

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

**Maple Heights Senior Center**

**October 15, 2014**

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilwoman Edwina Agee of District 7 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, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Katherine Unger.

**ADDENDUM:**

There were no objections therefore, the addendum became part of the agenda.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting on July 15, 2014 and the Regular Meeting on August 20, 2014 as presented. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

From Terrell Priester, System Manager of WOW Cleveland:

A letter to the Clerk of Council notifying the City of rate increases affecting the WOW broadcast and cable networks.

From Mayor Jeffrey A. Lansky:

The Mayor's Court report for the month of September 2014.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** – Chief Vito Kavaliunas reported that the Fire Department received an EMS grant in the amount of \$2,750.00 from the State of Ohio and was used to purchase equipment needed for the rescue squad. Also reported was that Lt. Dan Syden attended an update regarding the Ebola threat at the Cleveland clinic and will be giving an awareness update to all Fire Department personnel starting tomorrow. The Chief urged residents with any questions or concerns to reference the Center for Disease control website as it provides the best updated information.

**Law Department** - Mr. John Montello congratulated new Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas and thanked the Fire Department for their concessions in their contract.

**Police Department** – Chief John Popielarczyk reported that the Police Department received 869 calls for service in the month of October bringing the total for the year thus far to 19,024 calls. The Chief reported an increase of burglaries in the Dunham and Raymond road areas and stated that he is working on alternate routes of traffic on Dunham Road when school lets out.

**Human Service Department** – Mrs. Linda Vopat welcomed new Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas and reported that the last day to buy from the farmer’s market would be October 16<sup>th</sup> and that residents should call the Senior Center for rides to the polls on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

A resident living at 14113 Kennerdown complained about a blind spot on Pease Avenue and asked that the hazard be addressed and also urged everyone to vote in the upcoming November election.

Ms. Grace Zouka, 15025 Granger Road complained about the zoning on Granger Road and asked that the zoning be changed to residential.

Tim Murphy of 14302 Krems Avenue congratulated the new Fire Chief and stated his support for the two levies on the ballot and also to keep the speed cameras in the City. Mr. Murphy urged everyone to vote “yes” on the levies and “no” to ban the speed cameras in the Charter.

Mrs. Alfreda Albadini of 15800 Morningstar Avenue stated that Mr. Brownlee made an inaccurate determination that the levies are not needed at the October 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting and did not take into consideration that the City is operating at an extreme low employee rate and an almost complete lack of City services. Ms. Albadini stated that she doesn’t want the City to continue to operate this way and urged the passage of the levies to bring back employees and services so that residents can be proud of their City once again.

Mr. Greg Wade of 5221 Anthony Street urged the residents to keep the position of the Council President on the ballot in November.

**LEGISLATION:**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-81**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR FUNDING FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF COUNTY ROUTES IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to suspend the rules and place the legislation on its third and final reading. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti,

Jackson and Trojanski. Nay: Brownlee. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson and Trojanski. Present: Brownlee. The legislation passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 1 present and would become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-82**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF 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. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson and Trojanski. Nay: Brownlee. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson and Trojanski. Present: Brownlee. The legislation passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 1 present and would become law upon the Mayor's signature

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-83**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, LOCAL 1184 – AFL-CIO AND 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 legislation on its third and final reading. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson and Trojanski. Nay: Brownlee. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Agee, Adams, Jones, Jackson and Trojanski. Present: Cefaratti and Brownlee. The legislation passed by the vote of 5 ayes and 2 present and would become law upon the Mayor's signature

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

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered 2014-93 through 2014-98. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Agee, Adams, Jones, Jackson and Trojanski. Present: Cefaratti and Brownlee. The motion passed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Jeffrey Lansky explained the reason that the City borrowed \$10 million dollars and stated that the interest rates were very low at the time, so the City refinanced all of their prior debt to get the better rate and added some extra money to do needed repairs on several buildings and streets in the City. Mr. Lansky explained how streets were paved, sewers were repairs, the old swimming pools were torn down and a new one built, new playground equipment was installed in several parks, and new roofs were put on the Fire stations, City Hall and the Senior Center. The Mayor continued and stated that new police cars and rescue squads were also purchased

along with three or four new salt trucks and other vehicles and equipment for the Service Department. Mayor Lansky stated that there were many things that were neglected in prior years that had to be taken care of and the city's credit rating was very good at the time, so the decision to borrow the money was made without anyone knowing how the economy would plummet in the coming years. Mayor Lansky stated that no one stole the taxpayer's money as many statements were implied, but the money was used for the betterment of the City. Mayor Lansky urged the residents not to be misled by one council member because to be fair, the residents must hear both sides of the story. In regards to the speed cameras, the Mayor stated that he receives a lot of calls and the answer is very simple; if you don't want a ticket, don't speed. Mayor Lansky stated that there is an appeal process and he has had positive feedback from the school board that the parents are very happy with the traffic cameras because everyone has slowed down in the school zones.

### **COUNCIL'S REPORT:**

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** thanked Annette Blackwell for investing in the City by opening her new business, "Park Place Events" on Broadway Avenue. Ms. Agee congratulated the new Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas and urged everyone to vote for the levies on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Alex Adams, District 1** welcomed the new Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas and congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk on catching the burglary suspects on Dunham Road and for changing the traffic pattern at the Elementary schools. Mr. Adams also commented that the Council had nothing to do with the language on the ballot for the camera issue. Mr. Adams urged the residents to vote "NO" to ban the traffic cameras, "NO" on the Charter Amendment, and "YES" to support the levies, especially the Senior Center.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** welcomed new Fire Chief Kavaliunas and thanked Chief Popielarczyk for responding to the concerns of Council so quickly and for his diligence in placing the cameras on East 141<sup>st</sup> Street. Ms. Jones stated that she hoped to see many residents at the forum and asked everyone to check Facebook for information on the meetings of Council as several members have their own page. Ms. Jones commented about a possible State take-over in the City and stated that it will not be good for the City or the residents if that happens.

**Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3** welcomed new Fire Chief Kavaliunas and stated that some of his residents on Dunham Road have asked for the cameras in the area because there are a lot of speeders in the area. Mr. Cefaratti stated that the cameras have really helped on East 141<sup>st</sup> Street and hoped the residents will support the cameras. Mr. Cefaratti commented about the amount of misinformation around the election time and stated that the residents have to educate themselves about the issues. Mr. Cefaratti stated that he hopes that common sense will prevail.

**Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4** congratulated Fire Chief Kavaliunas and stated that October is National Disability Employment Awareness month and mentioned that there is a job fair for persons with disabilities with the information in a flyer on the back table. Regarding the cameras, Mr. Jackson stated that he too has had requests for more cameras and the only complaint he heard was a question about the calibration. Mr. Jackson also reminded everyone

that the City is \$1.8 million dollars in debt and stated that if the City cannot balance the budget, the City will go into Fiscal Emergency. Mr. Jackson asked everyone to pass the levies.

**Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5** congratulated Fire Chief Kavaliunas on his promotion and stated that the City has many challenges to face, not just the money. Mr. Brownlee stated that the City actually borrowed \$13 million dollars in 2008 with \$3 million to refinance debt and \$10 million to purchase things, including \$2 million for the pool. Mr. Brownlee stated that he believed that it was a bad choice. Mr. Brownlee stated that the City has always had problems.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6** congratulated Fire Chief Kavaliunas and stated that each month he puts out a Newsletter where he talks about the crisis that the City is in and urges the residents not to give in and believe those forces that want us to fail. Mr. Trojanski stated that the City is not composed of just the Mayor and Council, but the Citizens who determine the fate of the community which they live in. Mr. Trojanski urged everyone to support the City and to vote for the levies and vote against banning the traffic cameras. Mr. Trojanski also stated that he was having a District 6 meeting at the Library on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and a Block Watch on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Library at 11:00 a.m. for those residents who are interested in starting a Block Watch on their street.

**Council President Jackie Albers** reported that County Councilman Pernell Jones called and told her that the County Council was voting to create a demolition fund on October 28<sup>th</sup> and eluded to us to get our demolition list of houses ready for the money that will be offered. Ms. Jones stated that so far, there are 84 homes slated for demolition in the City. Ms. Albers commented about the State's Local Government Fund cuts that affected so many cities, including Maple Heights. Ms. Albers also commented that the Community Garden is done for the year and that the summer was really wet at the garden. Ms. Albers asked everyone to talk to their neighbors about the issues and support the levies.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Passed: January 21, 2015

ATTEST:

S/S Katherine M. Unger, CMC