

Capital Improvements Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
January 4, 2023

The Capital Improvement Committee met in Council Chambers on January 3, 2023 following the Service Committee with these members present:

Cheri Hottinger – Chair
Jeff Rath – Vice Chair
Doug Marmie
Mark Labutis
Jeff Harris

We wish to Report:

1. **Resolution No. 23-03 Exp** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Section 1. There is hereby a disappropriation of the appropriated balance of the Capital Improvements Fund, in the amount of \$100,000.00 (Maintenance of Streets)

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| 335.122.5276 | Maintenance of Streets | 100,000.00 |
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2. Section 2. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the Capital Improvements Fund, in the amount of \$100,000.00 (Alley Paving)

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| 335.122.5276400 | Alley Paving | 100,000.00 |
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Councilman Michael Houser - This is something I wanted to bring to the committee. Over the past year I have had residents approach me and say that the City doesn't seem to place any priority on paving alleys in the City. I understand that we should put 100% priority into paving high traffic streets, but I don't think this administration should not make any effort to pave alleys. Residences all over the City, but especially in the 1st Ward that I represent and in East and South Newark have large amounts of alleys and many of these they use them to access their driveway into a garage on a frequent basis and I think this lends itself to some justification that the City should make some effort to maintain these alleys. I know that we patch and do gravel and ship and seal alleys, but these are temporary fixes and many alleys, even with these fixes are in really bad repair. So, I think doing a little bit more of a permanent fix and making some effort to pave some of the alleys makes a lot of sense. Specifically, I got some numbers from Mr.

Morehead on this and assuming a 12 foot wide alley, some in East and South Newark are 8 foot wide, but assuming 12 foot wide alley, doing basic 1.5 inch resurfacing would allow about 1.55 miles of pavement for alleys and doing deeper reconstruction of 3-4 inches of pavement would be about .0625 miles. I just wanted to share some of that with you. In terms of who would get paved and what specific priority, I don't have a specific answer on that, I think that would be up to the engineers office to do some sort of prioritization, looking at the traffic and disrepair. This hasn't been done at this point since we don't pave alleys currently.

Mr. Harris - I'm wondering how the Service Director and Mayor feel about paving alleys.

David Rhodes, Service Director - I did pave one last year that was in very poor shape. In years prior we have graveled and chip and sealed some, I'm not a big fan of chip and seal, I'm more in favor of some type of hard surface.,

Mr. Harris - So we're not talking about 10 or 12 a year, just a couple here and there.

Director Rhodes - That's what we've been doing.

Mayor Hall - I agree with David, we do a couple a year, some alleys are used every day by people and some aren't used at all. We have a network of alleys more so than newer cities across the State, but some have become very pertinent in many ways. It will be a big responsibility, you are going to have to pick and choose which alleys and where, everybody will want their alley paved. The logistics of it is what I would look into. Where the money is now could be used for alley paving we does those incurrantly a lot of times. Buster and his team do them with machines we have, they go out and do that. I tend to think we always want to keep out primary streets priority, we're trying to get ahead of this, if it's a 10 year life on mains streets you've got to get paving it within 10-12 years or it's going to really fall apart and cost exponential dollars, so you're losing anything you got ahead on, so you have to be very careful. AS you know the gasoline excess tax was raised and gave us 10.5 cents more, but then it turned around and consumption went down with COVID, so we thought that could've been a fix and it wasn't so much so, I guess I'm not a big fan of earmarking monies, but leaving it a bit more generally open for what you might use it for. I think that would be something if someone reached out and said they would like an alley paved, we'd go look at it and have a discussion. This isn't really on point, but years ago Mansfield earmarked money for paving and didn't include intersection coordinates and they turned around and couldn't use that money because they didn't have any money for intersections, so you've got to be careful when you earmark money is all I'm saying. The intent of paving alleys is well understood and I understand that.

Mr. Rath - This goes out to Mr. Rhodes or Mr. Morehead, whoever can answer it, but we have our own street crews using our own equipment, is that the most cost effective way for us to take care of alleys, knowing how much we might have to pay to bid on them versus knowing how much we might have to pay to have our own crews do them and two, is that as effective long term?

Director Rhodes - The alley we paved last year was done for us, but you also have to understand, while that's a good remedy that they do an awful lot of storm water work and storm basin work and things of that nature too. If the weather cooperates and we get caught up on a lot of other things like grass cutting and storm water work, then it's a nice option to have a few bucks to pave alleys. In the past the street department paved streets like 33rd Street, they paved Jonathan Lane in 2004 after it was chipped and sealed, so we do have the skillset to do some paving it just comes down to the man hours that we have available.

Mr. Rath - Difference in cost between our guys doing it and contractors.

Director Rhodes - It's just the cost of the asphalt and the labor that we pay.

Mr. Rath - Ballpark is it cheaper for us or cheaper for them to do it.

Director Rhodes - Since we have the equipment it would be cheaper for us to do it, depending on what we pay for bulk asphalt. Sometimes when they bid these paving programs they get somewhat close to what you're paying for asphalt, it depends on the economy.

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - I'd like to mention that for a lot of our City the alleyways are very important, for a lot of the older homes that's the only access people have to their garages and other things and it's just really important. One mistake the City has been doing which I think it's actually costing them more because it degrades the systems and shortens the lifetime of the alleys they keep blocking the storm access which degrades the alleys and a lot of water accumulates and destroys the work they do within short work and I think that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Marmie - I just feel that with the number of miles we have in alleyways, we do have quite a few, to earmark it as paving versus possibly a more cost effective manner in order to repair and make our alleyways better, I just feel that we should do the best we can to do the best for all areas of the City and also the most that we can do because I know that a number of the alleyways like Ms. Volen-Smith has indicated, they're utilized on a daily basis, whether it's to get to a garage or to get from one part of downtown to another, especially here in the downtown area the alleys are traveled even more than the residential alleyways, so I feel like that's a decision that needs to be made with the Administration and the Engineers Office and I don't think they need a separate program with alleyways for paving that could end up reducing the amount that we could utilize across the City. I have the same concern as the Mayor as far as earmarking dollars too much in the fact that then we can't utilize it for maintenance if we need it to maintain alleyways and have some huge problems with alleys and we spend it all on paving a mile and a half worth of alleys, then we don't have enough to do them all, so that's kind of my opinion on it.

Cheri Hottinger - My opinion is, I don't agree with what you're saying completely. I think sometimes if you don't allocate money then it gets spent, right, something comes up and then you spend it on something else and then okay you're going to push back that paving of the alley again and push it to the next year. \$100,000 is not going to get us much anyway, but at least it gets us something, so I don't think that would take away a majority from our street paving, just my personal opinion.

Mr. Marmie - So, can it be earmarked for just alleys then instead of paving of alleys?

Mr. Houser - I guess I would be curious to know when you say alleys, do you mean patching of alleys or what exactly is the intention?

Mr. Marmie - There's other solutions and I've given the Service Director some ideas of what the private sector has done as far as roadways and what I've seen that are not paving and it's for less traveled roads and it has somewhat of an asphalt content to it, but it is not paving. My fear is that we're going to spend a lot of money on paving when we could've put a good surface on a lot more alleyways.

Mr. Houser - At this point I would just put forward that it be paving.

Ms. Hottinger - At this point I have dissappropriate \$100,000 out of maintenance and streets and appropriate \$100,000 to alley paving.

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Harris, second by Mr. Labutis
Motion passed 3-2

3. Capital Improvements stands adjourned

Cheri Hottinger - Chair