

**City of Maple Heights  
Caucus and Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
Maple Heights Senior Center – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**April 1, 2015**

**MEETING CAUCUS**

Council President Jackie Albers called the caucus to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council members present: Albers, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski and Agee. Councilman Bill Brownlee was excused. Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Assistant Law Director Blair Melling, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Katherine Unger.

The addendum ordinance regarding construction on Northfield Road was discussed with Councilman Richard Trojanski asking if flooding and sewer issues would be resolved with the road repairs. Mr. Jackson stated that he attended the ODOT meeting and that they agreed to camera the sewers to see if there were any broken lines, check the height of the sewers and see if they could install a pumping station to resolve the excess water, and also check the size of the storm drains.

The other Legislation on the agenda was discussed. Councilwoman Jones stated that she would like to make a motion to waive the requirement that Ordinance Number 2015-11, accepting the old Petitti property, be sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Albers stated that Resolutions 2015-13 and 2015-14 are to determine if the City wants to place a levy for the Senior Center on the ballot. Ms. Jones asked if the resolution would be enough money as the funds would not be received by the City until 2017. Ms. Crowell and Ms. Vopat commented that 1.3 mills was determined to generate about \$318,000.00 from the last levy and would be close to the amount needed with the other funding and grants. Mr. Jackson and Ms. Jones commented that it may be good to be sure that the amount is enough to cover the operations of the Senior Center and the food pantry. Ms. Albers stated that both resolutions would be on first readings. Ms. Albers stated that 2015-15 is to amend the contract with the State Auditors for Zupka, Inc. to audit the City's finances for 2014 and Resolution 2015-16 is the Northfield Road repair that was previously discussed. Ms. Albers stated that it would be beneficial to suspend the rules on both 15 and 16. There were no questions on the bill list and Ms. Albers stated that there would be an executive session at the end of the meeting. Assistant Law Director Blair Melling suggested to add the executive session to the agenda as an addendum in the meeting. The Caucus was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:**

Council President Jackie Albers called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Ron Jackson of District 4 gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Council Clerk Katherine Unger called the roll with the following Council members present: Albers, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski and Agee. Councilman Bill Brownlee was excused. Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Assistant Law Director Blair Melling, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Katherine Unger.

**ADDENDUM:**

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to add Ordinance number 2015-16 to the Agenda. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve that an executive session be added to the agenda after the Council reports. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meetings held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 11, March 18, and March 25, 2015. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

There were no communications or committee reports.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** – Chief Vito Kavaliunas reported that the fire calls to date are at 1,211. Chief Kavaliunas also reported on several fires that occurred in the last few days, included one on Kenyon, South Blvd., and Bowling Green Drives. He stated that there were no injuries but all families needed assistance by the Red Cross. Chief Kavaliunas also stated that the new radio equipment has been installed in all of the Fire department vehicles and that there will be a Fire Cadet entry test on April 30<sup>th</sup>, with applications available at City Hall.

**Law Department** - Mr. Blair Melling gave no report.

**Police Department** – Chief John Popielarczyk reported that the number of police calls to date is 5,310 for the year and that they have made an arrest in the recent drive by shootings, although there was another shooting last Wednesday after the Council Meeting. Chief Popielarczyk stated that he participated in mock interviews for students at the High School that was very informative for both the students and him. Finally, Chief Popielarczyk announced that there would be a forum for Domestic Violence at the Library on April 28<sup>th</sup> with Judge Nicastro and representatives from the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center at 7:00 p.m.

**Human Service Department** – Mrs. Linda Vopat thanked everyone who bought Easter Candy from the Senior Center and that if \$600.00 worth of candy is sold, and then the 1<sup>st</sup> Slovak Credit Union would match the funds with another \$600.00. Ms. Vopat also announced another grant for \$10,000.00 from the Community Initiative of the Cleveland Clinic.

**Finance Department** – Ms. Irene Crowell had no report.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Mr. Thomas Core of Edgewood Avenue complained about dogs at large and stated that he believes that the animal warden should be a full time position.

Mr. James Pearson of 14801 Wheeler Road introduced himself as a new resident of the City and stated that he is a retired Cleveland Police Officer and asked if there was any way that he could help the City.

Mrs. Robin Terrell of 15774 Friend Avenue stated that she is a 17 year resident and complained that the property values are down, the vacant houses and the rentals are up and stated that property owners must take responsibility for their properties if the City is to move forward. Mrs. Terrell asked that the City holds the owners accountable and asked why Mr. Bill Brownlee is not at the meeting and stated that she is holding him accountable.

Mr. Rich Thompson of 3616 Jefferson Road stated that he would have wanted to also see Mr. Brownlee at the meeting. Mr. Thompson stated that he has lived in the City for 48 years and if he had the money, he would give Council a raise because he knows how hard they work. Mr. Thompson asked when the cameras are coming back and that the revenue that they brought in could have brought back City workers and also help the residents and the businesses.

### **LEGISLATION:**

#### **ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-11**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS TO ACCEPT THE TITLES TO PARCELS OF LAND AT 5130 LEE ROAD OBTAINED THROUGH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to waive the requirement to submit this Ordinance to the Planning and Zoning Commission according to Article Sixteen, Section Three. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. As this Ordinance is on its third Reading, Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. Ms. Jones commented that the land consists of five parcels that was formerly the Pettiti properties and that the City is hoping to also obtain some of the property behind it. Clerk Unger called the roll for adoption. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The legislation passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays and would become law upon the Mayor's signature.

#### **RESOLUTION NO.: 2015 –13**

#### **A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL 1.3 MILL TAX LEVY FOR FIVE (5) YEARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CURRENT EXPENSES AND GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE MAPLE HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.19 AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THE ADDITIONAL LEVY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

This Resolution had its first reading.

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2015 –14**

**A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 5705.19 OF THE REVISED CODE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 MUNICIPAL ELECTION THE QUESTION OF AN ADDITIONAL 1.3 MILL TAX LEVY FOR FIVE (5) YEARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE MAPLE HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Resolution had its first reading.

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-15**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH THE AUDITOR OF STATE DAVE YOST AND THE INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT JAMES G. ZUPKA FOR A MODIFICATION/EXTENSION AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE 2014 AUDIT REPORTING PERIOD AND RELATED SERVICES TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Trojanski 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. Trojanski 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 would become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-16**

**AN ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO COMPLETE A PROJECT TO REPAIR THE CONCRETE PAVEMENT ON THE SECTION OF NORTHFIELD ROAD (SR-8) FROM JUST SOUTH OF MEUTI DRIVE (SR-43DA) TO THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS CORPORATION LINE IN THE CITIES OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS AND MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Adams 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 legislation passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays and would become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**EXPENDITURES OVER A \$1,000.00:**

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to approve the expenditures over \$1000.00 numbered 2015-22 through 2015-28. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Jeffrey A. Lansky thanked the Council for their support of the Northfield Road project and stated that the project was initiated by Mayor Berger of Bedford Heights, who got Maple Heights, Warrensville Heights, and North Randall involved to push ODOT to pick up 100% of the cost for Maple Heights. In addition, Mayor Lansky explained that he just got word that the Cuyahoga County Public Works Commission has agreed to repave Warrensville Center Road from the I480 ramp to Rockside Road at no cost to Maple Heights, a project that was denied by the previous County Administration. Mayor Lansky stated that he agreed with the resident who complained that her street has changed dramatically in the last few years and full of blight and crime. Mayor Lansky stated that it is happening in many inner-ring suburbs and the biggest problem is the number of rentals in the communities. Mayor Lansky commented about a recent article in a local newspaper and stated that City Hall is open on Fridays, except that the Building and Finance have their doors closed to catch up on paperwork. Mayor Lansky warned the residents to ask questions and demand answers to the many candidates who are promising to bring Maple Heights back to financial solvency during this election year.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4** thanked Linda Vopat for going after the grant from the County and wished everyone a Happy Resurrection Weekend.

**Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5** was not present.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6** reported that his April Newsletter would be coming out soon and he will be having a District 6 Community Awareness Meeting will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Library to discuss any issues in our Neighborhoods. Mr. Trojanski wished everyone a Happy Easter.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** had no report.

**Councilman Alex Adams, District 1** congratulated Linda Vopat for securing a \$10,000.00 grant for the Senior Center from the Cleveland Clinic. Mr. Adams asked the residents to support the Senior Center and Councilman Cefaratti's legislation to put the Senior Levy back on the ballot in the fall. Mr. Adams stated that he hopes that the Mayor will be able to convince the County to repair Dunham Road in the future and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** stated that she would like to have a Housing Committee Meeting on Wednesday April 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 7 of City Hall to discuss changing the wording in the Forfeiture Ordinance regarding Tax Liens. Ms. Jones commented on a property on Edgewood/Maplewood Courts regarding a water meter problem that they are having and stated that she is having a meeting with those residents involved. Ms. Jones stated that there was a water main break on James and stated that she would like to have a Landlord Forum in May in cooperation with Councilman Trojanski's Financial Literacy Program. Ms. Jones wished everyone a Happy Easter.

**Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3** presented a “Home Assistance Program” flyer that Councilwoman Jones had printed and urged the residents to take advantage of the program if they qualify. Mr. Cefaratti stated that the Senior Levy legislation is not his legislation; it is everyone’s legislation and stated that he promised to re-introduce it after the levy failed by a mere 55 votes. Mr. Cefaratti stated that the service the Center provides help all of the Seniors in the City in some way or another. Mr. Cefaratti also commented about the media and stated that he was offended that the “Real Deal” Press published a statement that said “one of the candidates” “seems to be the only person who cares about the deficit.” Mr. Cefaratti stated that in the past 8 years this Council has done everything they can to fix the deficit and that this entire Council really does care about the City. Mr. Cefaratti stated that there is not much left to cut and the residents have to decide what they want to do to save the City. Mr. Cefaratti wished everyone a Happy Easter.

**Council President Jackie Albers** announced that there is an open position on the Planning and Zoning Commission and that the Clerk has applications available here at the meeting. Ms. Albers also mentioned the Domestic Violence Program that the City is sponsoring at the Library on April 28<sup>th</sup>, to educate the public and bring awareness to the subject. Ms. Albers explained that Police Chief Popielarczyk, Judge Nicastro from Garfield Hts. Court and other pertinent people, have put together a Domestic Violence informational program that has been a long time coming, as there are constant calls into the Police Department about Domestic Violence in our City. Ms. Albers hoped many residents would attend this important forum and stated that there are flyers on the back table. Ms. Albers also announced a City Garden meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Library and wished everyone a wonderful holiday weekend.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to temporarily adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Pending Court Action regarding a lawsuit filed by Councilman Bill Brownlee against the City Officials of Maple Heights. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Council entered the Executive Session at 7:52 p.m.

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Agee to resume the Regular Meeting of Council at 9:12 p.m. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Ms. Albers adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Passed: April 15, 2015

ATTEST:

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