

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

**Maple Heights Senior Center**

**November 19, 2014**

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Councilwoman Toni Jones of District 2 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.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Police Chief John Popielarczyk honored two of his Police Officers for efforts in OVI enforcement. Chief Popielarczyk made a few comments about their history with the City and stated that Officer Kyle French and Matthew Rhodes have consistently performed their duties in the area of OVI enforcement. Chief Popielarczyk awarded both officers the Chief's Award of Merit for outstanding effort for OVI's. Mayor Lansky presented both Officers a Mayor's Award of a Plaque and a gift card.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the minutes from the Special Meetings on July 22, 2014 as presented and July 23, 2014 as amended. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

From the Planning and Zoning Commission:

A recommendation from the Planning Commission to the City of Maple Heights Council for a Map / Text Change pursuant to MC1268.03 and 1268.04. More specifically:

1. Map Change for 5501 & 5515 Warrensville Center Road, PPN 783-19-025 & PPN 783-19-030, currently zoned neighborhood commercial to change to general commercial; and
2. Text Change to MC1280.04 Adding Used Car sales as a Conditionally Permitted Use in General Commercial zoning areas.

From Mayor Jeffrey A. Lansky:

The Mayor's Court Report for the month of October, 2014.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Council President Albers reported on the Committee of the Whole meeting on Nov. 17, 2014 and stated that Rick Loconti and MBIS President Jeff Filarski explained how the Building Department is presently operating with the two employees that are left. Ms. Albers stated that Finance Director Irene Crowell discussed the Final Appropriations and the Temporary Budget for 2015 with the Council with a question and answer session. Ms. Albers stated that at this time, the following departments have been left out of the budget for 2015:

Recreation, Economic Development, the DARE Program, Senior Services including Transportation, Home Delivered Meals, and the Food Pantry. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to take 2014-76 out of Committee and place it on the agenda this evening on second reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** – Chief Vito Kavaliunas reported that the Fire Department has received 4,211 calls for service so far this year. The Chief also reported a fire on Dalewood on November 17<sup>th</sup> with \$70,000.00 in damages and that he has sent a report of non-working Fire hydrants to the Cleveland Water Department for their review and repairs.

**Law Department** - Mr. John Montello wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Police Department** – Chief John Popielarczyk reported that since November 1<sup>st</sup>, there were 1,098 calls for service, which pushed the number of calls for the year over 20,000.

**Human Service Department** – Mrs. Linda Vopat reported that the Department of Human Services including Recreation, Transportation and the Food Pantry are not in the budget for 2015 because the levy failed by 45 votes, but there are 168 provisional ballots that will be counted by November 25<sup>th</sup> and we are hopeful that it will be a good result. Ms. Vopat stated that she just received word from Cuyahoga County, Department of Senior Adult Services that our grant was accepted and that the Maple Heights has been awarded \$92,000.00 for our department for the next two years. Ms. Vopat also received word that from the Western Reserve Office on Aging, the department was awarded \$32,500.00. Ms. Vopat stated that all of that money must be given back if the Senior Center is not open.

**Finance Department** – Ms. Irene Crowell reported that her department is starting to close the year for 2014 and create the budget for 2015.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Mr. Bob Halen commented on the Volunteer Work Program and commented that he thinks everyone should find time to volunteer.

Stafford Shenett of 1505 Janice Drive commented on supporting the Senior Citizens.

Mr. Bob Dober, 16095 Broadway commented about supporting the community and need for everyone to work together and solve the problems in Maple Heights.

Mr. Gerald Arnold of Bowling Green Avenue suggested regionalizing the Senior Center and its services.

Mrs. Dorothy Dragon of 5147 Joseph Street stated that she signed up for the Senior Center in 1997 and doesn't know what she will do if it closes.

Ms. Lisa Anderson of 556 Oakwood Avenue commented on the Point of Sale requirements in the City and the inspectors who miss violations.

Ms. Angela Madden commented that she didn't think that the Council did enough to get the message out to vote for the Senior levy.

Marilyn Phillips of Schreiber Road commented about the people who do not pay their taxes and what the City is planning to do about the problem.

Ms. Johnson of 15039 Janice Drive asked about the Leaf Pick-up program and stated that she supported the Senior Levy.

Ms. Edith Carr of 206 Maple Park Blvd. commented that the City should do everything they can to keep the Senior Center open.

Ms. Linda Petick of 18905 Maple Heights Blvd. gave an emotional plea to keep the Senior Center open along with the transportation.

Ms. Joann Jackson asked the Council to keep the Senior Center open.

Ms. Clair Witmore of 5154 Cato stated that she has lived in Maple for 26 years and stated that she is hoping that council will find a way to keep the Senior Center open.

Ms. Annette Blackwell of Longview Avenue thanked the Council members who came to her new business, "First Place" for their grand opening. She stated that she's in the old Amvet's Post and that she does Event Planning.

Mr. George Grisson of 6280 Dunham Road commented on the State of the City and asked that everyone get together to work to keep the Senior Center open.

## **LEGISLATION:**

### **RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-76**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH MUNICIPAL BUILDING INSPECTION SOLUTIONS, LLC TO PROVIDE BUILDING INSPECTION AND RELATED SERVICES TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

As this Resolution was on its second reading, 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: Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski, Agee and Adams. Nay: Brownlee. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed by the vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**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 was withdrawn by Mayor Jeffrey Lansky.

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-86**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2014-27, TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL AND FINAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Ordinance had its first reading.

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-87**

**AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2015, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Ordinance had its first reading.

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

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the expenditure over \$1,000.00 numbered 2014-103. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Jones, Jackson, Brownlee, Trojanski, Agee, and Adams. Present: Cefaratti. The motion passed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Jeffrey Lansky began his report by thanking Bob Dober for being a long time friend of his and for giving him political advice in 1987, when the Mayor first ran for Council in District Seven. Mayor Lansky stated that in addition to Mr. Dober being a school board member, Mr. Dober was a member of Council for many years. Mayor Lansky went on to comment about social media and the things that are said about people that are so disturbing. In addition, the Mayor said that the hate mail and phone calls that are laced with profanity are extremely upsetting. Mayor Lansky stated that the City does apply for grants and has been receiving them for many years. Mr. Lansky explained what an urban miner is. He stated that they steal everything that they can carry out of vacant homes, and the city is stuck with the task of demolition. The Mayor stated that the problem is vacant homes and many other cities are in the same situation. In regards to revenue, Southgate put up a million and a half dollars in escrow for violations that need to be fixed this year with more money needed in escrow next year to continue to repair and rebuild the mall. The new owners have a plan to bring Southgate back and have many big box retailers interested and one close to signing. Mayor Lansky stated that this is the first serious owner of Southgate in a long

time. Mayor Lansky stated that no decision has been made at this point regarding the Senior Center and that there are provisional ballots that have to be counted.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** congratulated the two patrolmen on their OVI enforcement awards and commented to the resident asking about a vacant lot to see her after the meeting to see if she can help.

**Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3** made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to remove legislation 2014-66 from the Committee of the Whole and put it on the agenda. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Cefaratti stated that the legislation was to use some of the money generated by the traffic cameras to hire another building inspector, but since the cameras will no longer be available, he would also like to withdraw the legislation from any consideration by Council. Mr. Cefaratti thanked everyone for their comments as they help the Council understand what is on the mind of the residents. Mr. Cefaratti stated that he understands the importance of the Senior Center and that is why he introduced the levy for the Senior Center. Mr. Cefaratti congratulated the two patrolmen on their OVI enforcement awards and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4** stated that the new deficit is about 2.8 million. Mr. Jackson congratulated the two patrolmen on their OVI enforcement awards and stated that he doesn't think anyone cared whether the officers were black or white and he hopes that race does not become an issue that divides this City even more. Mr. Jackson commented on the point of sale inspections and the Senior Center. Mr. Jackson stated that the work at the Senior Center extends much farther than a social one, and the amount of services that are provided behind the scenes is immeasurable. Mr. Jackson stated that in order for the City to live within their means, there may not be any leaf pick up or snow removal after hours to cut down on overtime. Mr. Jackson stated that he had asked the residents for ideas and suggestions for the Council, and in the last 3 months, he has only received one suggestion, but he hopes for more.

**Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5** stated that the Council has the responsibility to make the decisions and come up with the ideas of how the City should be run. Mr. Brownlee stated that the Council was elected to do the job, not the residents. Mr. Brownlee stated that the reason that the Senior Levy failed had nothing to do with seniors, but rather with the lack of trust in City officials. Mr. Brownlee stated that people can say they care about their City by electing officials that ensure that departments are run in the best manner possible. Mr. Brownlee stated that the cameras are gone and that they were never about safety; it was a great cover-up. He stated that the cameras were 80% money and 20% safety. Mr. Brownlee stated that he and his family have volunteered to do various things for the City and recently contacted several of the churches with the possibility of stepping up and taking on the responsibilities of the food pantry. Mr. Brownlee stated that he is having an informational meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the library at 7:00 p.m. about the finances of the City.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6** thanked everyone for coming out and congratulated the two patrolmen on their OVI enforcement awards. Mr. Trojanski stated that he is having a Finance Committee meeting on December 1, 2014 at the Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. with the Central Collection Agency to hear their opinions on how the City can collect unpaid taxes. Mr. Trojanski

stated that the best way that the members of Council can do the job that they were elected to do is through actions, not words, and come up with a plan or ideas. Mr. Trojanski asked the residents to think about what other members of Council are saying and if they are using their position for political gain and if they coming up with solutions, not just placing the blame on everything and everyone. Mr. Trojanski stated that it is time to move the City forward and not cast blame on everyone else and complain about the past. Mr. Trojanski wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** reported that she received several calls about the Senior Center and she stated that she would do her best to keep the center opened. Ms. Agee announced that on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, she would be having her annual turkey give-a-way at the Block Watch meeting. Ms. Agee reported that two businesses, Papa John's Pizza and Exercise and Fitness opened in District 7, and she also stated that she did pass out literature and flyers to support the levies and she is sorry to see that they failed. Ms. Agee wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Councilman Alex Adams, District 1** reported on several complaints that residents called him about including unsecured garbage, police activity at a home on Dunham, smoke on Carol Drive, and residents wondering when their streets would be plowed. Mr. Adams thanked the Police, Fire, and Service Departments, who took care of everything, even with the limited number of personnel. Mr. Adams also stated that he had a call from a resident who needed help with her gas bill, and like many times before, he referred her to the Senior Center and Linda Vopat. Mr. Adams commented that last Thursday, the Food Pantry fed 60 families in a mere 3 hours and the meals on wheels program also provided critical services to many of the residents. Mr. Adams stated that the Human Services Department is a great life force in Maple Heights and he hopes that the Council can find the money in the budget to keep the department open. Mr. Adams thanked everyone for their comments and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Council President Jackie Albers** thanked everyone for their comments and reminded everyone that the Council will meet again to discuss the budget on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. after Councilman Trojanski's finance meeting with the Central Collection Agency and that all residents are invited to attend. Ms. Albers stated that the Council will discuss the 2015 projections and review all of the options to maintain our senior services. Ms. Albers stated that the Council and the administration are committed to find solutions for not only the Senior Center, but all the departments in the City. Ms. Albers thanked Chief Popielarczyk for recognizing two of his officers and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Passed: February 4, 2015

ATTEST:

S/S Katherine M. Unger, CMC