

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

Maple Heights Senior Center

March 4, 2015

Council President Jackie Albers called the caucus to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council members present: Albers, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Brownlee, Trojanski and Agee. Mr. Jackson was excused. Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Law Director John Montello, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Katherine Unger. The legislation and the bill list on the agenda for the meeting were discussed. Ms. Albers announced a Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. where the State Auditors will explain the Fiscal Emergency and a Special Meeting of Council to be held on March 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Maple Heights Senior Center to consider the 2015 budget and other pending legislation. Caucus was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Council President called the Regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Councilwoman Toni Jones of District 2 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, Bill Brownlee, Richard Trojanski and Edwina Agee. Councilman Ron Jackson was absent and excused.

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

MINUTES:

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meetings held on January 21, February 4, and February 18, 2015. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Trojanski, and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed.

There were no communications or Committee Reports.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Vito Kavaliunas reminded everyone to be aware of thawing issues as the weather warms up including damaged fire hydrants, water main leaks and any water leakage from vacant homes, sidewalks, and roadways. Chief Kavaliunas also reported that many parked cars on the streets are parking farther away from the curb due to the large snow piles, making the road more narrow and more difficult for emergency vehicles to get through in case of an emergency. The Chief stated that residents should call the Fire Department if they witness any of these concerns.

Law Department - Mr. John Montello reported that due to the diligence of Mayor Lansky in negotiating a better rate for Maple Heights, the City will finally be able to move forward and join with the new central dispatch system in Bedford Heights. Mr. Montello stated that Bedford Heights wanted Maple Heights to pay more than the other communities due to the projected amount of calls, but finally agreed to a lesser amount equal to the other communities.

Police Department – Chief John Popielarczyk reported that the department received 1,699 calls for service in the month of February and that joining the new dispatch center will help in the operations of the Police Department, especially with the new software that will be available to the department.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Linda Vopat announced that the Bob Evans Restaurant at Orange Place in Beechwood will be hosting a new fund raiser for the Senior Center on March 11th and 12th where they will donate 15% of the cost of any meal purchased on those days with the appropriate flyers available at the Senior Center. In addition, for the final year, the Senior Center will be holding an Easter candy sale where the Catholic Slovak Association will match money collected up to \$600.00 for candy sold. Information for both of these fund raisers are available at the Senior Center.

Finance Department – Ms. Irene Crowell announced that the Finance Department are busy working with the State Auditors and that the final appropriations for the year will be presented to Council and discussed at the Special Meeting on March 11th at 7:00 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: There were no citizens who commented.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.; 2015-05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1486.02(b) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING OBTAINING A RENTAL REGISTRATION LICENSE IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

As this Ordinance was on its third reading, Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The legislation passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MAPLE HEIGHTS ZONING MAP TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICTS OF 36 PARCELS IN THE CITY UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance had its second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-08

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was placed on hold until the Special Meeting on March 11, 2015.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-09

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260.27 REDUCING THE SALARIES OF THE MAYOR, COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL FOR THE NEXT TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2016 IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS

This Ordinance had its first reading.

Mr. Brownlee stated that this was the first piece of legislation that he has introduced. He stated that officials in the cities that are in the same position as Maple Heights have to make difficult decisions and he believes that the Council and the Mayor should take the first bullet in leading our city into fiscal solvency. Mr. Brownlee stated that the decrease in pay for the council and the Mayor would come to roughly \$37,000.00 a year, which is 2% of the annual deficit the City. Mr. Brownlee stated that the money is not as important as the Council setting an example in making the difficult decisions.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-10

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MARCH 2015 AS “MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH” IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Cefaratti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to suspend the rules and place the legislation on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays and will become law upon the Mayor’s signature.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00:

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered 2015-18 through 2015-20. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Brownlee, Trojanski and Agee. Present: Cefaratti.

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Lansky did not give a report.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 had no report.

Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3 reminded residents that with the impending thaw, there will be many flooding problems, broken water lines, damaged sidewalks and roads, and asked the residents to have patience with the City as the Service Department is doing the best that they can. Mr. Cefaratti asked the residents to come up to the podium and state their opinions on the salaries of the Council members and the Mayor in order for the Council to make a decision whether or not to lower the salaries.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 was not present.

Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5 discussed problems with the amount of snow melting and asked the residents to pay attention to flooded streets. Mr. Brownlee stated that for the last two years, the City's budget that was passed in March was increased by the end of the year. Mr. Brownlee stated that by spending more money than we have available has really hurt the City. Mr. Brownlee invited the resident to come to the Special Meeting on March 11th at 7:00 p.m. where the budget will be discussed and also the Committee of the Whole meeting on the same day at 6:00 p.m. where the Fiscal Emergency will be discussed with the State auditors.

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 thanked the Council for passing the Rental Registration Ordinance. Mr. Trojanski explained that this new law will require owners of property who rent or lease their properties, both residential and commercial, will have to prove that their property taxes are up to date or that they are on some kind of payment plan with the county, before a permit for occupancy will be issued. Mr. Trojanski announced that his Health and Wellness Fair will be on August 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Trojanski read a thank you letter from the Rosa Parks foundation for the passage of legislation honoring her that was passed in Maple Heights.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 thanked Police Chief Popielarczyk for talking to the Maple Heights High School Seniors about how the laws will change once the students turn 18 years of age. Ms. Agee read one of the letters that Chief Popielarczyk received from a High School student thanking the Chief for presenting the program. Ms. Agee announced that District 7 will have a Block Watch meeting on March 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library and that J-Roys Lounge has been sold and will open as a new restaurant/lounge called H2o.

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 commented that the Council has already taken two pay cuts and deserve to be compensated fairly. Mr. Adams stated that he has received several calls in his district including the usual garbage out too early, icy streets and streets not plowed, snow being plowed onto other resident's property and a sewer smell on Walvern. Mr. Adams asked the residents to be patient as there are only two plows working and the Service Department has only six workers. Mr. Adams commended the Service Department for the work that they have done snow plowing with the terrible conditions and storms that the City has faced. Mr. Adams invited everyone to come to the fish fries at the American Legion Post 309 every Friday during Lent from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Council President Jackie Albers agreed with Councilman Adams and stated that the Service Department is doing an awesome job considering the weather conditions and high snow piles. Ms. Albers stated that retired Fire Chief Castelucci started the idea of a Central Dispatch Center many years ago and she is happy that it is finally getting underway, as it will be a plus for all of the communities involved. Ms. Albers invited everyone to attend the Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 11th at 6:00 p.m. to hear what the State Auditors have to say about the Fiscal Emergency status in the City and immediately following, the Special Meeting of Council where the 2015 budget will be discussed and reviewed by Council.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Passed: April 1, 2015

ATTEST:

S/S Katherine M. Unger, CMC
Clerk of Council