

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

Maple Heights Senior Center

December 3, 2014

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Councilman Anthony Cefaratti of District 3 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, Assistant Law Director Blair Melling, Police Captain Gene Kulp, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Katherine Unger.

ADDENDUM: Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, to add Ordinance number 2014-89 and Resolution number 2014-90 to the agenda. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Jackson Trojanski. Nay: Brownlee. Present: Cefaratti and Agee. The motion passed.

MINUTES: Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting on July 28, 2014 as presented. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski, and Agee. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

From Robert W. Varley of Dominion East Ohio:

A notice to the City that Dominion will file an application to amend the Pipeline infrastructure replacement (PIR) plan and the cost recovery charge for Automated Meter Reading (AMR) technology in February, 2015.

From Terrell Priester of Wide Open West:

A notice to the City of a rate increase of \$12.00 a month for residential customers who bundle and an increase of \$2.00 per month for basic cable effective January 1, 2015.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Vito Kavaliunas reported that the Fire Department has had 4,421 calls to date and that the fire on Dalewood has been ruled an arson and is under investigation. Chief Kavaliunas also reported on a serious fire that happened on November 27th, Thanksgiving Day at 17000 Rockside Road at Fannie Mae Candies. The Chief introduced Acting Captain Teckmyer who is the shift commander of the “A” shift and was the initial Incident Commander at the Fire that day. Captain Teckmyer presented a video of the fire at Fannie Mae Candies to the entire audience. Chief Kavaliunas thanked the Maple Heights Police and Service Departments, the cities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Garfield Heights, Warrensville Heights, Shaker Heights, Valley View, Independence, Oakwood, Cuyahoga Heights, Brooklyn Heights, Broadview heights Brecksville, Highland Hills, Twinsburg, Chagrin Falls, Bainbridge and the Southeast Chagrin hazmat Team for their assistance with the fire. In addition, the Chief thanked Giant Eagle of Maple Heights, who

assisted the American Red Cross with providing food and drink to the Firefighters and Mike Mallis from Bedford and Walmart of Bedford for providing food and drink as well. Finally, the Chief thanked all of the residents who stopped by the stations with food and concerns for the firefighters.

Law Department - Mr. Blair Melling had no report.

Police Department – Captain Kulp had no report.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Linda Vopat reported that during the period of October 31, 2013 and October 31, 2014, the Maple Heights Food Pantry distributed 201,820 pounds of food, which is 168,183 meals, and the Senior Center served 25,229 pounds of food while serving 10,506 people. Ms. Vopat stated that the Food Pantry coordinator does an excellent job using money given to us by the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland. Mrs. Vopat announced that the Senior Center is having a fund raiser where she will ask that 3000 people donated \$100.00, which may keep the Senior Center open until other arrangements can be made to keep the center open.

Finance Department – Ms. Irene Crowell stated that the Finance Department is still busy with the auditors and the Fiscal Watch requirements and she is also preparing the budget for 2015.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Bob Halen commended the work of the Fire Department and commented on the actions of Councilman Bill Brownlee.

Mr. Bruce Carol of 6258 Dunham Road commented on the Building Department and the retainer that the City is paying to an outside company that is running the department.

Mr. Andrew Morris who stated that he is representing the land owners of the City and complained about the back log of inspectors.

LEGISLATION:

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.

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third and final reading. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski, Agee, Adams, and Jones. Nay: Brownlee. Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the legislation. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski, Agee, Adams, and Jones. Nay: Brownlee. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

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 second reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-88

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS IN 2015, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first Reading.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-89

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1060.02(b) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND TERMINATING THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FUND (251) FOR PAYMENT OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTIONS IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first Reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-90

A RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE RAINY DAY CONTINGENCY FUND (102), TRANSFERRING THE BALANCE TO THE GENERAL FUND IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution had its first Reading.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: There were no expenditures.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Jeffrey A. Lansky asked Linda Vopat to report on the damage of the Gazebo and the Press Box at Stafford Park and stated that there is no money to fix the damage, and in addition, the vandalism is continually a problem. Mayor Lansky reported that the Service Department is still picking up leaves and tree branches and the department also did a nice job with the salt trucks in the sudden snow fall that we had. Mayor Lansky stated that his heart goes out to all of the fire and police officers who missed their Thanksgiving holiday with their families to fight the fire at Fannie Mae's. He stated that the fire went on for over three days. The Mayor also thanked the residents and the businesses who brought Thanksgiving food to the fire and police officers. Mayor Lansky stated that the owner of the company, Fannie Mae Candies, stated that he will rebuild in the City.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3 thanked all of the department employees who have stuck with the City through these hard times and especially for the Fire and Police departments for their work on the fire.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 commended the Fire and Police departments and expressed his thanks that no one was hurt. Mr. Jackson stated that the City is 2.8 million dollars in debt and the council has a lot of work to do to overcome this deficit. Mr. Jackson also reported that he and his neighbors got together and did a fund raiser to put a roof on a 93 year old neighbor of his. Mr. Jackson thanked all those who participated and stated that everyone should take the time to help other people in need because we can all make a difference to someone.

Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5 commented about the inspection time in the Building Department and also stated that the Mayor has no provisions for the Senior Center and there seems to be no more money to cut. Mr. Brownlee stated that the city cannot use the trash fund for the Senior Center, even though they are trying to lead the people to believe it. Mr. Brownlee stated that the budget that was recently passed really doesn't mean anything. Mr. Brownlee stated that the City makes laws and the administration breaks its own laws. Mr. Brownlee stated that he will be having a finance meeting for the residents at 7:00 p.m. at the Library on December 4th and he hoped that the residents come out and learn about the City's budget.

Mrs. Linda Vopat asked to speak and was recognized. She stated that the fund raiser is only to get the department through a few months until she is able to consolidate services with another group of Senior Centers which would ensure the security and stability of the program for many, many years to come. She stated that the Rose Foundation have absorbed the senior centers in Cleveland and are called "The Rose Centers for Aging Well".

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 thanked the Firefighters and the Police Department for their courageous service. Mr. Trojanski stated that this body of council is governed by local, state and federal law, with the check and balance of three branches of government: the Judiciary, the Legislative, and the Executive Branch. Mr. Trojanski explained that when this body of Council passes Resolutions, Ordinances or Appropriations for the fiscal budgets, there are laws that govern us. Mr. Trojanski added that since Mr. Brownlee has been on Council, he has not expressed one idea or suggestion for laying a plan for the City. Mr. Trojanski stated that the City administration has renegotiated every possible contract that they could, have not given raises to employees in six years, and has cut every expense possible. Mr. Trojanski stated that the Finance Committee has had meetings to try to solve the problem of unpaid income taxes, but all of these things take time. Mr. Trojanski stated that the entire Council has to work together and he would like for Mr. Brownlee to submit a plan to solve the 2.8 million dollar debt, or at least give a report on what he is doing for the residents in his district. Mr. Trojanski explained the many issues that are plaguing the inner ring suburbs of Cleveland and urged Mr. Brownlee to stop blaming the Administration and Council and to come to the realization that the problems in Maple Heights are the results of issues that we have no control of. Mr. Trojanski announced a District 6 meeting on December 13 at 11:00 a.m. for the residents and his monthly newsletter coming out next week.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their service on the fire and was happy that no one was injured. Ms. Agee also announced that on December 8th, she is having a meeting with the business owners in her district to discuss their needs and concerns.

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their work on the fire and asked to support Fannie Mae candy so the company can survive. Mr. Adams reported that he had several calls on the proposed zoning changes and stated that once the residents learned that the changes are to protect the neighborhood, they were all in favor of the changes. Mr. Adams also stated that most of Council is trying to save the Senior Center and we must support our residents. Mr. Adams reported snow plow damage on Lisa Drive and a sink hole on Rowena. Mr. Adams stated that he hopes everyone can afford a donation to the Senior Center to get us through the next few months until the Rose group can take over.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 thanked Chief Kavaliunas for the phone call about the fire in her district and thanked the fire fighters and police department who worked on the burning building. Ms. Jones stated that she has some extra newspapers on the back table and requested that Mr. Brownlee make a donation to the Senior Center to help them out.

Council President Jackie Albers thanked the members of Council who came to the “Breaking of the Bread” on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at the Senior Center, and stated that it was a humbling experience to have lunch with the Seniors, provided by Bob Evans. Ms. Albers thanked the Law Department for inviting her to meetings to save money with contracts with the billboards and the cell towers. Ms. Albers stated that the City continues to maintain the services despite the budget. Ms. Albers commented that both the Council and the residents have a responsibility to find out what is going on in the City. Ms. Albers stated that she was amazed at the strategy presented in the video by the Fire Department and joined everyone in thanking them for their service to the Community. Ms. Albers announced that in addition to the Regular Council meeting on December 17th, there would be another Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the budget before it is passed..

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council President Albers adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Passed: _____, 2015

ATTEST:

Katherine M. Unger, CMC