

COUNCIL MINUTES

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

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Ms. Bline

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Oliver White, 4th grade, Ben Franklin Elementary

CAUCUS

Mr. Marmie – With the vacant seat with Councilman Lang, and then the appointment to replace with Councilman Barker. We need to make sure that we update the committees. The minority leader and myself both discussed it along with Mr. Barker, and we're just going to plug Mr. Barker into all the seats that Mr. Lang was in.

Motion by Mr. Marmie to accept the Council Committee assignments as of September, Second by Mr. Cost, passed by acclamation

By: Mr. Cost, Mr. Rath

24-18A AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF THE CURRENT ARTICLES OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO ADOPTED MAY 5, 2009 BY ORDINANCE 08-33A AND SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, BY ORDINANCE 23-22A AND IMPLEMENTING ADDITIONAL ARTICLES OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Motion to adopt by Ms. Bline, Second by Mr. Rath, Passed 10-0

MINUTES of September 3, 2024, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Barker, 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**

Safety – **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Ryan T. Bubb, City Auditor – Operating Report for the period ending August 31, 2024

Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator – Income Tax Revenue Reports for the period ending August 31, 2024

Both received and filed without objections

COMMUNICATIONS

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – Transfer liquor permit application from Flat Tire LLC, 388 W. Main St., Newark, OH 43055 to Newark Premium Liquor LLC, dba Giant Eagle, 388 W. Main St., Newark, OH 43055

Janine Paul – Opinion regarding Ordinance No. 24-36

Licking County Courthouse Lighting Committee – The Community Lighting Fundraising Campaign is running through Friday, October 20, with a community goal of \$45,000. To donate or learn more about how you can help, visit their website at www.courthouselighting.com.

Cara Bieber Noyes, Director of The Newark Maennerchor Singers – Newark Maennerchor will be hosting the 42nd state-wide German singing festival on May 3, 2025.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Ave. – I would just like to talk a little bit about some comments that were made at the last Council meeting about the failure efforts to address the homeless situation. A Homeless Task Force was formed in 2019. I was a member of that task force representing people who had direct contact with the unsheltered people. The task force raised the funds to hire two consultants. Analytical Insights was hired to develop an action plan to address chronic homelessness and Sally Lucan was hired to develop a plan for a low-barrier shelter. The old Dollar General Building was purchased by the Evans Foundation as a possible site for that shelter. Analytical insights conducted forums, online surveys, interviews. I was a part of a lot of that interviews because I had the direct contact with the homeless. A 2020 action plan was developed. Once the plan was released it was decided that the task force be dissolved. There was nothing in place to address the action plans contained in the plan. Sally Lucan who worked with a committee to develop plans to utilize the Dollar General store for a shelter on July 31st, and I'm passing around a copy of her letter, worked with the small group of people and she submitted her letter of canceling her contract on July 31st, 2020 and there'll be a copy coming around. If there's not enough copies I have more. A group took over the planning for the shelter. It was then decided to give the building to St. Vincent de Paul stating efforts to raise funds for shelter were not successful. The comments is that we have people not willing to work together. I think the people who attended these forums, the people who did online surveys, all intended to work together. I think there are other factors that prevent this from succeeding. One, COVID was a factor that prevented Sally Lucan from holding focus groups to get community input on the low barrier shelter. There was no follow-up on an action plan. It's sitting gathering dust somewhere and the people who were working with the shelter basically did not follow the terms of her contract. Thank you.

Kevin McKeegan, 411 S. 2nd St. - My wife and I, she's the lady back here, we've been now in that house for what three years. Since we've moved in, a lot of the people in the neighborhood have really welcomed us in. We all look out for each other. I've been a part of a lot of like park cleanups with Beth. My wife and Beth work together on things all the time. Out my front

window and sometimes screaming through our kitchen window, we have people that are either mentally ill, they're trying to terrorize us, or drug addicted in some way. I couldn't tell you I'm not a professional. We've had a person die in our backyard. They were, they overdosed on, I forget what it was, Tom might be able to know. I'm not sure. We have, we had to put up security systems because we have people constantly coming through our yards. At night, I work the night shift, so I sit on my porch, my back porch at night sometimes, and we have people non-stop coming through our yard just in the middle of the night. And, you know, I'm like, excuse me, why are you in the yard? And they get scared and run off and everything. I do fear that if, if we don't get a hold of the problem, and I understand that homelessness is a very complex issue and everything else, but if we don't get a hold of the problem, there's gonna be some type of vigilante system that arises because it's, it's gotten really out of hand. And not vigilante in the sense of like going out after people, but if, if you have to protect yourself in your home. My wife has been home alone before, and our neighbors have had to come and protect her because people screaming through the windows and that type of thing. It's, it's, we call the police and everything, and the police have been great, but they kind of tell us there's not a lot they can do. I'm sorry?

President Harris - Hey, hey, hey, hey, if you can't respect them, I'm going to ask you to leave.

Mr. McKeegan - Hurt is definitely, trespassing on our property is definitely Hurt. Scaring my wife to death is definitely Hurt. This is, I would love to see everybody succeed. I would love to see, and I know addiction is a serious problem. I know that people are down on their luck. I would love to help in any way I can. I will volunteer for anything that I possibly can volunteer for. If I have time I will help. I don't think stealing people's agency by giving them low barrier housing is a thing that helps people. I think you're stealing their, there has to be repercussions for all of our actions. Our good actions there should be repercussions and our bad actions there should be repercussions. And this isn't me pointing fingers at people and saying I'm better than you or anything like that. That is just if you steal people's agency they will be turned into infants and the more infants you have the more problems we're going to see over and over and over. I think everybody is probably in agreement that we have a larger problem than we had before. It's getting worse in terms of the number of unhoused that are in the downtown area and the number of people that we see all through our neighborhoods just kind of you know trying to take things off of porches and all those types of things. I do worry when my wife is home alone. Otherwise our neighborhood is fantastic. The neighbors are great. I really like the city. I've been here for 12 years. I just retired from the Army. My wife's still in the Army. We would love to be great neighbors to everybody around us and including people that are unhoused. But I don't think that it makes a lot of sense to give somebody a place to stay if they're unwilling to go through the process of detoxification. And I know that's easy for me to say. I know that that is. And I know a lot of people here are going to be probably upset that I'm saying it the way that I'm saying it. I'm probably good there. But I appreciate everybody's time.

Michael Wiegand, 846 Wells Ave. - I live across the street from Wells Park. And it's a huge park. And if we allow homeless people just to go wherever they want, they're going to fill that park up. And my father has eight lots right across the street from it. Then they're going to come to our place. And I just don't really think we need to be allowing them to do that. I don't know if it's ever been mentioned, but you got Longaberger basket. I mean, can we do stuff along that

lines in order to turn it into a place for them to stay? I really appreciate everything. I'm not going to use the whole time. Thank you very much.

Carolyn McAllister, 217 Fleek Ave. - I live right along the bike path. I chose to live there because I have the river and it's beautiful down there. However, it's not so beautiful anymore. My animals have been fed I don't know what because they get sick of my dogs barking at them as they're coming along our property. I have had items stolen. There's a place known as Camp Serenity. If I had to be homeless, that's where I'd want to live because they have built structures and they have generators. They're living as good as I am and I'm paying to live where I live. I'm all about helping everybody, but I also am cleaning up Narcan. I am cleaning up food. I am cleaning up clothing. I am cleaning up free needles. All the things that our agencies are giving to these people to try and help. The system is broken. These people throw it down on the bike path. We go out and clean it up because that bike path should be able to be used for the kids and for the people who want to use it for the right purpose. I feel like if we want to truly help these people, and I live the dream of drugs. I have a family member who has been afflicted who has now recovered. It wasn't easy, but I feel like these places that are giving away all this free stuff, instead of giving it away, work for it. They move out of these homeless camps. I don't know how many I've cleaned up adjacent to my property. It's not fair that I have to go out and clean up somebody else's feces or that I have to go out and pick up dirty needles to keep somebody else's kid or animal from getting a hold of them. It's not fair that I have to go pick up everything they got from the Salvation Army ten minutes prior that they dumped off on the bike path adjacent to my property. That money could be spent better providing a home for the people that have falling on hard times and really need the help. So, I think there needs to be a group. They need to come together and we need to figure out how these agencies that are giving all this free stuff can put that money to better use by giving these people some rent assistance and housing assistance instead.

Al DiLorenzo, 1010 Janet Dr., Columbus - I'm here representing the Newark think tank on poverty. We've been around for 10 years. In this community I've heard stories and a lot of history about this perpetual issue that needs to be addressed in a multitude of ways and you know from the United States Interagency Council on homelessness, they've calculated that there's been a 30% increase in homelessness from 2020 to 2023. So, with that line, we need to really address this from the top down and the bottom up at the grassroots level and at the city level from the planning perspective. I want to ask you guys, what are you doing strategically at the Planning Commission to plan for a future in Newark that doesn't have homelessness, that addresses the root cause of the issue, that addresses this? What started this issue from the very beginning? Something that will create lasting change in our communities because putting people in jail, having them leave with debt and a criminal record is ineffective, costly, and inhumane. Thank you.

Brandon Myers, 371 O'Bannon Ave. - I've lived in Licking County almost 30 years. My wife and I are raising five children here, so I very much, I guess have a stake in the ground in this county and Newark, Ohio is where we do business. It's where we have invested, so this is personal to me. My concern about the law, just to be very transparent, is that I don't feel... We're already, I don't feel we're doing a well job of enforcing the laws that we have, and so I have a concern on that. Okay. I'll just break it down real quick. I'll give you an example. We have an ORC code right now where it's illegal, it's a felony to hand out needles, yet it's being done every Saturday by

the Newark Homeless Outreach in mass quantities. I know this because I know people have been down there and have gotten the little brown bags that they hand them out in. I've been to the police station and I've made a complaint. We've tried to get it stopped, and there's apathy. It has not been addressed. This has been going on since 2019. Roughly 44,000 needles have been handed out since 2019 if you just run the math 40 bags, six needles per bag. That's what was in there. And of course, there's condoms, there's other things in the bags too that some of you have said that you found and you've had to clean up. So, I've done some of the cleanup as well. Tons of trash and it's a concern for me. I don't think the needles should be in our community. I don't think that should be a problem that Newark is dealing with. Now with that said, I believe in the bill. I see an issue with it. Another law, if it's not gonna be enforced, is a waste of everybody's time, but I do believe in it. I think if it will make change to where it will clean up our city, then it would be a positive thing. Let me also add that I think I could point the finger in all directions. I can get mad at the police. I get mad at the City Council. I get mad at everybody, but as of late I've been looking in the mirror What am I gonna do about it? I want to take ownership of the problem as best I can. Focus on what's inside of my control. That's what I've done. I would say that if our community would rise up, band together, and speak out, that we could solve this problem. Thank you.

David Ruderman, 15 Cottage St. – I'm in the 7th Ward and I've spoken to you before, but I wanted to really talk about and ask you a few questions about a low barrier homeless shelter in Newark, Ohio. So, I know you guys did the outside research and you came back with some results. I wanted to know which agencies you went to to try to raise the money to fund a low barrier shelter? Because one of the things I heard last time was that you weren't able to raise the funds. And it seems to me that I wanted to know which agencies you went to?

President Harris - This is not a question and answer session.

Mr. Ruderman - Oh, it's not?

President Harris - No, just your opportunity to speak, and you've got about a minute and a half left. Go ahead.

Mr. Ruderman - That's fine. So, how can I find that out? Because my own councilman doesn't return my emails.

President Harris - Well, maybe someone after the meeting can get with you and answer that.

Mr. Ruderman - It seems to me like it should be in the public record somewhere.

President Harris - What you said is in the public record.

Mr. Ruderman - Okay, all right. That's fine. I don't want to get into anything like that. Okay, I'll use the rest of my time to talk about something that I do know a lot about and just maybe you guys don't know as much about. And that is addiction. I've been clean 34 years. I know what addiction is. I work in the 12-step community. And I also work with the day reporting program of Newark, Ohio, the adult court services. And there's a misunderstanding about what addiction is and how it works. People don't choose to be addicted. And when you're addicted, let's say I was never an IV drug user, but I've seen what happens when people use dirty needles. I've lost a niece to Hep C, to complications from Hep C because she used dirty needles. Handing out clean needles is just a way to help people to not die. That's all you're enabling them to do. You're enabling them to not die. These are people just like you. As you know, they're in your family. They need your compassion. They need your help. And we're trying to provide services for them. And we want to work with you. We're being completely transparent with you about

what we're trying to do. We need a low barrier shelter. And I think it's something that we can all work on. And it works in other cities. It could work here. Thank you.

Mary Jo Ferrell, 93 Grant St. - Been a resident of Newark my entire life. I have seen what goes on in the streets, okay? I've witnessed it. My husband and I run a small pantry on our property for the homeless people so that they can eat. And it's totally by donation, okay? The thing that I wanted to say that I didn't get to say last time is we all have unfortunate circumstances in our lives, okay? There's some of us who can handle those circumstances and go about it as part of our daily lives. There's others of us who don't handle those circumstances very well, usually because of a mental health problem, which might drive them to an addiction problem. Or the fact that they can't work, which brings them to the doorstep that they're on right now. And just because they have handled life's unfortunate circumstances in what you believe is the wrong way, then they deserve to be swept under a rug where no one can see them and no one has to deal with them or their problems. The last thing I have to say, they need help, not blindness, by those who have the power to change their lives. Thank you.

Jackson Hollis, 174 Hoover St. - Just because one homeless person steals something, just because one homeless person is trying not to get off the streets, that doesn't mean that every homeless person is a threat or dangerous. Some are mentally ill and will not get hired by people because they are homeless. They cannot get apartments because they think that they are bad people because of their circumstance right now. It is hard for some people to get off the streets. They are not all bums and not all not trying to get jobs. And that's why I wanted to say that not everybody is bad that are homeless. You guys are stereotyping them to be bad people.

Steven Hufford, 76 W. Postal Ave. - I'm not gonna say whether I'm for or against this legislature, but what I will say is that I was an addict. I still am an addict. I'm in recovery. I have nine months sober. I was living in the streets. I was homeless. I was doing everything I could to try to survive and had I not been faced with some sort of accountability then I probably would not have made the decision to change my life around. I know I've also worked with some members in our community and we would go out and they went out and reached out to the homeless and offered a hand, offered a place to live, offered a job and a majority, if not all, the homeless people were comfortable being that way. They didn't want to take the help. They didn't, they didn't, you know what I mean? They weren't willing to give up their addictions. I guess that's all I got to say. Thank you.

Alyssa Mullen, I currently don't have a residential address - Sorry, I'm a little nervous. You know, I just want, I don't have time to go into the whole science of the stages of change that, you know, apparently some people need to be educated about. But I will say that framing this issue as like a drug addiction or substance use issue is already a non sequitur. Just because somebody is experiencing a houseless situation does not mean that they automatically have a substance use disorder. Just because somebody uses substances doesn't automatically mean it's disordered use. 80% of people who use substances never develop disordered use. The data has clearly and repeatedly established that substance use exists on a spectrum with the same rates across all income levels. Rich people use drugs too. They just get to do it in their houses. If we have a problem with the paraphernalia being in a public sphere, the answer is safe consumption sites. That's an entirely different committee. Do we have a housing crisis on our hands? Yes. Punishing the victims is not going to be a reasonable, effective, or humane solution. Most people aren't out on the streets because they choose or want to be. Hi, we live

in Ohio. It's about to be cold. Housing access barriers right now are out of control. Housing costs are prohibitive and living wages are non-existent. Waiting lists for affordable housing is literally years long. It's not that people aren't trying. 75% of people on welfare programs are working poor. The jobs don't exist. Jobs aren't paying a living wage anymore. So why do we think that the solution to that is installing a revolving door on a local jail? We're just going to burden our police officers and burden our system even more, which costs money. So why are we not talking about putting that money to an actual solution? So instead of punishing people who are already vulnerable and marginalized for essentially a non-crime offense that they have literally zero control over so that we can feel better about ourselves by being made comfortable enough to not have to see it, so you can pretend it doesn't exist while you sit in the ivory towers hearkening back to the days where we took people who are mentally ill or otherwise undesirable and locked them up in asylums so that the rest of society could just ignore that they existed and make them feel better. We have to start addressing root causes. Considering the complex intersectionality of the issue, it seems to be a pretty clear violation of the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision. The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, and let's not forget the inalienable rights to gather, to travel, and to pursue life, liberty, and happiness while we're talking about we can't just let them walk around wherever they want. Like that's literally in our Constitution. The law is targeting people not because they've caused any harm to someone else, but because having to be confronted with their existence makes someone uncomfortable. We can hold people accountable who are actually creating and perpetuating the problem to begin with, make low barrier affordable housing actually accessible, make decent jobs actually exist, make landlords lower rent, make employers pay livable wages. We can start pressing complicity charges against them if we really truly think that criminalization is the only solution. Has the local City Council of Newark, Ohio singlehandedly solved the pervasive, egregious, human rights violation for the country? Probably not, but we can choose to be a leader in the Nation. You can look at human beings who are your constituents, who you are elected to represent, to serve and protect, and you can choose to do your job rather than attack those who are already oppressed in your community. You can start by voting against this ordinance. I realize that some of you already know this, and not all of you support this bill, so sorry if that sounds harsh, but you'll forgive me for this caveat, with due respect, I'm not here to blow smoke up your backsides. I'm here to speak for those who cannot or do not have the opportunity to speak for themselves. While people so far removed from what their lived experience and everyday real life is, sit in airconditioned spaces to discuss kicking them while they're down. Ohio is better than this. Licking County is better than this, and Newark, Ohio is better than this.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

24-71 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO ACT AS AGENT FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK FOR THE SALE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS GOVERNING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline, Passed 10-0

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

24-72 CI APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Motion to adopt by Mr. Chute, Second by Mr. Houser, Passed 10-0

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

24-73 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Houser, Passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

24-77 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT 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 2025 FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (CDBG), AS REQUIRED BY 24 CFR PART 91.220, FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS RELATED TO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Held until 10.7.24.

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

24-78 Exp. A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Passed 10-0

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Passed 10-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Mr. Rath

24-79 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; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Passed 10-0

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

24-80 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 10.7.24.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Bart Romine, 100 Graclyn Ct. - It's been said, "The scariest words in the English language are I'm from the government and I'm here to help". It's also been said, "Don't ask what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country". Both of these statements point to a non-entitlement government but to personal responsibility. Oddly, one was said by a republican president and the other by a democratic president. Since this time our government has bread generations of dependency and spent trillions on social programs with little to show for it. I watched the last meeting on YouTube and all I heard were comments relating to such as "What are you going to do for me?" or "You need to spend money to provide food and shelter for the vagrants pouring into our community" instead of the new parking garage and other city improvements. Newark City Council, it is not your job to take care of my family or anyone's family. It's called personal responsibility. Generally, there is a cause and effect to every action. One person said, "People can't afford rent." That's probably true when most of their earned or unearned money goes to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, tattoo sleeves and lottery activity. If you spend it on these activities and you don't have much money you will probably be homeless. It's simple math. If 1 job can't pay the rent then get 2,3, or 4 jobs. We all have done that. For example, I have never owned a new vehicle. I drive a 20-year-old SUV to afford other things. There's a great book titled "The Harder You Work the Luckier You Get". It takes hard work to stay off drugs, it takes hard work to provide shelter for yourself and your family. Success in life is not going to drop into your lap. I can think of many who would have had many excuses to quit in life and sit on the courthouse square waiting for the local non-profits to stop by and give them their daily handouts. Ronnie Milsap was blind at birth and his mother wanted nothing to do with him. Ronnie could have said "I'm blind and I can't do anything." Ronnie went on to become one of the greatest country music singers of all time traveling the globe. Thomas Edison failed somewhere between 1,000 and 10,000 times in inventing the light bulb. He could have said "I'll just sit here in the dark and wait for someone else to show me the way." If a person has breath, they have opportunity. Don't waste it. I have spent the bigger part of my nearly 53 years in the area I consider ground zero of the vagrant epidemic we have here in Newark. Ground zero is the area on East Main Street from 1st Street to Cedar Street. I know this area very well as several of our properties exist here that we have owned for several decades. As you can see in my pictorial handout, we are constantly stepping over and cleaning up after these people. One lady a couple of weeks ago relieved herself in front of me at the entrance to my office. They dig through all of the local dumpsters scattering trash throughout the city. I am asking you, the Council, to provide the police with the legal tools they need to clean up this city. A respected now deceased area pastor once said "Sometimes you have to hurt a person to help them". Proposed ordinance 24-36 is not a lot but it's a start. I wish to also see stiff vagrancy laws enacted in Newark to stop the panhandling overtaking the city like cancer. Also, I want the city to hold the 501c organizations responsible for the litter originating from them and being thrown along the bike path and around our properties. The city's property maintenance code holds property owners and landlords responsible and I believe the 501c's should be held accountable too. I am absolutely sold on Newark and excited with the improvements that have been made over the past 20 years. I am excited to see the old Arcade coming back to life and other various old buildings. I own a couple of buildings within 20 seconds of where I'm standing and I want to invest ¾ of a million dollars into these only if I know the city will enact ordinances that will protect those investments from the vagrants that

drive away good tenants. City Council, you have a duty to protect the investments made by others over several generations. I think of the Evan's, the Reese's, the Mitchell's, the McConnell's, and Dave Longaberger's 8-million-dollar investment in the beautiful Midland Theatre which is the diamond of the City, and the donations made for the new Canal market. City Council, if you don't have the courage to pass ordinance 24-36, then I ask you to create a partnership with the Village of Granville and Granville Township to set aside the front lawn of the Bryn Du Mansion to create a domicile tent city for the vagrants being dropped off in our community. This would be sort of a home away from home for them. This is a perfect location as it is halfway between Newark and Granville and is in close proximity to state Route 16 for bus drop-offs. The front lawn is all fenced which would create a sense of community. There would be port-a-johns lining the perimeter which would also include plenty of trash cans to dispose of the used white Styrofoam boxed meals handed out by the Salvation Army. These are the boxes you see littered along the bike path. There could be portable shower units brought in like the ones used in the military. There is a beautiful bike path and sidewalk that leads to the Village of Granville to hang out for the day. Also, all the 501c groups can be located there and serve at one location and continue to receive their block grants, and public and private donations to serve the vagrants' needs for generations to come. The health department would be able to pass out Narcan in one area to help those who overdose as well. I know the Village of Granville has a big heart and would welcome all to come there as they would for sure receive a blessing. On the passage and the successful implementation of this partnership, I will personally donate \$5,000 to help fund the program with additional donations thereafter. I'm sure there would be many other charitable organizations that would help out as well. This will give us relief at ground zero of the vagrant epidemic on East Main Street here in the city of Newark. Many business owners in the city support you passing ordinance 24-36 and other initiatives to clean up the city. They are not being heard because they either fear retaliation or simply because they are working long hours. Thank you for listening and I hope you make the right choice and not let Newark become another Portland Oregon. Thank You

Anthony McAllister, 216 Fleek Ave.- This is my first time addressing Council. We know addiction is horrible in Newark. My sister has died four times, as my mother said. The last time, she was kicked out in the middle of the Walmart parking lot and left to die. We've had a Newark Police Department on our doorstep at 1 o'clock in the morning looking for her because she had IV stuck in her arm. She took away from the hospital. So, addiction isn't lost on my family. My dog has been poisoned multiple times, as my mother said. I have a 150-pound St. Bernard, and people's constantly up and down the road, you know, they're barking, they're throwing things at him. Miss Bline has done a great job cleaning up. We've also had Mr. Houser down. We're constantly cleaning up the railroad bank behind my home. I've been two years trying to get the mess cleaned up that is still there today. There're needles laying there. There're condoms laying there. It's trash. We call the city. The city says it's a railroad issue. We call the railroad. The railroad says it's a city issue. The city keeps it mowed down. I'm constantly running people out of there. We have small children in the area. So, it's a constant battle, and I'm not, it's, you know, the misfortune isn't lost on me. Like I said, my sister found herself going from park bench to park bench to park bench trying to find a place to live. So, I'm all for the ordinance. As you come into Little Texas, we're in a battle right now, south side of the river, as my mom called it, Camp Serenity. During the summertime, it's not bad, you can't see it. During

the wintertime, the leaves are down, it's just trash everywhere. I've had to make multiple calls to the fire department where they've set the woods on fire burning trash. It's constant dog barking, constant fights, gunfire, things coming out of there, and we just like something done about it. Because it's just that the buck's being passed from person to person to person, it's not my problem. The state says it's not our property, can't do nothing about it. City says it's not our property, can't do nothing about it. Energy Co-op says it's not our property, can't do nothing about it. When's the time when somebody's going to stand up, put their foot down, and take our community safety is what is put to the forefront. I'd be concerned about the city, the taxpayers, and our children. Thank you.

Don Bennett, 25 Gilbert St. - I lived around Newark my whole life except just a few years, and I moved out to Thornville, and I moved back here a couple years ago. My thing is I help out with the homeless ministry, help out feeding the homeless, and I see the trash and stuff also, and we talk to them, and we're trying to get them saved by the grace of God and minister. My thing is what you guys are doing, you're looking, I think, at the wrong picture. I think you ought to be looking at the drug houses in Newark, the flop houses in Newark, instead of looking directly at the homeless. Look at the problem. Down on Curtis Avenue, I'm not going to mention addresses here, so Curtis Avenue's got a flop house and a drug house down there. My buddy, who is a federal police officer, retired, it's right down by his house, and I go down there and visit him, and he sees what's going on. He's called Newark Police. They don't do a dang thing about it. Newark City Police, I love them, but I think their hands are tied. They can only do so much. The problem is here is not homeless people, even though you do hear some stories. The fact of it is it's the drug houses that's supplying the homeless drugs, that's supplying our children with drugs, and you know, supplying adults with drugs, and I'm not talking about just marijuana. I'm talking about the hard stuff, and I think that's what the city of Newark needs to concentrate on right now, is our city's being taken over by drugs, and until you get that under control, you're not getting the homeless under control, because so what? You go down there and arrest the homeless, you put them in a jail. Thank you. Three meals a day and a bed to sleep in. Another thing is some of them don't have records. You're going to give them a record by causing them to have a defense. Let's work on the real problem here, people, and look at the drug problem in the city of Newark. In every street, Gilbert, the one I lived on, and thank you for helping me, Beth, and Spencer has helped some. We got rid of the drug problem down there. Okay, the drug house had a guy sleeping in a Dodge Durango. They had a chin out back. They would move around. But when the drug house disappeared, the homeless sitting there disappeared. And it took a year to get them out of there. I mean, I worked hard. I called the police. The police didn't do nothing. Beth, she worked her rear off helping me, and we reported to every agency. We've done everything, and we finally got them out of there. Gilbert Street's a nice little street now. You can walk down there. Nobody's going to bother you. It's very peaceful. Yeah, there's a homeless walks by, and if I see him out there, sometimes I'll give him a can of food, you know. But you still got the drug houses, and all these people with backpacks on or riding bicycles are not homeless people. They're living in a home. They're running drugs, especially at 2 o'clock in the morning. The homeless is in the woods sleeping, and the people out there on bikes, you're saying it's homeless. It's not. They're living up here in a house and running drugs. So, the problem to me, and I'll be quiet now. I think my time's up, is you got to look at the big picture overall. It's a drug picture, not a homeless problem. Thank you.

Tom Brunner, 419 S. 2nd St. - Kevin and his wife are my neighbors. We've been going through this together, and I grant you. A lot of people's right. A lot of the homeless are not bad people. You just got a handful. But the drug issue that Mr. Bennett just spoke of, and the flop houses and stuff like that, we need to get rid of. But one thing that is for sure, Newark police has to determine and get on the same page of what an ordinance is and what a law is. Because you can call out five officers, and you'll get a different answer from every one of them of what the ordinance is or what a law is. Not one of them have the same answer. Not one. One might give you this answer on, say, a trespass. Another will give you this answer. Another will say, oh, it ain't illegal. I mean, Newark police has to get on board. And to my feeling, I think the city is holding their hands back, keeping them from doing their job. I think they need to do their job. When I was growing up, I was born here on Everett Avenue at Newark Hospital 70 years ago. When I grew up in the city, I loved Newark. Newark's been my town my whole life. But when I grew up here, if you did something wrong, you got penalized for it. You got punished for it. But if you did something right, you got praised for it. And I think it's time that we start untying Newark officers' hands and let them do their job. Let them go out and bust these flap houses. Let them bust all these drug houses. Let them bust these people. Like I said, I sit on my porch a lot. I can sit out there from, say, 7 o'clock in the morning until midnight, 1 o'clock in the morning and not see the first Newark officer go by. Not one. Why? I know they're busy and they're tied up. But the thing of it is, how many times do I go by and see them sitting in parking lots? You mean to tell me they can't be out doing a patrol of an area? Since S. 2nd Street's been closed near the bridge, you don't see none now. Not even a sheriff go by the area. So, what's that do? That opens up opportunities. Opportunity for your drug dealers and that to go out there and deliver. On that scenario, I'm done. But I would like to thank City Council, the Mayor, and everybody for the great night we had. It was the best one we've had for a long time. We had almost 600 cars, had more awards this year than we ever have. We had 120 awards, so I'd like to thank everybody for that.

Oliver Licking, 1105 Schrock Ave., Columbus - I'm representing Equitas Health. We are one of the nation's largest LGBT and HIV serving community health centers, and we serve folks throughout the state of Ohio, Kentucky, Texas, and West Virginia. It alarms and saddens me to hear that Newark City Council is considering attempting to address their homeless population with punishment in the form of misdemeanor charges, fines, and jail time simply for not having access to adequate shelter and for being forced to sleep outside. I would sincerely hope that the humanity of people suffering from homelessness and wanting to show respect and dignity would be enough for City Council to not consider this ordinance as a way of addressing this challenge. But if that's not enough, I do have some financial thoughts to share on this. Studies show that addressing homelessness with criminalization is more expensive than providing adequate shelters and housing for those individuals. A study by the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness found in one study in the region of Florida that the area was spending three times as much money on policing houseless people's nonviolent rule-breaking behaviors as it would have cost to pay for each houseless person in that area to be granted a place to live and a caseworker to manage them. For this reason, we would encourage you to please reconsider your position on Ordinance 24-36 and please vote it down. With all this in mind, Equitas Health and I strongly urge the members of the Public Safety Committee and the larger City Council now to vote against this homelessness criminalization ordinance. To vote down would be an

action of great moral and fiscal responsibility considering all of the research previously mentioned stating that granting resources better mitigates this challenge than criminalization approaches. Thank you all for your time. Have a good night.

Tim Waldren, 167 S. 2nd St. - Boy, there's a lot of southenders down here this time. Come on down and sit on my front porch in the morning and night time, guys, and you'll see old bicycles go up the street. And in about four hours later, you see brand new bicycles, same people. And about two days later, you see them come back all painted up, you know, tires up. They steal them off the porch. Yes, two weeks ago, I had a delivery. My pills. Nice box on the front porch. I saw a truck pull out. I couldn't get up fast enough, went to my front porch. Some homeless guy was reaching down for my box. A thousand dollars for a pair of insulin, needles, and stuff. He pulled a knife on me. If I had my firearm, he'd be on the ground. I'm telling you, he pulled a knife on me and I was going, if I had it, he would be down. Homeless people, I ain't talking about the bad homeless people only. I was still on the Facebook and computer. I can't do computer. You guys are just easy. You guys are getting off easier in this ordinance. Some states and some cities equal the size of Newark, is actually banning homeless people, making them go outside the city. Arizona is building a little tent city outside in the desert. California, or Muscle Beach, Muscle Beach out there, was so bad that you couldn't walk down the boardwalk. You couldn't get to go on the beach. You couldn't do the volleyball. You couldn't do the thing. They got or had five bleeding hearts councilmen and one mayor that let them camp out there. They got rid of them guys. They completely reopened the beach. They completely opened the boardwalk. No homeless people down through or not. Florida, that guy said about Florida. W-P-L-E, Florida, channel 10. They outlawed in St. Petersburg, outlawed the people that helped the homeless people, that was giving food to them. There are two ministers down there that are sitting in jail right now for five years because they got arrested four times. They got put up for helping the homeless. You could pass a law. It went through the Florida Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court didn't take it under. So, it's a law down there. Down in Georgia, it's against the law. If you don't have an address, it's illegal to be in the city. Actually, a law in the city. Went through the Supreme Court in Georgia, and the United States Supreme Court would not take it up. In California, Lancaster, California, from WIOC, Channel 4. It's a city about the size of the City of Newark. The mayor, they outlawed homeless people. Crime rate went down 95%. The shoplifting stuff went down 41%, and crime rate went down almost 100% because they outlawed. I could go through a bunch. I don't want to see my time up. This ordinance is great. If you guys want to see what's going on with homeless people, come down and sit on my front porch in the morning and at nighttime. Even at 2 o'clock in the morning, they go up and down the street. 2 o'clock in the morning, why? With bandits hanging out, baseball bats and cars and things, you can actually make money by sitting on my front porch. By buying stuff, they steal off of them. Chainsaws, lawn mowers, everything else. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director - Just for purposes of brevity, I know that they were going to reconvene after this, but I will remain after if Council has any questions for me.

Mr. Cost – Well, I want to thank everybody for coming. It's definitely a lot of challenges. I still, I understand people don't want the homeless on public property. I get that. I get it. I understand completely. I also understand that they don't want them on private property. I wouldn't want

them in my yard. You all don't want them in your yard. I get that. I'm still not comfortable with option number three, because I don't think jail solves the other two problems. I think, and there are some homeless we're never going to be able to help. I get that. But I still think there's some we can, and I'm just not willing to give up. I think we're better than that. I think we are bigger than that. And I think we've got to, no matter what goes down with this, we're still going to have to find another option, a better way to help these folks than just put them in jail. Thank you.

Mr. Houser – Thank you, Mr. President. I also, as Councilman Cost mentioned, I want to thank everybody for coming out. I know we've got a lot of opinions on this. I do appreciate, for the most part, everybody was able to speak their piece, and so that's a good thing. I do think, for me, I still feel that the city has a responsibility to its businesses and individuals of this community to keep its public spaces safe. So, I definitely do support this ordinance. I know it's not a perfect solution. I know it's not a solution to a certain extent in that there are a lot of other things that need to be done here, but I think that this is a tool that we do need to give to our safety forces to keep our community safe. And with that, I'll pass.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. Kind of going off what others have said, the W. Church Street Bridge that is west of, just west of the YMCA, opened a week or two ago. So, I know a lot of people went, had a lot of trouble going down to Main Street and trying to get downtown. I do want to thank everyone for coming out, as I said two weeks ago, this is not an easy issue. It's complex. The legislation we have in front of us is not perfect, nor is it a solution, nor will solve every issue. I think one of the things that I've seen over this time is while this resolution is not perfect, we do have an intelligent and vibrant community that if we want to work together towards a solution, I feel like that might be able to happen. Obviously, we're all very passionate about it. It's not easy. It's not. I've had a chance to talk with some people, we have some very talented and bright and forward-thinking directors from some of our non-profits that I feel might be best equipped to serve the homeless community. I don't know if any one person has all the answers, but I know moving forward maybe we can work towards something. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie - Thank you, Mr. President. The first thing I need to do is call a Finance Committee meeting for October the 7th. I'm going to go with the Law Director, for brevity's sake, we've got five weeks at the earliest before we make a vote, so there will be plenty of time for comments and discussion. But I am going to bring up one thing, the health insurance crisis that the city of Newark found itself in. I've done a lot of different investigating on it and just looking into it and I'm wanting to come up with some kind of a solution first and foremost to make sure that this never happens again. We discussed it the last time that we bailed out the health insurance fund in order to pay for the cost of the health insurance that we needed to make sure that there was oversight. I at that time did not believe it was Council's responsibility to provide oversight for a program. I have reviewed, I asked for the meeting minutes for the last two years for the Health Committee that takes place and they meet. What I received is a copy of an agenda with a few notes on some of them, no notes on some of them, and that is not the way you manage a six-million-dollar program. Therefore, I find that Council does need to provide oversight on a program that the administration should have provided oversight. It will be injustice to our citizens if we do not provide the oversight that our administration has not. So therefore, I believe that our Personnel Committee needs to work with the Personnel Committee, draft

legislation. Two things that I would find mandatory to be in that legislation is that all Health Insurance Committee meetings provide minutes and a report to the Personnel Committee within 30 days of the meeting being conducted. Another thing is I believe, I found that MedBen provides to all other municipalities and organizations that they manage their health insurance, they provide a free analysis and provide recommendations at the desire of the organization or municipality. Newark has never participated in that, so I feel that we also as part of the legislation mandate that we get the free analysis and recommendation by MedBen on an annual basis, preferably around the probably October, November time frame. We can work on what is best for that. But I really feel that there has to be oversight and since we have not had that, I believe that Council should make sure that it's taken care of. This is a six-million-dollar program and we cannot afford another mishap like it happened previously in the last few months that we found out. So, I'll be working with Mr. Barker or anybody else that wants to participate as well. I feel that we should start on that, and with that I will pass. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Mr. Rath – Thank you. I'll call a Service Committee meeting for October 7th. I want to thank everybody for bringing back on the table and passing 24-18A. I saw Mr. Lang in the audience. I know he worked diligently hard on that as well as a great number of other people that worked on that and I was glad that he was here to see that pass. I'll say plenty about the ordinance that we're talking about in the Safety Committee, but I'll save that for Committee, other than to say this, Steve on Postal, kudos to you brother. You're a stud. Keep up the good work (inaudible). With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Rine - Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank everybody for coming out. I just want to say we have to come together. Whether it's with ordinance 24-36, you know, or whatever we do, we have to come together, but at the same time people have to look themselves in the mirror. They have to take accountability. As a young guy, I turn 30 on the 22nd, I've been through a lot and I still have a lot to learn. So, at any time anybody can be homeless. You can, you know, like the people experiencing homelessness. If I was homeless, I wouldn't want to be called... I'm a person experiencing homelessness. That's all I have to say for that. Steven, I've known you for 15 years dude. I'm proud of you man. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. I want to call a Personnel Committee meeting for October 7th. With that I fully agree with Councilman Marmie on the insurance account. This was a grave, I mean a massive oversight that we need to correct for our employees and for the citizens of Newark to not have to be in this situation again. So, I look forward to working with Mr. Marmie on this legislation, with the Law Director's Office, with fellow members of Council to bring oversight and accountability to this fund and to that committee that manages that fund. This is not something we like doing having oversight, but it's something at times has to be done. I'm not going to speak anything on the camping legislation as others have said we've got a few weeks that we'll get that all flushed out. I do just want to thank Director Hickman and Deputy Chief Brnjic on a couple of issues that they handled very, very quickly in the 5th Ward for me over this past weekend, so I do appreciate their quick action on that. With that, I will pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank everyone who's been coming out to these meetings, but first I'd like to thank the citizens on Wehrle and those nearby who came out

Friday night just to give updates on what's going on in the neighborhoods. It was a good opportunity to chat for a while. We're making progress on securing some of those places there as people are, again, they're taking a stand for their neighborhoods. We have great people. I also appreciate those who in the past couple weeks have been out to walk the block, some literally, some just wanted to stand nearby in support of Wells Park with all the negative activities that's been happening there. There is no place for drug sales or drug-related behaviors to take place in a park with children nearby. No. And I'd like to thank those who are taking a stand in that neighborhood. Okay, enough said there. Alright, now I'll keep my comments brief and save it as others have expressed. I want to thank Mr. Hickman for bringing clarity to this legislation. The city does have a responsibility to keep its public places safe. It's not a solution for homeless as I hear the frustration in many voices, but it is a baseline of action because there is accountability involved in transformation. Just as the gentleman here spoke, we're accountable for how the city's dollars are legislated and spent. Anyone of us through our life choices, again, having gone through much drug related crises within my family, and with Mr. Hufford's testimony, there's an opportunity to change. To take responsibility for your actions and move forward. Thank you. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Chute – Thank you, Mr. President. I will pass.

President Harris – I want to thank everyone for coming. Our next meeting will be October 7th.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council