

**City of Maple Heights
Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

Maple Heights Senior Center

January 7, 2015

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Bill Brownlee of District 5 gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Clerk of Council Katherine Unger called the roll.

ROLL CALL: Those present were Council President Jackie Albers, Council Members Alex Adams, Toni Jones, Anthony Cefaratti, Ron Jackson, Bill Brownlee, Richard Trojanski and Edwina Agee.

Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Law Director John Montello, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, and Council Clerk Katherine Unger. Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Finance Director Irene Crowell were absent and excused.

ADDENDUM: None

MINUTES:

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meetings on September 3, 2014 and October 1, 2014 as presented. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, and Jackson. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

From The Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

A request for a transfer of a "C" Liquor Permit from Bangla Gas Inc, to Ayesha Gas Inc at 14196 Granger Road in Maple Heights, Ohio.

A request for a NEW D1 and D2 Liquor Permit to Hirbawi5166, Inc. doing business as Food Deal at 5166 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Vito Kavaliunas reported that the Fire Department received 4782 calls for the year 2014, which was an increase from 2013. The Chief also reported several fires in the City including a kitchen fire on Morgan Street and a bedroom fire on Friend Street, both on New Year's Eve, and an apartment fire on Lee Road on January 2nd. Chief Kavaliunas stated that he is very proud of the members of his department that responded to the fires as their training and aggressive firefighting most definitely prevented considerable damage and the potential for the fires spreading past the structure of origin.

Law Department - Mr. John Montello had no report.

Police Department – Chief John Popielarczyk reported that the Police Department responded to 23,286 calls for service in 2014 and the department is currently investigating a suspicious death on Kenyon Avenue. Chief Popielarczyk stated that he has recently shut down the department’s FaceBook page because of the derogatory comments that people have made on the site.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Linda Vopat was not present.

Finance Department – Ms. Irene Crowell was not present.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: There were no citizens who commented.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-92

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES MADE TO THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FUND (251) FROM GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND CREATING SECTION 240.11 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AUTHORIZING REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES MADE FROM GENERAL FUND REVENUES TO SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance had its second reading.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-94

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LANDMARK DIVIDEND COMPANY FOR A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT OF THE CITY’S LEASE AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH GLOBAL TOWER PARTNERS (GTP) FOR PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 784-19-022, LOCATED AT THE CELLULAR TOWER SITE AT GATEWAY BOULEVARD FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A COMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays and will become law upon the Mayor’s signature.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: There were no expenses over \$1,000.00.

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Lansky gave no report.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Each Council person wished everyone a “Happy New Year”.

Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5 commented that 2014 was a very challenging year with the City being declaring in “Fiscal Watch” by the State of Ohio. Mr. Brownlee stated that he has hopes that the City can avoid “Fiscal Emergency” in 2015 by making changes, setting goals and considering new ideas and opportunities.

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 reported that he will begin an Outreach Program in March with the cooperation of Ohio Guidestone, which is an organization that helps young adults obtain their GED and get a job. Mr. Trojanski thanked everyone for coming to the meeting on such a cold night.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 thanked everyone who made donations to her Christmas party that she sponsored in December and stated that she has been working with Southgate who will be bringing new businesses to Maple Heights this year. Ms. Agee also presented a commendation to David Brown, a former graduate of Maple Heights High School who is representing Maple Heights at Miami University with a 3.5 grade point average.

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 had no formal report but wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 reported that there are 700 vacant homes in the City and 100 of those properties will be up for demolition. Ms. Jones stated that residents who live next to a demolished home may be able to purchase a side yard lot for extra green space or to remodel or expand their home. Ms. Jones thanked the police and fire departments for their help in determining fire and vandalism damage in several homes and the service department for a listing of boarded up houses.

Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3 thanked Councilwoman Jones for all of her hard work on the demolition projects and for her extra work in City Hall. Mr. Cefaratti also asked everyone to check on the elderly residents on their streets and to bring their pets indoors during the cold weather.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 thanked the Finance Director for all of the work she has done and stated that she has done a fine job keeping the City out of fiscal emergency so far. Mr. Jackson stated that Council should listen to each other and respect each other’s opinions. Mr. Jackson commented to the Council President that there will be a lot of meetings again this year.

Council President Jackie Albers commented that it has been a nice two weeks without any additional meetings. Ms. Albers stated that as she was driving through the City, she noticed a lot of garbage out too early, trash and litter on several streets and properties and stated that there are “Quality of Life” booklets available that the Council can hand out to residents who don’t abide by the rules. Ms. Albers stated that the County would be doing another drive by assessment of the homes in 2015 and hopes that everyone can at least clean up their property to keep their home valuation stable. Ms. Albers announced that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, January 26th at 6:30 p.m. regarding the Rules of Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to temporarily adjourn the Regular meeting of Council and go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel at 7:20 p.m. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson Trojanski and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. All of Council, including Mr. Brownlee went into executive session. Mr. Brownlee left Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. and left the meeting room at 8:10 p.m.

At 8:16 p.m., Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to adjourn from Executive Session and return to the Regular Meeting of Council. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson Trojanski and Agee. Mr. Brownlee was not present for the vote. The motion passed.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Passed: February 4, 2015

ATTEST:

S/S Katherine M. Unger, CMC