

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

Maple Heights Senior Center

April 2, 2014

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Councilman Richard Trojanski of District 6 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, Chief Richard Maracz, Fire Chief John Drsek, and Human Services Director Linda Vopat. Finance Director Irene Crowell and Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

MINUTES: Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the minutes from the Regular Council meetings on February 19, 2014, and March 5, 2014. **ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Trojanski & Agee. Abstain: Brownlee.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief John Drsek reported that on Wednesday, April 9th, there will be a media event with Firehouse Subs at the Firehouse Restaurant at 6232 Mayfield Road, in Mayfield Heights at 10:30 a.m. to showcase the Firehouse Subs Safety Foundation and the 16 Ballistic vests that they donated to the Maple Heights Fire Department.

Law Department - Mr. John Montello had no report

Police Department – Chief Richard Maracz had no report.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Linda Vopat reported that the Soccer season will begin on April 26th and that they have enough coaches. Ms. Vopat also reported that the Annual Easter festival will be held on April 12th at Southgate and all resident children are welcome to attend.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Bob Halen from Maple Park Drive stated that he is disappointed with the way Councilman Brownlee has been acting at the recent Council meetings.

Ms. Georgette Vidmar of 18204 Maple Heights Blvd. stated that she is also disappointed with the way Councilman Brownlee has been acting at the recent Council meetings.

LEGISLATION:**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-28****AN ORDINANCE CREATEING SECTION 1296.15 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING REGULATION FOR THE PLACEMENT OF PERMITTED POLITICAL SIGNS 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: Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, and Jackson. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed.

Mr. Brownlee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cefaratti to amend the legislation to allow the placement of political signs 45 days before an election instead of 30 days before an election. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Agee, Cefaratti, and Brownlee. Nays: Trojanski, Adams, Jones, and Jackson. The motion failed, therefore the there will be no amendment to the Ordinance.

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the Ordinance as written. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones, and Jackson. Nays: Cefaratti and Brownlee. The motion passed. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 5 ayes and 2 nays.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-29**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR THE PURCHASE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE (ROCK SALT) FOR THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to suspend the rules and place the legislation on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed by the vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-30**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS WITH SPECIFICATIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR A TOWING SERVICE CONTRACT TO BE USED BY THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS FOR ALL NEEDED TOWING SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

This Resolution had its FIRST reading.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00:

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered 2014-36 through 2014-48. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones, Jackson and Brownlee. Present: Cefaratti.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor had no report.

COUNCIL'S REPORT:

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 reported that the application for his annual "Best Yard Contest" is in his monthly newsletter on the back table. Mr. Trojanski stated that the deadline to enter is May 30th and the yards would be judged the weekend of June 21st and 22nd with the first prize \$150.00, second prize \$100.00, and 3rd prize at \$50.00.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 announced a meeting on Tuesday, April 8th with the District 7 graduates of Maple Heights High School for a meeting at the Library, where she will be raffling off four after-prom tickets.

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 reported on several concerns in his district including a break-in at the "Stop-In" gas station, garbage overflowing the dumpster at Lee and Walvern apartments, garbage out too early, a carbon dioxide report on Carol Drive, pot holes on Woodbrook, Turney, Summit, Carol, and Glenwood, and a sink hole on Rowena. Mr. Adams also reported water in a basement on Steinway and low water pressure complaints because of a water main break on Turney and Rockside. Mr. Adams also commented on his vote for the political signs and stated that he thought that 30 days was plenty of time.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 reported on a problem that has been ongoing in her district where a building with four condos in it has no water because the water meter for the entire building is in one of the condos that is vacant. Ms. Jones stated that she is working with the residents to have individual water meters installed in each condo.

Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3 warned everyone to watch out for the children walking in the streets during the spring months.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 stated that he wants to work with everyone for the betterment of the community and believes that the Council and the administration needs to sit down and listen to all of the suggestions of each Council member to get the city back on track.

Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5 stated that he is not against the Library, only the practice of suspending the rules and placing legislation on its third reading immediately. Mr. Brownlee stated that he did not agree with the procedure regarding the budget hearing because he felt that the residents did not have enough notice for the meeting. Mr. Brownlee stated that he attended a conference in Columbus at the State Auditor's Office to learn about the budgeting process and the laws that govern it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Council President Jackie Albers responded to Councilman Jackson's comment that the City does not have the ability to tell the state that the City wants the audit now; the City has to wait for the audit to be completed before it can move forward. Ms. Albers commended the new Finance Director, Irene Crowell, for gathering all of the information needed for the budget. Ms.

Albers explained that the stack of bills that she had when she walked in the door would have made people run, but she has done an awesome job. Ms. Albers continued and stated that Ms. Crowell has a good system going, she's in control and in charge and understand the needs of the community and the direction that needs to be taken. Ms. Albers stated that the City does not receive their money on a regular basis from the County, from the State or from the Federal government; it fluctuates, so the City can only estimate the budget with the revenue it hopes to receive. Ms. Albers also commended the folks who sat through the meetings and voted on the budget. Ms. Albers invited the public to take the informational factual sheets on the back table regarding the proposed income tax increase in May and to give them out to their neighbors. Ms. Albers announced a Work Session on Monday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall regarding *Municipal Building Inspection Solutions*, the company that runs the City's Building Department and that there will be a Community Garden Meeting on Tuesday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Passed: May 7, 2014

ATTEST:

Katherine M. Unger, CMC