grateful. Real rescue was there with their great machinery, and we were able to get days of work done in a matter of hours with their trucks and lifts. Tons of refuse was taken out. So, I'm very grateful for everyone that showed up. Also, there will be changes there, too. This time that place is secure. Look forward to greater things for that piece of property. Down by Raccoon Creek.

**Mr. Chute** – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll just echo everybody's thanks to Janine. It's been great to work with you for a short time. You have been wonderfully patient with those of us who are new at this. I appreciate all your help. I wish you the very best in the future. Thank you, Shelby, for being here today. Thanks for bringing Mrs. Robinson with you. It's always good to see you.

**Mr. Cost** – Janine, thank you. You’ve been patient with all of us. New and old. Thank you for that. Amy, I wish you luck. I hope you will be patient as well. A lot to deal with. One thing that hasn’t been said tonight is we’re all going to have an interesting day with the Fire Department Wednesday.

**Mr. Houser** – Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to thank Amy for the great job tonight. Thank you, Janine for all the patience. I very poorly attempted to learn the technology. I’m not Spencer, clearly. Thank you so much for all that.

**Mr. Labutis** – Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Janine for all your help. It’s been great working with you for the past few years. You’ve done a fantastic job and we appreciate your service. All the best in your next steps. Amy, congratulations on a great first meeting. Glad you are here. Wish you all the best moving forward.

**Mr. Lang** – Thank you, Mr. President. Bill, I look forward to that on Wednesday. I look forward to seeing you there. If you want to meet me there Tuesday, I suppose we could do it. Looking forward to that. I think it would be a good education for us to spend some time with the Fire Department, learning a little bit of what they do. So, looking forward to that. Janine, thank you. It’s been an absolute pleasure. I think it’s a testament to your job here what everybody’s saying. You even got past President Don Ellington joining us, so it says a lot about what you did, so thank you so much for everything you did. Amy, welcome. It looks like you’ll be able to pick up where Janine is leaving off. Like everyone said, you have big shoes to fill, but I think you’ve been trained well. So, good luck and welcome.

**Mr. Marmie** – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting. I first want to thank all the folks throughout the city handling the high water. There were areas flooded. There were evacuations. Not necessarily mandatory. Just communication, monitoring, it was fantastic how everyone responded and worked together. I want to thank the city workers who had to man the pump stations down by the river. I really appreciate their service and what they did. So, I want to thank everybody in the city who pitched in for that. Next, I want to say I’m looking forward to Wednesday fire fighter Spohn, you’re in charge of the weather, right? We’re counting on him to shoo this rain away. It’s the only day it’s supposed to rain. Next, I want to welcome Amy, and wish you good fortune. I have all the confidence you will do well. You were trained by one of the best. So, I want to welcome you and look forward to working with you. Finally, from one veteran to another, I want to thank you for your service to our country, and as a citizen of Newark, I want to thank you for your service to our city. I wish you good fortune in your future. Maybe we’ll see you sometime around in a more relaxing atmosphere. I look forward to that.

**President Harris** – Don, would you like to say something?

**Don Ellington** – Janine, has done a great job. I wonder who hired her? Thank you all for dressing up tonight for Janine’s last night. You all look very nice.

**President Harris** – Janine, you know we’ve all said thanks. I really appreciate how you helped me transition into this role and everything you’ve done for me. I wish you well. Amy, good job tonight. You’ll do well. Our next meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup>, and May 7<sup>th</sup> is my birthday.

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

**Jeff Harris, President of Council**