

## COUNCIL MINUTES

January 21, 2025  
Council Chambers  
7:00 P.M.

**President Harris called the meeting to order**

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

**INVOCATION** – Mr. Houser

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CAUCUS** - Motion by Mr. Marmie to excuse Mr. Rine, second by Mr. Houser, motion passed by acclamation

**MINUTES of January 6, 2025, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Newark City Council per Director Mauter's request** – Reappointing Mark Labutis and Julio Vallardes to the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council (CRAHC). The three-year terms began January 1, 2025 and will expire December 31, 2027. **Passed by acclamation**

**Mayor Jeff Hall** - Reappointing John Paul and Steve Layman to the City of Newark Board of Zoning Adjustment. Their terms began January 1, 2025 and will expire December 31, 2028. Subsequent appointments will be four-year terms. **Passed by acclamation**

**Mayor Jeff Hall** - Reappointing City of Newark Engineer Brian Morehead to the Newark CIC (Community Improvement Corporation), known as Newark Development Partners. His new term began January 1, 2025 and will expire December 31, 2027. **Passed by acclamation**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Service - **Received and Filed without objection**

Personnel - **Received and Filed without objection**

**REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**Jill Frew, Tax Administrator's Office** – Income Tax Revenue Reports for period ending December 31, 2024 - **Received and Filed without objection**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

## COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

### ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

### ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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

**25-01** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE AND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DEPARTMENT OF Public Service, DIVISION OF Wastewater Treatment Plant BY ABOLISHING THE CLASSIFICATION (1) OF Industrial Waste Inspector/Operator while CREATING ONE ADDITIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF Operations Technician/Operator and SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE

**Held until 2.3.25**

### RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

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

**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.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 9-0**

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

**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.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 9-0**

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

**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.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 9-0**

### RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

**25-01** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING, SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW SERVICE TRUCK AND UTILITY BED FOR THE WATER DISTRIBUTION/SEWER MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT.

**Held until 2.3.25**

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

**Bill Spurgeon, HR Director** – Good evening, Mr. President, members of the committee. Just to make you aware, we've had two retirements in the Fire Division. Glenn LaPointe, 30 years, and then Captain Shaun Glancy, 32 years. I hired him way back in the day. We've had a civil service test, 30 persons passed. That closed at midnight. So, we'll get that list up and running, get them backfilled. And then Randy McDaniel, 27 years, out in the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Tomorrow at 11:30, Water Admin will say goodbye to him properly. So, thank you, Mr. President.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Tricia Moore, Law Director** - Thank you. First of all, congratulations, Par Excellence and President Harris on a great Martin Luther King breakfast. Your speech was great. Also, condolences to the family and friends of Coach Dave Klotz from the city of Heath. Definitely a legend, not only as a coach, but just as a mentor, a human being. Very sad to hear of his passing. With that, I pass.

**Mayor Hall** - Yeah, kind of on the personnel, I want to congratulate Coury Stevens that was promoted today at PD to Sergeant, and that's always a great time. He's an outstanding officer, and it's really nice to have him in that role, such a critical role at PD, and as many of them say, it's probably the most enjoyable role in many ways, but they truly make the difference out on the street, working with their teams as they work to protect us. Thank you to all our safety forces and street departments. It's a little tough and a little challenging, but they do a great job of it, so thank you. And while our law director stole some of my thunder there, I thought our own Council President did a great job as a keynote speaker yesterday, and I want to thank the community for turnout. What a great showing yesterday, even with some challenging weather. Sometimes you always wake up in the morning. Well, Mr. Harris said he thought maybe 20 people would be there, and I think he was laughing about it. It was great to see the room full, and I think we are a proud community that represents MLK Jr. Day the right way, and so thank you very much. With that, I pass.

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

**Mr. Rath** - I'll call a Service Committee meeting for February the 3rd, and I think I'll pass.

**Mr. Barker** – Thank you, Mr. President. Just, again, to echo great job organizing and keynoting yesterday at the Martin Luther King Breakfast. It's always a fun event, and at least it wasn't a Level 1 or Level 2 snow emergency this year, so we all could get to it on time. With that, I'll pass.

**Ms. Bline** – Thank you, Mr. President. And, Mr. President, again, you did a great job yesterday, and I want to congratulate Ms. James and Par Excellence on the number one reading and math success for all program in the nation. That's a big deal. I've worked with Success for All, and it's not easy. You have to be very diligent and stay on task, so congratulations to Ms. James and Par Excellence. And our dear friend, Mr. Cost, we'll be keeping your wife in our prayers tomorrow. I'd like to thank the churches that have been opening up during this cold snap, and I'd like to thank them again for investing in the people that they are taking in. Some are being taken into homes. They're being transitioned from addiction into being clean. Some have even stayed

further to get employment and places to live, all through these congregations. So, thank you, and special thanks to these congregations. Thank you, sir.

**Mr. Chute** - Thank you, Mr. President. I'll just echo everyone else and say it was a great turnout at the MLK Breakfast. I appreciate your work there. You did a good job with the speech and it's always a good reminder. President Harris reminded us that the MLK Day is a day of service, and the only barrier to service is us deciding to roll up our sleeves and serve. It was a great reminder. So, thank you, sir. With that, I'll pass.

**Mr. Cost** – I will pass. Thank you.

**Mr. Houser** – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll just say to Mr. Cost, I'll be, I intended to lift up your wife in prayers, but I will let you know I'll definitely be doing that this evening, as I know that that's something I'm sure that's on your guys' hearts and minds, lifting her up this evening. I also want to say thank you to President Harris on a great job at the MLK Breakfast. I thought you did a great job in your speech, and it was a good way to celebrate that day. So, with that, I will pass.

**Mr. Labutis** – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to thank Brandon Fox for some help with a water main break in the 4th Ward a couple days ago. They were able to fix that quickly and get that remedied, so that was very appreciated. Congratulations, obviously, to ParX on a great breakfast yesterday morning, and to President Harris on a great keynote speech as well. It was great to hear all the great things that ParX is achieving with their students and how they're changing their lives every day. So, very important. On that end, Mr. Cost, we'll be thinking about you tomorrow. With that, I will pass.

**Mr. Marmie** – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll call a Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Cost, of course, my prayers will be with you and your wife tomorrow and this evening. Also, I'm going to echo what the law director indicated with Coach Klotz. He was a Heath baseball coach. However, he touched the lives of everybody who competed against him, who just met him one time. Just a steward to not only Heath, Newark, Licking County, all the surrounding counties, just a true gentleman and somebody we should all aspire to be more like. I also want to state that it was great breaking bread with a lot of my colleagues and friends and with President Harris, as far as the speech that he provided, very inspirational. Everybody who spoke was inspirational. The update on the playground was just phenomenal as far as what the vision of what they want that to be. I think it was just an uplifting morning and something that was, if you weren't able to be there, then you missed the chance to just kind of give you that little bit of oomph for the day. And with that, I would just say that I think the Buckeyes were there yesterday morning and that's kind of, I think they said it all. I don't need to say any more, so with that I pass.

**President Harris** – Thank you, Mr. Marmie. Thank you all for the kind words yesterday and I appreciate all you guys coming. Every year you guys come and support it and I appreciate that and the school appreciates that. That was nerve wracking just to get everything together. Problem is I had too long, he asked me in October and last week I think I ripped up seven or eight different topics and speeches. I felt like I was back in school term papers, you just rip them up and you keep going, but thank you guys for everything you did yesterday. I have to say this one last thing, about two weeks ago I did a live interview, and Dave Doney is watching right now from WNKO because he told me he watches all the council meetings. I did a live interview with Dave about the breakfast and he had a Notre Dame sweatshirt and a Notre Dame hat. Of

course, I walked in with my Ohio State stuff. He started trash talking in the beginning of the interview about Notre Dame, how good they are, they're going to beat Ohio State. So, we were going back and forth. I told him that Ohio State would win 42 to 17, I was close, but you know. Then we started talking about the breakfast. So, at the end of the interview, right before he shut it off, he knew what he was going to do, he had the last word. But tonight, Dave, I just want to let you know that the Buckeyes won. So, everybody's going to join in but the law director. O-H...

**All – I-O!**

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

**Jeff Harris, President of Council**