

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

**Maple Heights Senior Center**

**November 5, 2014**

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Alex Adams of District 1 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.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the Minutes from the Special Meetings on July 8, 2014 and July 9, 2014 as amended. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular meetings on June 18, 2014, and July 16, 2014 and the Special Meeting on July 7, 2014 as presented. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed

**COMMUNICATIONS**

From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

Notice to the Legislative Authority of a proposed transfer of a C, C2, and C2X Liquor License from Mapletown Foods, Inc, formerly at 15860-70 Broadway Avenue to Harsh Smoker Friendly Inc. at 15800 Broadway Avenue, Maple Heights, OH 44137.

From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

Notice to the Legislative Authority that the Division of Liquor Control will conduct a hearing upon the objection of the transfer of ownership of a Liquor Permit to Markita D. Hutchins, owner of Weave's Lounge, 5154 Warrensville Center Road, requested by the City of Maple Heights on November 19, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at the Frank J. Lausche Building, Room 205, 615 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** – Chief Vito Kavaliunas and the Fire Department congratulated Chief Popielarczyk on his promotion and pledged their continued support to him and the Police Department. Chief Kavaliunas reported that so far this year, the Fire Department has responded to 4,047 calls, which is an increase from last year. The Chief reminded all residents to change the batteries in their smoke detectors, have their furnace serviced, have their chimney cleaned if they are using a fireplace or wood burner, and to limit the use of portable heaters.

**Law Department** - Mr. John Montello congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk on his promotion.

**Police Department** – Chief John Popielarczyk reported that during the month of October, the Police Department responded to 1, 850 calls, bringing the total for the year thus far to over 20,000 calls. The Chief also reported that there have been 38 burglaries and that camera tickets will be valid if issued up to 11:59 p.m. on November 4, 2014.

**Human Service Department** – Mrs. Linda Vopat congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk on his promotion and thanked those who voted for the Senior levy.

**Finance Department** – Ms. Irene Crowell congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Ms. Bella Russell spoke in favor of the speed cameras and hoped the City could do something to get them back for the safety of the Community.

Ms. Joanne Majors of 1408 Tokay Avenue asked if there are any cancellation charges for the speed camera contract.

Mr. Ben Shoope of 15004 Rowena Avenue stated that despite all of the negative comments that we all hear, he believes that the City Officials are doing a great job with trying to correct the financial situation in the City. Mr. Shoope suggested a decrease in the income tax credit.

Ms. Mary Phillips from 14201 Schreiber Road and stated that she is appreciative of the Police and Fire Departments and that she also thinks that the Officials are doing the best that they can.

Mr. Tina Peterson of 18408 Waterbury Avenue complained that the children waiting for the school bus on the corner of Waterbury and South Avenues are constantly in danger of speeding cars and wanted to know if there is anything that can be done.

Mr. Bob Halen commented that he is completely disappointed that all of the levies failed.

Mr. Gerald Arnold of 20709 Bowling Green Avenue asked that the City put pressure on the Regional Income Tax Agency for those persons who don't pay their taxes.

Mr. George Grissin of 6272 Dunham Road commented about he has supported the community for 27 years and is very disheartened over the events at the recent election. He stated that residents who failed to vote for the Senior Center should be ashamed of themselves. Mr. Grissin stated that there are many problems with the amount of renters and the fact that many of them do not work so they don't pay income taxes. Mr. Grissin stated that he is so disappointed in the people who try to undermine the City and challenged them to come up with ideas for more income.

Mr. Al Glonz, 5758 Longwood Drive, also from the American Legion, invited everyone to come to the Veteran's Day Service on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Memorial.

A resident from 18703 Highland Drive complained about the Mayor's Office not being opened and wanted to know where all the money has gone since Mayor Incorvaia was in office.

A resident from 16218 Maple Heights Blvd. stated that she disagrees with the previous comment because she went to City Hall and spoke with the Mayor and he solved her problem.

**LEGISLATION:**

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-84**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ASSIGN THE CITY'S LEASE WITH GLOBAL TOWER PARTNERS (GTP) AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH UNISON SITE MANAGEMENT (USM) FOR A PERPETUAL EASEMENT ADJACENT TO THE CELLULAR TOWER SITE AT GATEWAY BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

This Ordinance had its first reading.

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-85**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS TO ACCEPT THE TITLES TO NINETEEN VACANT PARCELS OF LAND OBTAINED THROUGH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION 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 Ordinance on its third and final reading. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones Cefaratti, Jackson Trojanski and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the Ordinance. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Ordinance passed and would become law upon the Mayor's signature.

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

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to approve the expenditures over \$1000.00 numbered 2014-99 through 2014-102. Clerk Unger began to call the roll. Mr. Brownlee asked for discussion. Council President Albers stated that the roll is being called. Mr. Brownlee made a motion to appeal the decision of the chair to simply forego discussion and call for the vote because he stated that he has a question. Mr. Ron Jackson seconded the motion. Clerk Unger called the roll to appeal the decision of the chair. Ayes: Jackson and Brownlee. Nays: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Trojanski, and Agee. The motion failed.

Clerk Unger called the roll to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Jackson, Trojanski and Agee. Present: Cefaratti and Brownlee. The motion passed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Lansky stated that he was not going to give a report but after hearing all of the incorrect comments, he wanted to set the record straight. Mayor Lansky stated that the City never cut the grass for the Senior Citizens and he wanted everyone to know that it is simply untrue. The present officials cannot speak for the ones who are gone. Mayor Lansky stated that the City does what they can with the money that comes in. Mayor Lansky stated that those who think they won at the polls really in fact lost, because the City lost, and the residents lost. The Mayor stated that the residents

can replace every single City Official and the problems will still remain. Mayor Lansky stated that 90% of the money from the Income Tax levy that failed in May would have been paid by non residents and that 94% of the tickets issued from the speed cameras were issued to non residents. The Mayor stated that he understands that the residents don't want to pay more money but the cameras were a new source of income that most of the residents weren't paying. Mayor Lansky stated that in reality, everyone lost at the election yesterday.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilman Alex Adams, District 1** congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk and thanked him for all he does for the residents of Maple Heights. Mr. Adams stated he is sorry to see the traffic cameras coming down and that the levies failed. Mr. Adams also thanked George Grisson for his speech and stated that he hopes the City can come together. Regarding Mr. Brownlee's statements, Mr. Adams stated that no one has stolen any money and there have been no secret meetings of this Council. Mr. Adams asked everyone to come to the Veteran's Day Memorial on Veteran's Day to honor the veterans and thank them for our freedoms.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** thanked George Grisson for speaking from his heart and reported on the number of vacant lots and the work she is doing to have the worst houses torn down. Ms. Jones explained some of the cuts that may happen in 2015.

**Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3** congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk and thanked the veterans for their service and reminded the public to remember what our Veterans have done for us and the freedoms that we enjoy on Veteran's Day and every day. Mr. Cefaratti spoke about the many cuts that the Council will have to decide on in 2015.

**Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4** congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk and thanked the voters who came out and supported the City. Mr. Jackson thanked the Veterans and stated how disappointed he is that the levies failed, especially the Senior Levy, which is so needed. Mr. Jackson asked how anyone can vote against the seniors.

**Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5** asked the Mayor to stop insulting the residents by calling them names and stating that they don't pay their taxes. Mr. Brownlee commented about the Senior Center and stated that there were threats to close the Senior Center in 2005, so the financial position of the City is nothing new. Mr. Brownlee stated that the Administration is out of touch with the community and the City has been working without a plan for the last decade.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6** thanked the residents who came out and voted and expressed his disappointment at the failure of the levies especially the Senior Levy. Mr. Trojanski stated that for a current Councilmember and two former Council members to work against the Senior Levy is just so disheartening. Mr. Trojanski stated that all of Council works for the "people" as their representatives and that every member needs to remember why they are here, and to not focus on their own agenda, and how they can get back at someone. Mr. Trojanski stated that the politics against each other must stop. Mr. Trojanski congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk and stated that he is a great person for the job and very passionate about helping the people in the Community. Mr. Trojanski stated he was having a District 6 community meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Library and his newsletter would be available at the next council meeting. Mr. Trojanski also asked everyone to thank the Veterans for their service on Veteran's Day.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** congratulated Police Chief Popielarczyk and stated that she hoped the negativity would stop and that everyone would work together. Ms. Agee stated that since the levies and the traffic cameras failed, so she would like input from the residents for their ideas for new revenue in the City. Ms. Agee stated that she informed her residents about the levies and traffic cameras at her Block Watch meetings, and doesn't understand how some people stated that she didn't.

**Council President Jackie Albers** stated that she wanted to talk about some of the positive things in the City including the hiring of a new Fire Cadet and our new Police Chief John Popielarczyk. Ms. Albers stated that the City is hiring a few employees, which is a good thing. Ms. Albers stated that another positive thing is the new McDonalds and the good information at the forums that the City had. Ms. Albers would like to continue with the forums for the residents that want to be informed about various issues. Ms. Albers also stated that there is a lot of information on the web site and in the Neighborhood News that is published every Wednesday. Ms. Albers thanked all of the volunteers who worked on the levies and the levy committees, especially George Grison, who chaired the Committee. Ms. Albers announced a Committee of the Whole meeting on November 17, 2014.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

ATTEST:

Katherine M. Unger, CMC