

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

February 17, 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 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, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella.

Regarding **Ordinance 2016-02**, Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any further questions regarding the police contracts for Police Chief Popielarczyk or Law Director Montello. Councilman Shenett asked if it was possible to merge the different contracts to which Chief Popielarczyk answered in the negative. Chief Popielarczyk said that supervisors cannot be represented in the same contract as labor, but the Captains' contract is mute since the City does not have any other officers at that grade. The Chief said his position and Captain Hansen as second-in-command are covered under state law. Chief Popielarczyk asked Council to pass the legislation authorizing the contracts since the language issues had been corrected and each of the contracts had been drafted according to the fact finders report. The Chief also said the one change in the contracts concerned the promotion process which will stay as the last contract and not in accordance with state code. Councilman Jackson asked Finance Director Crowell if the buy-outs or retirement payouts were a line item in the budget. Ms. Crowell answered in the negative, stating that those items are listed in the budget as "other pay." Ms. Crowell said at some time in the future money will be put into a fund for that purpose. Police Chief Popielarczyk also stated that since the Police Department is presently understaffed, anyone who would leave this year would not require a payout. He said last year twelve (12) staff members left in the twelve (12) month period which never happened before. The Chief also stated that if the Department knows about payouts, the Department will budget for it next year.

Law Director Montello said at some point the City will do a City-wide fund for such buy-outs/payouts to cover all departments.

Regarding **Resolution 2016-11**, Mr. Trojanski asked who would like to be added as a co-sponsor since it will be voted on at today's meeting. It was the consensus of Council that all of the members would be added as co-sponsors of the legislation.

Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions regarding **Resolution 2016-12** regarding the professional services agreement for City Engineer Ed Hren. There being no questions, Mr. Trojanski asked that council suspend the rules and vote to approve the legislation.

Regarding **Resolution 2016-13**, the appointment of Attorney John J. Montello as Law Director/Prosecutor and Attorney Tracy Martin Peebles as Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Maple Heights, Mr. Trojanski began the discussion by introducing Ms. Peebles to Council. Ms. Peebles said she was graduated from the University of Toledo School of Law and has been practicing law since 1998, beginning with work in the County Prosecutors Office for five (5) years. After that she joined her father's law practice and is presently the prosecutor for the City of Warrensville Heights.

Ms. Peebles said her practice includes misdemeanor work; juvenile diversion work, especially juvenile delinquency prevention; and probate and estate planning.

Mr. Shenett said Ms. Peebles was a good choice for the position of Assistant Prosecutor. Mr. Jackson asked if it was appropriate to have two (2) people under one (1) ordinance or should there be two (2) separate ordinances. Mr. Shenett said **Resolution 2016-13** parallels the Charter by appointing the Law Director and Assistant Prosecutor together. Mr. Shenett said both individuals are in the same department, so they should be under the same contract. Mr. Montello said historically cities use the process of one (1) resolution to appointment both members of the Law Department. Ms. Crowell said that is also how the Law Department is listed in the budget.

Councilwoman Miller asked if the contract amount was comparable to what other cities pay for their Law Departments. Mr. Montello said it would be comparable and even less than other cities. Using the City of Aurora as an example, Mr. Montello said their base contract is One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000.00) plus an hourly rate. Mr. Shenett said the fee of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000.00) for both Mr. Montello and Ms. Peebles was reasonable given the fact that the average newly hired full-time associate at a law firm earns approximately One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) a year. Mayor Blackwell said the salaries stated in the contract would stay at the rate listed in the contract and that Mr. Montello is a full time attorney for the City. Councilwoman Thomas asked about the contract term regarding the billable hours during a jury trial. Mr. Montello said that is a standard contract term and would cover Ms. Peebles who will start in April. Mr. Montello said the contract presented will save the City money in salaries over last year. Mr. Trojanski asked Council to suspend the rules and pass this legislation.

Mr. Trojanski asked Mr. Montello to present **Resolution 2016-14** regarding the Southeast Emergency Communications Center (SECC). Mr. Montello said when the SECC was being formed it piggybacked on a larger set of communities (a larger council of governments) than just the four (4) which actually started it since it was not certain if the SECC would be formed. Mr. Montello said since the SECC is now in operation, the legislation is needed to allow it to separate from the larger group of governments which do not participate in the SECC. He stated this separation was recommended by the State Auditor and the cities finance directors for liability and auditing purposes.

Councilwoman Jones asked Mr. Montello what would other municipalities need to do to join the SECC and could they join to which Mr. Montello answered in the affirmative. Mr. Montello said other communities would need to approve the agreement in order to be added to it. Mayor Blackwell said Oakwood Village and Warrensville Height have expressed an interest in the center. Mr. Jackson asked if additional cities would decrease the costs. Mr. Montello said it would be anticipated that the costs would decrease. Mr. Trojanski asked Council to suspend the rules and approve this legislation.

Resolution 2016-15 which provided for the lease of new copiers and fax machines to upgrade the City's current equipment was presented by Ms. Crowell. She said it has been discussed that the City could save money if city leases and contracts could be simplified by dealing with one company to provide both the equipment and the maintenance services. She said this lease contract will save the City approximately Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) a year. Mayor Blackwell said this lease is with the same vendor which supplies this equipment for the City school system.

Ms. Miller asked if the company would do a maintenance contract for the copiers. Ms. Crowell said with the lease a maintenance contract would be an extra charge, but a maintenance fee is charged

“per click” which is billed monthly. Ms. Miller asked if this was already added to the budget to which Ms. Crowell responded that it would be in the yearly budget which is in the process of being completed by the Finance Department.

Mr. Trojanski asked if the five (5) year lease would be approved, when would the copiers be installed. Ms. Crowell said since the lease for the Police Department copier ends February 24th, she would like to make the change before this lease expires, otherwise it will renew at a higher cost. Ms. Jones asked if the City changes vendors for the copiers, would the new vendor buy-out the current contract. Ms. Crowell answered in the affirmative, stating the new company would ship the copiers back for the City. Ms. Jones also asked if the use of the copier to make color copies would be password protected to which Ms. Crowell answered in the affirmative. It was the consensus of Council to suspend the rules and pass this legislation.

Mr. Trojanski asked City Engineer Ed Hren to discuss **Resolution 2016-16** regarding the ODOT contract for the Libby Road Resurfacing Project. Mr. Hren said this legislation is the formalization of **Ordinance 2016-01** passed by Council on January 20, 2016. He said this resolution is the standard “boilerplate” contract ODOT uses for municipal contract work which spells out the roles and responsibilities of ODOT and the municipality. Mr. Hren said the Libby Road Resurfacing is described as a “mill and fill” project in which the road is ground down three (3) inches and replaced. He said there will be limited repair work and no utility work. Mr. Hren said the most important part of this contract is Section 5-4 which acknowledges that the City’s portion of the project funding will be funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), so there will be no additional costs to the City.

Mr. Trojanski asked if this legislation needed to pass by suspension of the rules. Mr. Hren requested that it pass by suspension since the deadline for it to be received by ODOT is March 21, 2016. He said the timeline from ODOT would have the work go out to bid in April, 2016; construction would begin in June, 2016; and the project would be completed this construction season. Mr. Hren said ODOT would be scheduling a pre-construction conference which would include the Police and Fire Departments to discuss traffic control during the construction.

Mr. Jackson asked who would have the contract with the contractor. Mr. Hren said ODOT will have the contract with the contractor. He said since the City is in fiscal emergency, ODOT is required to administer and run the project which takes the administrative responsibilities off the City. Mr. Jackson also asked about the detour for this project. Mr. Hren said the detour will be 1-way and will be done in phases to avoid continuous detours.

Ms. Jones asked if Mr. Hren will be the contact person for this project to which Mr. Hren answered in the affirmative. Mr. Hren said it will be his responsibility to make sure ODOT stays within the budget, especially the City’s portion provided under the OPWC. Mr. Jackson asked if curb cuts need to get re-dome, is this included in work to be completed to which Mr. Hren answered in the affirmative.

Resolution 2016-17 regarding a contract for Human Resources services for the City was added to the agenda by addendum. Mr. Trojanski asked Mayor Blackwell to begin the discussion about this legislation. Mayor Blackwell discussed various issues concerning the Director of the Human Resources Department and said legislation presented would be a short-term solution for the continued operation of the department. The Mayor said many cities do not have separate HR departments and that at the present time the larger departments such as Police and Fire are doing their

own HR work. Mayor Blackwell said that the City also receives HR assistance from the Fedeli Group which is the City's benefit partner.

Mr. Trojanski asked Mayor Blackwell if the legislation would be approved, how soon would the assessment of the Human Resources Department be completed. Mayor Blackwell said it would take ninety (90) days to complete. Mr. Montello apologized for the short notice regarding the legislation being added by addendum, but said it is urgent to get the audit done as soon as possible and the HR work done. Mr. Montello also said he asked for certain changes to the contract including a non-disclosure clause which the company has agreed to. Mr. Montello asked Council to pass the legislation authorizing a short-term contract on an emergency basis since the issues in the human resource department need to be addressed quickly. Ms. Jones asked since the Police Department contracts were on the agenda tonight, were there any other major contracts coming due at the present time. Mr. Montello answered in the negative.

Mr. Shenett asked if Council was being asked to suspend the rules and pass the addendum legislation on first reading to which Mr. Montello answered in the affirmative. Mr. Shenett said given the seriousness of the situation and the limited time for review, he would need more time to be able to make a reasoned decision and asked if the legislation could stay on first reading. Ms. Jones said she didn't think the City could wait to resolve this situation if the legislation stayed on first reading. Police Chief Popielarczyk said his Department has been doing its own HR work for a while, so the assessment of that department is critical and suggested that a short-term contract be approved by Council. Human Services Director Linda Vopat said the Senior Center and the Department of Human Services also took care of their HR needs. She said the company being considered for the HR contract comes highly recommended, and if the audit would take ninety (90) days, a contract would need to be approved quickly. Mr. Trojanski said the problems in the HR Department is a crisis the City needs to respond to and that delay may make the problems worse. Mr. Shenett said he was concerned that the company has only five (5) years of experience and questioned if it was cost competitive. Mr. Shenett asked if the City could handle the HR issues without the contract being approved today, just until the next council meeting. Mayor Blackwell said the City has done damage control already so council could take a little time to review the legislation to a next meeting.

Ms. Crowell said all the departments have been doing HR work and that the problems in the HR Department have cost the city about a quarter million dollars (\$250,000.00) in penalties and fines. She said since the City is short-staffed it doesn't have the personnel to do HR work and the audit will ensure the City identifies the problems in the department. Ms. Crowell said the City needs to be proactive in this situation instead of reactive which is the current situation.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said Council should consider the fact that no one knows what contractual obligations are not being met by the City due to the issues with the HR Department and that time is of the essence in this matter. He said the cost of the contract being discussed would be a small expenditure compared to potential liability issues.

Ms. Miller agreed with Mr. Shenett in requesting more time to review the contract since the terms of the contract regarding duties to be performed by the Company were vague.

Mr. Trojanski said since Council had questions about the contract and the Administration could continue operating the HR Department for another week, it could be discussed at the Special Meeting of Council scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Moving on to the List of Expenditures over \$1,000.00, Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions. There being no questions, the caucus meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Trojanski called the meeting to order at 7:31 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, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella.

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

ADDENDUM:

MINUTES: Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to approve the Regular Meeting of Council minutes of December 16, 2015, the Special Meeting of Council minutes of December 21, 2015 and the Special Meeting of Council minutes of December 28, 2015. ROLL CALL: Shenett, Jones, Miller, Jackson, Madden, Thomas – Yes: Agee: Present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

Notice regarding the application for a new class “C” liquor permit by 16659 Broadway Inc. DBA, 611 Mini Mart, 16659 Broadway Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Mr. Trojanski announced the following residents nominated to serve on the 2016 City of Maple Heights Charter Review Commission: Katurah Johnson, Tina Hobson, Cynthia Whitehead, Adrienne Carr, Thomas J. Woods, Rev. P. Mandel Childs, Jacqueline Albers, Andrea Miller, Marnita Robinson, Michele Rudolph and Shaquille Azir. Law Director Montello briefly described the Charter Review Commission process and Mayor Blackwell remarked on how important it was for the citizens to review the City Charter and suggest necessary changes. Mayor Blackwell swore in the nominees in attendance and thanked them for their service to the City. Mr. Trojanski also congratulated the Appointees.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Kavaliunas reported the calls to date for the Fire Department are 667 and that on February 11, 2016 both the Police and Fire Departments were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident on I-480 at Broadway. The Chief said Chief Popielarczyk would include the details of this incident in his department report, but he wanted to personally commend the officers of the Police Department who initiated the rescue of the trapped driver with no regard to the inclement weather or the icy water conditions. Chief Kavaliunas said the response of these police officers was

in the highest traditions of the safety forces and was another example of the Police Department's dedication to public safety. The Chief said that in the incidents that the Fire Department responds to with the police, the police always have the safety of the fire personnel foremost and protect his department and the residents of Maple Heights no matter what the circumstances may be. The Chief thanked Chief Popielarczyk and his department again.

Chief Kavaliunas also reported that the Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire at 19119 Fairway Avenue yesterday. He said the call came in at 2:00 am and upon arrival, the house was well involved in fire. The Chief said a family of four (4) had narrowly escaped the fire, with the father receiving burns as a result. Chief Kavaliunas said he cannot emphasize the importance of working smoke detectors for resident safety and that the Fire Department will be working with the Red Cross to continue the smoke detector program this year and are also seeking grant funding to make the smoke detector program available to all City residents.

Law Department - Mr. Montello reported that the Law Department was busy this month with cases at both Garfield Municipal Court and Mayor's Court and also with numerous calls from tenants concerned about their gas and electric bills. Mr. Montello congratulated the and thanked City Engineer Ed Hren for his work on behalf of the City to get the Libby Road project underway with ODOT and other Public Works funding. Mr. Montello concluded his report by congratulating the nominees to the City's Charter Review Commission for 2016.

Police Department – Chief Popielarczyk thanked Fire Chief Kavaliunas for his comments. The Chief reported that on February 11, 2016, police were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident on I-480 by Mill Creek off of McCracken Road. He said the vehicle went off the road and down an embankment into the creek below, trapping the driver in the vehicle. Chief Popielarczyk said that Sgt. Robert Voll, Cpl. Matthew Rhodes and Police Cadet Derek Jiveden at first had difficulty locating the car in the icy water, but once they had found the vehicle they quickly went into the waist-deep water to rescue the driver. The Chief said the was extremely proud of his officers and that their conduct in this situation exemplifies the work of the Police Department.

Chief Popielarczyk also reported that police calls for service are 2,536 to date, with 780 calls for service for the month of February to date. The Chief said the Police responded to a domestic situation on Mapleboro Avenue and also made an arrest without incident regarding a theft at DrugMart. He said officers have worked diligently to solve several crimes in the area, including a robbery at SpeedWay in which the suspect is now in custody.

The Chief concluded his report, stating that the Police Department will be applying for a grant to replace the cameras in the police vehicles which are in need of replacement.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Vopat announced that on the back table there were applications for the Home Energy Assistance Program which provides help to residents for their utility bills. She said the program is based on income and household size and that the deadline is March 31, 2016. Mrs. Vopat also reminded residents that early voting begins this week for the upcoming March 15th primary election. Mrs. Vopat announced that appointments for free tax help are available by calling 211 which is the County's "First Call for Help" system.

Regarding the Department of Human Services, Mrs. Vopat reported that the Senior Center is seeking volunteers to deliver home meals and that the Recreation Division was proud to announce that Easter Feat was returning to Maple Heights this year. She said the activity will be held in conjunction with Southgate USA and would be located at 5333 Warrensville Road on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Vopat said that Mr. Chicken, WalGreen;s and the Maple Heights High School National Honor Society will also be involved.

Finance Department – Ms. Crowell said the Finance Department was busy working on the annual budget and with two (2) audits currently being conducted, the annual external audit and one by the fiscal commission. Ms. Crowell also reported that the City met with representatives of the Moody’s rating firm and the City’s investor rating will be increasing. Ms. Crowell said the City is managing its cash flow and that to date the City has \$1.8 million dollars in the bank.

Service Department: Mr. Dennis Lew reported that the Service Department used more cold patch than the previous month, but is still low usage for this time of year. Mr. Lew also reported that there has been an increase in salt usage but not as much as this time last year thanks to the milder weather. Mr. Lew commended the workers in the Service Department for their dedication and hard work during the recent bad weather. He said a total of five service employees (the drivers and mechanic) worked to clean the city streets and keep it running despite the snow and ice. Mr. Lew said there was only one (1) day (the last day of the storm) he could not ask his workers to continue working, that the drivers physically could not continue. Mr. Lew reported that during the storm the Service Department had one (1) truck down and repaired three (3) others. Mr. Lew concluded his report stating that there had been an increase in water jobs this past month by the Cleveland Water Department.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Bob Halen of 16226 Maplewood Court said the City has been in a critical situation for the last several years and that he objected to the County representatives approving a Fifteen Thousand Dollar (\$15,000.00) pay raise for the County Council members. He said the County and State have cut funds to the Cities which are much needed yet they have the nerve to give themselves a raise. Mr. Halen said he finds this very unreasonable.

Mr. Gerald Arnold of 20709 Bowling Green Avenue said with Spring around the corner and the City’s limited resources, especially regarding the Building Department, perhaps the Council members could walk/drive their wards and issue warnings to residents not in compliance with the City Building Codes such as trash cans still out after trash pick-up, or trash and debris on properties, junk cars, gutters hanging down. He said perception goes a long way, and if properties look better, people will feel better about our City. Mr. Arnold also commented on the lack of snow removal on his street and said he had to call his council representative to get it cleaned.

Mr. Thomas Coyle of 15614 Edgewood Avenue said he thought the Libby Road Project had already been settled by the last administration. Mr. Coyle asked if the Service workers who plow snow are under a time constraint that the drivers go so fast. He complained that with the

excessive speed, sidewalks that have already been cleaned by the residents get full of snow again, making it dangerous for people who walk.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.: 2016-02

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (“CBA”) WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, LODGE 67 (“FOP”) INCORPORATING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE FACT FINDERS REPORT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance had its third reading. 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.: 2016-11

A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CITY’S GRATITUDE TO ALL THE BUSINESSES LOCATED IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO PATRONIZE AREA BUSINESSES AND URGING BUSINESSES TO EMPLOY RESIDENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS AVAILABLE IN THE CITY FOR WHICH THEY ARE QUALIFIED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its third reading. Ms. Madden 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.: 2016-12

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF EDWARD J. HREN OF CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING, LTD., AS ENGINEER FOR THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017, AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR SUCH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 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. Jackson 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.: 2016-13

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF JOHN J. MONTELLO AS LAW DIRECTOR/PROSECUTOR AND TRACY MARTIN PEEBLES AS ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR FOR THE CITY OF

**MAPLE HEIGHTS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 2017, AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR SUCH
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 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 Mr. Trojanski if Ms. Peebles was present at the Council Meeting to be introduced to the public in attendance to which Mr. Trojanski responded in the negative. Mr. Trojanski said Ms. Peebles had been present at the caucus meeting, but had to leave for another engagement.

Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller 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.: 2016-14

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SOUTHEAST EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ("SECC") WHICH WAS FORMED AS A COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS ("COG") THROUGH A SUBGROUP OF THE SOUTHEAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ("SRCG") TO SEPARATE
FROM THE SRCG'S SO AS TO PERMIT THE SECC TO BE A SEPARATE
COG FOR AUDITING AND OPERATIONAL PURPOSES AND DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY**

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

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Thomas 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.: 2016-15

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE
AGREEMENT WITH DE LAGE LANDEN PUBLIC FINANCE, LLC ("DE LAGE")
FOR NEW MULTIFUNCTION COPIERS AND FAX SYSTEMS, AND DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Jackson 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 said this was another example of the Administration trying to pull the City out of its financial debt problems by saving money. Mr. Shenett said he commended the Administration on its efforts to save money even on smaller budget items.

Mr. Jackson said the residents should know that this purchase is already a line item in the budget and that it was good to see the City working in partnership with the City school system.

Mr. Shenett 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.: 2016-16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Ms. Madden 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 Mr. Trojanski if City Engineer Ed Hren could speak on this legislation. Mr. Hren said the present resolution was the last step in terms of Council approval regarding the ODOT project to resurface Libby Road. Mr. Hren said due to the City's current fiscal status ODOT rules require that they control the project. He said ODOT will administer the project and fund a portion of it, with the local share being matching funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission. Mr. Hren said the time frame for the project will be that the bids go out in April, work will start in June and be finished this construction season.

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.: 2016-17

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ONE (1) YEAR AGREEMENT WITH CONNECTED BUSINESS SERVICES, LLC TO PROVIDE HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution had its first reading.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: 2016-27 through 2016-33

There being no questions from Council regarding the list of expenditures over \$1,000.00: 2016-27 through 2016-33, Ms. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Madden to approve the expenditures. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell began her report by presenting a Proclamation to all of the Police Department officers who assisted in the rescue of the driver involved in the auto accident on I-480 which occurred on February 11, 2016.

Mayor Blackwell addressed the resident question regarding Council members checking the conditions of properties in their districts, stating that the City will be adding a part-time employee to the Building Department and that to meet the increased need of Building Department services the department will re-open on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to noon, starting March 11, 2016. The Mayor said these are more examples of the City in transition and reminded residents that the City will be hosting a City Hall Open House on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor announced that the City has been awarded a One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollar Community Development Block Grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development. Mayor Blackwell thanked City Engineer Ed Hren for his efforts to secure this grant for street improvements for two (2) access roads to Stafford Park, Mayville Avenue and Auburn Avenue.

In the area of collaboration and regionalization, the Mayor reported that with the help of acting Service Director Dennis Lew and City Engineer Ed Hren the City may be able to contract for new trash service which would include recycling.

Mayor Blackwell announced that the addition of Assistant Prosecutor Tracy Martin Peebles to the Law Department will allow the City's current Juvenile Diversion Program to include more community involvement. The Mayor said that effective immediately the program will be expanded to work more closely with the school system to be more proactive regarding youth crime. Mayor Blackwell said this change in the program will not cost the City any additional funds. The Mayor said the City will also be working with local pastors to see what youth programs and resources they have available.

Mayor Blackwell reported there is a new developer for the Valley Ranch Estates which is an upscale housing development located partly in Maple Heights and partly in Garfield Heights. The Mayor said the developer intends to sell twenty (20) vacant lots for homes that will start at One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) which when sold will help raise City property values. The Mayor concluded her report with the announcement that the old St. Wenceslas property on Libby Road has been sold to a Cleveland church with future plans for a Christian campus at that location to include adult day care and other support services. The Mayor said there are a number of violations on the property however, so it will take at least eighteen (18) months for the work to be completed.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their work with the recent traffic accident on I-480. Mr. Jackson announced that The New Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church at 18900 Libby Road will be hosting a Slamming Saturday event on Saturday from 12:00 to 2p.m. He said this event is open to adults and children and includes a Bible Study program. With regards to the snow removal issue during the recent bad weather, Mr. Jackson reminded residents that the Service Department was doing its best under the circumstances of less staff and older equipment. He asked residents to be patient.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 announced that Tri-C in partnership with First Energy Corp. would be offering a sign-up session on Saturday, February 20th from 10:00 a.m. to noon for anyone interested in being a line worker for First Energy. Ms. Madden invited Mayor Blackwell and the residents to a Black History Month Celebration entitled a “Tribute to Gospel, Jazz and Rhythm and Blues” on Saturday, February 27th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Library

Councilwoman Sharri Thomas, District 6 commended the safety forces for their recent work, especially the Police Department personnel who jumped into the freezing water to rescue the driver and the Fire Department with the recent house fire. Ms. Thomas also thanked the Service Department for handling a recent complaint from a resident in her district. Ms. Thomas said the first Community Meeting for District 6 was very successful and announced that the next meeting will be Saturday, March 5th at noon. She said refreshment would be served.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 congratulated the residents who were appointed to the Charter Review Commission and reported that Forman Mills will be accepting walk-in job applications for retail positions at their new store to be opening soon at Southgate. Ms. Agee concluded her report by reading a letter to Mayor Blackwell from one of her constituents in District 7. The resident said she had seen a change in the City already and asked the Mayor to continue to move the City forward and that the Mayor had the support of the residents.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, Sr., District 1 reported that as of February 4th, two (2) abandoned homes on Dunham Road and Walvern Avenue have been demolished by the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (CCLRC) and the vacant house at 6000 Dunham Road has been prepared for demolition. Mr. Shenett announced the creation of a youth activities league which will include mentoring and job skills training. Mr. Shenett said his District 1 newsletter is available to residents via Facebook and at local businesses. He said residents can also keep updated on what’s happening with the District 1 information hotline at 216-510-6340. Mr. Shenett announced the District 1 combined Block Watch Meeting for captains and residents will be held on Saturday, March 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library, Room 1. He said the meeting will focus on senior and youth social safety and health issues.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 thanked the members of Charter Review Commission for their dedication to the City. Ms. Jones reported that the serious water problem at Maple Wood Court involving one (1) meter for four (4) units had been resolved and the water turned back on thanks to the help of PNC Bank which took care of paying the water bill. Ms. Jones said she attended a meeting at which Pernell Jones announced that Shaker Heights would be using casino proceeds to pay for the redevelopment of the Van Aken area and asked Mayor Blackwell if the City could get casino money to help redevelop the St. Wenceslas property. Ms. Jones ended her report by addressing the resident’s comment regarding the council people checking the conditions of properties in their district by stating that council members cannot enforce the City Building Code, but she does send letters to residents in her district asking for voluntary compliance.

Councilwoman Ebony Miller, District 3 thanked the Charter Review Commission nominees for serving the City. Ms. Miller reminded residents that the District 3 Block Watch Meeting will

be this Saturday from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library, Room 1. Ms. Miller reported a number of break-ins in her district, especially at the auto repair shops, and asked residents to call the police when they see anything suspicious. She also asked residents to call the non-emergency police number if they have any tips, reminding people if they see something, to say something. Ms. Miller responded to the calls she received about the snow removal problems by asking residents to keep in mind that the Service Department workers did the best they could while working sixteen (16) hour days during the bad weather.

Council President Richard Trojanski announced a new resource being provided to county residents by the Cuyahoga County Public Library. Mr. Trojanski said the Library opened the first of three (3) Innovation Centers at the Garfield Heights Branch. He said these Centers will provide county residents with free access to new technology, including 3-D printers, laser engraving, vinyl cutting, and a professional grade embroidery machine. Mr. Trojanski reported that at the Committee of the Whole Meeting held last week it was decided the City would once again be providing residents with a quarterly newsletter. He said the City is proceeding with this project with the help of a corporate sponsor. Mr. Trojanski announced that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center to discuss current and future legislation.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Trojanski adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Passed: May 4, 2016

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette F. Cicirella, Clerk of Council

