

City of Maple Heights
Caucus and Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Maple Heights Senior Center

September 2, 2015

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackie Albers called the caucus to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council members present: Adams, Jones, Jackson, Brownlee, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Law Director John Montello, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella. Councilman Cefaratti and Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Ms. Albers said that the first order of business was a presentation from the Safebuilt Company which has taken over the MBIS contract for the City Building Department. Mr. Steven Burnes was introduced as the Operations Manager for the Ohio and Michigan operations of the Company and Mr. Roger Houpt was introduced as the interim Chief Building Official for the City of Maple Heights. Mr. Burnes stated that the Company started in 1992 and operates in eleven (11) states. In the Ohio area, it started working in Bay Village about two (2) years ago. Mr. Burnes said the contract with the City of Maple Heights will remain in force and effect to provide code compliance for construction projects and code enforcement of local building standards with building staff licensed in Ohio.

Councilwoman Jones asked how many other communities besides Maple Heights the Company was working in to which Mr. Burnes answered three (3). Ms. Jones asked about the assignment of personnel, especially if there would be an increase in activity. Mr. Burnes said more personnel could be assigned if necessary by amendment to the contract. Ms. Jones also asked about the ability to update the current building department software. Mr. Burnes said the Company will evaluate the software and could change to the system Safebuilt is using which is more user friendly. He said the files for the City system could be migrated to another system. Ms. Albers asked if the Company was planning to maintain the level of personnel at the City to which Mr. Burnes responded in the affirmative. Ms. Jones inquired about how the change to Safebuilt affects the City contract. Mr. Burnes said it did not change the contract, but if there would be a need to change the staffing level or the software system then the contract would need to be amended. Mr. Burnes said the Company can make recommendations regarding these issues, but any changes would need to be negotiated.

Councilman Adams asked about the problem of lag time for inspections for both construction and rental inspections which are about three (3) to four (4) weeks behind. Mr. Burnes said the Company uses a two (2) week lag time, but this is also something that can be negotiated.

Law Director Montello said this contract is up for review by the end of this year, so there should be another time scheduled to meet with Council to discuss the City's particular needs once the company gets familiar with our system. Ms. Albers agreed and thanked Messrs. Burnes and Houpt for attending the caucus session.

Ms. Albers said there were several pieces of legislation on the agenda, including: **Ordinance No. 2015-36**, Amendment to City Charter regarding traffic cameras. Ms. Albers stated that this ordinance was on third reading and hoped that Council had made the decision on voting.

Moving to **Resolutions 2015-37 to 2015-42** inclusive, Ms. Albers stated that these were also all on third reading and asked if there were any problems with any of them. Finance Director Crowell asked if **Resolutions 2015-37, 2015-38 and 2015-40** would be combined as was discussed at Monday's meeting to which Ms. Albers answered that since all were on third reading they would each need to be voted on separately. Councilman Brownlee asked if based upon the information presented on Monday will the trash fees be adjusted. Ms. Albers asked Ms. Crowell from an audit standpoint, would there be any problems if the City kept the fees as listed in the legislation, especially if there would be a new contract that could include recycling. Ms. Crowell said the fee could be maintained in the fund and not used to pay anything else; presently the City is not charging overhead and could maintain a cushion in the fund. Ms. Albers asked Council if the fee should be maintained or changed. Mr. Brownlee said the fee should be amended to the calculated \$11.79 and \$5.90. Councilman Adams suggested the fees be left at \$15.00 and \$7.50 since the overhead costs need to be reimbursed. Councilwoman Jones asked Ms. Crowell who absorbs the balance of the Homestead Exemption fee since the Waste Management contract averages the \$11.79 per unit. Ms. Crowell said the balance is paid by the City and that if the lower dollar amount is billed, the City loses money covering the Homestead Exemption balance. Mr. Brownlee said that even at the lower fee amount the fund would still have a balance. Ms. Crowell said the fund would actually have a deficit at the start of the year since the contract needs to be paid but the funds aren't received by the City until the property taxes are collected.

Ms. Albers asked Ms. Jones the status of **Ordinance 2015-47** regarding the sale of unimproved vacant lots in the City. Ms. Jones said the legislation is ready to be voted since the escrow change has been included. Ms. Jones stated that per the Finance Director the City is not in a position to act as an escrow agent for these lot sales, but the buyers will use state approved escrow agents.

Ms. Albers presented **Ordinance 2015-55** and asked Council to pass it tonight. Councilman Jackson asked if wording could be added to the contract to include the use of "Auxiliary police" to make sure the \$35.00 fee would cover the City's expenses. Chief Popielarczyk stated the change wouldn't be necessary since the \$35.00 fee would cover the cost of a basic patrol officer rate.

Regarding **Ordinances 2015-56 and 2015-57**, which are the union contracts with the Service Department, Ms. Albers asked if there was any additional information for Council to consider. Mr. Jackson asked what the cost-savings would be. Law Director Montello said the dollar amount could be calculated based upon the concessions per employee, but the real savings would be with future hires. Ms. Albers asked if Finance could do the calculations to which Ms. Crowell answered in the affirmative after reviewing the contracts the department just received.

With regards to **Resolutions 2015-58**, the Proclamation Honoring Congressman Stokes, **2015-59 Patriots' Day** and **2015-60**, the Tax Rate Certifications, Ms. Albers said these should all be passed on first reading.

Ms. Albers reviewed the list of **Expenditures over \$1,000.00: 2015-55 through 2015-65** noting there were a number of repairs and asked if there were any questions for the Chiefs or the Finance Director. There were no questions or comments.

The caucus meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Albers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council members present: Albers, Adams, Jones, Jackson, Brownlee, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, Law Director John Montello, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella. Councilman Cefaratti and Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Councilman Ron Jackson gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella called the roll.

ADDENDUM: None

MINUTES: Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of August 5, 2015. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

From the State of Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

Notice Regarding the 35% Licensing Fee Distribution to the City of Maple Heights
in the amount of \$493.85

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee Reports.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Kavaliunas reported that to date there have been 3,310 calls for service, including fire emergencies at the following addresses: 14222 Krems Avenue, a garage fire on 08/16/15- no injuries or damage to other structures reported; 18209 Hazelwood Avenue, a basement fire confined to the laundry room on 08/24/15 – no injuries; 10712 Grace Avenue, Garfield Heights to assist that department on 08/26/15; and 15219 Maple Park Drive, a bedroom fire on the third floor of an occupied apartment on 09/01/15 – no injuries and the fire was confined to the apartment of origin. The Chief also reported the Fire Department swore in three new cadets on August 18th who will replace three staff members lost due to resignation and retirement. Chief Kavaliunas said these new hires will bring the Department back to 29 members which is still down from 39 members in 2013. The Chief said the Fire Department has also completed interviews of the candidates to be hires under the SAFER Grant and six (6) will be going on for the background and polygraph testing.

Law Department - Mr. Montello wished everyone a Happy Labor Day Holiday and congratulated Capt. Gene Kulp on his retirement from the Police Department. Mr. Montello also wished all the candidates good luck in the upcoming elections.

Police Department – Chief Popielarczyk reported that to date the Police Department has responded to 11,420 calls for service; 1,550 of which were since last Council Meeting. The Chief said the Police Department continues to receive numerous calls reporting vehicle and garage break-ins, especially concentrated in the District 4 and Bowling Green areas of the City. He said the Police Department cannot stress enough the importance of people locking their cars at all times and not to keep valuables in their vehicles. Chief Popielarczyk reminded residents to call the Police Department non-emergency phone number to report any suspicious activity. The Chief said he attended a couple of Block Watch Meeting/Parties at Krems Avenue and in District 7 with Councilman Trojanski and was pleased at how well-attended the events were. Chief Popielarczyk also congratulated Capt. Gene Kulp on his retirement after 25 years with the Police Department. The Chief said this retirement brings the Department down to 28 officers, which is down from 41 officers in 2007 and that the Department has lost 13 officers this year. He said the test for new officers was completed on August 18th and the Police Department is looking forward to hiring new officers. The Chief reminded residents again that school is just starting, so be mindful of the school zones. Lastly, Chief Popielarczyk said that with the Labor Day Holiday there will be increased enforcement, so drivers should watch their driving and follow the speed limits.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Vopat reported that the City of Maple Heights has been selected to participate in a pilot program sponsored by a non-profit organization, Rebuilding Together, Northeast Ohio, which will be providing in-home modifications to help the elderly, disabled, low-income and veterans in need of safety devices such as hand rails, grab bars, wheelchair ramps, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Mrs. Vopat said a limited number of households will be selected for this program and that applications will be available at the Senior Center on Wednesday, September 9th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and again on Tuesday, September 15th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Staff from Rebuilding Together will be available to answer questions during the application times. Mrs. Vopat announced that Wednesday, September 16th will be the first Flu Shot Day from Walgreen's from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The flu shot program is open to the entire community and will be free to senior citizens under Medicare Part B; other insurance programs will also be accepted.

Finance Department – Ms. Crowell announced that the 2014 audit for the City has been completed and will be published the first week of October. Ms. Crowell wished everyone a Happy Labor Day Holiday.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Al Borsi of 18907 Longview Avenue commended the Police Chief on the quick response time of the Police Department but said the Building Department needed to do a better job to get high grass cut and properties with broken windows and doors repaired. He also asked the Law Department if the City still has a vicious dog ordinance since the mailman for his street was attacked by two (2) pit bulls.

Mark Sokolowski of 5994 Dunham Road stated he was in favor of the traffic cameras with the police officer present. He asked if the officer could enforce the City's noise ordinance since the cars and motorcycles are so loud as well as the car stereos that the windows on his house vibrate.

Mr. Sokolowski also commented on the lack of clearly marked school crosswalks; he said a child almost got hit crossing Dunham Road last year and the same thing happened recently.

Martha Van Horn of 15300 Shirley Avenue listed a number of complaints in the City including, speeding in the 25 mph zone on her street; kids walking in the street instead of on the sidewalk; her neighbor's high fence which she assumes was installed without a permit which is making it difficult for her to weed by her fence.

Karen Borsi of 18907 Longview Avenue said she doesn't tell people where she lives because she is disgusted with all the trash and garbage around the City, especially along Maple Heights Boulevard. She also complained that there is no longer a middle class in Maple Heights and asked if the money from the Senior Levy would just be used for the senior citizens. Council President Albers asked Human Services Director Vopat to clarify the Senior Levy issue. Mrs. Vopat said the levy would be used to operate the Senior Center and Food Pantry only and nothing else.

Mr. Bob Halen of 16226 Maplewood Court asked what is a life worth, in reference to the 40-year-old woman killed on Rockside Road as an example of the need for traffic cameras in the City.

Mr. Bruce Terrell of 16258 Dunham Road said he is in favor of the traffic cameras for safety reasons and stated that a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety concluded that approximately 21,000 lives were saved (from death and injury) in 25 mph and 35 mph enforcement zones. He said it would be a disservice to the community if traffic cameras are not supported by the Administration and Council.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-36

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO DELIVER TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MAPLE HEIGHTS CHARTER TO LIMIT THE USE OF PHOTO-MONITORING DEVICES TO DETECT CERTAIN TRAFFIC LAW VIOLATIONS, IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance had its third and final reading. Ms. Albers asked if there was any discussion to which Councilman Jackson asked for clarification that the legislation was to permit voters to change the charter and was not actually a vote to install traffic cameras. Ms. Albers responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the legislation. All voted nay, none for adoption, the motion failed by the vote six (6) nays to 0 ayes.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-37

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE AUDITOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY THE SUMS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS WHICH WERE EXPENDED TO CORRECT BUILDING VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING THE BOARDING UP OF HOUSES, WHICH

CONSTITUTES AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO HUMAN LIFE OR HEALTH OR CONSTITUTES A BLIGHTING OR DETERIORATING INFLUENCE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 731.51 TO 731.54 INCLUSIVE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution had its third and final reading. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-38

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE AUDITOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY THE SUMS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS WHICH WERE EXPENDED TO CORRECT BUILDING VIOLATIONS AND THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES WHICH MAY INCLUDE, WITHOUT LIMITATION, REMOVAL, REPAIR, ALTERATION AND SECURING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, WHICH CONSTITUTES AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO HUMAN LIFE AND HEALTH OR CONSTITUTES A BLIGHTING OR DETERIORATING INFLUENCE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 731.51 TO 731.54 INCLUSIVE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution had its third and final reading. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-39

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE AUDITOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY THE SUMS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS WHICH WERE EXPENDED FOR THE ABATEMENT OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY NUISANCES, WHICH CONSTITUTES AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO HUMAN LIFE OR HEALTH OR CONSTITUTES A BLIGHTING, DETERIORATING OR NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 731.51 TO 731.54 INCLUSIVE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution had its third and final reading. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-40

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE AUDITOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY THE SUMS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS WHICH WERE EXPENDED FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS, AND TO CORRECT BUILDING VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING THE NUISANCE ABATEMENT OF FORECLOSED HOUSES, WHICH CONSTITUTES AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO HUMAN LIFE OR HEALTH OR CONSTITUTES A BLIGHTING OR DETERIORATING INFLUENCE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH

OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 731.51 TO 731.54 INCLUSIVE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its third and final reading. Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-41

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE AUDITOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY THE SUMS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS WHICH WERE EXPENDED TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS AND HIGH GRASS, WHICH CONSTITUTE AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO HUMAN LIFE OR HEALTH OR CONSTITUTES A BLIGHTING OR DETERIORATING INFLUENCE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 731.51 TO 731.54 INCLUSIVE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution had its third and final reading. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-42

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ASSESSING THE EXPENSE OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL WITHIN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND CERTIFYING TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR THE COSTS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS FOR GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its third and final reading. Mr. Brownlee made a motion to amend the resolution to change the assessment fees from \$15.00/ \$7.50 to \$11.79/\$5.90. The motion to amend was not seconded. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to adopt the legislation as written. ROLL CALL: Jackson – Yes; Brownlee – No; Trojanski – Yes; Agee – Yes; Adams – Yes; Jones – Yes; the motion passed by the vote six (6) ayes to one (1) nay. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-47

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1226 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS ENTITLED LAND REUTILIZATION BY ADDING SECTION 1226.02, DISPOSITION OF UNIMPROVED RESIDENTIAL LOTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance had its second reading. Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones 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. Jackson to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Ordinance passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-55

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS FOR PRISONER HOUSING SERVICES 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. 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 and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-56

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS AUTO MECHANICS LOCAL 1363-AFL-CIO ("UNION") AND 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. ROLL CALL: Jackson – Yes; Brownlee – No; Trojanski – Yes; Agee – Yes; Adams – Yes; Jones –Yes; the motion to suspend failed by the vote one (1) nay to five (5) ayes. This Ordinance was on its first reading.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-57

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 507 ("UNION") AND 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 ordinance on its third and final reading. ROLL CALL: Jackson – Yes; Brownlee – No; Trojanski – Yes; Agee – Yes; Adams – Yes; Jones –Yes; the motion to suspend failed by the vote one (1) nay to five (5) ayes. This Ordinance was on its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-58

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to suspend the rules and place the resolution on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none

opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-59

A RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 11, 2015 AS "PATRIOT DAY" IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to suspend the rules and place the resolution on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-60

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to suspend the rules and place the resolution on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to adopt the legislation. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. The Resolution passed and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: 2015-55 THROUGH 2015-65

Ms. Albers asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns regarding the expenditures over \$1,000.00. There being none, Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered 2015-55 through 2015-65. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Lansky addressed the negative comments made by the residents regarding the condition of the City and said the reason for these problems is that the City does not have enough money to take care of these issues. He said the problems of high grass, exterior maintenance problems, vacant and abandoned homes are addressed by the City to the extent possible with limited staff and resources. The Mayor reiterated the fact that the City has lost a lot of money from State and County budget cuts and said the City will lose more money with the news of reduced property values as appraised by the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office. Mayor Lansky said the property value report recently released by the County shows the City property values will be reduced 8.5% for the next year. The Mayor explained the formula used by the County to appraise the properties and said it is an average of the sales prices of real properties sold in the City. Since the City has a number of properties that sell for low amounts, that reduces the average valuation. Mayor Lansky said the City has met with the County to adjust the calculation to include escrow amounts which are held for low cost properties which would more accurately reflect the investment in these properties and increase the values, but the County will not change the formula.

The Mayor said the City had a good idea to increase revenues by installing traffic cameras which wouldn't have cost residents any money. He stated the money generated by the use of traffic cameras could have been used to hire more building inspectors, stripe the streets and open the pool. When Mayor Lansky asked rhetorically if anyone had any ideas, resident Karen Borsi interrupted his Comments and said the Mayor was blaming the residents for the conditions of the City, but none of the public officials have done anything to promote businesses to come to the City. Mayor Lansky replied that he was not blaming anyone, just stating facts as to the condition of the City. The Mayor said the reality of the situation is that businesses do not come to the City because of the number of rental properties and because the average median income of the City is Thirty-five thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00). Resident Borsi interrupted Mayor Lansky again at which time Council President Albers called Ms. Borsi out of order. The Mayor concluded his report stating there has to be a way for the City to raise revenue so it can compete with other cities.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 said the City does have a vicious dog ordinance and that residents should consider that with the number of demolitions in the City, there is one bad aspect in that the City loses the tax base of the demolished property forever. Mr. Jackson also said that earlier this year he had a Community Meeting which discussed home security issues, safety and you and the law which helped people to know how to interact with police officers. He suggested with the number of break-ins being reported, residents should leave exterior lights on and not keep valuables in plain sight. Mr. Jackson reminded residents to call the police using the non-emergency phone number if it is not an emergency as soon as they see or hear anything suspicious.

Councilman Bill Brownlee, District 5 commented on the vote to keep the trash fee at the same level instead of reducing it even though the projected lower amount would be enough to cover the cost of trash collection. Mr. Brownlee said Council chose to keep the higher fee to fund other things in the City. Mr. Brownlee stated the City has been in a long decline because it is hostile to businesses, especially landlords. He said the City also needed to provide services to the middle class and reminded residents of the upcoming elections.

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 thanked residents for attending the meeting and reported that the District 6 Neighborhood Watch Meeting held on August 27th was attended by about 30-40 residents. He thanked the Lutheran Church of the Covenant for hosting the event. Mr. Trojanski also thanked Chief Popielarczyk and Officer French of the Police Department and Mrs. Vopat from the Senior Center for joining the meeting. Mr. Trojanski announced that through the month of September he will be sponsoring a Back To School Supplies Drive for the 4th and 5th grade students at Barack Obama School. The collection bin is located in the lobby of Maple Heights Library. Mr. Trojanski also announced on September 28th he will be conducting a Save Our Homes event to raise awareness of the foreclosure problem in the City and to help residents who may be facing these issues. Mr. Trojanski said this event will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant located at 19000 Libby Road at 6:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 announced that on Saturday, September 12th, Southgate USA will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary with various activities from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She also announced that the next District 7 Block Watch Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library. Ms. Agee thanked all the residents of District 7 who attended her Back To School Rally and also Michelle Rudolph, Council President Jackie Albers and Councilman Ron Jackson. She said one hundred (100) backpacks were given out at the event. She concluded her report by wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Labor Day Holiday.

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 reported a few complaints of traffic gridlock on Dunham Road especially before and after school hours and asked residents to avoid the area at those times. Mr. Adams also reported a couple of complaints on Walvern Road, one regarding a loose dog messing up neighbors' yards and the second was a neighbor dispute that resulted in the Police Department being called. Mr. Adams said there was a trespassing complaint on Corkhill Road and the resident was advised to call the Police Department non-emergency phone number. Mr. Adams announced that the American Legion Post 309 will be hosting a Clambake on Saturday, September 19th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event is open to the public, but by advance ticket sales only; participants can select from a chicken side clambake or a steak bake. In reference to Councilman Brownlee's comments on the trash fee legislation, Mr. Adams said people all hear things differently and that the Finance Director had explained the extra expenses involved in trash collection so the higher fee is needed to balance these costs. With regards to the traffic cameras, Mr. Adams explained he is in favor of the cameras, but voted "no" so that a new administration and council will be able to present the legislation again with more public involvement such as town hall meetings. Mr. Adams concluded his report by asking residents to keep an open mind and wished everyone a Happy Labor Day.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 said she had the same comments as Councilman Adams regarding the traffic cameras and also added that a clean ballot was needed to avoid confusion with the Senior Levy. She said she supports the cameras, but the issue should be re-introduced in a different way with a public forum. Ms. Jones said this is not the correct time for the camera issue since we need to work together as a community. Ms. Jones thanked Councilman Trojanski for hosting the foreclosure awareness program and encouraged residents who may need this help to attend. She said there will be counselors available from the County Court and other agencies who will offer help not just for mortgage problems but delinquent property taxes and toxic auto title loans. Regarding the trash collection fee, Ms. Jones said she voted to keep the fee since the City is billed per unit and does not get any discount from Waste Management for homestead exemption properties. She said the City needs to cover the balance from the homestead exemptions and the City's overhead costs. Ms. Jones thanked Council for passing her vacant lot sales legislation and said the County uses a calculation to determine if a property can be demolished. Currently there are about twenty (20) properties now on the list that could be available to residents. Ms. Jones was pleased to report that some of the properties have come off the demolition list though, since the owners have applied for permits to make the necessary repairs. Ms. Jones mentioned that the county report regarding the 2015 Tri-annual Update for Property Tax Valuation was available online and concluded her report by wishing everyone a Happy Labor Day.

Council President Jackie Albers reminded the residents that it is good to ask questions and to remember that sometimes facts can and do get twisted. Ms. Albers announced that there will be a Labor Day Raffle to benefit the Senior Center and Food Pantry. The drawing will take place on Tuesday, September 8th and the tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The prizes are a 40” LED RCA Flat Screen TV, Cavaliers memorabilia, \$100.00 gift card from Maple Heights Hardware and two (2) tickets to Club Velvet at the Hard Rock Casino. Lastly, Ms. Albers said the City is a community partner with Marymount Information Seminars and announced there would be a seminar on Thursday, September 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium on the topic of Youth Violence and Drug Use. Ms. Albers said it is important for people to get educated on different issues and get help if it is necessary.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Albers adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Passed: September 16, 2015

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette F. Cicirella, Clerk of Council

RESOLUTION NO. : 2015-42

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ASSESSING THE EXPENSE OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL WITHIN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND CERTIFYING TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR THE COSTS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS FOR GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first reading.

May I have a motion to suspend the rules and place the Resolution on its 3rd and final reading?

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Is there any discussion? The clerk will call the roll to suspend the rules.

May I have a motion for adoption? Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Is there any discussion? Call the roll on adoption.