

City of Maple Heights
Caucus and Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Maple Heights Senior Center

June 3, 2015

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackie Albers called the caucus to order at 6:33 p.m. with the following Council members present: Albers, Adams, Toni Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Brownlee, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Law Director John Montello Engineer Ed Hren, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Katherine Unger.

Engineer Ed Hren explained Resolutions 2015-30 and 31 regarding the ADA ramps for Libby Road. Mr. Hren explained that the money for the ADA ramp project is being 100% funded from the CDBG Block Grant up to the amount of \$149,440.00. He stated that this ramp project is critical because the State will not pay for ADA ramps next year when they pave Libby Road, which is an ODOT project. Mr. Hren went on to say that they received four bids for the project with the prices ranging from \$197,070.00 down to \$94,510.00. Mr. Hren stated that they are on a very tight schedule due to the requirement that they have to have 50% of the money spent for the project by June 30th. Mr. Hren stated that he recommended the low bid, as he has worked with them before and knows that they do good work, but that company withdrew their bid due to clerical errors totaling over \$39,000.00. Mr. Hren stated that due to the time constraints, he is recommending the withdrawal of Resolution Number 2015-30, which was for the low bidder, and passage of Resolution Number 2015-31, which is the second lowest bidder. Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Hren to be sure that the contractor does not do all four corners of any intersection at the same time, to allow access across the streets.

Ms. Albers summarized the other legislation on the agenda and stated that there will be a Finance Committee meeting on June 15th regarding the 2016 budget legislation to answer any questions that the Council may have. Regarding the cell tower legislation, Mr. Montello requested a first reading only to see if he can get a better price. Ms. Albers stated that 2015-30 will be withdrawn with a motion of Council and replaced by 2015-31. Ms. Albers stated that there is only one expenditure for approval. Mr. Adams asked what the residents would pay for the Senior Center Levy if it passes. Ms. Albers stated that even though the millage is the same, the amount that the levy would generate for the City would be less because the property values are less. The residents may pay less as a result if their particular home value decreased.

Mr. Brownlee asked if there were any changes in the numbers on the tax budget from what was previously handed out. Ms. Unger stated that no, everything was the same, and she just reprinted it for the Council.

Mr. Jackson asked how much less money would the levy generate from the last levy. Ms. Albers stated that the information was sent to Council in an email, but it was approximately seven or eight thousand dollars less due to the decline in property valuations.

The caucus was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

Council President Jackie Albers called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council members present: Albers, Adams, Toni Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Brownlee, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Law Director John Montello Engineer Ed Hren, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Katherine Unger.

Councilman Alex Adams gave the invocation and led the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council Clerk Katherine Unger called the roll.

ADDENDUM: Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, to add Resolution Number 2015-31 to the agenda. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

MINUTES: Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of May 20, 2015. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

A request to transfer a C1 and C2 Liquor License from ARJM, Inc. doing business as Quik Deli at 5820 Lee Road South, to George Shamatta, Inc. doing business at Quik Deli at 5820 Lee Road South, in the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no committee reports.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Vito Kavaliunas reported that to date there were 2065 calls for service in the department and that the Cleveland Water Department has completed the 8” temporary main on the south side of Rockside Road Bridge. The Chief stated that the City continues to experience water pressure fluctuations in the area as Cleveland Water Department repairs associated valves. He continued and stated that once the valves are repaired the Water Department will repair the permanent line under the bridge. The Chief stated that hydrant flushing has been postponed in that area until the temporary line is in service. Chief Kavaliunas also reported the Maple Heights Police and Fire Department radio dispatch was turned over on June 2nd to the new Southeast Communications Center.

Law Department - Mr. Montello reported that the Law Department usually has about 50 cases a week in Garfield Heights Municipal Court and about 100 cases in Mayor’s Court every other week in addition to operating the Juvenile Diversion Program for first time juvenile offenders and assisting the Police Department with felony cases.

Police Department – Chief John Popielarczyk reported that the Police Department receive 1100 calls for service in May, which brings the number to 9,338 for the year. Chief Popielarczyk also reported the Maple Heights Police and Fire Department radio dispatch was turned over on June 2nd to the new Southeast Communications Center and stated that there were a few small issues

that are already resolved. The Chief also thanked everyone who came to the Community Forum hosted by Councilman Jackson last week. Chief Popielarczyk also reported on a recent shooting incident at Stafford Park.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Linda Vopat thanked the parents, coaches and players of the fall football league that is leasing Benhoff Park, who helped clean up the parade route for Memorial Day. Ms. Vopat also reported that on Friday, June 5th, Mr. Chicken in Maple Heights in cooperation with WDAK radio, will be offering a free lunch to the first 93 people who show up at noon and also from noon to 2:00 p.m., anyone who buys lunch, WDAK and Mr. Chicken will be donating some of the lunch proceeds to the Senior Center. Ms. Vopat also reported that she has an intern college student, a resident from Maple Heights, Christina Hilliard, helping out at the Senior Center and also announced that the \$50.00 coupons for the Farmer’s Market will be available on June 15, 2015 to those who qualify in the zip coded 44125 and 44137.

Finance Department – Ms. Irene Crowell announced that there will be a Finance Committee meeting on June 15, 2015 at the Senior Center starting at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the 2016 Tax Budget.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Thomas Coyle from 15614 Edgewood Avenue commented about the street sweeper not being able to get around the parked cars on the street, that the trash cans in the parks need to be emptied, that the park sign should be update, and asked how much money it will cost the residents if the 1.3 mill levy passes.

A resident of 14915 Kennerdown Avenue asked that all of the candidates for Mayor state what they have to offer and what plan they propose to get the City back on track. He stated that the City should host a forum or debate so that the residents can make a good choice.

Ms. Tina Peterson of 14108 Watercrest commented that she needs to know how to get the neighbor’s tree branches cut that are hanging over her garage. Ms. Peterson wants the City to be more responsible for their properties. Ms. Peterson also complained about a school bus that ran a red light and that when she called the Police Department, they just told her to call the school. Chief Popielarczyk commented that the Police Officer has to personally witness the violation and cannot write a ticket when someone else sees the violation.

Mr. Freddie Jackson of 188910 Longview Road complained that there are many residents that are still putting their trash out too early and it is making the neighborhoods look bad for the house appraisals that will be done in July.

Ms. Hoffman of 5340 Cato Avenue thanked the Mayor and Council for all of their hard work in trying to run the City, but hoped that the name calling and ridicule stops so that everyone can work together to help the City get back on track.

Ms. Justina Williams of 5101 Thomas commented about the lack of basketball hoops at the parks, the financial issues of the City, the property values and stated that she has no incentive to live in the City.

Mr. Bob Halen commented about the vandalism in the park and the disruptive and violent behavior of some of the children. He stated that perhaps someone could open up a Boys and Girls Club in the city to help the kids.

Mr. Aaron Mitchell of 20100 McCracken Road thanked Mr. Halen for his efforts with the children as a school crossing guard and thanked everyone for speaking up and especially thanked Chief Popielarczyk for his report.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-21

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.

As this Resolution is on its third reading, Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. Ms. Jones and Mr. Adams commented that they hoped the public would approve the tax levy in November to keep the Senior Center open. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski, and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 6 ayes, and 1 nay and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-27

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2016 TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance had its second reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-28

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MODIFIED UTILITY AGREEMENT WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY FOR THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY'S SEWERS AND TO ADD THE MAINTENANCE OF THE WATER LINES IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Ms. Unger stated that the legislation must be amended on the fourth "Whereas" deleting the "Cleveland Water Department" and inserting "the Cuyahoga County Public Works Department to complete pavement repairs for work performed on the City's water transmission and distribution lines located within the City."

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to suspend the rules and place the resolution on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to amend the legislation as read by the Clerk of Council. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-29

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE LAW DIRECTOR TO AMEND THE LEASE CONTRACT WITH SBA TOWERS V, LLC FOR A PERPETUAL EASEMENT AGREEMENT OF A CELLULAR TOWER SITE AT DUNHAM PARK IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-30

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE LIBBY ROAD ADA ACCESSIBLE CURB RAMP PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to withdraw Resolution number 2015-30. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-31

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE LIBBY ROAD ADA ACCESSIBLE CURB RAMP PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to suspend the rules and place the resolution on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Brownlee commented that this Resolution will take the place of Resolution number 2015-30 to accept the bid to provide for the Libby Road ADA accessible curb ramp project.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

EXPENDITURE OVER A \$1,000.00: 2015-45

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the expenditure over \$1,000.00 numbered 2015-45. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Lansky had no report.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 reported on a skunk complaint where the skunks are living in an abandoned home and coyotes running on Carol Drive. Mr. Adams stated that he called the animal warden. Mr. Adams also referred a complaint about a neighbor dispute on Florence Drive over splashing water from power washing onto the neighbor's home, to the Building Department. Mr. Adams stated that he hopes neighbors can work together to get everyone's home looking good. Mr. Adams stated that most of the homes in District 1 are well kept and he thanked his residents for their diligence. Mr. Adams stated that he will be starting to have his annual Block Watch meetings on each street in his district and reminded everyone that Corkhill won Leon Bibb's "Best Block Watch" program. Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Chicken for being involved with helping the Senior Center and thanked everyone who came out to see the Veteran's Memorial Day Parade.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 reported that she missed the last meeting because she was attending a three day conference on foreclosed homes. Ms. Jones reported that July 1st is the start of the "Summer Crises Program" for assistance with your electric bills and residents may contact her for information. Ms. Jones thanked the residents for keeping up with their grass cutting because everything looks good except for some of the vacant houses. Ms. Jones stated that next month she will have an update on the demolition fund.

Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3 congratulated all of the students that will be graduating from Maple Heights High School and wish them good luck in whatever they will do.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 announced that there will be a debate for the candidates for Mayor on July 14th hosted by the Maple Heights Democratic Club at the Library. Mr. Jackson thanked Chief Popielarczyk for coming to his Community Forum and stated that after hearing his report tonight, it is obvious that the Police Department needs the residents to call when they see something wrong or suspicious. Mr. Jackson also introduced the new pastor at the former Maple Heights Methodist Church at 18900 Libby Road.

Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5 announced that the Maple Heights Historical Society will be hosting the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the City on June 14th from noon to 5:00 p.m. at their location on the corner of Rockside and Dunham Roads and stated that the main event will be the opening of the time capsule buried in 1965 and the burying of a new time capsule to be opened 50 years from now. Mr. Brownlee stated that his wife organized a Block Watch party at his home last Sunday to get a snapshot of how people feel about the Community. Mr. Brownlee commented that many people don't find any reasons to stay in the City. Mr. Brownlee commented on the correct way to bring charges on another person and how to interact with the Police Department. Mr. Brownlee stated that Faith Community Church is now operating their food pantry for qualifying residents and residents may contact them for more information.

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 reported that the previous weekend, he hosted the "Team Up to Clean Up" program for District 6, where volunteers picked up litter and debris in the district. Mr. Trojanski thanked Girl Scout Troops 75228 and 75220 and district residents

who all did an excellent job. Mr. Trojanski also announced his next Community Awareness meeting for District 6 will be on June 22nd at the Maple Heights Library, where Block Watch Meetings and how to organize one, will be discussed. Finally, Mr. Trojanski reminded everyone that there will be a Finance Committee meeting on June 15th at the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the 2016 budget.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 had no report.

Council President Jackie Albers announced that the Farmer's Market will open at the Lutheran Church on Libby Road beginning on Saturday, June 27th through October. Ms. Albers stated that they also serve a hot dog and a can of pop for \$1.00. Ms. Albers commented on the Community Forum last week where Police Chief John Popielarczyk presented a very interesting and informative presentation about community policing. Ms. Albers stated that Councilman Jackson handed out pamphlets explaining how to act and what to say at a police stop, which was very good. Ms. Albers reminded everyone that the next Council Meeting would be on July 1, 2015.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Passed: July 1, 2015

ATTEST:

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