

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

March 16 2016

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Richard Trojanski called the Caucus to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council members present: Trojanski, Shenett, Jones, Miller, Jackson, Madden, Thomas and Agee. Also present were Law Director John Montello, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Dennis Lew and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell arrived at 6:38 p.m. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

Mr. Trojanski said Council would hold discussion on **Ordinance 2016-18** until Mayor Blackwell arrived.

Regarding **Resolution 2016-23** concerning the 2016 Community Recycling Awareness Grant, Mr. Trojanski asked Human Services Director Linda Vopat to discuss this legislation. Mrs. Vopat said the grant would pay for two (2) community shred days and the signs to advertise the event. Mrs. Vopat said one (1) shred day would be held at Stafford Park and one (1) would be held on the west side of the City. Councilwoman Miller asked if the days had been selected to which Mrs. Vopat answered in the affirmative since so many cities were also attempting to schedule community shred days. Mrs. Vopat said the dates would be April 16, 2016 at Stafford Park and September 24, 2016 but would not be announced however, until Council approves the pending legislation. Mrs. Vopat said the City checked with three (3) companies, and selected to work with Shred-It since that was the only company that would guarantee a truck on site which was the City's requirement so people would see their documents being shredded. Councilwoman Madden asked if there would only be two (2) shred days to which Mrs. Vopat answered in the affirmative. Ms. Miller asked which date would be at Stafford Park. Mrs. Vopat said the April date would be held there since some work needed to be completed at Dunham Park if the site is to be used on the west side. Mr. Trojanski asked Council to suspend the rules and vote on this legislation.

Mr. Trojanski combined **Resolutions 2016-24 and 2016-25** for discussion purposes since both concerned the purchase of new computers and software for two (2) City departments. Mr. Trojanski asked Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas to discuss **2016-24**. Chief Kavaliunas said that effective March 15, 2016 parts of the Fire Department's EMS reporting program would not be functional because of the Microsoft Windows XP program the five (5) computers use as their operating system. He said the reporting program is called EMS Charts and is a vital part of their work and the department billing system. Chief Kavaliunas said the Fire Department's options are limited to correct this problem and that although ITEK tried to update the current computer system that was counterproductive and could pose a security risk to other City computers. The Chief also stated that the ability for the department to complete its reports is important for grant applications.

Councilwoman Thomas asked when would the new computers be installed. Finance Director Irene Crowell said the new computers are on tentative order with ITEK, but she would know the installation date by tomorrow if the legislation was passed by Council at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Madden asked if maintenance service would be included. Ms. Crowell said maintenance would be included since both new computers and new software would be purchased. Ms. Crowell said

there are twenty-three (23) computers in the City which need to be upgraded and the Fire Department had intended to use their equipment grant applications for computers, but that grant has not been awarded yet. Ms. Thomas if the grant could be used retroactively for this computer purchase to which Ms. Crowell answered in the negative. Ms. Crowell said any grant awarded to the Fire Department will have to be used for other equipment.

Councilman Jackson asked if the new computers would be networked together. Chief Kavaliunas said the computer system is already networked together so they would use that same system. Mr. Jackson asked if ITEK is the only computer company the City works with. Ms. Crowell said she did check with other companies, but ITEK is the City's IT consultant so the City gets better prices from the company. Mr. Jackson asked if there is virus protection on the computers. Ms. Crowell said the City has a server network and has the Barracuda program which protects the server and all the computers on it. She said the cost for that program is listed on the Expenditures over \$1,000.00 for Council review. Mr. Jackson asked about the size of the computer monitors. Police Chief Popielarczyk said the sizes of the monitors in his department vary depending on when the computers were purchased but are probably all at least fifteen (15) inches.

Ms. Miller asked where would the money be coming from to purchase these computers. Ms. Crowell said the Fire Department computers would be the first expenditure from the City's Contingency Fund. Ms. Thomas asked if a grant is awarded to the Fire Department could that money be returned to the Contingency Fund to which Ms. Crowell answered in the negative. Chief Kavaliunas apologized for the emergency nature of the legislation, but said the department found out about the operating system problem by accident when Marymount Hospital explained the EMS Charts program changes assuming that the City was no longer operating under the XP system. Mr. Trojanski asked Council to pass the legislation on suspension.

Regarding **Resolution 2016-25**, Mr. Trojanski asked Mrs. Vopat to discuss this legislation. Mrs. Vopat said that like the Fire Department, the Human Services Department has to bill their services through a computer program to get reimbursed from their grants. She said the Western Reserve Area on Aging Grant (WRAAG) changed their software that is not compatible with the XP system. She said the billings for the Human Services Department are currently one (1) month behind in payments from February. Ms. Crowell said the funds for this computer purchase would be paid from the Senior Levy proceeds in the Senior Fund. Mrs. Vopat said the Senior Center delayed the hiring of a part-time staff member for the beginning months of this year to have the funds for this computer purchase. She said the computers to be purchased will replace the one (1) computer used for billing to get grant money back to the City as soon as possible and the other computer will be used for staff work. Mr. Trojanski asked Council to also suspend the rules and pass this legislation.

Regarding **Resolution 2016-26**, Mr. Trojanski asked Police Chief Popielarczyk to discuss this legislation. The Chief said the legislation for City towing services is per ordinance and is based on state law. He said the City currently uses Kelly's Towing and also Rich's Towing, especially for large equipment such as fire trucks and service department vehicles. Chief Popielarczyk said the legislation is requesting the bid process to get the best price available to tow all types of vehicles and then contract with one or two companies to spread the business. The Chief said other issues for the Police Department include the storage of vehicles and insurance. He said the fees are set by ordinance. Mr. Jackson asked if there was a copy of the contract available. Law Director Montello said the legislation allows the bid specifications to be developed and that a contract won't be completed until bids based on these specifications are received. Mr. Jackson asked how are large vehicles defined as by weight or size. Chief Popielarczyk said the large vehicles are considered what

the service department uses such as salt trucks and fire trucks. Mr. Jackson asked when the towing specifications would be available for review. Mr. Montello said the specifications could be available by early next week so the legislation would be on first reading. Councilwoman Jones asked if there was a current contract that would be expiring to which both Mr. Montello and Chief Popielarczyk answered in the negative. Mr. Trojanski said the resolution would be on first reading.

Mr. Trojanski said he introduced **Resolution 2016-27** to encourage support of Ohio's Sunshine Laws and to let residents know the City is committed to open government. Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any members of Council who would be interested in co-sponsoring the legislation, to which both Mr. Jackson and Ms. Jones requested to be so added.

Resolution 2016-28 regarding the contract with SAFEBuilt Ohio, LLC to supply professional services to the Building Department was added by addendum. Mr. Montello said the contract is a negotiated modification of the current contract with SAFEBuilt that includes a couple of changes including the removal of the Seventy-Five Thousand Dollar (\$75,000.00) retainer paid to SAFEBuilt and the removal of some fee sharing. Mr. Montello asked that the legislation be placed on first reading since representatives of SAFEBuilt would be willing to come and talk with Council about the contract. He said a meeting could be scheduled for later in the month. Ms. Jones said the City did a great job in negotiating the contract to eliminate the retainer and to change the percentage cost so the City could finally be making money off the contract.

Ms. Miller said she has received multiple complaints from her constituents and asked if those should be forwarded to SAFEBuilt. Mayor Blackwell said the Building Department is dealing with some internal issues. Councilman Shennet said the contract included a detailed fee schedule but would like to meet with the Company representatives. Ms. Jones asked if the new council members could get a copy of the old contract to compare against the new one to which Mr. Montello answered in the affirmative. Ms. Crowell said she will work with the Mayor to compare the contracts for Council to review the costs of the contract and the savings from the new contract.

Returning to the issue raised by Ms. Miller, Mr. Shennett said the issue of inconsistent treatment of code enforcement is an industry issue. Mr. Montello said one response could include sending the same inspector back to the property in question since sometimes different inspectors do enforce the code differently. Mayor Blackwell said on larger projects this issue is resolved with a meeting with the owners and the inspectors. She said when they meet with her, the repair issues are discussed as to what is negotiable and what is not.

Mr. Jackson said the industry issue of inconsistent inspections is caused by the inspections being verbal as to what the owner needs to correct rather than being done in writing. Mr. Jackson said there should be one (1) exception however, if something is missed that is a safety or code violation it should always be added.

Ms. Jones said new technology would allow direct contact between the inspector and the Building Department but the City does not have that technology. Mr. Shennett said new technology would allow photos of the inspections to be uploaded to the department. Ms. Jones said SAFEBuilt has the technology to upload photos but the City's system has issues.

Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions regarding the List of Expenditures over \$1,000.00. Hearing none, Mr. Trojanski returned to **Ordinance 2016-18** regarding the appropriations for the City. Mr. Shennett spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee and said the Committee had met to

discuss areas of concern including other ways to increase revenue to move the City forward. He said the Committee also had some concerns as to the allocation and appropriation of some of the line items so he requested that the legislation be moved to committee for further review. Mr. Shenett said the Committee would act quickly. Mayor Blackwell reminded Council that the timeline for the budget was March 31st. Ms. Jones said she was confused about the issue of another meeting and thought the questions had been resolved at the last Committee meeting. She said if there were still questions, why wasn't another meeting called to which Councilwoman Agee said she had requested another meeting. Ms. Jones said another consideration is that the budget has already been approved by the state. Mr. Trojanski said he did not call another meeting since the budget had been discussed in detail and given approval by the state. Mr. Trojanski asked what Council hoped to accomplish by amending the appropriations. Ms. Miller said Council wanted to consider Ms. Thomas' idea of hiring a Director of Development. Ms. Thomas said she had talked with Laura Brown of the State Auditor's Office and was told the City could hire a Development Director to bring revenue to the City so it is requested that the City appropriate funds to that line item.

Mayor Blackwell said the budget is a separate issue and does not interfere with City's ability to seek funding or improve revenues, citing the example of the Administration working with a new company coming to the City and the expansion of Sherwood Food Distributors. She said she has spent much time and effort working with the Finance Director to raise the City's bond rating to increase business investment in the community. The Mayor asked for respect from Council and recognition on their part that the Administration is doing its job.

Mr. Jackson reminded Council that Ms. Crowell has said the budget is fluid and changes throughout the year as needed. Mr. Jackson said if Council does not pass the budget, it could affect the City's bond rating, but if the bond companies see that Council supports the Mayor and the Administration, that would be perceived as positive action. Mr. Jackson said he would like to see funding for economic development, but Council should pass the temporary appropriations, giving the Mayor the benefit of the doubt. He said Council should pass the budget and the City could still work on these other issues.

Ms. Thomas said she understands the Administration is doing their job and that her view of the importance of funding economic development is not reflective of the job the Administration is doing.

Mayor Blackwell said she recognizes the need to secure grant funding and the importance of collaboration. She said she has been advised to pursue Brownfield Development Funding and to address the delinquent property tax issue. The Mayor also stated that she had been told by State's Financial Supervisors not to hire an economic development director. She said it was suggested that the City make use of internships which do not add expenses to the budget and seek grant money whenever possible. The Mayor said Rep. Barnes discussed the availability of grant money for the City and neighboring communities.

Ms. Miller asked if the extra funding currently in the Human Resources budget could be moved to use for economic development as described in the Codified Ordinances. Mayor Blackwell said there are issues in the Building Department that may require the hiring of an additional full-time employee. She said the City will be re-opening the Building Department for half-day on Fridays, so money will need to be used for that purpose. The Mayor said the Administration will be forwarding information to the Housing Committee regarding review of the City's escrow requirement. The Mayor said the Service Department is also in need of at least three (3) part-time employees and a custodian, in addition to another service employee going out on sick leave to have surgery. She said it is critical

the City address these department needs to ensure that residents will continue to get at least the basic City services. She said given these circumstances, the Service Department is a bigger need than Economic Development.

Ms. Miller asked if Rep. Barnes had a time-frame for receipt of these grant monies to which the Mayor responded she would be meeting with him in two (2) weeks to discuss this funding. She said Rep. Barnes has also pledged funding for a lighted sign for the Maple Heights Food Pantry and money to include the City of Maple Heights in the Heritage Home Renovation Program.

Mr. Trojanski asked Council to pass the operating budget tonight, stating that it is in the best interests of the City to trust the Administration and then deal with the issue of the Economic Development Department at a later point in time. Ms. Miller said she would vote for the budget if it was the consensus of council to do so, if Council would be given a timeline for the Administration's strategy to get someone into the position of Economic Development. Mayor Blackwell said the needs of the Service Department are priority with the summer coming and she will be working to improve the side lot program which could improve City revenue and reduce City expenses of lot maintenance. She said the Human Resources Department is being handled ably in-house with two (2) current City employees and a very hard-working intern from Cleveland State University who is very familiar with that department since he had been working for Ms. Waller in that department.

Mr. Shenett asked if Council was ready to move forward on the budget to which Ms. Miller responded that Council could approve the budget if it was comfortable with the current appropriations and willing to wait to discuss the director of development issue at a later meeting.

Ms. Jones said another consideration for Council is that the budget will reflect savings from the SafeBuilt Contract and increased revenues with the Building Department being opened on Friday mornings. ‘

Ms. Agee asked for a voice vote regarding the budget legislation. Mr. Trojanski conducted the voice vote with all council members saying “aye.”

The caucus meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Trojanski called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. with the following Council members present: Trojanski, Shenett, Jones, Miller, Jackson, Madden, Thomas and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director John Montello, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Dennis Lew and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella.

Councilwoman Sharri Thomas 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 to the agenda.

MINUTES: Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett to approve the Regular Meeting of Council minutes of January 20, 2016. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Kavaliunas reported the calls to date for the Fire Department are 1,035 and that on Saturday, March 10, 2016, the Fire Department responded to an industrial fire at 5533 Dunham Road which was quickly brought under control. The Chief said the fire damaged only used product so there was no disruption in production or the finished products.

The Chief said it was exciting to be able to participate in the grand re-opening of the Fannie May distribution warehouse on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, especially after the devastating fire that occurred at this company on Thanksgiving, 2014. He said it good to see the building rebuilt and the company in operation again shipping and receiving product. Chief Kavaliunas said he was also happy to participate in the Forman Mills grand opening on Friday, March 11, 2016 and over the weekend.

Chief Kavaliunas reminded residents that with spring approaching the weather is unpredictable, especially at this time of year. He said people should be prepared for stormy weather with the threat of flooding, loss of power, etc. to help avoid aggravation if these events should occur. Chief Kavaliunas concluded his report with the reminder that with the clock change, residents should change the batteries in their smoke detectors and check their operation. He said nothing saves more lives and property than a functioning smoke detector on every floor of a home.

Law Department - Mr. Montello said the Law Department is busy working with the City Engineer and QCI, Inc. on the various infrastructure projects that will be occurring in the City including Libby Road, Stafford Park Resurfacing and Dominion East Ohio Gas Company. He said Dominion East Ohio will be performing a major overhaul of the gas lines in the area which will include approximately three hundred (300) homes. Mr. Montello announced there will be a special Planning and Zoning Meeting on March 28, 2016 regarding variances needed for a new business interested in moving to the City. He said it is a block storage company which is interested in relocating to an industrial area of Maple Heights. Mr. Montello said there is new legislation on the agenda regarding the renegotiation of the SAFEBuilt Contract so the Law Department is scheduling a meeting between the Company and Council for the end of the month.

Police Department – Chief Popielarczyk reported that the Police Department calls for service are 4,283 for the year to date and 867 so far for the month of March. The Chief welcomed Forman Mills as a new business and said he enjoyed attending the Grand Opening on Friday and Saturday. The Chief said that since the last Council meeting he attended Block Watch Meetings for District 6 and District 1 and that he appreciated the invitations. He said these meetings were well-attended and do help to keep the community safe. Chief Popielarczyk said there have been some serious problems recently in the City, including shots fired on Joseph Street to which the police responded and took an individual into custody. The Chief reported that last weekend the Police Department responded to a fight on March 5th in which shots were fired and on March 12th there was a large fight at H2O Lounge at Southgate. The Chief said this fight required additional help from Bedford and Garfield Heights PD for assistance and created dangerous conditions that put police officers at risk. The Chief reported the Department also responded to a call of gunshots in the parking lot of Kings & Queens Lounge. Chief Popielarczyk said the bars are becoming a nuisance to the community, creating numerous problems without providing much benefits to the community. He said the increased calls for these problems are draining the City resources, requiring other agencies to be involved including Bedford, Bedford Heights and Garfield Heights. The Chief said he will discuss with Council the effort to “dry up” districts. The Chief said he wanted to let residents know that the Police department will be enforcing the false alarm ordinance which allows only three (3) false alarm reports per year. The Chief said after three (3) or more calls the resident will be billed and that the first letters and bills just went out. The Chief concluded his report by stating that the Police Department is looking forward to participating in the Easter Fest this Saturday.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Vopat announced that the Easter Fest will be this Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She said there has been an outstanding response to this activity with approximately two hundred (200) children registered, but there is still time to register. Mrs. Vopat reminded residents that on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center there will be the Meet and Greet with the community group which is involved with assisting those facing issues of foreclosure, refinancing, etc. She said this group will be returning in April with professionals to help residents with these issues. Mrs. Vopat announced the first Community Shred Day will be Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Stafford Park from 9:00 a.m. to Noon in an effort to keep identity theft from becoming an issue for residents. Mrs. Vopat wished everyone a Happy Easter and a wonderful Spring.

Finance Department – Ms. Crowell reported that at the Fiscal Commission Meeting on March 3, 2016 the Financial Commission for the City approved the City’s Financial Recovery Plan and recommended passage of the 2016 Budget. Ms. Crowell also reported that the City balanced out for the month of February and that tax receipts from RITA are steadily increasing. She said RITA payments are eight percent (8%) higher than this same time in 2015 and have increased by twenty-five percent (25%) from last month. Ms. Crowell said the Finance Department is working with the Service Department to secure better equipment. Ms. Crowell thanked the Mayor and City Council for the Open House and said it was very successful.

Service Department: Mr. Dennis Lew reported that cold patch usage is increased from this time last year and that there was no salt use since the last Council Meeting due to the warmer weather. He said the Cleveland Water Department jobs were at forty-three (43) jobs for the month and said one of the problems the City has with these jobs is the caution barrels being taken. He said he doesn't know if contractors are taking them, but the City has lost about fifty (50) to seventy (70) barrels which is costing the City money. Mr. Lew said the Service Department is working to fill the larger pot holes around the City using temporary patch until the hot mix will be available which is tentatively scheduled for March 21, 2016. Mr. Lew asked residents to report potholes by calling the Service Department, but to please be patient regarding the repairs.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Willie Hardwick of 16655 Anthony Street said he was not satisfied with the City school system since it is the lowest ranked in the area. He said people don't want to put their children in the school system. He said he is concerned as a taxpayer that some of the tax money is paid to the schools which could go to the City instead. Mr. Hardwick said he is concerned for future generations since children are not being educated and there are no more trade schools.

Mr. Bob Halen of 16226 Maplewood Court said there is a telephone scam going on in the City regarding robo-calls from the IRS so he wanted to warn the residents about this problem.

Mr. David Marberry of 15809 Granite Avenue said he is concerned by the language children are using. He also said he had been talking with his neighbors regarding the City Hall Open House and the feedback was very positive. He said the Open House was appreciated and it helped residents to see Council people and staff working together and to see that their Council Members are approachable. Mr. Marberry said it may get more residents involved as volunteers in the Community.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 2016-18

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance had its third reading.

Mr. Shenett apologized to the residents for the delay in the start of the Council Meeting, but said this was an important issue for Council to discuss and that Council will cooperate with the Administration to do what is best for the City. He said the Budget deals with people and we are all in this together.

Ms. Miller said a few meetings were held to discuss the budget and the possibility of hiring an Economic Development Director for the City. She said since the Mayor has a plan to use interns and seek grant funding for that department, Council would be willing to delay the decision about the Economic Development Department until the fall.

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2016-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A 2016 COMMUNITY RECYCLING AWARENESS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$3,331.00), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Mr. Shenett said this resolution is another step in the right direction for the City. He thanked the Mayor and Human Services Director Vopat for this program for the residents. Mr. Jackson asked residents to tell their neighbors about the upcoming Shred Day to help prevent identity theft. He also encouraged his fellow council members to add the Shred Day information to their Facebook pages and e-mail lists.

Mr. Jackson the 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.: 2016-24

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) NEW DELL DESKTOP COMPUTERS INCLUDING SOFTWARE AND INSTALLATION FROM ITEK SYSTEMS, INC. FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Ms. Jones 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.

Ms. Jones asked Fire Chief Kavaliunas to discuss this legislation. Chief Kavaliunas said the Fire Department is required to file state reports by a system called EMS Charts and this software won't interface with the Department's computers. He said the computers are still using Microsoft Windows XP which will no longer support the software needed to file these reports. Mr. Jackson said the XP operating system is out of service so the City needs the new computers and software.

Mr. Jackson 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.: 2016-25

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) NEW DELL DESKTOP COMPUTERS INCLUDING SOFTWARE AND INSTALLATION FROM ITEK SYSTEMS, INC. FOR HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Shenett 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. Shenett asked Mrs. Vopat to explain the funds used to purchase the computers for the Senior Center. Mrs. Vopat said the funds to be used were from the Senior Levy funds. She said like the Fire Department, the Senior Center needs to file for grant reimbursements with the Western Reserve Area on Aging through the use of a computer program that is no longer compatible with the City's XP operating system. Mrs. Vopat said the Senior Center delayed hiring a part-time employee to use the funds instead for this computer and software purchase. Mr. Shenett said this is another example of how the Senior Levy is helping the residents of the City.

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett 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.: 2016-26

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS WITH SPECIFICATIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR A TOWING SERVICE CONTRACT TO BE USED BY THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS FOR ALL NEEDED TOWING SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2016-27

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OHIO SUNSHINE WEEK ENCOURAGING OPEN GOVERNMENT IN REGARDS TO PUBLIC

RECORDS AND OPEN MEETINGS

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

Ms. Miller 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.: 2016-28

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SAFE BUILT OHIO, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first reading.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: 2016-34 through 2016-49

There being no questions from Council regarding the list of expenditures over \$1,000.00: **2016-34 through 2016-49**, Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to approve the expenditures. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell apologized for the delay and thanked the Council members for their vote of confidence by passing the budget and to delay any expenditure for economic development and instead to follow the recommendation of the Fiscal Commission to use the services of interns. The Mayor said this issue can be revisited in Fall, but currently the City has needs for workers in the Service Department. Mayor Blackwell said there are only six (6) people in the Service Department for a City of approximately twenty thousand (20,000.00) residents and that presently the animal warden is out sick. The Mayor said the City may need to add manpower in the Service Department using the City's reserve funds. Mayor Blackwell said the City may also need to increase staff in the Building Department with new businesses opening in the City.

Mayor Blackwell addressed Mr. Hardwick's concern about the school system, stating that the City does work with the schools and that she and Mr. Trojanski recently met with the School Superintendent and Vice-President of the School Board to discuss this cooperation. The Mayor said one of the issues discussed was how to encourage new homeowners which children to move here. The Mayor said the City will also be working with Superintendent Keenan regarding the City's Juvenile Diversion Program. The Mayor said although the schools are struggling, there are some students who are excelling and encouraged residents to attend the School Board Meetings which are held Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at the Board of Education. While on the topic of the City's youth, the Mayor announced that the City would be partnering with the Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) Program to place students in summer employment with the City.

Mayor Blackwell said she was happy to share a handwritten letter she received from a resident thanking the Mayor for the Senior Center van driver who takes residents shopping and to their doctors' appointments, etc. The Mayor said the resident remarked how the driver "really cares" and that Mrs. Vopat and the staff who answer the telephone are very helpful.

Regarding the City Hall Open House, the Mayor thanked District 4 Councilman Ron Jackson for helping to get the event organized and thanked all of the council members, department directors and staff for their help. Mayor Blackwell said a number of the photos decorating City Hall for the Open House were copied and enlarged from the 50th Anniversary Directory from the Service Director. The Mayor thanked 90 Degree Framing for the enlargement and framing of these photos and thanked Attorney Canestraro for his donation of paying for the matting and framing. Mayor Blackwell also said she received a thank-you letter from residents Adam and Clair Griffith of 14910 James Avenue regarding the Open House. The Mayor said these residents wish to volunteer to work collaboratively with the Mayor and the City to help achieve its mission and vision.

The Mayor announced there will be a new business coming to 16950 Rockside Road which is scheduled on the agenda for the next Planning and Zoning Meeting. The Mayor also announced that the Gaines Funeral Home opened on March 7, 2016 at the former Ferfolia Funeral Home on Lee Road. The Mayor said she was please to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the re-opening of Fannie May Chocolates on March 9, 2016 and the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of Forman Mill on March 11, 2016. At this time, Mayor Blackwell made a special presentation of a "Proclamation from the Mayor" to District 7 Councilwoman Edwina Agee acknowledging Ms. Agee's hard work, dedication and outstanding efforts regarding the Forman Mill's Grand Opening.

Mayor Blackwell said in the area of regionalization and collaboration she will be attending a meeting in Columbus next month with several local mayors to discuss state funding to local areas. The Mayor also reported that she attended a Housing Services Network luncheon where she discussed the housing market in Maple Heights with real estate professionals. The Mayor concluded her report by announcing that the Building Department started its new hours of being opened half-day on Friday, March 11, 2016 and processed a total of Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000.00) in fees.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Sharri Thomas, District 6 thanked the residents for attending the meeting and also thanked the residents of District 6 who attended the district meeting. She also thanked Chief Popielarczyk for his participation in the District 6 meeting. Ms. Thomas announced that the next District 6 Community Meeting will be on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library, Room 2. Ms. Thomas said the topic for discussion will be the Beautification Program for District 6. Ms. Thomas said the first phase of this Beautification Project will be a District 6 Clean-Up Day to be scheduled for the end of April and asked for volunteers and contributions for this event. Ms. Thomas said the Service Department would be contributing garbage bags for the clean-up effort.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 thanked everyone for attending the Forman Mills Grand Opening on the weekend. Ms. Agee said that one hundred fifty (150) Giant Eagle surveys were returned by residents and that she, along with Council members Ms. Madden and Ms. Thomas met with the Manager of the Southgate Giant Eagle to discuss the three (3) issues presented by these surveys which included poor lighting in the parking lot, unfriendly associates and long lines at the check-outs. She said they would be meeting with the Manager again at the end of April to discuss possible solutions to address these problems. Ms. Agee announced the next District 7 Block Watch Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library, Room 2.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, Sr., District 1 said there were a couple of complaints reported in District 1, specifically a problem of four (4) dogs constantly barking in the early hours at a home on Turney Road for which the animal warden was contacted and there was a complaint of building materials on a tree lawn on Corkhill Street. Mr. Shenett said both the Building and Service Departments had been contacted regarding this complaint. He said the property was owned by Fannie Mae, but the City had difficulty contacting a responsible party. Mr. Shenett asked the residents in the area to be patient since the Service Department was trying to clean the area but was having difficulty with the heavy items. Mr. Shenett announced that the Youth Christian Sports League will start April 30, 2016 which will be free for youths, ages 9 to 18. He said the program will have a mentoring component and it is hoped it will develop into a year-round recreation program for youth in the City. Mr. Shenett also announced that the Community Life and Education Committee will be meeting with Hope Alliance and Warrensville Community Baptist churches on March 22, 2016 to set the date for the “Hoop It up, Build It Up” program in July. He said this program will be an effort to build a bridge between the youth of the City and the City safety forces. Mr. Shenett also announced he will be working with Council Members Thomas and Agee to develop a Get Your Diploma Outreach (GYDO) Program. He said they recently met with the Principal of Capella High School to work on this effort to encourage young people ages 16 – 25 to get their high school diplomas. Mr. Shenett concluded his report by thanking the Mayor, Mr. Trojanski, several of the Council Members, the Law Director, Police Chief and Human Services Director Vopat for attending the District 1 Block Watch Meeting on March 12, 2016. He said he received much good feedback from the residents.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 said on Monday she received a resident complaint of a chipmunk in the basement of her home since Friday and thanked Tonya from the Service Department for helping the resident. Ms. Jones said she attended a Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) luncheon where she received good feedback from local banks regarding the City and said there may be small grants available to help do city-wide clean-up programs. She said she would also be attending a FSC event regarding universal housing code enforcement throughout the County which would streamline the inspection process to make it more efficient and make data more readily available. Ms. Jones said there will be a Cleveland Foundation Community Caucus Meeting on Saturday which will discuss a number of issues including Housing, Safety, Environment and Education to offer solutions to various problems. Ms. Jones asked Mr. Montello if information about the Dominion East Ohio Gas Project was on the City website to which Mr. Montello answered in the affirmative. Ms. Jones said the date for the

Housing Committee Meeting will be set for next week and concluded her report by wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilwoman Ebony Miller, District 3 apologized for the delay in the meeting and thanked everyone for staying. Ms. Miller announced that there will be a Block Watch Meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. She said this is a planning meeting for block watch captains only and that the district is looking for more volunteers.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 said the Dominion East Ohio Project involves the Company going throughout the City checking for gas leaks in the lines. He said the Company puts yellow markers near the area and then comes back to make the repairs. Mr. Jackson thanked everyone who donated their time, efforts and money to make the City Hall Open House successful. Mr. Jackson announced that the New Cornerstone Baptist Church located at 18900 Libby Road will be hosting a free movie event on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 thanked everyone for being patient since the caucus meeting went over. Ms. Madden announced that the first District 5 Block Watch Meeting will be held on March 31, 2016 and that Chief Popielarczyk would be performing on his harmonica. Ms. Madden said the Chief provided wonderful entertainment at the Forman Mills Grand Opening.

Council President Richard Trojanski said the City Hall Open House was awesome and really showcased City Hall. He said it was great to see the residents who attended and to share ideas and concerns. Mr. Trojanski said he was disappointed to miss the ribbon cuttings, but attended the International Lions Club meeting. He said the organization will be sponsoring a job fair in the Spring to assist Maple Heights residents. Mr. Trojanski said he is looking forward to the Easter Fest on Saturday and wished everyone a Happy Passover and Happy Easter. Mr. Trojanski concluded his report by announcing that the next Council Meeting will be on April 6, 2016.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Trojanski adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Passed: July 6, 2016

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette F. Cicirella, Clerk of Council

