

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 6, 2025
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

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

President Harris - Before Mr. Labutis says the prayer, I'd like for us to bow our heads and take a moment of silence for the passing of President Jimmy Carter.

INVOCATION – Mr. Labutis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS

MINUTES of December 16, 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**

Street - **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor – Operating report for period ending December 31, 2024 - **Received and Filed without objection**

COMMUNICATIONS

Ohio Division of Liquor Control - Transfer liquor permit from Licking Springs Golf Course LLC Clubhouse & Patios & Pool & Golf Course, 2250 Horns Hill Rd., to Moundbuilders Country Club Company, 2250 Horns Hill Rd., Newark, Ohio 43055

PUBLIC HEARING

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

24-51 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2024 CITY OF NEWARK THOROUGHFARE PLAN AND AMENDMENTS TO PART 12 OF THE CITY OF NEWARK CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED PLANNING AND ZONING CODE

Kris Williams, 743 Larkspur Dr. - I came upon the plan through the newspaper legal area and I just wanted to say I was so surprised at how many streets will be impacted through the plan and was particularly interested in the streets that were labeled minor collectors, particularly Buena Vista Street because it does not cross either of state routes and I believe there were other streets as well although I didn't go through every street there. But I'm particularly concerned with those persons who have properties that do not have enough frontage to accommodate the broadened lanes of this plan and I know that many people would not be able to move from their homes and not be able to accommodate some of these things in general but many of the people on Buena Vista and I'm sure other places just do not have the wherewithal to move and to get out of the way of this. Although I recognize that we do have to move forward with planning for all the area and all the major streets and so forth, I think that for Buena Vista and some of the ones that don't intersect I would respectfully ask that council and that the engineers look closely before they start deciding that some properties are going to have to have houses moved or they're going to have to move, people are going to have to lose their homes and move elsewhere. Thank you very much.

President Harris - Thank you. Would anybody else like to speak for or against this?

Mr. Houser - I'll just make a quick comment.

Mr. Marmie - Point of order, Council will debate after the second reading.

President Harris - Yes, you're right. Amy, go ahead and read.

Ms. Vensel - By: Mr. Houser, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rath, Ms. Bline

24-51 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2024 CITY OF NEWARK THOROUGHFARE PLAN AND AMENDMENTS TO PART 12 OF THE CITY OF NEWARK CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED PLANNING AND ZONING CODE

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

Mr. Houser - Yes, Mr. President. I would just say, I know the Planning Commission has recommended passage, so I'm going to encourage my colleagues to do the same. In response to some of the comments you made there, I think you're right that the engineer and Council need to look carefully before any of those plans are executed. I don't think this document is meant to be, we're going to do all these things without really diving into the impact and examining those. So, I would just encourage my colleagues to move this forward. Thank you.

Motion passed 10-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

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

24-50 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 890 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO REGARDING THE LEVYING AND COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL INCOME TAXES

Motion to adopt by Ms. Bline, Second by Mr. Labutis, Motion passed 10-0

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

24-108 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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

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

24-109 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR CERTAIN ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, FOR 2025.

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

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

24-105 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE UNDER THE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

Held until 1.21.25

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

24-111 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR AN AWARD OF FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 FUNDING UNDER THE OHIO EMS TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM. **Held until 1.21.25**

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

24-112 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 FIRE ACT GRANT PROGRAMS, IN SUPPORT OF TRAINING PROGRAMS, EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, FUNDING FOR PERSONNEL, FIRE PREVENTION, AND FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. **Held until 1.21.25**

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

24-113 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH RINKER MATERIALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A CONCRETE PIPE TO REPLACE THE CURRENT STORM PIPE ON RIVER ROAD WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Mr. Rath - The reason for the emergency clause, I guess, is they're trying to get it in with the state bid at the same time so they're able to get the best price possible.

Motion passed 10-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director - I just want to say thank you to the street department. I know they've been out working hard after the snow, and the fact that I was able to navigate the large hill in my neighborhood was a win this morning. With that, I'll pass.

Mayor Hall – I'll probably extend on that, we have a lot of employees that work very hard as we take December and roll it into a new year, so whether it's out on the streets or it's our safety forces that work hard on the holidays to keep us safe, they're working in adverse weather. It's even the auditor's department as they roll the books, and of course the financial people in each department, so we appropriate money, we encumber money, and all that gets reset to zero on 12-31, so on 1-1, there's a lot of paperwork behind the scenes. We're still obviously a very perpetual business that keeps rolling on, there's a lot of reset when you roll into a new budget. Kudos to council, and of course the entire city, with the budget, that's probably a little bigger accomplishment than some people understand in some ways. The general fund alone has probably 500 line items in it, and of course there's many things beyond that, so it's nice to kind of get that and roll into a new year and get that all kind of in the past a little bit, and get us set as we move forward, so I just want to thank everybody that was involved with that, as I say, from council, across administration, and across all the employees, so with that I'll pass.

Mr. Neely - Thank you, I'll just echo the sentiments for the appreciation for the streets department, I know they got 24-7 staffing, I think they did a great job, so just thank you to them, and with that I will pass.

Mr. Rath - Thank you, I'll say happy new year to everybody. It is our first meeting of the year, happy to say that we have so far succeeded in going through all of 2025 without any ums, that's awesome. Call the Service Committee meeting for the 21st. I also want to say thank you to Mr. Rhodes and the entire street department and everybody else working on the snowfall over the past couple of days. Our roads have been awesome. I actually heard somebody say that our roads were better than Heath. That in itself is a huge accomplishment, considering they have about a tenth of (inaudible) miles and they send people out to catch the snowflakes, so great job on that, and with that I'll pass.

Mr. Rine - Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to say happy new year. I want to echo the mayor. The street department has been working 24-7. I got up kind of early and I saw them out. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. Just again, Director Rhodes, Superintendent Prince and the rest of the street department staff have done a great job. I know as the mayor mentioned, our safety forces were out throughout the holiday protecting citizens, keeping people safe and I appreciate everything they do. I want to say thank you to all the citizens. We're looking forward to a great 2025 as we start the new year. With that I'll pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. And too, I'd like to echo Mr. Barker's comments about our safety forces, thank you so much. We really appreciate the way you guys are around the clock, no matter what the season is, taking care of our citizens, and Director Rhodes and the street department, fantastic job. I live right on the Heath border, and I can say that our streets are better than theirs, so I can actually say that, so that's great. I'd also like to thank the street department for taking care of a couple signs requested by residents. Thank you for your

comments concerning Ordinance 24-51 about this thoroughfare. To Mr. Houser's point, there's a lot of moving parts in this, and let's keep talking about this, because you're not the only one, it's just you were the only one that was brave enough to come out in the weather, so thank you for coming. I'd also give a shout out to the Victim Advocates Office. There were some residents that really needed assistance with some difficult matters, and I don't think they get enough credit for what they do. They take some very difficult issues and make things workable, when often there doesn't seem to be a solution in sight. I'd also like to thank Mark Weiner for his job as well. He does a fantastic job. You know, when there's a death or some horrible occurrence, his staff is there. I'm so grateful to them. We have a true gem in that department. So, thank you for that.

Mr. Chute - Thank you, Mr. President. I'll just echo everyone and say thank you to all of our street personnel and all of our safety forces for all the work that they've done the past few days, and always really. I also want to also thank Mrs. Williams for sharing her concerns about the thoroughfare plan. We appreciate you coming out on a cold, winter night to do that. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Cost – I would also like to thank our safety forces. They always do a tremendous job. The street department has gone above and beyond. Thank you so much. I'll pass.

Mr. Houser – Thank you, Mr. President, I also want to thank you for coming out. When looking at that plan, there's plenty in there that that brings up more questions. So, I think it's good to plan. But you know, when it comes down to the rubber meets the road, if you will, we'll need to have a lot more deeper conversations about that. I just want to thank the street department for all their work on keeping our streets clear. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Labutis – Thank you, Mr. President. I would just thank the streets department and our safety forces as well. I know that you guys are always out protecting us and for the streets, the streets look great as I was driving around today. I appreciate all of your hard work. With that, I will pass

Mr. Marmie – Thank you, Mr. President. I need to call a Finance Committee meeting for January 21. I want to thank Mrs. Williams for coming in as well. I will tell you that just looking back at history, well, first of all, every plan does not come through exactly, like Mr. Houser indicated, he said it very well. However, looking back at history and some of the plans that were presented in front of Newark, that were not, the entire city of Heath would be part of Newark right now. But at the time, someone says ridiculous, why would anybody want all that farmland? So, we have to be careful and we do have to progress, but we want to do it wisely. I think we have learned that and everything that we do, the administration, the council, I think they take into consideration all the different factors. The definition of a thoroughfare is very vague because anything where individuals get from one street to another, no matter how narrow is considered a thoroughfare. I also want to thank our safety and street department. I want to echo what the mayor says as far as the auditors department. I especially want to thank those individuals that came in on January 1. I better make a point to state that. One in particular, no, both of them in particular. On a sad note, I want you all to keep in your thoughts and prayers, Doug Griffin, aka Griff. He was a basketball coach, assistant basketball coach up at Newark Catholic for the girls basketball program. The guy just loved basketball. He is a former head basketball coach and AD from the Columbus area. Has a state championship in basketball under his belt as a coach. He was always the first one at the court, always one of the last ones

to leave. The only day in his mind, the only day better than today was tomorrow. He just looked forward to every single day. If you knew him at all, you always knew you had a friend. He will be missed, he passed. I just hope that any of you that did get to meet him, I know that you would probably echo the appreciation. But just keep the Griffin family in your prayers. And the whole Newark Catholic community, because it is a huge loss. He just made that big of an impact. Even though he was just doing it in his retirement years, just because he wanted to be around the basketball court. With that, I will pass.

President Harris – Thank you, Mr. Marmie. This will be the last time I'll be talking about the Martin Luther King Breakfast, which will be two weeks from today on the 20th. Hopefully we got the big snow over today, because usually it snows that morning. Beth, we'll be praying for your mom. I know she's in the hospital. Mr. Cost, we'll be praying for your wife. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 21st.

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

Jeff Harris, President of Council