

Economic Development Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
December 12, 2012

The Economic Development Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday December 10, 2012 following the Service Committee meeting. These members were present:

Rhonda Loomis, Chair
Jeff Rath
Bill Cost Jr

Doug Marmie
Carol Floyd for Marc Guthrie

We wish to report:

1. Tabled Resolution 12-82 to allow for the transfer of the buses for use in the operation of the County-Wide Public Transit System was discussed.

Director Mauter- stated that the merger is moving along. He stated that there are 5 steps to completion. The step they are at now is awaiting the signature on their letter of approval from the FTA. The letter is expected by Thursday at the latest. He requested that the Committee take the resolution off the tabled status and vote to move it on to full Council for a reading next Monday. He stated he will have the letter by such day.

Motion by Mr. Marmie to move to take off the table Resolution 12-82, second by Mr. Cost

Motion passed by a 5-0 vote

Motion by Mr. Marmie to amend Resolution 12-82 to include the emergency clause, second by Mrs. Floyd.

Mr. Marmie- asked Director Mauter to send an email out to all of Council when he receives the signed letter instead of waiting until Monday.

Lesia Best- stated that the word merger keeps being used. She asked what the City of Newark gets out of this merger.

Mrs. Loomis- stated that the City gets out of the Transit business.

Mr. Marmie- made a point of clarification that even though the term "merger" has been utilized it is not a merger. He stated that we are banning our portion of transit and the County is picking it up. The County can apply for the grants that we had for transit.

Lesia Best- asked what the citizens of Newark are going to gain with this merger.

Mr. Marmie- stated that the hope and the anticipation is just as Governor Kasich indicated, if you have two entities doing the same thing, if you combine those two entities into one, you gain efficiencies and you don't need as much management. Therefore the hope is that the citizens get more services for the money.

Lesia Best- what happens if we don't benefit from this and it is a bad idea.

Ms. Stare- stated that she is on the Transit Board and has been for quite a long time. She stated that Mark Mauter and Jeff Russell as well as the individuals with Licking County Transit have worked extremely hard on this. She stated that they researched this in depth. She explained that Licking County Transit is adjusting their fares in an effort to help citizens be able afford their services. She also stated that the Licking County Transit has an excellent staff. She personally doesn't question that this is going to be a wonderful thing for the citizens of Newark.

Motion October 8th to send to full Council passed by a 5-0 vote.
Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Rhonda Loomis, Chair