

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

November 4, 2015

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackie Albers called the caucus to order at 6:35 p.m. with the following Council members present: Albers, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Brownlee, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Law Director John Montello, Finance Director Irene Crowell and Jana Crosby from the Finance Department, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella. Mayor Jeff Lansky was not present for the Caucus Meeting. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

Ms. Albers said that **Ordinance No. 2015-66** regarding the new municipal income tax effective January 2016 would be on second recording since Law Director John Montello had not heard from RITA regarding the changes made to the legislation after his initial discussions with the tax agency.

Regarding **Resolution No. 2015-71** authorizing settlement of the Chapman/Brownlee litigation, Ms. Albers stated she would be withdrawing that item of legislation as the sponsor of it. She said it would be replaced by **Resolution No. 2015-72** which contains the same elements, but in a more explanatory manner. She said Mr. Melling expounded on some of the comments made by council at the 10/26/15 Special Meeting of Council. Ms. Albers said this resolution would be on first reading unless Council would decide to suspend the rules. It was the consensus of Council to keep the legislation on first reading.

Ms. Albers reviewed the list of **Expenditures over \$1,000.00: 2015-91 through 2015-95** asking if there were any questions or comments. Councilman Jackson asked if **Item #95** was asphalt for patching potholes. Finance Director Crowell said she thought that was the case and referred any further questions of this Item to the Service Department.

Ms. Albers said she would be checking with the Service Department about the water line work being done throughout the City since there are a number of cones/plates on City streets. Mr. Jackson agreed with Ms. Albers, saying that many of the plates on the streets are dangerous, especially with the bad weather coming. Mr. Jackson also said he wants to check with City Engineer Ed Hren regarding the curb cuts/street crossings still in need of repair on Libby Road. He is concerned that the repairs on the punch list will not be done thoroughly. Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Crowell if the balance of the contract for this work had been paid, to which Ms. Crowell stated she did not recall any payments specifically for this project. Mr. Montello said he would check with Mr. Hren regarding this matter since Mr. Hren did discuss it at the previous council meeting. Councilwoman Jones said that when Rockside Road was repaired, temporary repair work was done at the start of each side street which was then finished correctly when the final paving was completed. Councilman Cefaratti said Mr. Hren explained about the punch list and that there was about Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) or Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) left to be paid when the work was completed, but the road repair work was a separate contract. Mr. Jackson said he was concerned about this problem because it is a hazardous condition, especially for someone with a disability. Ms. Albers said Mr. Montello would contract Mr. Hren to discuss these problems.

Ms. Albers stated that Ms. Crowell will need to submit revised information to the county as a result of the passage of the Senior Levy and thanked everyone for their support of the levy. Ms. Crowell said the tax rate changes will need to be submitted quickly to the budget commission to ensure that the levy can be added to the property tax bills. Ms. Albers asked when the property tax notices go out, to which Ms. Crowell replied that the tax bills are processed in December. Ms. Albers asked if the legislation would need to pass by suspension. Ms. Crowell said the legislation would need to pass as soon as possible in order for the new tax rates to get on the property tax bills, otherwise the City will need to advance money to the Senior Center for the beginning of the year. Given this time constraint, Ms. Albers said there would be a Special Meeting of Council for this legislation on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 7, Maple Heights City Hall.

Ms. Albers said there will be a special announcement tonight at the council meeting by Mayor Lansky and herself. She also announced that there is a NOCCA meeting next week and the organization is looking for new members. Ms. Albers announced that the City is sending out courtesy notices to remind residents to take care of the leaves, but that the City will be cleaning the sewer drains. Councilman Brownlee asked about the city cleaning the drains to which Ms. Albers said that was all the City would be maintaining.

The caucus meeting adjourned at 6:46 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, Cefaratti, 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. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

Councilwoman Ton Jones gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella called the roll.

ADDENDUM: There was no Addendum.

MINUTES: Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of October 12, 2015. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of October 21, 2015. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no Communications.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee Reports.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Mayor Lansky and Council President Albers. Mayor Lansky said that earlier this morning there was a ceremony with NOPEC held in the City Hall Council Chambers in which the City received its last payment of a grant from NOPEC. He

said the grant had been received over a year ago to upgrade lighting and windows in the City Hall and other City buildings. The Mayor said the full grant awarded was in the amount of Two Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$207,240.00) of which Fifty-two Thousand Dollars (\$52,000.00) was the amount received at this ceremony to complete NOPEC's obligation to the City. Mayor Lansky said the City has had a good relationship with NOPEC over the years and that it has been a good partner with the City. The Mayor said he hopes the City will continue to work with NOPEC in the future.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Kavaliunas reported that the calls to date for the Fire Department were 4,198 and that the department responded to the following structure fires at: 12608 Mapleleaf on 10/24/15; 13416 Christine on 10/27/15; 4175 Warner on 10/31/15 and 13613 Bangor on 11/1/15, all of which were located in Garfield Heights. The Chief said the repairs to the water main under the Rockside Road bridge should be completed by the end of next week, but residents may observe flowing water at times which is part of the flushing process. The Chief announced that rebuilding work is underway at 17000 Rockside Road for Fannie Mae and 1-800 Flowers who should be able to move back in the first part of 2016.

Chief Kavaliunas reminded residents that Veterans' Day will be next week and asked residents to please take a moment to remember the men and women who served our country.

The Chief ended his report by stating that with the election being over he looked forward to working with the new administration and council members to continue the work for a positive future for Maple Heights, and congratulated Linda Vopat and her ability to continue the valuable services to the City's seniors and residents.

Law Department - Mr. Montello thanked the voters for supporting the Senior Levy and congratulated all the candidates who won their elections.

Police Department – Chief Popielarczyk reported that the Police Department responded to 1,792 calls for service for the month of October, bringing the total calls to date to 18,723. The Chief congratulated the candidates and said he looks forward to working with both the newly elected officials and those who won re-election. He also congratulated Linda Vopat and thanked her for the work her department does.

Chief Popielarczyk reported there has been an increase in residential burglaries over the last two (2) weeks throughout the City and not just in one specific area. The Chief said that with the holidays coming up, there generally is an increase in burglaries with the gift buying, etc. He asked residents to be aware of things in their neighborhoods and report any suspicious activity as soon as possible.

The Chief reminded residents that with the bad weather coming, it's important to maintain their vehicles, especially the tires and batteries. He said the Police Department receives numerous calls from people with car problems.

Chief Popielarczyk concluded his report by asking residents to attend the Veterans' Day service at the Honor Roll on Tuesday, November 11th.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Vopat announced that the work to be completed with the grant from the Home Depot Foundation to repair the memorial area at Stafford Park and the Veterans' Memorial at City Hall which was scheduled to begin on Veterans' Day, November 11th would begin the day before, on Tuesday, November 10th.

Mrs. Vopat said that unlike past years, this year has been one of daily reflection for her and that she has been encouraged by the many people who gave of their time, resources and donations to help the Senior Center and Food Pantry. She said these people and agencies helped because of the belief we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers and have an obligation to help others in need. Mrs. Vopat thanked everyone for their support and especially thanked the voters who said "yes" to Issue 67. She said that not only will the Senior Center and the Food Pantry be saved, but the City will be rebuilding a new foundation.

Finance Department – Ms. Crowell thanked all the voters so that the Senior Center will be able to continue its much needed services to the community. She also congratulated the newly elected officials and those who will be returning and said she looks forward to working with everyone. Ms. Crowell stated that the 2014 audit for the City is available on the State Auditor's website under the "City of Maple Heights" and is about 70 pages in length. Ms. Crowell ended her report saying that the Finance Department is working with the auditors and the Fiscal Recovery Commission for the year end closing and the budget.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Willie Hardwick of 16655 Anthony Street congratulated all the candidates and thanked the volunteers who worked during the election. He said he was happy that Maple Heights would be having a new beginning. Mr. Hardwick also said that changes should be made to reduce the number of council members and that the school board is not doing its job to prevent non-resident students from attending the city schools.

Mr. Al Glontz of 5758 Longwood Avenue congratulated the newly-elected and re-elected officials and said he hopes everyone can work together for the good of the City. Mr. Glontz also announced that the Veterans' Day Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Honor Roll in front of City Hall on November 11th. On behalf of the Maple Heights Memorial Day Association, American Legion Post 309, and all veterans Mr. Glontz thanked Mayor Lansky for all his help over the years and his participation in the parades and other activities for veterans. He wished Mayor Lansky well in his future endeavors.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-66

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 891 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS REGARDING MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX FOR THE TAX YEARS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2016 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance had its second reading.

Before the reading of **Resolutions 2015-71 and 2015-72** Mr. Brownlee requested to be excused from the meeting for a short period of time which was granted by Council President Albers.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-71

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF STATE EX REL JOHN CHAPMAN AND COUNCILMAN WILLIAM BROWNLEE VS. THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, ET AL, CUYAHOGA COUNTY CASE NUMBER CV-15-839493 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its second reading. Ms. Albers withdrew this legislation as sponsor of the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-72

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF STATE EX REL JOHN CHAPMAN AND COUNCILMAN WILLIAM BROWNLEE VS. THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, ET AL, CUYAHOGA COUNTY CASE NUMBER CV-15-839493 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first reading.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: 2015-91 THROUGH 2015-95

Ms. Albers asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the expenditures over \$1,000.00. There being none, Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered 2015-91 through 2015-95. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Lansky said the election this week caused him to reflect on a number of things, including his decision not to seek re-election for the Mayor's office. He said that in winding-down his career, he thought about the various activities he had been involved in as Mayor of Maple Heights. The Mayor said that many were sad occasions, such as delivering eulogies, but others were very positive. Mayor Lansky said that on September 30th he was privileged to attend the 2015 Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner in honor of Jamie Milkovich, Head Coach of the Maple Heights High School Wrestling Program. The Mayor said Mr. Milkovich has served as head coach for the last thirty-five (35) years, following the success of his uncle Mike Milkovich who built the Maple Heights wrestling dynasty back in the 1950's. Mayor Lansky congratulated Jamie Milkovich on this honor, and also for achieving the distinction as the all-time winningest coach in high school wrestling in the State of Ohio.

Mayor Lansky also congratulated all of the candidates who ran for elected office, saying it takes guts to run for office. The Mayor said that when candidates seek election, they not only put themselves out in the public, but their families as well. Mayor Lansky introduced Mayor-elect

Annette Blackwell and said his administration would work over the next few months to make the transition as seamless as possible.

The Mayor concluded his report by stating that public service is a very good career and that we need good people to be involved in politics. Mayor Lansky said elected officials need to work with the schools and be good role models for the young people of the community.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 congratulated all the candidates and said that all of them are winners. She asked that those who ran for an office but did not win to stay involved because the City needs their skills and talents.

Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3 said that for him Issue 67 was a test of the City, a test of our moral compass which was on the verge of teetering, but the voters said that the City will instead take a step forward for which he thanked the voters. Mr. Cefaratti congratulated the candidates who won their elections but told them to please respect the voters, the residents. He said the voters made a statement that change is good and will hold their elected officials accountable.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 said he is receiving calls from residents that neighbors are not picking up leaves and just leaving them on the curb. He asked residents to please bag the leaves because leaves left at the curb cause the street to get slippery when it rains which is hazardous and also will clog the sewer drains, flooding the streets. Mr. Jackson also said he is continuing to receive calls regarding vandalism, garage break-ins and kids being seen on the streets during school hours. He asked residents to call the Police Department if they see any type of illegal activities. Mr. Jackson concluded his report by thanking the voters who participated in the elections and thanking the candidates whether they won or lost. He said he looks forward to working with the new administration and the new council.

Councilman William Brownlee, District 5 thanked the voters and those who participated in the election. He said he met a lot of people and talked to a lot of people during the campaign. Mr. Brownlee said it was good to meet people and to hear what they had to say. He said people had concerns and were very troubled over the future of their community. Mr. Brownlee said the people were looking for hope and that providing that hope would be a monumental task for city officials.

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 thanked residents for attending the meeting and thanked the voters for supporting Issue 67. He congratulated the candidates and said the election was an example of democracy in action. Mr. Trojanski said he too looks forward to working with the new administration and the new members of council.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 said it was a long and hard campaign trail and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. Ms. Agee thanked the department heads and all voters who participated in the election. She was especially grateful to the residents of District 7 who reelected her so she would be able to continue to work for them. Ms. Agee also thanked

Kimberly Brown who volunteered on behalf of the Senior Levy. Ms. Agee announced that the next Block Watch Meeting for District 7 and the Turkey Give-away will be held on Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library.

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 reported there were numerous attempted break-ins at homes on Schreiber Road, Longvale Avenue, Turney Road and Dunham Road as has been happening throughout the city. He reminded residents to lock their cars, homes and garages and to watch out for their neighbors. Mr. Adams said that's why a block watch is a positive thing. Mr. Adams congratulated all the winners in the election and also thanked Kimberly Brown for her work to pass Issue 67. Mr. Adams asked the new council to continue the positive work for the City, to keep it going. He concluded his report with a "special thank-you" to Human Services Director Linda Vopat and her department for all their hard work and determination, stating that she never quits.

Council President Jackie Albers thanked all of the voters and the supporters of the Senior Center levy. She said the teamwork at the polls and also with the volunteers who stayed in the background by making phone calls, etc. was exciting. Ms. Albers reminded residents that the Senior Center Levy was not just for the senior citizens of the community though, it was for all residents who may need the resources of the Human Services Department.

Ms. Albers concluded her report with a few announcements stating that there would be a Special Meeting of Council on Monday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m. in Room 7 at Maple Heights City Hall. She said the purpose of the meeting would be to review and approve a revision to City tax levies with the passage of the senior levy so the levy can be added to the property tax bills. Ms. Albers also announced there will be a Financial Planning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, November 17th with further information available on the City website. She said the City has started working on the fiscal recovery plan required by this commission. Ms. Albers said the City will be sending courtesy reminders to residents regarding leaf clean-up and announced that the City will clean the leaves at the sewer drains.

Ms. Albers recognized Human Services Director Linda Vopat who asked to add an item to her report. Mrs. Vopat said she wanted to thank all of the candidates who included the Senior Levy information with their own literature which they distributed to the voters.

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

Passed: November 18, 2015

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette F. Cicirella, Clerk of Council

