

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

December 16, 2015

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackie Albers called the caucus to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council members present: Albers, Adams, Jones, Cefaratti, Jackson, Brownlee, and Trojanski. Councilwoman Edwina Agee was absent and excused. Also present were Mayor Jeff 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.

Ms. Albers said Council had a full agenda that if possible Council could pass by the December 21, 2015 Special Meeting of Council. She said Council may still need a Special Meeting on December 28, 2015 to approve appropriations. Ms. Albers also reminded the council members that the next meeting of the Financial Planning Commission will be Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Ms. Albers said **Ordinance 2015-82** regarding the 2016 Temporary Appropriations was on second reading. Regarding **Resolution 2015-83**, concerning the grant for the Cato Street Water Project, Ms. Albers asked Mayor Lansky if there was a deadline to which Mayor Lansky responded that the legislation should be passed as soon as possible to meet the grant requirements.

Ms Albers asked Council if it was prepared to pass **Resolution 2015-84** concerning the assignment and four (4) month extension of the SAFEBuilt contract for Building Department operations. Councilman Adams stated that Council should pass it on first reading since it is needed to keep the Building Department operating and there are no changes made in the four (4) month extension. Councilman Jackson asked what the terms of the extension were. Law Director Montello said the terms of the extension were the same as the present contract terms.

Regarding **Resolution 2015-85**, the contract with Cuyahoga County concerning Business Retention and Attraction Protocol, Ms. Albers said this was an updated contract presented by the County. Mr. Jackson said it should be left for the new administration to decide. Mayor Lansky said this new anti-poaching agreement would require the City to create a database of businesses which would require money the City does not have. It was the consensus of Council to keep this legislation on first reading.

It was also the consensus of Council to keep both **Resolution 2015-86** regarding the final appropriations for 2015 and **Ordinance 2015-87** regarding adoption of the published changes to the codified ordinances on first reading to permit additional review. **Resolution 2015-86** would have further discussion at the public hearing to be held during the Special Meeting of Council to be held on December 21, 2015.

Ms. Albers asked Councilman Cefaratti to begin the discussion of both **Ordinance 2015-88** and **Ordinance 2015-89** as the introducer of those items of legislation. Councilman Cefaratti said **Ordinance 2015-88** was a proposed amendment to reduce the escrow amount from the present amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the repair estimates to sixty-five percent (65%) of the estimated repairs in an effort to facilitate real estate transfers in the city. Mr. Cefaratti said he would

like to put this legislation in committee for further consideration by Council, including input from the Building Department.

Mr. Cefaratti said **Ordinance 2015-89** regarding the charter amendment to bring the traffic camera issue back to the public should have a first reading and requested that it be referred to Committee of the Whole. Councilman Jones asked Police Chief Popielarczyk to address the issue of the traffic cameras to which Chief Popielarczyk responded the cameras are an effective enforcement tool, but the charter change needs to be done before the camera issue can be considered. Ms. Jones asked if the deadline for ballot initiatives in March had already passed. Mr. Cefaratti said this issue could go on the general election ballot which would give Council time to have public discussions and forums regarding the issue. Mr. Cefaratti said the general election generally also has a greater voter turn-out.

Resolution 2015-90 regarding the City's Financial Recovery Plan was added to the agenda by addendum. Ms. Albers asked Finance Director Crowell to discuss this legislation. Ms. Crowell said this resolution would be on first reading and that the Plan will be available for the Special Meeting of Council scheduled for Monday, December 21, 2015 since both the final 2015 and temporary 2016 budgets must be incorporated into the Plan.

Moving to the **List of Expenditures over \$1,000.00**, Ms. Albers asked if there were any questions. There being no questions, Ms. Albers closed the caucus meeting with the following announcements:

1. There will be a short celebration after the business meeting portion of the swearing in ceremony on January 6, 2016;
2. Special Meetings of Council have been scheduled for December 21, 2015 and December 28, 2015 at the Senior Center due to the public hearings to be held during those meetings.

Ms. Albers also mentioned that being both a member of NOCCA and a part of its Board have been very worthwhile experiences and that Council should maintain this membership. She said it is a good opportunity to meet colleagues from other cities and to attend their seminars which are very informative. Ms. Albers said the next NOCCA forum will be discussing public safety on February 11, 2016.

Ms. Albers asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Jackson asked Chief Popielarczyk if the Police Department would be providing police for the Republican Convention in Cleveland to which the Police Chief responded in the negative, citing the City's lack of personnel and resources.

The caucus meeting adjourned at 6:48 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 and Trojanski. Councilwoman Agee was absent and excused. 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.

Councilman Bill Brownlee gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella called the roll.

ADDENDUM: There being no objections, the Addendum was added as part of the Agenda.

MINUTES: Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, to approve the Special Meetings of Council minutes of October 26, 2015, November 10, 2015, November 13, 2015 and November 16, 2015. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee Reports.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Kavaliunas reported the total of calls to date for the Fire Department were 4,780 and that the Fire Department responded to structure fires at the following locations;

9620 Garfield Boulevard, Garfield Heights, on December 7, 2015 at 1:30 a.m. The Chief stated this was a house fire in which a 68 year old man was rescued, but later died in the hospital;

18918 Fairway Avenue, Maple Heights, on December 8, 2015 at 4:52 p.m. The Chief reported that two (2) dogs were rescued and resuscitated by the firefighters;

690 Turney Road, Bedford, on December 10, 2015 at 10:19 p.m. The Chief said this was an automobile fire that spread to the apartment building.

Chief Kavaliunas concluded his report by thanking Council and the Mayor for their continued support of the Fire Department in these difficult times. The Chief said he and his Department look forward to working with the newly elected Mayor and Council to continue the City's recovery.

Chief Kavaliunas wished everyone and their families a safe and happy holiday season.

Law Department - Mr. Montello thanked the Mayor and Council for their service to the City and said he had enjoyed working with them. He said he looks forward to working with the new Administration and Council. Mr. Montello concluded his report by wishing everyone Happy Holidays.

Police Department – Chief Popielarczyk reported that the Police Department has responded to approximately 21,097 calls for service year to date. The Chief commended the officers who participated in another gang sweep which resulted in another arrest.

Chief Popielarczyk said that “tis the season” for increased numbers of car break-ins due to the holidays and reminded residents to call the Police Department if they see anything suspicious.

Chief Popielarczyk also thanked Mayor Lansky and Council for their support over the years and said he looks forward to working with the new Administration and Council.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Vopat said the Senior Center had received a grant in the amount of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) from the First Slovak Catholic Ladies

Association to help fund their programs to the end of the year and thanked retired District 7 Councilman Joseph Szumski and his wife for their help in applying for this grant. Mrs. Vopat also thanked Bob Halen, District 1 Councilman Alex Adams and Council President Jackie Albers for their help for the Senior Center Christmas party.

Mrs. Vopat ended her report by echoing the sentiments of the Fire and Police Chiefs in thanking Council and Mayor Lansky and looking forward to working with the new Council and new Administration.

Finance Department – Ms. Crowell thanked Mayor Lansky and the Council for their work on behalf of the residents and wished the new Council and new Administration well. Ms. Crowell wished everyone a Happy and Blessed Holiday!

Ms. Crowell concluded her report by stating that the Finance Department was completing the year-end closings and the budgets which need to be completed by the end of the year. Ms. Crowell said the Finance Department was also working closely with the Financial Supervisors from the State's Auditors Office and the Financial Planning Commission.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

A resident of 15800 Evening Star Drive said she is a fifty-eight (58) year resident of the City and thanked Mayor Lansky for his years of service to the City. She also thanked the Council members who were leaving for their work and said she wished more people would get involved in the City.

Mr. Thomas Coyle of 15614 Edgewood Avenue said the unsolicited papers being delivered to the residents are littering the neighborhoods and asked Council to contact the company to stop the deliveries.

Mr. Bob Halen of 16226 Maplewood Court said he's been attending council meetings for twenty-five (25) years and said he wanted to thank Mayor Lansky for his generosity and dedication to the City. He said he was disappointed though, that due to funding issues he was not able to be Santa this year for the home delivery program the City sponsored in previous years.

Mr. Louis Catania of District 1 said he never got involved in the City until Mr. Adams became his Council representative. He said Mr. Adams will be sorely missed.

Mr. George Grisin of 6272 Dunham Road thanked all of the elected officials who served the City. He said that he too didn't get involved in the City until eight (8) years ago because of Councilman Adams. Mr. Grisin said that on behalf of the residents of District 1, he wanted to present to Mr. Adams a plaque in recognition of his service to that District.

State Senator KennyYuko said he came on behalf of the Ohio Senate to present Senate Citations to Councilmen Adams, Cefaratti and Brownlee in recognition of their work on Council. He said

the local government cuts have damaged the cities, but Council has worked with a “never give-up” attitude. Sen. Yuko also presented a citation to Council President Albers citing her compassion for the people she served. Sen. Yuko said the time given by public officials to the City is time taken away from their families. Sen. Yuko concluded by saying that Mayor Lansky served with distinction and withstood the tough times.

Mayor-elect Annette M. Blackwell of 15357 Longvale Avenue congratulated Council and said she chose to run for office after she saw Council’s dedication. Mayor-elect Blackwell thanked Mayor Lansky for his support and said that on behalf of her Administration she wanted to thank the Council representatives who were leaving for their leadership and years of service.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-82

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2016, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance had its second reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-83

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A FUNDING AWARD FROM THE CLEVELAND WATER SUBURBAN WATER MAIN RENEWAL (SWMR) PROJECT FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson to suspend the rules and place this 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.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-84

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE CONTRACT FROM MUNICIPAL BUILDING INSPECTION SOLUTIONS, LLC (MBIS) TO SAFE BUILT, LLC AND AUTHORIZING A FOUR (4) MONTH EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT THROUGH APRIL 30, 2016, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Mr. Montello said the four (4) month contract extension was with the current Building Department service provider and it would allow both the City and the Company to re-evaluate the services to be supplied.

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.: 2015-85

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY ENTITLED BUSINESS RETENTION AND ATTRACTION PROTOCOL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-86

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-08 TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL AND FINAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first reading.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-87

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO APPROVE, ADOPT, ENACT AND PUBLISH NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH

This Ordinance had its first reading.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-88

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1494.09 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO REGARDING THE ESCROW ACCOUNT REQUIREMENT TO ENSURE THE REPAIR OF ALL CODE VIOLATIONS UPON A SALE OR TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance had its first reading and was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2015-89

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, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance had its first reading and was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015-90

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR'S 2015 FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN REQUIRED BY OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 118.06 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE FINANCIAL PLANNING AND SUPERVISION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance had its first reading.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: 2015-98 through 2015-101

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered **2015-98 through 2015-101**. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Lansky announced that Council President Jackie Albers, District 1 Councilman Alex Adams and District 3 Councilman Anthony Cefaratti had received commendations for their years of service to the City. The Mayor also expressed his gratitude to the residents of Maple Heights, thanking the residents for the opportunity to serve them over the years and for their support.

The Mayor said that at the end of the year the authority of his Office will pass to his successor and expressed his hope for her future success. Quoting Robert Kennedy, Mayor Lansky said that people often forget history which is "a book of many pages." The Mayor reflected on the list of City improvements and projects accomplished over his years in office and said the new officials will need the residents' help and support to continue making improvements for the City. Mayor Lansky warned them however, to avoid finding short-term solutions for the City's problems.

Mayor Lansky concluded his report by expressing his gratitude to Council for working together for the best interests of the City.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman William Brownlee, District 5 said the nice weather was a pleasant surprise for this time of year. He said the 2016 Budget that is being worked on does not include a mechanic position in the Service Department and is concerned about this job being privatized. Mr. Brownlee concluded his report by addressing the adversity that occurred during the year, stating that adversity is not necessarily a bad thing.

Councilman Richard Trojanski District 6 thanked residents for attending the meeting and thanked Mayor Lansky, Council President Jackie Albers, and Councilmen Alex Adams, Anthony

Cefaratti and Bill Brownlee for their willingness to serve and for their dedication. Mr. Trojanski said that during Mayor Lansky's years of service he has been a great asset to the City and Ms. Albers has been a wonderful mentor. Mr. Trojanski said he respected the Council members for their passion in representing their constituents. Mr. Trojanski concluded his report by saying he looked forward to 2016 with a new Council, new Administration and new attitude for the City.

Councilman Alex Adams, District 1 reported that there were a couple of car break-ins on Carol Drive and asked residents to be aware of their area and their neighbors. Mr. Adams said it has been an honor to represent District 1 for the past eight (8) years and that over that time many residents can now be called friends. He said he has thought about the many accomplishments over the years and asked residents to realize that Council tried to do its best in the bad times. Mr. Adams said he is confident that Stafford Shenett will take good care of District 1. Mr. Adams concluded his report by thanking his wife as his secretary and best friend the last eight (8) years and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 thanked Mayor Lansky for permitting her to work with the County on the demolition grant for the City and gave an update of the number of homes demolished, the number of pending demolitions and the number of homes taken off the list by renovation.

Ms. Jones said she hoped retiring Council President Jackie Albers would enjoy retirement and thanked her for helping and guiding Council over the years. Ms. Jones told Councilmen Adams and Cefaratti that she would miss them both and told Councilman Brownlee that she commended him for his passion to serve. She wished Mayor Lansky good luck on his retirement from public service and thanked him for mentoring them. Ms. Jones said she looked forward to working with the new Administration and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilman Anthony Cefaratti, District 3 said the holiday is time to rejoice and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He said he was proud of what had been done over the years. Mr. Cefaratti thanked Council for their work and also thanked all the City employees. He said it's all about teamwork for the betterment of the City. Mr. Cefaratti also thanked the residents of District 3 for allowing him to serve them.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 thanked retired Councilman Joe Szumski for the work he did to help secure the Twelve Thousand Dollar (\$12,000.00) grant for the Senior Center and thanked Linda Vopat for all of her fundraising work over the year. Mr. Jackson thanked Mayor Lansky for his years of service and thanked Council President Albers for her leadership. He also thanked Councilmen Adams, Cefaratti and Brownlee for their work on Council to accomplish all that Council did over the last two (2) years. Mr. Jackson concluded his report by wishing everyone Happy Holidays.

Council President Jackie Albers said that Mayor Lansky reminded her that ten (10) years ago she became the first woman to serve as Council President in the City of Maple Heights. She said in this time she has learned a lot and found that the best part of the job was working with the residents. She said she also saw how dedicated the City employees were and how much they believed in the City. Ms. Albers commended Mayor Lansky on being so politically astute and

said his interest in history made him a good resource. She said she will miss the position of Council President and said she told Mayor-elect Blackwell that her positive attitude will be very beneficial.

Ms. Albers ended her report by announcing the next Financial Planning and Supervision Commission Meeting will be December 17, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Center and there will be Special Meetings of Council on December 21, 2015 and December 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Albers adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Passed: February 17, 2016

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette F. Cicirella, Clerk of Council

