

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

January 20, 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, City Engineer Ed Hren, Service Director Dennis Lew and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella.

Mr. Trojanski announced the first order of business would be the selection by council of the council president pro tem and asked for nominations. Councilwoman Toni Jones nominated herself and Councilman Ron Jackson nominated himself.

Mr. Trojanski asked each nominee for a brief description of their qualifications. Ms. Jones said she would be starting her fifth term on council and stated she really loves her job as a council representative. She said she would work with Council President Trojanski to guide Council and work to improve the City.

Mr. Jackson said he has served on council for two years, but has the leadership skills for the pro tem position from his past work experience as a foreman in the construction industry.

Mr. Trojanski asked Council to consider carefully the nominations and instructed the Clerk of Council to distribute pieces of paper to the members to write the name of their selection. Clerk of Council Cicirella collected the papers and tallied the results before handing the information to Mr. Trojanski. Mr. Trojanski announced that Councilman Jackson was elected as council president pro tem for the 2016-2017 term by the vote of five (5) to two (2).

Moving to the legislation, Mr. Trojanski asked City Engineer Ed Hen to give a summary regarding the contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation described in **Ordinance No. 2016-01**. Mr. Hren gave Council copies of a project summary and said this contract involved a project to resurface Libby Road which had been planned for some time. He said the project was originally designed to be a "locally led" project, meaning that it would be administered by Mr. Hren as the City Engineer and the Service Department and the City would be responsible for the payment and inspections of the project with ODOT only monitoring the progress of the project. Mr. Hren said this changed however, when the City was placed in fiscal emergency status. He said under these circumstances ODOT does not allow a city to administer projects. Mr. Hren said instead of postponing the project, ODOT decided to administer and run the project which is the basis of the contract presented with this legislation. He said ODOT will consult with the City on the project and the plans for it were actually prepared by the City's engineering firm for submission to ODOT.

Mr. Hren said funding for the project derives from a combination of money from ODOT and a loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission which will be used to pay the City's portion of the project as is described in Sections 2 (a) and 2 (b) of the contract. He said Section 2(c) regarding the requirement that the curbs and ramps be ADA compliant had also already been taken care of last summer through the use of a CDBG grant awarded to the City.

Mr. Hren described the project as “mill and fill” work, in which 3” of the asphalt road surface will be ground off and the base or concrete surface of the road will be inspected. He said any areas of the base which are in bad condition will be replaced up to the amount of money which has been allocated for these repairs. Mr. Hren said after the base repairs are completed the road will be resurfaced with 3” of asphalt. He said the project is scheduled to start in early summer and end within the construction year.

Mr. Hren said the second page of his project summary included a funding break-down for the project. He said the OPWC funding is a loan made to the City with repayment scheduled after the project is completed. He said it is repaid semiannually, with a zero per cent (0%) rate of interest. Mr. Hren said he and Finance Director Crowell calculated a repayment schedule of approximately Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) per year for twenty (20) years.

Councilman Jackson asked if catch-basin work will be done to which Mr. Hren stated that would be a contingency item to be repaired depending on the budget. Mr. Hren said it is important that the project does not go over budget, but this type of work could be completed by the County which has a contract with the City to make sewer repairs.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Hren if there will be temporary curbing to access driveways during the project to which Mr. Hren answered in the affirmative, stating that drive access is to be maintained at all times per the project specifications. Councilwoman Jones said this was done during the Rockside Road resurfacing and it worked out well.

Councilwoman Miller asked Ms. Crowell if the loan repayment had been included in the budget. Ms. Crowell said the repayment will not be included until the repayment schedule is received from the OPWC which will start in 2017.

Mr. Trojanski asked Mr. Hren if the legislation needed to pass by suspension of the rules to which Mr. Hren responded in the affirmative. Mr. Hren said the contract with ODOT needed to be signed as soon as possible to secure the project funding and to stay on schedule for the work to begin.

Regarding **Ordinance 2016-02**, the collective bargaining agreements with the Police Department, Mr. Trojanski asked Law Director Mr. Montello as to the status of the contracts. Mr. Montello said neither the Law Department nor Police Department have received the final contracts as of yet, so the legislation should be on first reading only. Police Chief Popielarczyk said even though they do not have the final contracts yet, the fact finders report submitted with the legislation is binding on both parties and those terms cannot be changed. He said the terms of contracts will be favorable to the City regarding a number of different items as described in the fact finders report.

Mr. Trojanski asked when the final contract will be anticipated. Mr. Montello said efforts are being made to have it for the next council meeting.

Councilman Shenett asked if there was a deadline regarding the contract and if it had been reviewed by the previous council. Mr. Montello said the contract had not been presented to the previous council because at the time the fact finders report had not been completed so the contract was still being negotiated.

Mr. Trojanski asked Ms. Crowell to begin the discussion regarding **Ordinance 2016-03** concerning the 2016 Temporary Appropriations. Ms. Crowell supplied Council with copies of the estimated

revenues for the City and the amended appropriations for review. Ms. Crowell said the handouts were designed to show Council the current estimate of revenues, the proposed changes and the variance in the resources since the last appropriations had been approved. Ms. Crowell said the variance indicated a net decrease of approximately Sixteen Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$16, 851.00) due to reductions in the property taxes and income taxes. Ms. Crowell said since these are only the temporary allocations being discussed, the numbers will need to be adjusted accordingly by the end of the year.

Councilwoman Thomas asked Ms. Crowell if HB 5 will affect the RITA tax collection amounts. Ms. Crowell said HB 5 will impact the tax collection revenue, but there is no specific information yet from RITA regarding the changes which won't be known until 2017. She said RITA is still working on the methodology of these changes which will be forthcoming to the RITA communities.

Ms. Crowell said the estimated resource information is not approved by Council but does need to be submitted to the County by her department. She said it is important for Council to see what resources are available to be used for the appropriations which are approved by Council and that the temporary appropriations are calculated as one-quarter of the total budget.

Ms. Crowell explained that changes made in the temporary appropriations are reflected in changes made in each department. She said each department shows an increase in health insurance because of the rate change, but will also have some reduction due to the more cost effective dental insurance program. Ms. Crowell said there also were some staff reorganizations which affected various departments, for example the mechanic was added back as staff in the Service Department.

Ms. Miller asked Ms. Crowell why the mechanic's salary was higher before than what was indicated now. Ms. Crowell said it was determined that the mechanic's position supported other City Departments so his salary will be reallocated among these various departments. She said before the final budget both the actual percentage of the work the mechanic does per department will be determined and a similar percentage of resources will be reallocated to the departments.

Ms. Jones asked Ms. Crowell when the legislation needed to be approved. Ms. Crowell said it needed to pass by suspension. Ms. Crowell said this legislation would only be in place for the first 2 ½ months of the year and the work on the final budget will begin in April so Council should e-mail any questions to her now regarding the final budget.

Mr. Shenett said the legislation should be voted by suspension of the rules. He said ideally the budget is an issue that is preferably handled on the front end, but the City needs to be kept running so it will need to be handled at the back end.

Mr. Trojanski asked Ms. Crowell to also begin the discussion of **Resolution 2016-04** regarding amendment to the City's 2015 Financial Recovery Plan to be submitted to the Financial Planning and Supervision Commission. Ms. Crowell said the Financial Recovery Plan mimics the City budget so that any changes in the appropriations/budget must be reflected in the Plan. Ms. Crowell said staff changes reflected in budget changes prompted changes to the City's Plan. Ms. Crowell said the addition of the mechanic back to the Service Department required some of the changes.

Ms. Thomas asked if there were any other changes besides the mechanic. Ms. Crowell said she would defer to Mayor Blackwell to discuss other staff changes. Mayor Blackwell said one of the staff changes reflected in the budget include the change from a full-time to part-time maintenance

man. Mayor Blackwell said the custodian usually finished with his work by 2:00 p.m., so she made the decision to reduce the job to part-time. Acting Service Director Dennis Lew said the custodian also was concerned he would lose his PERS insurance if he worked full-time for the City.

Mayor Blackwell said the re-hiring of the mechanic was prompted by a couple of issues: first, when a City salt truck broke down early in the month, it was apparent there was no contingency plan in place to cover this critical position; and secondly, there would be serious contract issues under the recently signed union contract covering the mechanic.

Mr. Shenett said the staff changes were proactive decisions made to avoid serious consequences for the City so he would vote to pass the legislation by suspension of the rules.

Ms. Crowell reiterated that the plan will be prepared each year as the budget is revised each year, (i.e. it is amended commensurate with changes in the appropriations/budget). She said the plan is a 5-year plan which will change yearly and will also change as required by the Financial Supervisors for the City. Ms. Crowell said she is in daily contact with the Financial Supervisors who have suggested some of the changes currently made to the plan.

Mr. Trojanski asked if the legislation needed to be approved by suspension to which Ms. Crowell answered in the affirmative. Ms. Crowell said the legislation needed to pass at this meeting to ensure time for the plan to be submitted to the Commission.

Ms. Jones asked if there was a suggestion for additional revenue is a dollar amount needed to be included in the Plan. Ms. Crowell said an exact dollar amount may not be needed, but “soft dollars” can’t be used. Ms. Crowell said the Commission is looking for efficiencies, either by increasing revenues or decreasing expenses.

Regarding **Resolutions 2016-05 and 2016-06**, Mr. Trojanski asked Ms. Crowell to explain these items of legislation. Ms. Crowell said the funds indicated in 2016-05 are currently in custodial accounts (funds in the 700 category) which should not be in these funds but rather in the newly created Senior Fund 240. Ms. Crowell said the legislation consolidates the 700 level funds and reallocates them to the Senior Fund as per the suggestion of the auditors.

Ms. Crowell said **Resolution 2016-06** is also per the suggestion of the auditors and involves a consolidation of funds generated from Building Department fees that need to be removed from a custodial account and reallocated to a more appropriate operating fund. Ms. Thomas asked what Fund 100-6000-46290 was. Ms. Crowell said it is an operating fund for the Building Department which should maintain that department’s funds.

Mr. Trojanski said **Resolution 2016-07** addresses an agreement with Cuyahoga County regarding Business Retention and Attraction Protocol. Mr. Trojanski said he re-introduced this legislation since it is an important matter that the previous Council and Administration decided to leave for the new Council and Administration to consider. Mayor Blackwell said the City needs to sign this contract with the County to be a collaborative partner with the County and other neighboring communities.

Ms. Jones asked if there was a deadline for the contract. Mr. Montello said the agreement is due February 1, 2016. Given this deadline, Mr. Trojanski asked Council to suspend the rules. Mr.

Shenett said he concurred with the Mayor that the City needs to become a partner with the County and that after reading the proposal it is a good example of professional courtesy.

Mr. Trojanski asked Mr. Montello and Mayor Blackwell to discuss **Resolutions 2016-08, 2016-09 and 2016-10** since these items of legislation concerned contracts for employee health care.

Mr. Montello said each of the contracts to be considered is based upon negotiations and information supplied by The Fedeli Group, the City's insurance broker. Mr. Montello said the health care insurance contract with Medical Mutual (**Resolution 2016-08**) was based upon a health care questionnaire submitted by the employees. Mayor Blackwell said plan availability to the City was limited however, by the fact that the City is under one hundred (100) employees.

Mr. Trojanski asked if there had been a rate change for the health insurance coverage. Ms. Crowell said The Fedeli Group was able to negotiate a rate of 12 ½ % which is within the range the City was quoted from 12% to 17%.

Regarding **Resolution 2016-09**, authorizing a contract with Assurant for employee dental coverage, Mayor Blackwell said this was a more economical contract than the self-insured policy the City had previously. Ms. Crowell said the shift from a self-insured program to dental coverage will mean less risk for the City which will be reflected in the budget.

Ms. Crowell said the vision coverage by Union Eye Care described in **Resolution 2016-10** did not change from last year; there was no rate increase for the same level of coverage.

Councilwoman Madden asked Ms. Crowell if the insurance changes/increases had already been included in the budget to which Ms. Crowell answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Trojanski asked Councilwoman Agee to discuss **Resolution 2016-11** as sponsor of the legislation. Ms. Agee said she is presenting this legislation because it is important for the City to support the businesses in our community, encourage residents to patronize them and urge the businesses as employers to hire qualified residents whenever possible. Mr. Trojanski asked if any other members of Council wanted to co-sponsor the resolution. All asked to be added as co-sponsors. It was the consensus of Council to keep the legislation on first reading however, to be able to get information on it to the media.

Moving on to the list of **Expenditures over \$1,000.00: 2016-01 through 2016-26**, Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions. Mr. Jackson asked about the expenditure for the Fire Department generators. Fire Chief Kavaliunas said the generators run automatically and were critical components for the department.

The caucus meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Trojanski called the meeting to order at 7:20 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, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella.

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

ADDENDUM: None.

MINUTES: Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Agee to approve the Special Meeting of Council minutes of December 8, 2015. **ROLL CALL:** Shenett: Present; Jones; Yes; Miller: Present; Jackson: Yes; Madden: Present; Thomas: Present; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the council members seated and present at the above-captioned meeting date.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee Reports.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – On behalf of the Fire Department, Chief Kavaliunas congratulated the Mayor and both the returning and newly elected members of Council to their first regular council meeting of 2016. The Chief reported that Fire Department calls to date are 283.

Chief Kavaliunas gave a brief review of 2015, stating that the Fire Department responded to 5002 calls which was a 5% increase from 2014 when the Department responded to 4,782 calls. The Chief said 2015 was a year of improvement for the Fire Department. He said they re-evaluated their spending and researched options to save money and improve services. Chief Kavaliunas said their most notable achievement was receipt of the FEMA SAFER Grant which allowed the Department to increase its staff needed to handle the call volume. The Chief said the Department also ordered a new fire pumper and ambulance to replace well-worn equipment that was becoming too expensive to maintain. He said another change last year was the switch from a City dispatch center to the new regional dispatch center that provided the departments with upgraded radio equipment and a centralized dispatch critical to any further attempts to regionalize. Chief Kavaliunas said the City of Garfield Heights entered into the City's automatic response to structure fires which will improve the Department's west side response capability.

Looking forward to this year, Chief Kavaliunas said the Department will continue their efforts for improvement. He said that with the commitment of the Mayor and Council to continue moving forward to revitalize the City, services will be improved in all the departments.

The Chief concluded his report by stating the goals of the Fire Department this year would be to re-establish the Department's manpower on a permanent basis and to maintain and upgrade equipment as it becomes necessary.

Law Department - Mr. Montello said he looked forward to working with the new Administration and new Council.

Police Department – Chief Popielarczyk reported that the Police Department responded to approximately 21,925 calls for service last year and approximately 1,031 calls for service to date. Chief Popielarczyk thanked the members of the other police teams that helped in the search for the missing 10 year old girl over the weekend. He also thanked School Superintendent Charles Keene for the help received from the school system in the search for the missing juvenile. The Chief said Mr. Keene opened one of the school buildings as a location for the search teams. Chief Popielarczyk said the child was found unharmed near her home.

Chief Popielarczyk announced that the new police cars have arrived and concluded his report by warning drivers to be careful and watch the driving conditions during winter weather.

Human Service Department – Mrs. Vopat said she looks forward to working with the new Council and Administration and sees the City moving forward. Mrs. Vopat announced that absentee ballot forms will be available for the March presidential primary elections. Mrs. Vopat said one of the drivers for the Senior Center retired in October, and a new part-time driver has been hired. Mrs. Vopat announced that AARP will be offering free income tax services to April 11, 2016 for residents who need help with their taxes. She said the tax services are available on Saturdays at the Senior Center by appointment. Mrs. Vopat concluded her report by reminding residents that there are a number of county services available by calling 211 which is the area's "First Call for Help."

Finance Department – Ms. Crowell said that for the year end the City was in the black by approximately Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) as compared to a starting balance of a deficit of One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Dollars (-\$117,000). She said the City bills have been paid to the end of the year so 2016 will be a fresh start. Ms. Crowell said the Finance Department will be involved in two (2) layers of audits which will be starting shortly. Ms. Crowell concluded her report by welcoming the new Council and the new Mayor.

Service Department – Mr. Dennis Lew congratulated the new Administration and the new Council and said he looked forward to working with everyone. Mr. Lew said the Service Department has been working on various projects including cold patch (4.11 tons), tree trimming throughout the City, plowing as needed and responded to ten (10) emergency calls. Mr. Lew said that so far this year there have been ten (10) Cleveland Water Department repair jobs including one (1) major leak at Clement and West Boulevard. Mr. Lew reported that 244.27 sq. yd of salt has been ordered.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Willie Hardwick of 16655 Anthony Street welcomed the new Council and Mayor. He said that District 7 Councilwoman Edwina Agee had a number of problems in her ward and that the Walgreen's on Lee Road has problems with panhandling and soliciting. Mr. Hardwick said there is a serious problem of trash and debris around the City and residents need to take responsibility to police their areas.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO.: 2016-01

AN ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO COMPLETE A PROJECT TO RESURFACE LIBBY ROAD (SR-17) FROM LEE ROAD TO THE EAST CORPORATION LINE AT A DISTANCE OF 1.97 MILES MORE OR LESS IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

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 first reading.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2016-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2016 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2016 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to suspend the rules and place this ordinance on its third and final reading. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson 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.: 2016-04

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO 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

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett 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. 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.: 2016-05

A RESOLUTION CONSOLIDATING AND REALLOCATING FUND 702 ENTITLED OFFICE ON AGING DONATIONS AND FUND 737 ENTITLED NUTRITION AGENCY FUND WITH THE SENIOR LEVY PROGRAM FUND 240 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Shenett 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. Shenett 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.: 2016-06

A RESOLUTION CONSOLIDATING AND REALLOCATING THE OHIO BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS (OBBS) FEES FUND 734 WITH FUND 100-6000-46290 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Ms. Miller 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 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.: 2016-07

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

Mr. Shenett commended the Mayor on the City's involvement in this County initiative. He said it will be helpful for the City and is a positive way for the local communities to work together.

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.: 2016-08

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL HEALTH CARE PERTAINING

**TO GROUP MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

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.: 2016-09

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH ASSURANT PERTAINING TO GROUP DENTAL
INSURANCE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE CITY OF MAPLE
HEIGHTS 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.

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.: 2016-10

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH UNION EYE CARE PERTAINING TO GROUP VISION
INSURANCE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE CITY OF MAPLE
HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Mr. Jackson said the residents should be aware of the fact that both this resolution and Resolution 2016-09 will not be adding any additional costs for the City and have the potential to save the City money.

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.: 2016-11

**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 first reading.

At this time Council President Trojanski announced that Council would vote to elect the Council President Pro Tem for the 2016-2017 Council Term. Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Madden to accept nominations for the position of Council President Pro Tem for the 2016-2017 Council Term. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to nominate Councilman Jackson as Council President Pro Tem for the 2016-2017 Council Term. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Jackson was elected as Council President Pro Tem for the 2016-2017 Council Term by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0).

EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00: 2016-01 through 2016-26

Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions regarding the list of expenditures over \$1,000.00. Mr. Jackson asked Fire Chief Kavaliunas if it is feasible to continue repairing the generators or should they be replaced. Chief Kavaliunas said the company advised him that the repair would still give the generators a service life of another two (2) to three (3) years.

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Ms Miller to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00 numbered 2016-01 through 2016-26. All voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell thanked the residents for attending the swearing in ceremony and also thanked all who attended the Martin Luther King service sponsored by the local churches.

The Mayor presented an update of her first three (3) weeks as Mayor, stating that during the transition period she met with all the City employees and plans to have monthly meetings with the departments. Mayor Blackwell said she will be working closely with the Finance Director on the appropriations and the fiscal plan and also with the Human Resources Director regarding staffing and performance issues. The Mayor said in the coming weeks she will be reviewing professional service contracts regarding the City Engineer and the Law Department.

Mayor Blackwell announced that a new business will be coming to Maple Heights. She said the company is Boggs Equipment and will be located at 14901 Broadway Avenue. The Mayor said the company works with printing equipment and currently has 12-14 employees, with plans to expand their business. The Mayor also said the business will be making some physical improvements to the property, including driveway repairs. Mayor Blackwell said another prospective business which is a building company is interested in moving to Maple Heights, but the company is seeking property tax abatement which will need to be researched and negotiated. The Mayor said that next Thursday she will be attending a meeting with 5-7 other local leaders regarding a potential development site that would bring 200-300 jobs to the area and another 500 construction jobs.

Mayor Blackwell announced that sometime in May local area churches and The Cleveland Clinic will be partnering to study the infant mortality rate in our community. The Mayor said the City is ranked 4th in the area regarding this problem and it is hoped the study will bring increased awareness to the issue.

The Mayor said the City is studying the use of a collection company to recover delinquent income taxes and will continue to pursue collaboration with other local communities where feasible.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 reminded residents that the Wednesday trash pick-up has been moved to Friday. Ms. Jones said she has been invited by the Cuyahoga County Treasurer to be on a committee which will study the issue of investors who are delinquent in paying property taxes.

Councilwoman Ebony Miller, District 3 thanked the residents of District 3 and announced that the bimonthly Block Watch Meeting for the district will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2016 in Room 1 at the Maple Heights Library. Ms. Miller said she is still looking for volunteers who will be Block Watch Leaders/Captains so please contact her if interested.

Councilman Ron Jackson, District 4 thanked the new Administration and new Council members for their interest in serving the community. Mr. Jackson also thanked Council for electing him as Council Pro Tem. Mr. Jackson concluded his report by stating he hopes to see more cooperation between the school system and the City.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 thanked the residents from District 5 and said that a couple of the residents in the district had problems that were able to be resolved with help from the experienced council members and Human Services Director Linda Vopat. Ms. Madden thanked these council members and Mrs. Vopat for their assistance. Ms. Madden said she wanted to let everyone know that if there is a problem, we can work together to resolve it.

Councilwoman Sharri Thomas, District 6 said she is looking forward to working with the Mayor and Council and the residents of District 6. Ms. Thomas thanked the residents of District 6 and encouraged residents to invite others to attend the council meetings and become involved in the community. Ms. Thomas announced that the first Community Meeting for District 6 will be held on February 6, 2016 at noon in Room 4 at the Maple Heights Library.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 announced that on Thursday, February 11, 2016, there will be a round table discussion for residents for District 7 who have children who will be graduating this year. Ms. Agee said the topic to be discussed is "What Will Happen After Graduation." Ms. Agee said Police Chief Popielarczyk will be one of the panel members.

Ms. Agee announced that Forman Mills is scheduled to open by the end of March and the company is currently accepting job applications on-line. Ms. Agee announced that Home Depot is also accepting job applications on-line.

Ms. Agee concluded her report by thanking both the Police Department and Fire Department for keeping the City safe with limited personnel and thanked Mr. Hardwick for his concern with her district, but stated that the residents of District 7 are working together to resolve problems as necessary.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, Sr., District 1 thanked retired Councilman Alex Adams for his support and mentoring. Mr. Shenett said he has established an agenda for District 1 to develop a Youth Awareness Program, a Senior Awareness Program and Block Watch Meet and Greets. Mr. Shenett reported that over the month there were a few issues in District 1 including a complaint of trash out early on Walvern Road; a residence damaged by fire will be rebuilt thanks to help from District 2 Councilwoman Toni Jones. Mr. Shenett said the owners are working with the Building Department and a restoration group; a complaint of dogs not being taken care of was investigated by the Animal Warden and it was determined that there had been no harm to the animals; the police report regarding the missing child stated the juvenile was last seen on Summit Avenue and found the next day on Carol Drive.

Council President Richard Trojanski said the City was opening a new chapter with the new Administration and Council. Mr. Trojanski said the new positive attitude is supported by an article in Scene Magazine which listed Maple Heights as one of the most affordable communities among Cleveland suburbs.

Mr. Trojanski said that Council had completed their training session and a financial seminar conducted by Finance Director Ms. Crowell. Mr. Trojanski announced that Council would be interviewing applicants for the open position on the Planning and Zoning Commission at a Special Meeting of Council to be held next Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Trojanski also announced that the next Financial Planning and Supervision Commission Meeting will be held Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the Maple Heights Senior Center.

Mr. Trojanski concluded his report by stating that he looked forward to working with Council and the Mayor to restore a community newsletter for the City.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Trojanski adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Passed: March 16, 2016

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette F.Cicirella, Clerk of Council

