

**City of Maple Heights
Ceremonial Meeting of Council**

Council Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2016

Prior to The City of Maple Heights Ceremonial Council Meeting, Mistress of Ceremonies, Grace Roberts of 107.3 FM, The WAVE, radio station, introduced a Musical Selection by the Fresh Encounter Vocalists and Maple Heights Grove Musicians.

This was followed by the Posting of Colors by the Maple Heights Police Department Honor Guard. Ms. Roberts introduced The Honorable Judge Shirley Strickland Saffold of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas who gave a brief Welcome Address before the Council Meeting. Judge Saffold thanked everyone for attending the ceremony and saluted Mayor Blackwell on her outstanding achievement as being elected to the office of Mayor. Judge Saffold reminded the audience that while this may be a historical moment, it is consistent with God's plan.

Judge Saffold made the observation that being elected to political office is like an iceberg, all is frozen into place such from the outside, one does not see the persistence, does not see the sacrifice, does not see the disappointment, does not see the discipline and the hard work required.

Judge Saffold concluded her speech by challenging everyone to help make the City great again. She said the Mayor and Council will need the residents' support and asked everyone to pledge to work with the City officials

Law Director John Montello was introduced to administer the Oath of Office for the President of Council to Richard Trojanski, who immediately thereafter called the Ceremonial Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Maple Heights High School, One Mustang Way, Maple Heights, Ohio.

Council President Trojanski gave a brief welcome and Retired District 1 Councilman Alex Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States. Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella called the roll.

ROLL CALL: Those present were: Council President Richard Trojanski, Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, Sr. representing District One, Councilwoman Toni Jones representing District Two, Councilwoman Ebony Miller, representing District Three, Councilman Ron Jackson representing District Four, Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden representing District Five, Councilwoman Sharri Thomas representing District Six, and Councilwoman Edwina Agee representing District Seven of the City of Maple Heights.

Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director John Montello, Police Chief John Popielarczyk, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Finance Director Irene Crowell, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Human Resource Director Laurie Waller, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella.

The **Honorable State Representative Nickie Antonio** administered the Oath of Office to:

Richard Trojanski President of Council of the City of Maple Heights

Council President Richard Trojanski thanked his family, friends and the residents of the City and commented briefly on the City and said he looked forward to working with the new administration and new council.

Mr. Edward D. Papp, Esquire, of Baker & Hostetler, LLP administered the Oath of Office to **Stafford L. Shenett, Sr., District One Councilman**.

The **Honorable State Senator Kenny Yuko**, administered the Oath of Office to **Toni Jones, District Two Councilwoman**.

Rev. Dr. Stephan Rowan, J.D., D. Min., of Bethany Baptist Church administered the Oath of Office to **Ebony Miller, District Three Councilwoman**.

Ms. Lori Chick, former MHCSO Board President administered the Oath of Office to **Ron Jackson, District Four Councilman**.

Ms. Dolly Lewis, administered the Oath of Office to her mother, **Tanglyn Madden, District Five Councilwoman**.

Apostle Willie D. Trotter, of the House of Jubilee administered the Oath of Office to **Sharri Thomas, District Six Councilwoman**.

Michele Rudolph, President of the Maple Heights Democratic Club administered the Oath of Office to **Edwina Agee, District Seven Councilwoman**.

Immediately after their Oaths, each Council Member briefly addressed the audience, introduced their family members and extended their thanks to their family, friends and constituents.

All Council terms commenced on January 1, 2016 and will expire on December 31, 2017.

Before the Oath of Office for the Mayor, Rev. Gregory Walker, M. Div., Pastor of the Warrensville Road Community Baptist Church, Maple Heights, was introduced and gave a brief Invocation asking God's blessings on the City, its staff, its Council and its Mayor to grant them wisdom and vision to build a new city with new hopes and dreams.

The **Reverend Reginald D. Willis, Pastor**, of the Philemon Community Baptist Church administered the Oath of Office to:

Annette M. Blackwell

Mayor of the City of Maple Heights

The Mayor's term commenced on January 1, 2016 and will expire on December 31, 2019.

Mayor Blackwell introduced her family, friends and supporters and thanked everyone for attending. The Mayor said that Maple Heights is her home and she is proud to serve it and its residents. Mayor Blackwell also thanked the Maple Heights School District for the use of the High School and especially thanked Dr. Griffin of the Marketing Department for the design and production of the program for tonight's meeting.

Mayor Blackwell pledged that her administration will work diligently with Council to improve the quality of life for the residents, to search for funding for senior programs and those to benefit children and to pursue small businesses as members of the community. The Mayor said she intends to change the public relations of the City to encourage prospective homeowners to invest in the city.

Mayor Blackwell said she leaves the stage this evening ready to go to work for the residents. The Mayor concluded her speech by again thanking everyone for attending, especially the other Mayors and elected officials with whom she will be working with as a team for this area of Ohio. Lastly, Mayor Blackwell thanked the individuals who attended to administer the oaths of office and also the vendors who graciously supplied the refreshments for this evening. The Mayor said that tonight the City has not been forgotten and the newly elected officials are ready to make a difference.

The Benediction was given by the Dr. Ronald J. Morrison, Pastor of Hope Alliance Baptist Church, Maple Heights. The City of Maple Heights Police Department Honor Guard retrieved the colors.

Council President Richard Trojanski thanked everyone for coming and invited everyone to attend the reception.

Wherefore, there being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Richard Trojanski adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Passed: February 3, 2016

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette F. Cicirella, Clerk of Council