

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

Maple Heights Senior Center

July 14, 2014

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Maple Heights Senior Center. 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, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Acting Chief John Popielarczyk, and Fire Chief John Drsek. and Human Services Director Linda Vopat.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to suspend all regular items and reports from the meeting except the legislation. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Jackson, Trojanski, and Agee. Present: Brownlee.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-57

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, FOR PART-TIME CORRECTIONS OFFICERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Brownlee made a motion to suspend the voting on this Ordinance until the regular meeting on July 16, 2014. There was no second, therefore the motion failed. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Jackson, Trojanski, and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 1 nay.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-58

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, FOR FULL-TIME CORRECTIONS OFFICERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Brownlee asked for an appeal on the motion to have a discussion on the Ordinance. There was no second to the motion, therefore the motion failed. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Jackson, Trojanski, and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 1 nay.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-59

A RESOLUTION REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-44 REMOVING THE CHARTER AMENDMENT FROM THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 ELECTION, WHICH

WOULD DECREASE THE INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR WORKING MAPLE HEIGHTS RESIDENTS FROM 100% TO 50% AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first Reading. Mr. Jackson asked to hear from the Mayor regarding this Ordinance, since he is the introducer. Mayor Lansky stated that since he was not consulted on the introducing of this Resolution, he stated that he has no comment. Council President Albers stated that the Mayor introduced the Ordinance to place the Charter Amendment on the ballot, but was not consulted to remove the Charter Amendment. Ms. Jones asked why the Mayor was not consulted. Ms. Albers stated that she didn't get a hold of the Mayor when she needed to and on her suggestion, the clerk wrote the legislation. Ms. Albers stated that the Mayor and herself did talk about it, however, and it was not a complete negative, as there would have been five issues on the ballot to raise revenue. Mayor Lansky stated that Councilman Adams was a co-sponsor on the original Ordinance and he would like to hear from Mr. Adams. Mr. Adams commented that he originally made a motion to lower the tax credit to 50%, but afterwards, Councilman Cefaratti introduced two pieces of legislation for tax levies, which Mr. Adams stated that he thought were very good. Mr. Adams continued and stated that because of all of the issues that would be on the ballot and the fact that it may be confusing and split the vote, he stated that he has reconsidered and will vote "yes" to repeal the Ordinance and take it off the ballot. Ms. Jones stated that if Council takes it off the ballot, she would like to see it included in the financial recovery plan for an election next year.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-60**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE APPROVING THE MAYOR'S 2014 FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN AND DIRECTING THAT THE PLAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCIAL PLANNING AND SUPERVISION COMMISSION AT THEIR FIRST MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL PLANNING AND SUPERVISION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO**

Ms. Albers commented that due to the fact that the Council has not seen the Financial Plan until this evening, she would like to table the Ordinance and have its first reading on Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Ms. Albers turned the floor over to Finance Director Irene Crowell.

Ms. Albers stated that the council received other plans from different communities with ideas for the Financial Plan and she wanted to know if the Finance Director could incorporate some of the ideas and suggestions that Council has into the Financial Plan for Maple Heights. Ms. Crowell stated that the Council would have to submit their suggestions right away as she is on a time schedule.

Ms. Crowell stated that the auditors listed the eight funds that were in a deficit that caused the City to be in Fiscal Watch. Ms. Crowell then explained the components that will go into the plan. Ms. Crowell stated that the General Fund is the most critical of the City at this time, but each of the eight funds would have to be rectified with documentation. Ms. Crowell stated that the historical data is noted in the document from 2011, 2012, and 2013, the 2014 data is from the recent approved, amended appropriations, and the City's task is to project data for 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Ms. Crowell stated that the summary of the revenues are listed for only the deficit funds. She added that the revenue projected for 2014 does not include any new revenue, like the cameras, which you will see on the last page of the document. Ms. Crowell stated that on the second from the last page, the total expenditures are listed, along with the excess spending, which is the deficit, for 2015 through 2018, using the same expenses. Ms. Crowell stated that the expenses will change when the labor contracts are done and the other computations are figured in. Ms. Crowell then explained the last

page, where the recovery plan items are listed, including the projected income from the cameras, the 1.3 and the 4.7 mill levies, the transfer from the rainy day fund, and any possible surplus from the solid waste fund. Ms. Crowell stated that any other suggestions or enhancements would also be placed in this section of the plan to bring down the deficit. Ms. Crowell explained that each fund will have to be presented like this one and if the assumptions are correct, and the levies are passed and the speed camera revenue continues, the City should be out of debt by 2016. Ms. Crowell stated that she will add the assumption that the Fire Fighters will accept the hospitalization increase and other changes in personnel due to retirements and lay offs. Ms. Crowell stated that the extra money that the non-union personnel are now paying for their hospitalization is already in the 2014 appropriations.

Mr. Cefaratti commented that he believes that Ms. Crowell should not assume that the unions will go along with the hospitalization increases, because not all unions have agreed in the past. Mr. Trojanski inquired if the Department Heads were asked for their contributions on how their individual departments could be more efficient to save money that could be used for the recovery plan. Ms. Crowell stated that she received some ideas from the Department Directors. Ms. Albers asked Ms Crowell when the Council should get their suggestions to her and she replied by tomorrow. Ms. Jones asked Ms. Crowell if there is a back-up plan in case the levies don't pass. Ms. Jones stated that in the sample plans, many of the suggestions were ongoing and without a dollar amount, and she thought that if everyone had an idea that was accepted, it would be better for the plan. Ms. Crowell stated that the recovery plan would be updated and revised as the years go by. Mr. Jackson asked if there was going to be a written document to go along with the numbers. Ms. Crowell answered that the written document would address the recovery items and any additional suggestions.

Mr. Brownlee asked how much of a negative balance will we see in the General Fund before the Treasury runs out of money. Ms. Crowell stated that it would depend on the health care reductions and contributions and the salary changes that she will project in the document that are not yet in the document. Mr. Brownlee asked what the cash balance is. Ms. Crowell stated she does not have the exact number with her, but is probably about three or four hundred thousand, but it will change with the expenses going down.

Ms. Albers announced that the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting is on Monday, May 21st and Special meetings will be held on May 22nd and May 23rd with a regular meeting being held this Wednesday, May 16, 2014.

Mr. Trojanski asked Mayor Lansky what other conversations or meetings he has had for putting things in the plan besides the numbers from Ms. Crowell's financial projections. Mayor Lansky stated that all of the numbers are coming in from all the employees who have been laid off or are still being laid off and meeting with directors to lessen expenditures in their departments. In addition, there have been several cuts in recreation programs, including the pool closing, the deletion of the baseball and soccer programs, no street striping, resignations and expenses cut elsewhere. Mr. Trojanski asked when the personnel restructuring would begin from the layoffs and the resignations and when the Mayor anticipates that the contracts will all be negotiated. The Mayor stated that the restructuring of personnel will depend on if the levies pass in November and the negotiations for the Fire Department in beginning, the Teamsters and Mechanics. Mr. Trojanski asked if most of the contracts would be wrapped up by the fall. The Mayor stated that except for the Police Department, he is optimistic that the other contracts will be completed.

Mr. Brownlee asked why there is nothing forecasted for the Mechanics after 2014. The Mayor stated that is because they don't know what that union is going to do and it may be outsourced. Mr. Brownlee asked what amount of money will be needed between now and November and how many more lay-offs will he be making. The Mayor stated that that number depends on many things and he will lay-off as needed.

Ms. Jones asked that the Council work together to do whatever is necessary to keep the City from Fiscal Emergency. Ms. Albers stated that she would like to have some Community Forums to educate the public on the state of the City and to get some ideas to move forward.

Mr. Adams stated that from the Mayor to the Department Heads, and to the Council and the residents, he would like to see a Citizens Committee formed to support the levies. Mr. Adams also asked if Ms. Crowell could get the Council a list of all of the laid off people since 2013 and how much was saved by doing so, including the amount that the City paid for unemployment. Also, Mr. Adams stated that the residents in his district want to know how much money is being saved by the lay-offs, and the closing a Fire Station. The Mayor stated that the lay-offs started in 2011, and the residents here are only concerned if the laid off employees were residents or not. Ms. Agee asked if the Mayor and the Council could meet with John Barnes and Nina Turner. Ms. Jones stated that all of the communities should get together with Barnes and Turner.

Mr. Brownlee asked how the final number of the ending cash, after plan items, was determined. Ms. Crowell stated that the ending balance from the prior year plus the change plus the recovery plan items.

Ms. Jones stated that the Council should pick dates like the second Tuesday of the month so that the dates can be promoted in the Neighborhood News. Mr. Adams stated that the entire Council has a responsibility and must work together to keep trying to get the people to the forums to educate the people on the need for the passage of the levies. Mr. Trojanski stated that perhaps there should be a financial advisory commission for businesses and residents in the community. Mr. Adams stated that each Council member should be having Block Watches throughout the summer and promoting the levies.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Passed: October 15, 2014

ATTEST:

s/s Katherine M. Unger, CMC
City of Maple Heights