

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 21, 2024
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

INVOCATION – Mr. Houser

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS – Motion to excuse Mr. Chute and Mr. Neely by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, passed by acclamation

MINUTES of October 7, 2024, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

There are none this meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - **Received and Filed without objection**

Service - **Received and Filed without objection**

Personnel – **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Jill Frew, Tax Office – Income Tax Revenue Reports for the period ending September 30, 2024
Received and filed without objection

COMMUNICATIONS

Carlie Boos, Esq., Executive Director to the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio – Comments in opposition to Ordinance 24-36. **Received and filed without objection**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

President Harris – We're going to do two minutes tonight since there is a lot. If you haven't spoken on this issue, or any other issue, if you're going to speak, please raise your hand. I need your name and address.

Carlie Boos - I'm the executive director at the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio. Our address is 215 North Front Street in Columbus. We represent an 11 county region of central Ohio including Licking County.

Mr. Marmie – Mr. President, what is her address?

Ms. Boos, 1550 Marabar Dr., Reynoldsburg - My address is 1550 Marabar in Reynoldsburg. I want to thank you and express our gratitude to the Newark City Council for hosting this important public conversation tonight, and note that we share your concern about the region's rise in homelessness. Today over 80,000 families in our region pay more than half their income towards housing cost. This severe cost burden is destabilizing for our entire community, linked to more evictions, more homelessness, and more lost potential. It is a problem that requires and deserves serious solutions. Making it a crime to fall victim to this dysfunctional housing market, however, is not one of them. Last week, as you know, the Alliance delivered a letter identifying seven separate reasons to reject this ordinance in favor of evidence-based solutions that target our housing needs. Included among them was the fact that this proposal will carry a significant cost for local taxpayers. In fact, if just 50 people experiencing homelessness are prosecuted under the terms of this ordinance, the city of Newark will have spent almost as much jailing them as it could have spent building 50 permanent, affordable homes for residents that are fighting to keep up with rent. The financial impacts are likely even higher as the city opens itself up to legal liabilities and risks making itself ineligible for federal housing grants. This law could continue to divert emergency medical and police resources. More importantly, however, there is zero reputable evidence showing that this approach has ever worked. It is simply not a tool any toolbox needs. It is the metaphorical equivalent of adding a hand grenade to a first-aid kit. We further note it is incumbent on all governments to act conservatively when infringing on public liberties. This law, which some call possession of a pillow with intent to sleep, is a powerful example of how criminalizing innocent behavior like napping in a park or grilling by a lake and duly limits the rights of all residents not just those in housing distress. I'm gonna thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Stephen J. Henry III, homeless - This has been a task that's been assigned to me by the good graces of God. This is a line. It's a very fine line that you would cross. I'm not here representing just the homeless. We're also here representing our great warriors that bled for this freedom that we have today. We cannot walk on these people that these men and families that worked hard for our freedom. This is the truth. This is what God does is fight. This wickedness, this is wickedness. This is not American. We have got to come up with a different plan. We are America, aren't we? Why pass it on to the state? Let's do something. Let's stand up as one and let's get something done. Thank you.

Andrew Dennis, 552 Maple Ave. - I just wanted a couple minutes just to encourage you. Every Thursday night I work with Eastside Ministries. That's put on by Crossroads Church. I pastor The Lighthouse here in Newark and I know the ins and the outs of many, many of these homeless people and it's a pandemic. So, I want to encourage this council. If you've never worked with the homeless, never did a wellness check, never provided food, water, coffee, never sat and listened to their story, if you've not done that I would encourage you not to vote yes on this. I think it's a travesty. Thank you

David Trubee, 350 Schuler St. - I find it, you know, you guys want to make it a crime to be homeless. You know, public property is public property. You know, you can't dictate who comes

on it, when, where, and how. You know, I implore you guys to not pass this. I mean, y'all work for us, we don't work for you. You know, if we want it, we'll tell you, but we don't want it. So, I guess I ask y'all to vote no, you know, because come the next election time, y'all can be voted out just as easily as you voted in. So, I ask you to vote no on this and do what we want, not what you want. So, thank you for your time.

Angela Walsh, homeless - I am one of those homeless that got kicked out of the 2nd St. camp. I'm on parole. I have an ankle monitor that tells you where I'm at all times of the day. I have a curfew, 10 o'clock at night till 6 o'clock in the morning, where I have to stay in one place. Now, I know there are quite a few people who have done things wrong, who probably need to be punished because they're generally not good people. But there are some of us who really try. I've worked in this town for more than 20 years. I have a skill list as long as my arm. I'm three classes away from a criminal justice degree, five from a business degree. I want to start my own business. I have nowhere to go. You have no housing for me, and I'm doing my best. I've applied literally everywhere. No one will hire me. They wouldn't even help me get out of there. I was treated like I didn't even matter, like I wasn't even human. This is what's happening here. There are good people who are homeless and need help, and nobody's helping them. Thank you.

Celia Kendall, 1548 Hawthorne Ave, Columbus - I come to you today as a concerned business owner and a seasoned real estate executive operating several communities throughout Licking County and in Newark. I got my start right here in Newark under the tutelage of my father, Reverend Dr. Charles W. Noble, pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. I just wanted to provide you all some insight on the part of the housing developer for why I think we find ourselves in this plight. We have approached a number of social service agencies, substance abuse treatment service providers, mental health service providers, and our firm produces service-enriched housing. That is housing that includes supportive services that are integrated into the environment to help folks not only to live, but to be able to live well. When we approach the service providers here in the city of Newark, oftentimes our service providers are at capacity. They do not have the ability or resources to be able to put case managers, substance abuse treatment service providers, mental health counselors into the kinds of communities we want to build to be able to help the folks that you have heard from here today. You need to know that the folks that you will be penalizing, they are families, they are veterans, they are seniors. This only deepens our plight, so I would ask you please to let's be curious together as a community. Let's be the community that I knew growing up in Licking County and in the city of Newark, and let's work together to cultivate a solution, but this is definitely not it. Thank you.

Deb Dingus, 15670 Brushy Fork Ln. - I am the Executive Director for United Way. I want to piggyback on what Celia shared with us just now. United Way has been involved in this conversation for quite a long time. Everybody, everybody to be healthy, to be whole, needs a bed. It's a basic need. So, I want to encourage us to come together. First of all, to stop the rock-throwing. Let's come together as a community. Let's have a conversation. I am convinced that there are enough resources, enough brains, enough wonderful people in this county to figure out a creative solution. Our problem with homelessness is not insurmountable. If we can do all kinds of things together as people, we can come together and create creative solutions. Someone said at one of the previous meetings that maybe this is another catalyst or that we do have more work to do. So, I invite you next Tuesday to a community conversation at OSU COTC

from 6 to 8 p.m. We'll have our providers there, some 20-some people will share with you the services they provide along with regional experts as well as community members. We will demystify some of the information that perhaps you've heard as well as provide clarity around facts. But what we want to do most of all is gather a consensus. Folks, we are all one community. We have got to work together. And maybe there are ways that we can compromise. Maybe we all don't get what we want, but is there a way that we can compromise so that we can make sure every resident in Newark and Licking County has a bed to sleep in. So please come and join me. Celia also mentioned our services. So, I'd be remiss to say United Way is running its Newark City campaign right now. Mayor, you sat on our board for six years. So, you know about these issues. You voted for the issues and the programs that we've started. So, I would ask you to join the mayor and Newark City in contributing to United Way to support the programs that we need so that we can start addressing these issues together. Thank you.

Douglas May, homeless - I was part of the 2nd St. camps that was just recently bulldozed. I've lost everything. I know I had 48 hours to get out, but sometimes you just don't have enough help to get out. I've worked for Wendy's and this company for almost 15 years. I pay my taxes, which pays your guys', you know, to sit behind there. And to put us in jail for being homeless is just basically like what the Nazis did in the concentration camps. Sailing us out, putting us away so you don't have to look at us. Zanesville City Council is getting ready to participate in a program or a whatever you want to call it, where they all will experience homelessness and be given the bare minimum of resources and \$5 in their pockets and they have to achieve one goal a day. If you guys give any crap about anybody in this town or are too proud, you guys, too, would join in such an experiment and then look at what the other side is like. I encourage you to take place in something like this. If not, then vote no, but don't be the ones that are known in the history of our town to want to do such harm and atrocities to us people. Thank you.

Maria Alejandra Leon Garcia, 230 Woods Ave - Unless your ears and hearts open today, it is clear that you will pass this ordinance. Today, the police already began taking action by going to clean up some sites, like we have heard from some of those people who took...were taking all their belongings. This City Council is choosing to proceed with an initiative that will discourage the homeless from receiving the assistance they need. I strongly suggest to Mrs. Bline and the team of Real Rescue to attend trauma-informed care training if they plan visiting our unsheltered neighbors. You're doing more harm than anything else. Every person staying out there needs specialized services. I would even doubt myself going in there and doing anything because I know the fragility of the situation. Figuring out the challenges of every case takes a deliberate set of approaches that have to be supported by the government, charity organizations, and the general public. The efforts to clear the people from the street without providing any real support will only create more barriers for these people. This ordinance is making it worse for service providers to be able to continue serving them. Housing first is not only a program policy. It is a philosophy that informs evidence-based initiatives that really helps communities thrive. Housing first is the solution to homelessness and I urge the City Council to review this policy and its efficacy. We all talk about accountability. This City Council will be held accountable for the damaging consequences of this ordinance. Blaming and punishing people for their miseries only comes from grossly simplifying a set of problems that needs to be solved as a community and supported institutionally.

Mary Jo Ferrell, 93 Grant St. - For those of you sitting on our City Council tonight, I would just like to say that when you stand up and pray you declare yourself as Christians and then you turn around and do what you're doing tonight. That is the biggest show of hypocrisy I've ever seen. For those of you who are voting on this issue tonight, I am asking you to listen. Listen to the words in your heart from God. Listen and know that he will protect the homeless, the penniless, the downtrodden people that he loves. If you vote yes on this issue tonight, and it becomes law, I personally will pray that you live with the guilt of what you've done tonight for the rest of your lives. You cannot sweep homelessness under the rug in the city of Newark and think that the citizens will not fight back for the homeless. This decision tonight will truly show the character and integrity of the elected officials that your constituents in the city of Newark has chosen for this job. As a registered voter, I tell you I will truly make it my mission that none of you are ever re-elected for this or any other political position in the city of Newark, and I am certain I won't be the only one. Thank you for your time.

Tom Brunner, 419 S. 2nd St. - I've been to all the meetings on this except for the first one, which I missed. But anyway, I've listened to both sides of the stories. They want the city to help out the homeless, but who's going to pay for this? The taxpayers are. You got the churches in here saying they care about the homeless. Why don't they open their doors to the homeless and let them in if they care so much?

(comments in the crowd)

President Harris - Hey, hey, hey, no comments. If you comment, I'm going to ask you to leave.

Mr. Brunner - Every church that I've known, the doors are locked through the day. They're not open to the homeless to go in and sleep. They're not open for them to shower. They're not open for them to rest or anything. So how can they consider holding the city accountable? We have rights too as taxpayers. I get tired of cleaning up needles out of my yard. I get tired of cleaning up trash out of my yard. I found a dead body two years ago out in my backfield. I talked to the gentleman's brother. Two days later, he was a drug addict, okay? He had a place to go. He could have lived with his mom, but his mom said as long as he's on drugs he's not staying there, which I understand. I wouldn't want that either. So, you know, I am for this legislation, and we as the city of Newark need to stand up and do what is right, because, you know, I know homelessness is, to me, it's a disease. It's people that don't want to get out and do anything, and that's what I see. So, and believe me, I drive all over Newark. I've seen everything. I've even talked to some. I have nothing against the homeless, just that other than from what I've seen, what I've talked to, they don't want to make themselves better. Everybody's handing everything to them.

(comments in the crowd)

President Harris - Hey, listen, if you guys can't be quiet, I'm going to ask you to leave. You got to be respectful for those that are for or against. Go ahead, sir. You've got two minutes.

John Labelle, 100 Jeffrey Ln. - Good evening, and thank you for allowing me to speak again today. I'm president of St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Leonard's Church in Heath. I have a document that I'd like to pass out to each of you. I hope I have enough copies. It refers to what the city of Columbus has done and set up, and this is the mayor. Mayor Hall, this is important for you. The mayor of Columbus took the responsibility of his position and set up a 12-point plan, 12-part plan to combat affordable housing shortages in the city of Columbus. Now, I know the city of Columbus is a lot larger than Newark, and they probably have more resources, but if

you read through this document, it shows the direction that they took. Many of the council members took on responsibilities to research different parts of the homeless situation and the lack of housing, and I ask this body to put a pause on what you want to do tonight and look a little bit further into your heart and your soul, because when you see a homeless person, you could be seeing Jesus, and that's very, very important. All of you have religious background, I'm assuming. You know what I'm speaking of, but put a pause on what you're doing. You can come back to this, but you don't have to do this. It's going to be an embarrassment for the city council. Mayor, it's going to be embarrassment to you because you're the leader of this council, and you really need to put a pause on this and do more research. Talk to the community. Talk to the United Way. Talk to the churches and the other organizations that deal every day with this situation to get a better understanding and not do this. This is cruel. It's not healthy for the community. It's not healthy for the city. Thank you very much. God bless you all, and please remember, when you see a homeless person, you could be seeing Jesus. Thank you.

Cliff Wartenbee, 5703 Licking Valley Rd., Nashport - I attend a downtown church. In January, we started a shower ministry at our church. The first Friday we had it, about like three or four people, maybe. Last Friday, we had 24. It's not always the same people. We feed them. We let them shower. We give them clean clothes and whatever else they need. Council, prayer. We are the hands and feet of Christ. We all are the hands and feet of Christ. What you guys are thinking about is not Christian-based whatsoever. Thank you.

Janine Paul, 1435 Amesbury Ln. - Everyone that's spoken is trying to make this legislation about criminalizing being homeless, the homelessness being criminalized, or that it's the city's sole solution to the homeless issue. It's not about either of those things. In my opinion, what it's about is giving the police department the tools they need to make all citizens safe in our public spaces. I think we all deserve to feel safe in our public spaces, and at this time people don't. This would give them the tool that they need to accomplish that. That's simply what this is about. It's not about criminalizing homelessness. It's not about the city's solution to homelessness. There's lots of other things that need to be done, obviously, but this is about giving the police the tools that they need to make all citizens in this city safe. Please adopt this legislation. Thank you.

Brandon Myers, 371 O'Bannon Ave. - I have the computer. Are we able to plug that in? Let somebody else go and then figure that out?

Donna Gibson, 1100 Thornwood Drive lot 24, Heath - I'm the director of the community drop-in center here in Newark. First off, I would like to say I think there's a misconception about homelessness. It's assuming that everybody's on the streets can run out and get a job and just do whatever. That is not the case, and as someone said earlier, if you would take the time and have those conversations instead of having the bias that's been shown, I think you'd figure out that number one, they can't run out and get a job if you can't shower. I don't know any employers can jump up and down hire you. So, it's not fair. Who we serve is not just homeless. We serve the working poor. We serve mentally challenged. We serve people who are disabled, and we serve senior citizens because most of them they can only choose so many meals. So, I know for me, I'm talking to every one of these groups of people and one thing that I find is common is financials. Some people want to be homeless, but the majority that I'm talking to, 99% they don't. Can you help me find some place to live? Well, I wish I could but Newark doesn't seem to have housing, homes, any place to put people. Now what I'm seeing is if

something happens and these people start getting arrested, and it's going to happen because I've actually talked to guests that have been threatened already. We are going to arrest you if you're standing there when I see you again. I'm asking you to vote no on this. Take some time. Come check this out. How hard can that be to hold this vote off and just take a little time and come and listen. I invite every one of you. You might be surprised at what you hear. Thank you very much.

Brandon Myers 371 O'Bannon Ave. - I'll pick up where I left off last time. So, the pictures that were on here were going to be of a homeless camp called the 2nd St. camp, and there were entries, roughly 25 entries from the time stamp of 10:45 p.m. all the way up until about 6 a.m. The traffic going back through there, this would have showed how much traffic was constantly going back through there all night long. Bikes, rakes, wheelbarrows, coffee tables, anything and everything that was dragging back through there. This would have showed, also, the state of the camp. The trash. I've done some demolition and I would estimate that if you were to clean that out, you'd probably need at least 10 40-yard dumpsters to clean out this camp. And I would ask all of you, who wants that in your backyard? All you guys that are there for this, or I guess rather against this, would you want that in your backyard? And if you do, then please provide the address because I'm happy to dump it there. I'm happy to. I need rid of it. It's gonna cost money. Probably over \$10,000. I wouldn't take the job personally if that's if that's what was offered, but regardless of that, I want people to be aware that there's two different ideas on this. How much time do I have, sir? 30 seconds? So, you've got harm reduction, and you've got people that believe in free will, and those are very competing ideas. And the mindset of harm reduction puts somebody in a spot to where they can't help themselves, and the ideas of free will put them in a spot where they can't help themselves. And I would just like to say that there's nothing wrong with being homeless. The thieving, the drugs, the prostitution, it's got to go. Thank you.

Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - Many people have spoken very... Many people have spoken very eloquently on both sides of this position. The much more so from much more knowledgeable state than I have. But looking at this at this bill, looking at the people that have come here, reading their stories, hearing their stories, I have to say this is a bad ordinance. It's inhumane. It's not effective. It's expensive. There is no reason to pass this other than to give the impression that you're doing something about the problem without actually doing anything about the problem. This is something that we should not be doing. We should be providing tools to help people, not beating them down and arresting them for being sleeping without... while being poor, for sleeping while being poor. The bill, I've heard people say it's not our intent to arrest people. Well, the bill permits that. It's right there in the bill. So, this is a bad bill. Please do not vote for this bill. Thank you very much.

Patricia Perry, 282 North 21st St. - I prefer not to give my address because there's been threats made against me via Facebook. 282 North 21st Street, Newark, Ohio. First, I want to ask Beth, what happened to you? Well, four years ago Beth was on this side here at City Council when camps were getting tore down. I just wonder what changed though in her head. So last week two people came in here, and they bashed Newark Homeless Outreach and me personally for the work we do in the community. I had not met neither one of those humans, and they think they know me. They don't. I want to tell you just a little bit what happened in the last month here. Ohio CAN received \$25,000 grant from Ohio Mental Health America in which I received

\$6,000 that I bought, our organization bought 20 pairs of steel-toed work boots for the sober living facility. We bought \$500 worth of gas cards that will be distributed through the re-entry and the sober living to get to meetings, probation, day reporting. We bought NA reflection journals for re-entry and sober living. \$2,000 worth of hygiene kits for re-entry program and LAPP. \$500 went to help a pregnant woman who is in sober living get all of the necessities she needed for her baby that is due at the end of the month. We held a health clinic on 10/18 where the Licking County Health Department, Family Health Services, Lower Lights, the Hep C Squad were there. 17 people received 40 vaccinations, including Hep A 1 and 2, COVID vaccines and flu vaccines. Five people were tested for HIV and multiple people were tested. I will make one last comment. You gave the people who bashed me six minutes or seven minutes last week. Thank you.

Daniel Crawford, 163 S. 2nd St. - I am not a Christian anymore, but I remember what I was taught in my former faith largely by my late mother. About the responsibility that we all have to one another. It begins with the universal concept of the so-called golden rule, where we are called to treat others the way we want to be treated. I recall that in 1st Corinthians 13:13 Paul wrote, so now faith, hope, and love abide these three, but the greatest of these is love. I recall that Jesus Christ was reported to have said in John 15:12, this is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. I recall the many verses in the Bible which reference the way Jesus Christ saw the poor. Where was his scorn for the poor? When did he dictate to them to get out of the way and not be seen? When I felt that my former faith was slipping away for reasons too complex to mention here I also recalled that Jesus Christ once said in Matthew 12:31 that the only unforgivable sin was blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. For this reason, I elected to openly convert to agnosticism instead of letting anyone believe that I remained a believer. Just in case there is a God I would not allow myself to violate the only wall that he would punish mercilessly. Even with my lack of faith, I stand here proud of the legacy, I believe, if I were to drop dead this very second my children, my family, and our community will know that I fight for those without a voice and without apprehension. People look at my life and know that I mean what I say and love all unconditionally as I was taught by my mother who was a devout Christian to her core through to when she drew her last breath. I can die proudly on this hill, but I ask this of you with this immoral proposal to punish people unfortunate enough to exist outside the confines of four walls. Can you say that you will believe that you will leave behind such a great legacy? Will you draw your last breath believing wholeheartedly that you held the principle of love above everything else? Lastly whilst you invoke the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the opening of tonight's full council meeting, I hope you ask yourselves if you did so truly with your God in your hearts, or as pretenders in violation of the only unforgivable sin. Thank you.

Logan Lake, 327 Union St. apt g22 - I spoke to you guys two weeks ago and I told you some numbers on how much it costs to police and incarcerate a single person due to homelessness. I just want to reiterate that to you. \$31,000 per person, whereas if you had a caseworker, it's only \$10,000 per person. We have that opportunity next week to come together as a community, discuss options, pool resources, and come up with a better solution than spending \$31,000 for somebody who can't help the situation they're in. So, I really do invite all of you to join me. I'll be there next Tuesday. Come talk with us. Discuss ideas and solutions. Thank you.

Mr. Trubee - I was sitting back there thinking after hearing everybody. When you put them in jail, you know, who's gonna pay for that \$150 fine? You know the taxpayers are gonna have to pay for their fine because they don't have the money to pay. You're gonna have to create extra taxes to help cover for them to sit in there. So, why would you want to create new taxes for people sitting in jail for being homeless? You know, it's gonna cost me more money out of my paycheck as well as everybody else. So, I mean, it's a stupid ordinance that you guys are coming up with. I mean, I ask for all you to quit your job right now. If you're gonna pass this, I ask that you all resign now and do the right thing, turn this the ordinance down, and quit playing around with money that you don't need to spend because it seems like you're all bought.

President Harris – Thank you, sir.

Mr. Trubee – I still have a little time.

President Harris - Your time's up.

Mr. Trubee – No. I have two minutes.

President Harris – You've had two minutes.

Mr. Trubee - Yep, all right. I employ y'all to either quit or not pass.

Tim Waldren 167 S. 2nd St. - This is not a bill about homeless. It's about camping. The homeless camping in the people public places. 35 years ago, I was standing up here on an ordinance for begging on the streets. People thought was same way. They thought was all against homeless people. Oh, don't do this, don't do that. Don't put them in jail. You can still see people begging out in the street, but there is an ordinance out there. It's not against homeless people. It's just against the people camping in public areas. If you want to see the homeless people, come down and sit on my front porch between six o'clock in the morning to about nine o'clock ten o'clock. You see them all go north. About six o'clock to nine o'clock. You see them all going back down to that little camp, that big camp down on the other side of the creek. It's like traffic down through there. This ordinance is what we need. We need it in the city. Just like we did the begging 35 years ago. Thank you.

Al DiLorenzo, 1010 Janet Dr., Columbus - I love the city of Newark. It is such a beautiful place, beautiful community. So, honored to be a part of it. I know in its prime, it was a thriving industrial town. So many goods, amazing things came out of this city, and looking back at our economic history and seeing maybe how we got to where we are today. The patterns. Because this problem is the result of a series of patterns. So, looking at what we did with our economy when we sent all of our industry overseas and the devastation that that has left for generations and that being the symptom or being the cause to the symptoms of homelessness that we have today, I would really invite you to consider, you know Instead of being short-sighted which it is short-sighted to ship your industry overseas. It is short-sighted to criminalize and punish people for living homelessly. I invite you to really think long-term about the patterns that we can employ that create a long-lasting solution for this community to reignite and bring on an even better prime that integrates solutions instead of sweeping it under the rug and being ineffective through our solutions. Thank you.

Dreama Hughes, 170 S. Webb St. - First of all, I am going to change the subject. I'm sorry to do that to you, but it's getting close to my bedtime. Anyhow, that's what happens when you retire. I want to say thank you to City Council. Maybe this is not the right night to do it, but it's a night I could get down here. I approached President Harris and first councilman Michael Hauser and asked for the flashing stop signs on Ohio St. and they accommodated us. My complaint was

because of all the ball traffic. It has slowed things down tremendously, and I just want to say thank you. My next comment is about the construction down there, so forgive me. But I really wished you would get us out of the middle of the construction. You guys widened the alley behind the houses on the east side of 2nd St. Why can you not take that road coming off of Ohio St. and take us down that alley so that we don't have to drive through the construction and wait for the trucks or wait for the equipment to be moved? It's going to be a mess come winter driving on... I'm not even going to wash my car because I know every night when I go home it's going to be covered in dirt again. But I think if you would black top that. The ball games are over for the season. You can tear it back out when you can get us back on to 2nd St., but you need to do something. You've got to figure out a better way. I appreciate the lights that you put up. That has helped some, but we've got to get out of the middle of that construction. I'm sorry. I don't like being right beside that equipment, right beside those semis and also having to wait 5 or 10 minutes. So, leave early if you're going home. But thank you for the stop signs.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Labutis, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Mr. Houser, Mr. Rine, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

24-36 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 660 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO WITH REGARD TO CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser

Mr. Cost - A number of times I've made a pledge to all of you and that pledge is still good. I'm going to do everything I can do to work with the non-profit groups and the social service groups of this community and see what we can do to help this situation. Because to me, the solution is still not jail. It's just not. We are a better community than that and we have to work harder. I don't want anybody to say that any of us gave up. That's how I feel. I'm not going to speak for anybody else, but that's how I feel. I feel like we're saying we give up, take them to jail. I can't look myself in the mirror and do that. That's not how I was raised. I was raised that it was not a crime to be poor. I was raised that it was not a crime to be homeless. Now, I'm not saying there aren't criminal things that go on, and they do, and they're out of here. I also understand they don't want them on public property camping. I understand they don't want them on private property camping. So, that doesn't leave much. So, I guess the next solution to look at then was jail, and I just can't accept that as choice C. So, I'm going to be working with as many people who want to solve this, want to work towards this. I hope some of you will come on Tuesday night at OSU Newark. It's going to be at the Warner Center. It's going to be a positive community conversation, not a gripe session, not a negative put-down somebody. How about let's have a session where we all try to work together towards a goal? And that's where I want to see that. Things have happened in the past, and things haven't worked out, and people have been disappointed. I understand that. We can't change that. But what we can change is where we go from here, and that's my goal is to make that change. Thank you.

Mr. Marmie - Thank you, Mr. President. Just want to kind of state that this is not an ordinance making homelessness illegal or a crime. This is a mechanism for police to protect the citizens of Newark, Ohio. Currently, someone can choose to camp in between my sidewalk and my street in front of my house, and the police can do nothing. Any public property in the city can be found liable for anything that goes on, on that public property. There have been situations with

the camps, and again, it's not, it's also protecting the citizens that are camping. There's human trafficking, prostitution, and drugs going on. And again, as a mechanism for police to be able to help those and protect citizens, to make sure that our police have the ability to basically take care of illegal activity. I reiterate, it is not illegal to be homeless. Whether I have a home or I don't, if I do something that is illegal, the police should have the ability to do something about my actions. We've been called stupid tonight. We've been called inhumane, short-sighted. There are people threatening to be vindictive if we vote a certain way. But we are being told that we are the ones that are not Christians. You can attack all of us. You have the ability to do that, and we have no recourse. We stand and we take it. We serve the public. And we're doing our best for all citizens as far as their safety. My vote in support of this as a safety issue has nothing to do with being humane, not humane. No one on this council, nor will the police officers, put anybody in jail. That's why we have a balance of powers. It's our judicial system that will do that. They will decide whether or not that's an avenue to go. They will look at every single case individually and see if it's justifiable or not. The situations that a lot of you speak of, where folks who don't have the assistance but want the assistance, our judges will see that. And guess what? They may be able to get them assistance, and there won't be any kind of criminal prosecution. That's why we have a balance of power. I've heard a lot of things here, and Mr. Cost has indicated that he pledges to assist. I don't think there's an individual up here on council that doesn't want to help those that are down on their luck or those that want help. And also, just helping any citizen inside the city of Newark, or even outside, that just choose to work, worship, or live within our city boundaries. That's what we are here for, and we want to help. This is a portion of helping the safety of our citizens. So that is why I'm supporting this. It's not because I am not a Christian. It's not because I'm inhumane. It's not because I'm stupid or short-sighted. Those of you that wish to judge us, go right ahead and judge us. The same Christian statements that you're saying and accusing us of. I just pray for us all that we can all come together and find solutions. This is a part of the solution. It's for the safety of our citizens. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. Barker - Thank you, Mr. President. First and foremost, this ordinance is about protecting public safety. The presence of makeshift camps on sidewalks, streets, and other public areas present serious risks to both the individuals camping and the broader community. Streets and sidewalks are designed for safe movement, whether that be vehicular traffic or pedestrians. When encampments obstruct these spaces, they create a dangerous environment where accidents and harm can occur. Ordinance 24-36 makes it clear that sleeping on public sidewalks and in pedestrian entrances to property will no longer be permitted, promoting a safer experience for all residents and visitors. Secondly, this ordinance addresses important sanitation concerns. Temporary campsites often lead to unsanitary conditions that can affect public health. Without proper facilities for hygiene, waste disposal, food storage, these encampments can become breeding grounds for disease, creating a hazard not only for those camping, but for the broader public. The ordinance promotes the idea that our public spaces should be clean, safe, and welcoming for all, and camping undermines those goals. While some may raise concerns about compassion, let me make this clear. This ordinance does not lack empathy. It is not intended to punish or further marginalize individuals who find themselves unsheltered. Rather, it recognizes the need to balance empathy with the responsibility to maintain the safety and order of our shared public spaces. In extreme cases, this ordinance

even allows for flexibility, such as during an emergency declaration by the mayor, ensuring that we remain responsive to extraordinary circumstances while maintaining public order. Moreover, the ordinance provides an opportunity for individuals in violation to mitigate their offenses. The courts are encouraged to consider whether violators properly cleaned up their campsite, showing a degree of leniency for those who cooperate with the law. This shows that our aim is not to criminalize those in need, but to encourage responsible behavior and uphold community standards. The penalty structure also reflects a reasonable approach. The first offense is a minor misdemeanor, escalating only if violations continue. This allows for individuals to be warned and informed of their actions before facing harsher consequences. Our goal is to prevent violations through education and engagement rather than punishment. In conclusion, Ordinance 24-36 is a necessary step to protect our public spaces while maintaining a balanced approach towards those who are vulnerable. It prioritizes safety, sanitation, and community standards while allowing for compassion in its enforcement. I'll be voting in favor of this ordinance and encourage my fellow council members to vote in favor as well.

Mr. Houser - Thank you, Mr. President. I've already shared in the past my thoughts on this ordinance. We've certainly heard from both sides of the community on this issue tonight, for and against. I can certainly appreciate that we've heard from a lot of people that, and I understand this, that the problems of homelessness are multifaceted. It's not just one specific cause. And I know that this ordinance doesn't solve that issue in this community, but I believe it's a necessary piece of that puzzle, because it gives us the tools to keep our community safe, as other council members have already mentioned. So, I'll be supporting this ordinance.

Ms. Bline - Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the comments of Mr. Marmie and Mr. Barker. Again, during the consideration of this legislation, there have been many, many gatherings with citizens, many, many phone calls. I've met with as many people who have called me, please come. We're gonna talk about this, and I have. I've heard from people who are scared to come because they're afraid of retaliation. Phone calls of, well, I'd like to come, but I'll have to give my address and then... So, numerous calls to that. And to the lady's point, I guess she left. Now, I've worked with homeless issues in the area since 2009. Especially in sex trafficking, and I've been pressing into camps and on the streets, and I've spoken with many who have traveled here for services from Toledo, Mount Vernon, Tennessee, Columbus, Granville, Lancaster, Perry County, and even California, and there was those who wouldn't say, and truly that's their testimony, not mine. You know, I have nothing to gain, you know, by that. I've also had the privilege of working in the sex trafficking freedom trade on both sides of Florida. I've seen what happens when the gates are left open, so to speak. Then I've worked in the inner city of Seattle, and I saw that whole incident bloom into something that became a desperate situation for everyone. And then I've worked in Brooklyn and Flushing Park a couple times, and then even on the Texas-Mexican border, and I've seen a lot of things, and I've worked with a lot of people. Most recently, those women who are prostituting themselves for drugs, and even those who are being brought here to be trafficked in the circuit, okay? I've even talked to the pimps and say, you know, what's going on? How's it going? And those in the encampments, and they're scared. And this ordinance is not a negative thing to all of them. Please know that. Please know that. Some of those who are being trafficked, you know, they're looking for anything, any way to get away from their trafficker. Last night, I saw a man with a young girl, and I couldn't help. I called NPD. They couldn't get there in time. I ended up calling

the Ohio Highway Patrol, and they said, ma'am, we'll do our best, because they had gone on a highway. But this is a safety issue for everyone, and it needs to be addressed. I've seen too many things that have gotten out of hand. And please, this is not a closed door. It's an opportunity. It's an opportunity for those, possibly those women who've wanted to get away from the traffickers for years, but they haven't been able to. So, yes, I will be supporting this, and also supporting those persons who've called me again and again and again. And those persons who are frustrated that their neighborhoods are being looted and being loaded with harmful needles, they've been included in an outreach funnel to draw seekers and addicts near their homes. They care. They really do. But in the process, they become victims as well. So, let's move forward toward positive things. Okay, I'm sorry, Mr. President. I'm taking a minute. But I was at this initial gathering some time ago, and there was money offered for the present building that is now owned by St. Vincent's. But there was name-calling, and many sides with needles that were distributing needles, and those who were unable to come together. So, the property was passed. I'm all for something to help. In fact, I've even been digging, and I found a solution called Citizens Circle that was a beautiful opportunity for the congregations. You know, this could be a great (inaudible). Instead of reaching out, doing intake. Intake and walking through with that person through difficult processes. The change is messy. It's messy. And positive change sometimes is even messier because you've got to dig through a lot of stuff. I have confidence in this city. I have confidence in the people I'm looking at. I have confidence in this council. I have confidence in change. Thank you.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. I thank everyone for coming out this evening and the past few meetings as well and providing some passionate discourse on both sides of this issue. For me personally, if this was an ordinance about simply jailing homeless people, I would not be supporting it. It's not that simple. It is my hope that through this we can protect our citizens, but also at the same time find... One of the last meetings, my colleague Mr. Rath mentioned discretion. At every level of this there is discretion. There is discretion with our officers, there is discretion with our law director, there is discretion with the judges as far as how they will work with individuals that will encounter this. It's not only my hope, but I believe it's the hope of everyone up here that we can help people get off the streets and improve their lives. And we understand that everyone that doesn't get to experience homelessness via the same avenues. It's my hope that we can actually help people along the way. I also would like to point out that this ordinance does not preclude any of us from continuing to look for new and more solutions to serve our homeless population. If you're currently serving them, continue to do so. If you are looking for other solutions as a community, I would implore all of us to do so. This legislation does not end that creation or exploring new options. Thank you, Mr. President.

Tricia Moore, Law Director - Thank you, Mr. President. I've been sitting up here, I've been listening to everyone's comments. I've had very few people other than the council member and Mr. Malik ask me about what my thought was. I found that interesting as the enforcer of the law here in the city. I've had several conversations with council members about my thoughts. I want to approach this ordinance in a very humane and geared towards helping... You can make your face at me all you want, that's fine. And that's been something that's been disheartening for a long time.

(Comment in the crowd)

President Harris - Hey, hey, hey. No, you don't.

Director Moore - It's because people have expressed several different opinions up here. And everybody has the right to express that. And what makes people not want to work with each other are when they stand up here and say what they believe, and they're mocked and they're scoffed and they're yelled at as they walk back. That's not cooperation. But everybody is here because everybody wants to help. We've got to get past that rift. So, my goal, I want to handle these cases myself because I am working with our wonderful, wonderful magistrate, Teresa Liston, to come up with something like a housing board. I was the Lift Court prosecutor. I was so proud of that and that program we have here. I watched drug addicts, people that I had prosecuted multiple, multiple times, come in and blossom and change and become totally different. You know, I believe all humans are beautiful, but to watch the transformation was so inspiring and it felt so good to see and be a part of. I want to make that happen in our city with people who are unsheltered as well. Now, they're correct. This is not saying homeless is illegal. It is about the camping. I realize the net that will cast and the people that will get caught in that net. I'm fully aware of that. And what I want to do is make this a community initiative. I'm going to need all your help. I plan with, if this does pass, I plan with Magistrate Liston to call a services meeting with providers that we want to select to be on our team, and to work, you know, if someone comes into my office with a charge, my first thought, and it's not jail. I've heard so many people come up here and say, oh you're just going to send them to jail, you're just going to send them to jail. That is not the case. One, it's a minor misdemeanor the first offense. That's not even a jailable offense. Only on the second offense, could you possibly face jail, but you could also face a term of probation where I can try to get you help. And really, we're not even looking possibly at a conviction. You know, if we could run this like a diversion program and get people help, conviction doesn't happen. It's dismissed. I have a lot of hope, and that's what we have to have with this, as we go forward. A lot of you out here may be getting a phone call from my office, my secretary Cindy is back there, asking you to come to this meeting to meet with us to figure out how we're going to run this. Because we want to do it in a way where there's less homeless people on the street, not because they're moved, but because they've gotten on their feet and we've helped them do that. That's my goal. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Harris - Okay, we are getting ready to vote. I ask you to please refrain from any outbursts.

Motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Cost voting no

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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

24-38 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AND A RESOLUTION AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Mr. Rine

Mr. Rath - Mr. President, while this is a frequent and ordinary ordinance that we do on an annual basis, the reason for the emergency clause is to make publishing deadlines.

Passed 8-0

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

24-39 AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE PAY RANGE FOR THE POSITION OF Senior Automotive Mechanic/Equipment Operator IN THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF Service, DIVISION OF Street Maintenance AND AMENDING THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF AND SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE

Held until 11.4.24

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

24-40 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE AND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE, DIVISION OF CEMETERY AND PARKS BY RECLASSIFYING THE CLASSIFICATIONS (4) OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKERS, AND ABOLISHING THE CLASSIFICATION (2) OF EQUIPMENT OPERATORS AND ABOLISHING THE CLASSIFICATION OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT WHILE CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKERS AND SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE

Held until 11.4.24

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

24-81 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Passed 8-0

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

24-82 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Passed 8-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

24-84 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENT PERSONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 WITH THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Rath, Second by Ms. Bline, Passed 8-0

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

24-85 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Held until 11.4.24

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

24-86 Exp APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Rath, Passed 8-0

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Houser, Passed 8-0

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

24-87 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 #6 AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN.

Held until 11.4.24

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

24-88 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR THE RACCOON CREEK – CHERRY BEND SLOPE REPAIR PROJECT.

Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Houser, Passed 8-0

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker

Mr. Marmie - Director Rhodes, just last minute, said that they need to be able to go into contract on this. They don't need the funds yet, but because of the increased cost of a lot of things due to the hurricanes and other things, they want to get this started and get it finished before the end of the year, but they need to be in contract immediately. So, he's asked to have this expedited.

Passed 8-0

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

24-89 Major rehabilitation of pavement; replacement of composite pavement and construction of additional general use lanes. Bridge and culvert maintenance work to be completed within project area.

Held until 11.4.24

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

24-90 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A NEW MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY FAMILY YMCA TO OPEN AND OPERATE THE HOLLANDER POOL

Held until 11.4.24

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Desiree Blake, 125 S. 2nd St. - I was going to comment on what Dreama had talked about. Is there a way that right there on Fleek St., I know a long time ago we used to have a bridge there to go to Little Texas? Is there a way we can put a temporary bridge there, Fleek, crossing over to help the traffic for Little Texas coming across with the construction getting ready to get

started there on 2nd Street? I'm thinking that might help. I mean, we had a bridge there a long time ago. I grew up in the south end, and I always crossed that bridge to go play with the kids, and if we had a bridge on there to help direct some of that traffic back coming from Fleek to go around first to Spencer. When the contractors get down to that far, that may be to help out with some of the traffic and everything, because I know it's going to be pretty messed up. I know they tore up our sidewalks already, but I didn't know when they're going to start on the streets or not. So that's just an opinion, my two cents in.

Caitlin Curtis, homeless – Somebody said earlier about the mayor. Well, I've never really met him because I can't see. I'm sure that Jeff Hall is trying to do his best. Somebody set up here and said that he should feel ashamed. I don't think he should feel ashamed because I know he's probably done his best. People like me making this law ain't going to do any good, because I'm going to have to find a place to sleep, and I don't do the camps. I don't do the camp things. I don't do the trafficking. I don't do drugs anymore. I don't do none of that stuff. I'm just a normal person who's trying to survive, and I am one of the 99% that want to get off the streets since my husband died of cancer. And this gentleman behind here, last time this one guy came up and said somebody can get a job. I can't get a job. Maybe I could be on disabled. I don't know. But if he wanted a law to pass, I've seen people born without both legs and both arms that have a job. Maybe I can get one. Maybe he should go back to work. Just try and get a place. And you know what? The law director can say what she can. That's her opinion. But the only thing she hopes for is for herself, for her to keep her job or paycheck and her house or whatever she's got. She don't hope for the best for us homeless people. Thank you.

Valerie Deedrick, 638 King Ave. - I want to thank each and every one of you, the mayor, the law director, all the council folks. I know this would not have been a popular comment to make earlier. I regret that maybe I should have come up sooner. However, there's a benefit that I heard in waiting. It is what Mr. Councilman Labutis had to say. What happened here tonight does not preclude everybody here, everybody who watched, and everybody who has an agenda or something they would like to offer to actually solve the problem. That doesn't stop anybody. So, I think that's very important to go over again. And I know this decision and your votes were not taken at all lightly and as a born and raised, never left citizen here, I truly appreciate my city being kept a little bit nicer and I just want to thank you all for the effort you took.

Mr. Waldren - I just want to come up here and say I apologize to a lot of people tonight for the way I acted about a week ago. I was mad and I called the mayor. I called mayor secretary. I called everybody. I was mad because the drug house next door is the one that should have been shut off, not mine. And when you sit on a commode, have stuff in you, and you've reached back and flush commode nothing go down, you get mad. Let me tell you I apologize to tell your secretaries. I know I was mad on the telephone. I was on a telephone at the water department. I called him up and said my wa..., you know what they did, nobody answered. I called three times and I was on my telephone... I live just around the block... But I had my telephone in my hand all the way up driving up to 5th St. from 2nd St. I walk into the door and my telephone was still ringing off my telephone. That's the reason why I got mad and I started calling everybody. So, I apologize about to anybody I'd said some sad stuff. Another thing bad about the human traffic. Several years ago, I was (inaudible) deep in that stuff. If you really know what I know what went on in this city back in the late 90s, early 80s and 2000 these

people would be mad like you. I mean it was really bad, but it's still bad. I know it's still bad, but I can't do anything now. I'd like to help you. I can give you names. I thank you guys.

Tom Cummins, 1352 Londondale Pkwy - I spoke a few weeks ago, been coming to just about every meeting. I want to thank you all for allowing us the time to speak. I've been here about a year. My wife and I moved here from over in the Cambridge area to be near the kids and we have been involved the last nine months with Champions Network, which is working aggressively towards helping people with homelessness, addiction, getting them housing, getting them work, and I just want again, thank you all. I know this is not an easy situation you've been faced with and I am looking forward to us all working together, that it can be positive. We can work together to come up with something. I don't know if any of y'all are Star Trek fans, but the Kobayashi Maru was a no-win scenario and that's pretty much what we've had here. Kirk changed the computer that he thought outside that, he did cheat yes, but he was able to solve the problem. So, I know I want to implore you all to please come on the 29th. We'll be there at the OSU Newark, and let's work together and come up with something. But thank you all, again, for allowing us the time to speak. Thank you.

Ms. Gibson - As I introduced myself before, the community drop-in center. I would like to extend my hand to you and be a part of this process, because I don't think we can leave any part out. It does have to be all of us working together. My thing is if you have people who are not going to work towards a solution, move out of the way and allow us who do want to have a solution. So, I would like to extend that please. I would like to be a part of that because it has to be mutual respect and I thank you for saying that.

Bart Romine, 100 Graclyn Ct. - I actually had no plans of saying anything, but what you said, Mr. Marmie, it's true. I am terribly embarrassed of the horrible things that were said about different ones here. And I'll tell you what, I would not, I'll guarantee you, you have not enough money in the city budget for me to sit in any of your chairs. I don't want them. You don't ever have to worry about me running for office. I don't want it. You guys are doing a great job. I know it's tough. I've spoken to several of you. Being an owner of commercial and residential property, my concerns, I don't have all the solutions, but I know you guys are doing your best and I really thank you for everything you've done and just whether you voted for it or against it, I appreciate your service to the city. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director – Ms. Gibson, just if you'll wait after, we'll get your information. I appreciate that. Champions, thank you. Actually, it's ironic that you got up and talked, because we have a homeless gentleman case that we're kind of trying to see how this works and Chris is helping us out with that. You are definitely one of the people that we want working with us. I appreciate everything you do and hopefully we can make a difference in some people's lives. So, thank you. With that, I'll pass.

Mayor Hall – Yeah, well, we've lost quite a few people, but I'd still like to thank everybody for voicing their opinion on either side of this issue. This has probably been the longest discussed issue in this room, I think, since I've been mayor, as it should be. I think that shows professionalism on all parts. I think most all presenters did very well and, you know, it has to be orderly and surely Mr. Harris did a nice job running the meetings and I think council members. It's not about a piece of legislation, I hate to say. And this is what I believe to be a beginning.

And that will tell the story. I mean, I'm honest with you. Homelessness and the situation we've talked about didn't start yesterday in this town. We know it's extremely difficult. What makes it hard on everyone here, it's about humans. And we know that. But we governed and looked over, talked about 51,000 people. So, it's well beyond everyone that sits in this room. I love people with passion. I think it's outstanding. It's truly what the basis of America and certainly in Newark, people get out and voice their opinions here under an organized situation is great. But I'm gonna be blunt. It's where it goes from here. And it shouldn't just take a piece of legislation. Being honest with you. We're always looking. We have enormous amount of discussion meetings about this trust me. We have visited towns and we've just done a whole lot. And as you've seen across this country, there isn't one easy fix. And there isn't two easy fixes. It's very difficult for many communities. We always look for ideas. But what it will take, it does take finances and it takes people. And certainly, I hope, I feel very optimistic coming out tonight from some of our comments, our law director, council members, and our citizens out here to take a piece because I think the more at the table, the more fixed it'll be, the right fix. We want compassion. What it boils down to, I mean, we constantly put homelessness in one bucket and it's not a bucket of people. We have our differences. Everybody does. The most challenging people to work with are those that maybe don't today want a better life. And how can we turn that around and get that up? We have some phenomenal community service organizations in this county, probably stand second to none. We work hard to build a good city that has finances to donate to those charities. And I want you to understand that people want to sometimes wonder why we do certain things. It's our job to keep a vibrant and strong community. And in turn, I would say that there's an amazing amount of dollars in this county, in this city that are given to nonprofits so they can do what they're good at. So, it isn't necessarily just a government entity function. We're not experts at this. I think the nonprofits truly are. And that's something we can work with and talk to and go through. So, I hope it's the beginning and I'm very optimistic. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Houser – Thank you, Mr. President. I want to start off by thanking the law director for sharing how her office is going to handle legislation. I thought that was really thorough and I think gave us a really good idea of, I think, to the mayor's point, I'm very positive about us moving forward, certainly after your comments and how the ordinance is going to be handled. I think that was really good to share tonight, gave us a good way forward. To that end, I've already got on my calendar on the 29th to come out to the meeting that's being organized to kind of discuss this issue. I'll be there, happy to listen to any ideas when I'm there. And with that, I'll pass.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. Again, I want to thank everyone for coming out and sharing their thoughts and insights on the legislation this evening. I want to thank all of my colleagues for sharing their thoughts as well. I especially want to thank our law director again, like Mr. Houser just said, for you giving that insight as far as how you plan to approach this, I think was extremely beneficial for everyone. I know some of us knew that, but it was better that everyone knew that. So, thank you for sharing that. I just hope that moving forward, that the passion we've seen here for the last six weeks continues to move forward to find better solutions for not only those experiencing homelessness, but also our community as well. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to call a Finance Committee meeting for November 4th. I want to thank everyone for coming out and exercising their right to free speech. I do appreciate all the passion and I hope that passion continues to come up with some additional solutions. I especially want to thank Director Moore for her comments. I think she's spot on and it doesn't stop there. The same passion that she has, understanding. I think the judges, it'll just be another layer of that and not to mention the police officers below and everything else that Mr. Rath has indicated. So, I think we've spoken enough about it for this evening. I will say that Mayor, in my tenure here, there's been two other topics that were longer and it was the smoking ban and the property maintenance and both of them have fared pretty well since then, even though it was heavily debated. So, with that, I will pass.

Mr. Rath – Thank you. Forget about the pit bull discussion. That was pretty long as well. I will call a Service Committee meeting on November 4th. Incidentally, on the pit bull discussion, everybody thought there'd be blood in the streets and everybody would be mauled by pit bulls and guilt. My gosh, that hasn't happened has it? Amazing. So, we've talked about this topic for four meetings now. I don't know how many minutes or hours we spent on it. I don't know how many people have spoke, but there were a lot. People with a lot of passion about this issue. Mr. Mayor said this was a beginning, and I don't really agree with that. Not to call you out, but it's not a beginning. It's a continuation. We've always done stuff. We've always contributed. We've always tried to make this a better place, regardless of financial situation or whatever living situation you're at. And this is just a continuation of that. I hope that the people that came to speak that were so passionate about their beliefs, well, I hope they do what they can to help us make the homeless situation better. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Rine – Thank you, Mr. President. Y'all excuse me earlier. I wasn't paying attention to my sugar earlier, even though I had a couple pieces of pizza. Thanks, Jeff. I just want to talk about 24-36. Thank you, Trish, for stepping up and bringing all the nonprofits together. Bill, I hope we can all work together. We all need to step up and come together and find a solution to this. This is the beginning. Hopefully, we can all have some motivation. I know we all have stories, we've all heard stories. But all the homeless, they're not all criminals, and I think we know that. But we need to get people help that need help. I think it's a good first step. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. Director Moore, thank you for those words. I know I, as Mr. Labutis said, he was aware, I was aware, we talked on length about it. I appreciate you talking to all those who are here and then no longer here about it. And I want to thank everybody for coming in tonight and speaking to us. As I've always said, we don't know your opinion unless you show up. And this, as somebody else earlier said, this vote was not one that any of us took lightly. It was something that we've heard debate over the last four weeks. We've talked with departments, we've talked with each other, we've talked with the law director. It's not something that we take lightly, but we also understand that there are those who don't want to come to a meeting and say it publicly. I know myself personally, I've been contacted multiple times from members of my ward about this, to discuss this, and we've talked each time at great length. So, I truly hope the law director's services group meeting is fruitful and can be the first step in the right direction. And with that, I pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to respond to Ms. Perry's question, what happened? I wish she was here. Okay. I found that Newark Homeless Outreach was distributing needles consistently. And that's not my worldview, it's not my mindset, it's enabling. And with

the people who I was speaking with in recovery, they said, Beth, it's a trigger, I relapse every time I go down there. They're passing out needles. I just can't keep it together when I go down there. And at that time, they were also distributing the day after abortion pill. And that's definitely not my worldview, and that's the answer to her question. I joined a program that to this day, Champions has a 61% total sobriety rate with a, I believe it's 85% sustained sobriety. And people there aren't looked at as addicts. They're free, they're free. The old mindsets are broken, all things are made new. It's a great program. With that being said, I did some checking, and there are, depending on the source, between 90 and 100 churches in the city of Newark, and I don't know how many of them came tonight or these past meetings. Again, the number of those on the streets are debatable as well. But consider the impact if every congregation adopted and walked with two or three of those folks. Of course, they would have to be willing to be held accountable and be part of that process. It doesn't take a math whiz to figure that out, what would happen. Consider that impact, but accountability is key. Thank you, everyone, I appreciate everyone's input. And again, law director, thank you, ma'am, I appreciate you. Thank you so much.

Mr. Cost – There is a ministerial association in Licking County, Newark and Licking County, that meets once a month. I believe their next meeting is the first Wednesday...

Unknown Speaker - We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 9 o'clock a.m.

Mr. Cost - And where do they meet?

Unknown Speaker - They rotate churches.

Mr. Cost - And I'm hoping to reach out to those folks and see what kind of help we can get from them. I think that's a huge possibility for help. Tricia, I'd like to thank you also. If I could be of any help on that group, please let me know. I thank everybody for coming out tonight. And I look forward to people working together. It's an incredibly important issue. Thank you.

President Harris – Thank you, Mr. Cost. I do agree with Mr. Marmie that the smoking ban and the property maintenance was long. I mean, I think we were here until almost 11 o'clock on the smoking ban. I failed to mention this last meeting. A couple weeks ago, I had the privilege to do the opening ceremony for a breast cancer awareness down on the square. I think it was called Yet We Will Rise. It was a nice event. It had several people come out and had some people that were 30, I think 35, and 25, and 20, and then some were just diagnosed with breast cancer. It was a really nice event. So, I thought I'd end the evening with something positive. Our next meeting will be November the 4th.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council