

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

**Maple Heights Senior Center**

**March 5, 2014**

Council President Jackie Albers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Ron Jackson of District 4 gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Law Director John Montello called the roll.

**ROLL CALL:** Those present were Council President Jackie Albers, Council Members Alex Adams, Toni Jones, Anthony Cefaratti, Ron Jackson, Richard Trojanski, and Edwina Agee. Absent and excused was Councilman Bill Brownlee.

Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Law Director John Montello, Captain John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief John Drsek, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Human Services Director Linda Vopat. Absent and excused was Clerk of Council Katherine Unger.

**ADDENDUM:** There was no addendum.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cefaratti to approve the minutes for the Council meetings held on January 15, 2014, and January 22, 2014. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

From WOW Cable Company:

A notice of a rate increase for basic cable rates effective April 1, 2014.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Ms. Jones reported that on February 24, 2014, there was a meeting of the Housing and Economic Development Committee with committee members Brownlee, Agee, Jackson and Jones attending. Ms. Jones stated that discussion included escrow accounts, a vacant property survey, a demonstration of data bases to find property information, and various concerns regarding the grass cutting program, which is about to begin.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** – Chief John Drsek reported on the Fire Department insurance rating in the City, which is presently at 4.

**Law Department** - Mr. John Montello had no report.

**Police Department** – Captain John Popielarczyk reported that during the month of February, the Police Department responded to 1801 calls for service and also reminded everyone that there is a snow ban on the streets when the snow exceeds 2 inches.

**Human Service Department** – Mrs. Linda Vopat reported that reservations for Income Tax preparation for Seniors are full through April 7, 2014, and that those who qualify may call 211 for information on how to obtain free income tax preparation at another location.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Mr. Bob Halen of Maplewood Court suggested that Council pass an ordinance requiring residents to clear the sidewalk in front of their homes so the children walking to school do not have to walk in the streets.

**LEGISLATION:**

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-16**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1494 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENACTING NEW SECTION 1494.021 PROHIBITING CORPORATIONS FROM PURCHASING, OWNING, SELLING, OR TRANSFERRING REAL PROPERTY WITHOUT FIRST REGISTERING WITH THE OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2014-18**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAY 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 had its first reading.

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-19**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 805 SWEEPSTAKES TERMINAL CAFÉS FROM THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-20****AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 825 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING FAIR HOUSING IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Ordinance passed by the vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

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

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered 2014-29 through 2014-31. All vote aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Lansky reported that a new business will be moving into Maple Heights from Bedford on Industrial Avenue, and will bring 18 new jobs to the city. In addition, the Mayor reported that 3 additional houses will be demolished that have been declared a nuisance. Mayor Lansky also reported that he went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at JFK school and spoke to the children about President's Day and several of the presidents that he has met personally over the years. Mayor Lansky also expressed his condolences to the family of George Hoffman, a long time resident who passed away recently.

**COUNCIL'S REPORT:**

**Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4** had not report.

**Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5** was not present.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6** reported that he recently visited the Senior Center during lunchtime and really enjoyed talking to the Seniors, answering their questions and hearing their stories. Mr. Trojanski thanked Ms. Vopat for inviting him and stated that he looks forward to joining them again. Mr. Trojanski announced that he would be having a Block Watch on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Library for Longview Avenue and invited everyone to pick up his March Newsletter for District 6 from the back table. Mr. Trojanski also asked residents to drive with caution on streets that have water running from broken fire hydrants, like the two in his district. He stated that the City is aware of them and they will be repaired.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** had no report.

**Councilman Alex Adams, District 1** reported that according to the telephone response he received from CEI, the 3500 people who were without power last Sunday was the result of an animal getting into the sub-station and shorting out the system. Mr. Adams reported that after he called the water company regarding a emergency water main break on Dunham and Janice, the

water company began cleaning up the problem the next morning. Mr. Adams also reported that there was a storm sewer break on Florence due to snow and ice, and he called Dennis Lew from the Service Department and his men repaired it. Mr. Adams announced that the American Legion will be having a fish fry every Friday until Easter. Finally, Mr. Adams commented about the importance of the Community Forum on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Library, where the Council President, the Mayor and the Finance Director will be discussing the Financial State of the City and the Income Tax levy that will be put on the ballot on May 6, 2014. Mr. Adams stated that the Financial situation in the City is neither the Council's nor the Mayor's fault, but a combination of the devaluation of the homes, the number of people not paying their taxes, and the State and County cuts to the City. Mr. Adams stressed the need for the residents to get the facts and get out and vote to save the City.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** agreed with everything that Mr. Adams said and stated that Mr. Adams, Mr. Jackson and herself attended the Chamber of Commerce annual meeting and heard the State of the City address given by Mayor Lansky which explained the reasoning for the tax levy and the State of the City. Ms. Jones reported that as soon as she receives another job listings document, she will forward it to all who have requested one. Ms. Jones stated that a new branch of First Federal of Lakewood is moving into Garfield Mall and they are offering a home buyer education class on Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8:00 p.m. for anyone who is interested. Ms. Jones also reported that Cuyahoga County would be receiving 10.1 million dollars for the demolition of nuisance houses through the Cuyahoga County Land Bank.

**Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3** expressed his condolences to the Hoffman family upon the death of George Hoffman and commented that he was a kind and positive person with always nice things to say.

**Council President Jackie Albers** had no report.

Wherefore, there being no further business to come before this council, Council President Jackie Albers adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Passed: April 4, 2014

ATTEST:

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Katherine M. Unger, CMC