

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

Maple Heights Senior Center

March 19, 2014

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Councilman Bill Brownlee of District 5 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.

ADDENDUM: There was no addendum or minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

From Deborah Pryce, Chairman of the Ohio Liquor Control Commission:

A notice to the City of Maple Heights of a hearing on April 10, 2014 in Columbus, for an appeal of the non-renewal of the Liquor License of Sub Pub, Inc. doing business as JD's Tavern on 19807 Libby Road in the City of Maple Heights

From Mayor Jeffrey A. Lansky:

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no committee reports.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief John Drsek reported on the heroic and successful efforts of two Maple Heights Firefighters/paramedics who each saved the life of 20 month old baby on March 10th, and a 31 day old baby on March 12, 2014.

Law Department - Mr. John Montello had no report.

Police Department – Chief Richard Maracz had no report.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Linda Vopat reported that soccer registrations are still available at the Senior Center and the City will be hosting a Candidates forum on April 9th at the Senior Center at 9:00 a.m. with breakfast. Ms. Vopat stated that all candidates running for office in the May 6th primary were invited and that several issues on the ballot will also be discussed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Gerald Arnold of Bowling Green Avenue commented on the proposed income tax issue and stated that Parma Heights is the only other community in Cuyahoga County with a 3% income tax rate and also that there are only 5 communities that are higher than 2 ½ %.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COURT COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING OPTIONS TO FIT THE NEEDS OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This resolution was referred to the Housing Committee.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260.09 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AMENDING THE MEDICAL DENTAL AND VISION CARE INSURANCE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL HEALTH CARE PERTAINING TO GROUP MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR NON-UNION FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third and final reading. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Trojanski, Agee, Jones, Cefaratti, and Jackson. Nays: Brownlee and Adams. As five affirmative votes are needed to suspend the rules, this Ordinance had its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-22

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR DIGIOA SUBURBAN EXCAVATING, LLC INCREASING THE CONTRACT BY \$14,152.02 FOR THE BROADWAY AVENUE SANITARY SEWER INTERCEPTOR PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260.19 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY 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: Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, and Jackson. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the ordinance. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones, and Jackson. Nay: Brownlee. Abstain: Cefaratti. The motion passed. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 5 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstain.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-24**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL 2014 AS “NATIONAL LIBRARY AWARENESS MONTH” 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 resolution on its third and final reading. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, and Jackson. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed. Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the resolution. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, and Jackson. Nay: Brownlee. The motion passed. The resolution passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 1 nay.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-25**AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO DELIVER TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1 AND ARTICLE XVII OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS DECREASING THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND THE NUMBER OF DISTRICTS TO FIVE (5) TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Ordinance was referred to the Public Works and Safety Committee.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-26**AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO DELIVER TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, AND ARTICLE VII, SECTION 5 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS ELIMINATING THE ELECTED POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Ordinance was referred to the Public Works and Safety Committee.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: Numbered 2014-32 through 2014-36

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered 2014-32 through 2014-35. ROLL CALL. Ayes: Brownlee, Trojanski, Agee, Adams, Jones and Jackson. Present: Cefaratti.

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Lansky reported on his visit to JFK Elementary School and read several letters from the children thanking him for his recent visit and gifts to the children.

COUNCIL’S REPORT:

Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5 stated that according to the City Charter, the budget for 2014 was due to the Council by March 1st and to date, it has not been delivered.

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 stated that he would be hosting a Block Watch for Longview Drive on March 29th and that “Youth Opportunities Unlimited” would be hosting a job fair on April 4th and residents may call him for more information.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 thanked the Maple Heights Fire Department for their excellent services, especially the two firefighters who saved the lives of the two babies.

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 reported several concerns in his district including complaints about barking dogs, pot holes, low water pressure, and garbage put out too early. Mr. Adams asked the residents to be patient with the Service Department and also thanked the Fire Department for their heroic service.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 commented about the housing appraisals and stated that the next ones would be in 2015. Ms. Jones encouraged the residents to start working on the outside of their properties because the county will use the condition of the front of the property and a formula for the appraisals.

Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3 reported that one of his Block Watch residents called him and reported that a house on Beech that was emptied during the night. Mr. Cefaratti stated that he called the Fire Department to make sure the gas was shut off and also had the Service Department pick up the trash left on the curb and billed the cost to the property owner.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 commented on the lack of a budget for 2014 and stated that the budget needs to be reduced by 2 million dollars and readjusted if the tax fails in May. Mr. Jackson urged everyone to vote on May 6th.

Council President Jackie Albers thanked everyone who attended the Community Forum and added that Mayor Lansky, Finance Director Irene Crowell, current and former Finance Committee members and herself gave factual information to the residents who were attentive and receptive. Ms. Albers stressed the need for the residents to be informed and stated that she wished that the City could have more community forums. Ms. Albers urged everyone to read the Neighborhood News for information regarding the Council meetings and also announced that the Community Garden Spring meeting will be held on April 8th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Library. In closing, Ms. Albers announced that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on April 7th to discuss the contract with MBIS in the Building Department.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Passed: _____, 2014

ATTEST:

Katherine M. Unger, CMC