

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 17, 2024
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL - Mr. Rine, Ms. Bline, Mr. Chute, Mr. Cost, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis (not present), Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Mr. Rath

INVOCATION – Ms. Bline

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS – Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Lang, passed by acclamation

MINUTES of June 3, 2024, Motion to accept by Mr. Houser, Second by Mr. Rine, passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Hall - Reappointing Dr. David Koontz and Brittany Henry to the Human Relations Commission. Their new four-year terms will begin July 7, 2024 and will expire July 6, 2028.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - **Received and Filed without objection**
Service - **Received and Filed without objection**
Safety - **Received and Filed without objection**
Personnel – **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

City Auditor, Ryan T. Bubb – Operating report for the period ending May 31, 2024
Received and Filed without objection

Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator's Office – Income Tax Revenue Report and Newark Lodging Excise Tax Revenue Report for the period ending May 31, 2024
Received and Filed without objection

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none this meeting.

Public Hearing

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Marmie

24-21 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE PETITION TO CREATE THE NEWARK DOWNTOWN NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY; DETERMINING THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEWARK DOWNTOWN NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY, CONVENIENCE, AND WELFARE AND IS INTENDED TO RESULT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNITY; DECLARING THE NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY TO BE ORGANIZED AND A BODY POLITIC AND CORPORATE; DEFINING THE BOUNDARY OF THE NEW COMMUNITY DISTRICT; PROVIDING THE METHOD OF SELECTING THE NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES; FIXING THE SURETY FOR THOSE TRUSTEES' BONDS; APPOINTING THE INITIAL CITIZEN MEMBERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES; AUTHORIZING RELATED MATTERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mark Mauter, Director of Development – Good evening everyone. I just want to express my appreciation for Council giving the creation of a downtown New Community Authority. The New Community Authority is a powerful economic development tool that can work with other economic development tools and programs. They're going to promote development of a variety of residential and commercial projects. I would highly recommend that Council approves this legislation in order to promote and facilitate economic development in the downtown area. Thank you.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. This is the first of many steps that are going to come fast and furious with things that are happening in the downtown area. Our Economic Development Director, the Mayor, the Newark Downtown Association, and many other entities have really collaborated and done a lot of brainstorming working with firms outside of the city of Newark as far as law firms that are just experts in these community development authority zones. This is just going to be a huge asset for the city of Newark, and like I said, it is just the beginning of what's coming. The other thing that it allows is smart growth, that not anybody can just come in and do as they please. I just think it's a great tool, and I appreciate the administration and all the work they put forward towards this.

Motion to Adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline, Passed 9-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Desiree Blake, 125 S. Second St. – My family had a picnic at Wells Park over the weekend, and I was just wondering why the bathrooms water wasn't on? I could understand maybe with the homeless around if you leave it on, but when someone calls and wants to rent that or be there, they should have the bathroom water on and then turn it off when they're done. It makes it hard where are you going to go to the bathroom when you have 50-60 people there, and little kids running around? We had to take them all the way to Mound Builders to go to the bathroom, and they only have the 2 stalls. I was wondering if any of the parks that have bathrooms if they can just open them up when the people are there so they'd be able to use them, and then turn it off afterwards? It's pretty hard when you go to use the parks and there's no bathroom there. Thank you.

Chris Gargus, 103 Swainford Dr. – I'm the director of The Champions Network in Newark, Ohio. We work a lot with the drug addicted and homeless. I'd like to give you a 6-month update so you know what's going on in your community, and how much improvement has been in this area. It's pretty amazing. We have 3 divisions in our group now. One is transportation. We've transported over 575 individuals and over 2100 miles to doctor visits, dental and vision treatment, recovery meetings, residential drug treatment centers, job interviews, and employment. So, that's a big plus for that part of it. We also started a thing called the Champions Workforce Development. What this does is it gives our members a chance to work again and be employed gainfully through us. We take them out and we have different jobs for them to do within the community with churches, with our organization, and during that time we have logged over 46 work days since February, with 15 different members, and over 400 work hours. Out of that, 4 people have got full-time employment through this part of the organization. So, that's 4 people who are no longer on the streets, and they're clean and they are being productive for the community. I think that's the most important part of this situation. We want to improve this community. Moving on to the Recovery Group. So far in 2024, 66% of the males and 71% of the females that are in our group on Champions there's over 120 of them, are clean and sober and sustaining it. That's a pretty amazing number actually. We placed 19 individuals in treatment, and I'd also like to at this time take a moment to mention a couple other great resources that your community has now. There's a group called The Summer Bloom Recovery Center. This is a street level organization where homeless and addicted can receive immediate help. This group is certified and effectively placed 212 individuals in treatment since 2022. Now, think about that. That's a lot. We work with them every day. Health Progress Detox is a local detox group, and they work closely to ensure the individuals will receive a complete detox, and from there they have the opportunity to go to Minerva Park in Columbus to get them away from their surroundings for 30-45 days to get more help and further recovery. Those guys are coming back to us, when Summer Bloom is with them, when Health Progress is done with them, they come back to us again. So, we continue to cycle through with them for the rest of their lives if they want that. We actually become like their parents, and we love doing this. So much fun. These 2 organizations are directly affective to everything that we're doing. Through the efforts of The Champions Network, The Summer Bloom Recovery Center, Health Progress, and several other churches and recovery organizations in Licking County, this county saw a 47% drop in overdose death from 2022 to 2023. We went from 58 to 31 in one year. That's almost half. I'm just thanking God for that. That's a miracle right there. I wanted to give you guys this report, let you know this is what's happening. We're hoping next year to have zero deaths. That's our goal. We don't know if that'll happen or not, but we're going to go for it. We want to save these people's lives, get them recycled, get them back out in the community, be successful community citizens again the way they used to be. That's all I have. I don't know if you have any questions, but I just wanted to let you know, give you an update. Thank you guys for your time. I appreciate it.

Tamika Harris, 325 N. 11th St. – I don't know if this is the right spot, but I reached out to pretty much everyone in my city, Newark, multiple times as well as everyone in my neighborhood has reached out.

We're dealing with a safety issue right now. We have a group of homeless people that moved into the house across the street directly in front of me. My landlord and about 3 other people have called in about that because there's drug use in front of our children all day all night. They now have people living in the back of the house which is in the garage which they just recently put a brand new door up because the city will not do their job. I know my neighbors have called the city of Newark. I myself have personally walked into the Mayor's office. My neighbor has personally walked into the Mayor's office. On top of that, one of the biggest problems is the neighbor 2 houses down from me, my children's father was recently sent to prison for domestic violence and a lot of other things. He moved his best friend, who is not safe for anyone, fought a neighbor, threatened a neighbor, spit on a neighbor, threatened my life multiple times, has walked around with guns in his front yard in front of our children. No one is doing anything. We called the police. He has been arrested twice. He gets right back out. I understand that everyone has the right and free will to live anywhere, but you give up that right and free will when you literally cause fear and sleepless nights, and distain for everyone around you. Four of us, three different households have protection orders. He is not living there paying bills. He is living there as a... it's for me. I know it's for me. My ex put him there. It was a house we owned, we put it in his father's name. However, his father is well respected by the city of Newark, and it took years to even get this man to be able to go to jail. I keep living in fear. I have a neighbor getting ready to sell their home to get away from him. I just got an emergency placement to move out of Ohio because I'm scared and no one is doing anything. I reached out. I don't know what else to do. People start taking care of problems on their own, and then I go to jail. I have 3 daughters. My neighbors have kids. You don't even see a neighbor playing on the streets. I don't know if anybody is familiar with my area, but our neighborhood is full of kids. There has not been one since school has been out that even come outside to play.

Margaret Jones, 1115 Wilmington Ct. – Before I start complaining I'd like to compliment the Mayor on the beautiful city we now have. I didn't think I'd live long enough to see it, but it's gorgeous. I also wanted to compliment Bill Cost on his comment about recreational marijuana. I think more people ought to listen to him, and I'm very proud of what he had to say. I'm here tonight because I'm very concerned about recreational marijuana. I travel on 21st St. a lot and I always kind of look at the dispensaries up there. I've never seen anybody elderly going past that dispensary. They're always young people. I've even seen people leave their kids in the car to go in. What are we doing? There's an article in the paper Sunday on legalization. 55 cities banned recreational marijuana. I wish we were one of them. I brought the list tonight. I don't know if anybody saw it in the paper. If you get the paper, I do. So, I think it's important to look at. My concern is, I have 5 grandchildren that are grown, and 7 great grandchildren, the oldest one is 6. I'm worried about people going and getting marijuana at home, married couples, smoking marijuana in front of their children. What are they teaching them? What are we doing to our country? This is not the America I grew up in. I'm very sad that my grandchildren are going to be in the mess that we're putting ourselves into. So, I would like for all of you to really take a better look, you folks that are really wanting to promote the marijuana. I think it's

going to be (inaudible) of our city. I think it's going to be a bigger problem for the police. They already have a tough time. I just don't think that is something that needs to be done. I have to go to the drug store to get my medicine. So, if I believe in the medical marijuana for people with Parkinson's or whatever they've discovered that helps them, but I can't get my arthritis medicine at a dispensary. I have to go to the drugstore. So, if you're going to have the marijuana, why don't they have to go to the drugstore, have a prescription, and get it legally? I'm sorry I feel this way, but I do. Thank you so much.

Tom Brunner, 419 S. 2nd St. – We had a situation on Wednesday, the 12th. I was sitting at my table drinking coffee that morning at about 7:15 and my neighbor calls me. Said there's a man out in front of your house swinging an ax, cussing, screaming, carrying on. He come up on my step before my sidewalk and say he's going to kill the man in that house, which was my house. He terrified my grandkids. He terrified my wife. So, I called Newark PD, so did she. About 10 minutes later they come out. Man laid his ax down. They didn't come from behind their cars, they stayed behind their cars and talked to him. Next thing I know he's picking his ax up and going up the hill. Wasn't that creating panic? Wasn't that a disturbance? Him carrying an ax, isn't that considered a deadly weapon if you're swinging it and threatening people? Why wasn't he arrested? I tried to tell them that my neighbor called me and she recorded the whole thing on her phone. They didn't listen to me. They took off up to his apartment after him. They was going to arrest him. He went into his apartment and locked the doors. He pulled his blind up, threw cigarettes at the window, stuck his tongue out at them. When they come back, I thought it was Officer Connelly, but somebody said it was Officer Crowley. I'm not sure. He was a young guy with blonde hair, short. He said if I see him walking the street that there would be a warrant out for him, to call and they'd pick him up. Well, he went down the street at 10:00 that morning. I called. Not one officer come in our area. It is disregarded by the sergeant. He come back up the hill at 10:30. I called. Not one officer in our area. It was disregarded. 5:00 that evening, he went down the hill again. I called. Not one officer in our area. It was disregarded. What gives the sergeants the right to disregard a call that could be potentially unsafe? I don't think that's right at all. I contacted Ms. Bline on every one of those that I did. I got my text messages. I got everything. I want to know why Newark PD is not doing their job? There is a reason, and it all starts at the very top. If the top ain't doing their job, then the rest of them ain't going to do theirs. I don't want to hear every time you call, well they're busy. They're this, they're that. I don't believe it because I've seen too many of them sitting in parking lots. I come from my granddaughter's the other day and come by St. Francis school over here on Granville. There's one setting in the parking lot back there. I drove back there. He was asleep. Is that doing his job? So, come on city. Step up. Quit being a bunch of sissies and start making the police department do their job. Are they afraid to come to the south end anytime? They must be. Somebody needs to step up in this town. Thank you.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Chute, Mr. Rath

24-19 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 210 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR SETTING THE COMPENSATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Held until July 1st.

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

24-56 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$2,187.77 To put funds into the Fire-Overtime account. This is for special duty at the Licking Spring Trout Club for fireworks 2024), (\$2,127.72 Received as reimbursement for 1st quarter 2024 CPT training from the State of Ohio. Money must be kept separate from the General Fund and only used for authorized law enforcement training purposes.)

Motion to Adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, Passed 9-0

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

24-57-A. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING WITH SOUTHEASTERN EQUIPMENT CO. INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ASPHALT GRINDER

Motion to Adopt by Mr. Chute, Second by Mr. Lang, Passed 9-0

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

24-58 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO PURCHASE TWO (2) USED STREET SWEEPERS FOR THE STORMWATER UTILITY WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

Motion to Adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Cost, Passed 9-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

24-59 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$50,000 - Construction of Eastside Transmission Line. These funds are being unencumbered from engineering services and will be used for construction. This is funded by Ohio Dept of Development Grant.)

Held until July 1st.

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

24-60 Exp. A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$231.46 - Project finished, transferring remaining money to debt fund to cover debt payment), (\$10,000.00 - Contract outside counsel)

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

Motion to Adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Lang, Passed 9-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

MISCELLANEOUS

Michael Cox, Deputy Law Director – No, thank you. Pass.

Mayor Hall – Pass this evening.

Mr. Rine – Thank you, Mr. President. I want to put out in the open that I will not be supporting 24-20. I think we should number the limit but not the entity. The state hasn't even passed the law, so I don't see why we should be in a rush. I'm pretty much baffled. I was standing back there. It's a good conversation, but it's almost like some people should go back to the political training class that we're all invited to. Some people you can see right through them. I kind of question who you work for to be honest. I was refraining from saying some things, but it's not even convincing. So, with that I'll pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. First, I'd like to thank those that worked on Father's Day to finish painting the 4th St. underpass. It looks a lot better. It looks great. Ms. Blake, to address your comment about water in the bathrooms there at Wells Park, you're right about your assumption. There have been multiple break-ins in those bathrooms. Even to the point of people tearing the rope off trying to get in to take the plumbing. So, to keep from any waterlines being broken in the tearing out process, they just shut them off. There's just been a lot of activity there, whether it's mini bikes, people driving on the grass... I mean, there's just been a lot. So, for the safety of all they just turned off the water there. I'm sorry if you reserved it in advance. I'm sorry about the miscommunication. I'll talk to the Parks Director about that. I'd like to thank Mr. Gargus coming from Champions. I have to admit I'm somewhat biased. I'm on the advisory board, so I'm always glad to hear great statistics. 71% of women getting clean. That's awesome. 66% of men. That's two-thirds. Two of every three men that go there get clean. That's pretty awesome. Friend in the back, can I speak with you afterwards? I'm so sorry of those things that you've been doing. We'll talk with you later. Mr. Brunner, thank you for coming.

Mr. Chute – Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to briefly address 24-20 and thank Ms. Jones for her comments. I will say publicly that I share your position. I think we should be entertaining banning recreational marijuana in Newark, Ohio. I'm not sure this is what Newark should be about, and the fact that we're spending a lot of time and energy discussing it seems to me... I'm in agreement with you, ma'am. As a member by proxy of the committee tonight, I felt I was representing Mr. Labutis, but I can speak on my own behalf to say that it's interesting to me that we are going about this with a couple of assumptions. The first assumption is that because there is recreational marijuana or adult use marijuana now legal in the state of Ohio, that that means I want it sold next to me. I think those are two very different questions. I think people, just because they've answered yes to one, they may answer differently to the other. So, we're assuming that because people are broadly for the legalization of marijuana, that they want it to

be sold, cultivated, distributed in Newark, Ohio. I'm not sure that's a fair assumption first and foremost. Secondly, we're also assuming that it ought to at least be done in the three areas that have which I'm not sure that's correct either. Particularly, if you say the first assumption isn't correct. So, I try to be pretty dispassionate about decisions that I make and objective. It seems to me that with regard to this legislation, we have precious little information about how it impacts the city of Newark. Whether there is any revenue. Whether there's any benefit. Whether that nets out to the risks with public safety. What we do know is that the medical has worked without much issue, and as Councilman Marmie said at our last meeting, accessibility is not really an issue with medical. I mean, the barriers to getting a medical card are pretty low, and we've got three medical dispensaries in Newark, Ohio, which to my knowledge is the greatest saturation per capita in the state of Ohio. So, accessibility is not an issue. We don't know how recreational is going to impact the city of Newark. So, I would be wholly supportive of a ban and I think that's something that we should consider. In the meantime, as a proxy for Mr. Labutis, and as a practical step so that there is something on the books, I supported the legislation today in committee. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Cost – Once again I've stated on a number of occasions that I'm totally opposed to the legalization of marijuana. I spent this morning at the Board of Elections looking over numbers and it obviously passed in the state, it passed in the county, and it passed in the city of Newark. I'm not about to try to disenfranchise anyone's vote. I disagree with it, but that's the vote, and I think that's the basis of our democracy is that majority rules. I don't have to like it, but with that decision I think it's my responsibility and our responsibility to make sure that it is rolled out carefully and safely, so that it can be handled in a way to not do harm to our citizens. I'm very concerned about the strain on the safety forces. I think that's an obvious concern. I want to see us take this very, very carefully. That's all I got, thank you.

Mr. Houser – Thank you, Mr. President. I don't think I'll add anything more on 24-20 other than to say I appreciate Mr. Cost's comments. I definitely agree with them. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Lang – Thank you, Mr. President. The debate tonight about 24-23 and 24-20, on some level it wasn't even about the limit itself. It's about as a body, are we willing to entertain bad law? Are we willing to work with each other, willing to listen to each other? I've raised a number of I think very easily solvable things that could be tweaked within that limit that would mitigate a number of future issues. Like telling a business you can never move. Don't care if your lease runs out and your landlord has you over a barrel. You can never move. At the same time, we're saying that's one of the businesses that's been operating successfully in Newark for that last 6-7 years. Little fixes like adding a definition back that we're deleting. We could have easily amended that on the floor tonight, but the response was well we want the limit, and I didn't hear anybody respond to a number of specific concerns that we have just about the law. It's not about whether you think we should have three or more dispensaries in Newark. I don't know that we could support more than three. I think our zoning is looking good. I think we can make

improvements to that. We didn't get any comments back on the zoning. It went through our committees without a whole lot of comment. It has been read here once and I haven't received specific comments on it. Everybody's really keen to put this limit in place, and we have to have this limit, we have to state it this way. It's just bad law and I'm trying to get folks to listen to me, and I feel like it's falling on deaf ears. That was apparent to me when I pointed out pretty simple fixes we could have made with the ordinance tonight. There was not even a discussion of them, let alone a motion to amend to correct any of those. So, I would just push for us as a body to consider working with each other a little bit more and listening to each other a little bit more, and trying to come up with more of a consensus. When we passed medical zoning back in, was it 2017, 2018, that went through unanimously. That was the first time we did it. That went through unanimously. The license, that went through unanimously. We all got behind it. We passed common sense legislation that I thought was pretty good. Now we can improve on that. I think we should be able to come up with something that more than half of us agree probably closer to all of us. I think we could get there, but that requires folks to listen and work with each other and be willing to be flexible. I'm hoping we can find a way to do that. If we can't, then I do worry about the future of this body. I'll be honest, working on this legislation had been a really frustrating process for me. It doesn't give me a lot of faith in the direction that we're heading as a legislative body. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting. I'm very sorry for what you've gone through. It's a shame if you are forced to move. Newark is a great city and I hope we can do better by you. I'm doing my best to improve safety forces and increase our numbers, increase our presence, do a lot of different things. It's been one of the number one priorities and I continue to work at it daily. I appreciate you coming and sharing. Mr. Brunner, I understand that some of the things that occurred, although they didn't detain him and arrest him, I understand that there are charges pending, and that that's in the Law Director's office is what I was told. Hopefully, something will come about with that. Ms. Jones, you know we don't always agree you and I, but a lot of times we do. We do. I just wanted to clarify, I'm not promoting cannabis. I'm not promoting marijuana. I choose not to partake. That's just something I have no need for at this point. Now, I enjoy drinking beer, I like a good bourbon every once in a while, but that's just something I don't partake in. Who's to say, though, down the road if medical conditions change my life, I'm not going to say never because I know there are good things that it is Parkinson's is one of them and you mentioned that. I'm a firm believer that the folks that have Parkinson's definitely have the need and it's not just a want. I do appreciate you coming out here and speaking your mind. I always love hearing your opinion, you know that. I agree that we need to do things carefully and safely, but the other thing is I want to make sure that we're doing it legally. I was very, very disappointed that we moved on when the Law Director's office would not provide a legal opinion when asked for. Why would we proceed if our Law Director's office cannot provide a legal opinion or has to go

back? We've always waited on a legal opinion. So, I guess that really astonished me that we moved in that direction. Deputy Chief Logan said it very well in the fact that, you know, why rush if we...we just need to get this right. There's rules and things that haven't even been established yet. Why are we in such a rush to push this? Why are we not working together to make sure that this is done correctly, legally, to avoid any future possibility of litigations? To make sure it's done fairly. That's what I was looking for as far as making sure that's it. I think I've made it clear. I believe in making sure that we don't have an exorbitant number of these. I believe folks are going to do it regardless of if we have one or we have three. I think it's going to be the same. Only a certain percentage is going to purchase and they're going to purchase. Now if we ban it, I think that just opens us back up to the black market, and they're going to do that instead of driving to Columbus. I'd rather them do it legally than to do it illegally. That's just my personal opinion on that. I hope that we can do something and make sure this is done, like I said, legally. I talked to attorneys and a judge and I guess I didn't understand why our Law Director's office could not provide a legal opinion when asked upon. I didn't realize there was only one individual that can do that. Finally, I just want to mention that I really appreciate the opportunity to participate in the flag ceremony at the Elks. It was a really neat experience for me. It was my first and it was something that shows respect for our flag. It shows respect for our country. It really made me proud. As a veteran, I was asked to carry one of the flags. I know the Mayor was there, Mr. Rath was there. If you've never been there before it's a neat experience. There's a lot of history. I learned a few things about certain flags even though it's probably, I don't know if I learned it or I just remember it because I'm sure I was taught it. It was really neat. It's every single year on the 14th. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Neely – I will pass, Mr. President.

Mr. Rath – I'll call a Service Committee for July 1st. A comment on Doug's comment, the flag ceremony was an awesome, awesome thing to participate in. I was very honored to be asked to participate in that. It was a free history lesson. Whether it's new or refreshed, I know there's things that I heard that I absolutely had forgotten. I heard some things that I was not aware of that I learned. It was a great, great honor to be able to participate in that. With that, I'll pass.

President Harris – Thank you. Our next meeting will be July 1st.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council