

**City of Maple Heights  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Maple Height Senior Center**

**December 1, 2021**

**MEETING CAUCUS**

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Jones, Anderson, Madden, and Trojanski. Councilman Ostenson arrived at 6:40 p.m. Councilwoman Agee arrived at 6:42 p.m. Councilman Shenett was absent and excused. Also present were Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Captain Dan Sypen on behalf of Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Acting Service Director Bob Dloniak, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell arrived at 6:46 p.m. Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said there was a quorum present so the meeting would begin. He asked if there were any other questions regarding the fence issue presented in the appeal of Planning and Zoning **Case No. 2021-PZ-49**. Councilman Trojanski said he was prepared to vote on the Planning and Zoning Appeal. Councilwoman Madden said she had wanted to hear what the Councilman for that District thought about the fence at issue in this Case. Councilwoman Anderson said she was ready to vote regarding the Appeal. Mr. Jackson said Council would return to this discussion after Councilman Ostenson arrived at tonight's meeting.

Moving to the Legislation on tonight's Agenda, Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2021-138** authorizing the contract for the Northeast Quadrant Sewer Repairs Phase 3 Project was on Second Reading at tonight's meeting and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Trojanski said he did not have any questions on the legislation but asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor.

There being no other questions on this Resolution, Mr. Jackson said Council will be voting on it at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said that both **Ordinance No. 2021-144** providing for amendment of the fiscal year 2021 annual appropriations and **Ordinance No. 2021-145** authorizing the appropriations for 2022 would be on Second Reading at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2021-147** authorized the Fire Department to make application to FEMA for a FY 2021 AFG grant for operations and safety equipment and asked Captain Sypen to discuss this legislation.

Captain Sypen said this legislation would authorize the Fire Department to apply for and if awarded, to accept a FEMA AFG grant. He said the Fire Department had been successful in the past with being awarded this type of grant for other much-needed equipment such as heart monitors, turn-out gear, etc. Captain Sypen said the amount of this grant application would be

\$50,000.00 for the purchase of one (1) washer and two (2) dryers for turn-out gear. He said the City's match for this grant would be 10% of the grant award.

Captain Sypen said the washer and dryers were specialized, industrial units that extracted carcinogens from the turn-out gear without damaging the gear. He said the Fire Department had one (1) washer at Fire Station #1 but no dryer and that Fire Station #2 did not have either of this equipment. Captain Sypen said the cost of the washer and dryers included installation and an upgrade to the electrical and plumbing systems.

Captain Sypen requested that this Ordinance be passed on emergency at tonight's meeting since the grant application deadline was December 17, 2021 and the legislation from Council was part of this application.

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Tillman if the Fire Department budget had the matching funds available.

In response, Captain Sypen said the grant process will be started in 2021 but completed in 2022 so the matching funds would be needed at that time.

Ms. Tillman said the matching funds for this grant were not included in the 2022 budget but will be included in the amended appropriations for 2022, since the dollar amount of the grant award was not known at this time.

Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote in this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2021-148** authorized the contract with Senior Transportation Connection (STC) to conduct the call center and scheduling operations of the City's senior transit operations and asked Mrs. Vopat to discuss this Resolution.

Mrs. Vopat said this legislation was a renewal of the contract with STC to handle all of the City's day-to-day call center operations to schedule transportation for senior center clients. She said all rides were scheduled through STC and that the company handled all calls for rides and cancellations. Mrs. Vopat said it also prepared the daily manifests for the City's drivers.

Mrs. Vopat said this contract will be for two (2) years at a cost of \$800.00 per month for 2022 and \$825.00 per month for 2023 which represented a 3% increase. She said the cost of the contract was less than what would be needed to pay even a part-time person to do this work. Mrs. Vopat said the scheduling software used by STC was the same as that used by the GCRTA paratransit system.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There being no questions, he asked Council to vote on this Resolution at tonight's meeting.

Moving to **Ordinance No. 2021-149** authorizing the Maple Heights Land Reutilization Program to accept title to one (1) vacant parcel, Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Grogan-Myers to discuss this Ordinance.

Mr. Grogan-Myers said this legislation would authorize the City to accept title to a vacant parcel of land located on Maple Heights Boulevard that was currently owned by the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (CCLRC). He said the City had no plans for the land at this time but would hold it in the City's Land Bank.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on this Ordinance.

Mr. Trojanski asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation and also asked Mr. Grogan-Myers how soon would the title transfer occur.

In response, Mr. Grogan-Myers said that typically it took about thirty (30) days after the legislation was signed for title to transfer under these transactions.

Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Grogan-Myers to also discuss **Resolution No. 2021-150**, determining that the property located at 16720 Gerard Avenue was not needed for municipal purposes

Mr. Grogan-Myers said this legislation involved property that was being purchased under the City's Side Yard Program and that it was the standard legislation required to be passed by Council to permit the lot purchase to go forward.

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Madden if she supported this application to which Ms. Madden responded in the affirmative. Ms. Madden said she had talked with the resident and was in support of the Side Yard Program application for this property.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions. There being no questions, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2021-151** concerned the pay schedule and health insurance plan for non-bargaining unit City employees and asked Mr. Consolo to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mr. Consolo said this Ordinance would do a couple of things, including amending the authorized pay schedule for all non-bargaining unit City employees to include the authorized 2% pay raises for 2022 and 2023. He said it also set forth the health care information to match what was in the collective bargaining agreements. Mr. Consolo said a couple of job positions were also added to the pay schedule.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was a timeframe for this legislation.

Mr. Consolo said it was requested that Council pass this legislation on emergency at tonight's meeting so Ms. Tillman would be able to complete the budget and submit the information to the insurance company since open enrollment had begun.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There being no questions, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2021-152** was added by addendum for tonight's meeting and authorized acceptance of the OneOhio Subdivision Opioid Settlement. He asked Mr. Consolo to discuss this legislation also.

Mr. Consolo said the information regarding this settlement was received from the State at the last minute but it was similar to the previous opioid settlement agreement approved earlier this summer. He said the information he had received and forwarded to Council regarding this Ordinance included the amount to be received by the City. Mr. Consolo said the deadline to submit the Participation Form was December 8, 2021 so he requested that this legislation be passed on emergency at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Consolo said the goal was to have 95% of the communities in Ohio participate in the settlement so Johnson & Johnson would move forward with it. He said this was not the end of the opioid litigation however, since Lake, Geauga and Portage Counties have sued the pharmacies also.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There being no questions, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Returning to the Appeal of Planning and Zoning **Case No. 2021-PZ-49**, Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions from Council regarding the fence issue presented by this Appeal.

Ms. Madden asked Mr. Ostenson if he had talked with the Applicant regarding the Appeal and if he approved of the fence.

In response, Mr. Ostenson said he had met with the Church representative and walked the property. He said the Church had made a lot of improvements on their property and that after talking with the Pastor he saw how it would benefit them. Mr. Ostenson said that he would agree to move forward with the Appeal and supported the 2' variance regarding the fence height.

Councilwoman Agee asked Mr. Ostenson if he had talked with City Engineer Ed Hren, to which Mr. Ostenson responded in the affirmative. He said Mr. Hren wanted setbacks in the plan which would not be a problem. He said the concern regarding the retractable fence/gate had also been addressed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions. There being no further questions it was the consensus of Council that they were prepared to vote on the Planning and Zoning Appeal at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Consolo if Council would need a Motion to amend the Agenda for tonight's meeting to include the vote on the Appeal to which Mr. Consolo responded in the affirmative. Mr. Consolo said Council would also need a Motion to overturn the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission in **Case No. 2021-PZ-49** since no legislation had been prepared regarding this matter.

Moving to the List of Expenditures, Mr. Jackson said there were no expenditures for review at tonight's meeting.

There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

### **REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Ostenson, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Captain Dan Sypen on behalf of Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Acting Service Director Bob Dloniak, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, City Engineer Ed Hren and Finance Director Tinita Tillman were absent and excused.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson called the roll.

**ADDENDUM:** There being no objections, the Addendum was added to the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ostenson, to amend the Agenda for tonight's meeting to include the Appeal regarding Planning and Zoning **Case No. 2021-PZ-49**.

ROLL CALL on the Motion to Amend the Agenda: Mr. Shenett: Yes; Ms. Jones: Yes; Mr. Ostenson: Yes; Ms. Anderson: Yes; Ms. Madden: Yes; Mr. Trojanski: Yes; Ms. Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Mr. Jackson said the Appeal presented in **Case No 2021-PZ-49** concerned a variance regarding the height of a fence to be installed on the property of Hope Alliance Baptist Church located at 5050 Stanley Avenue. He asked Mr. Ostenson if he had any comments regarding this Appeal.

Mr. Ostenson said he had visited the property and spoke with the Pastor of the Church. Mr. Ostenson said he walked the area to be fenced-in and reviewed the drawings and that he would recommend that the variance be granted.

Mayor Blackwell thanked Mr. Ostenson for visiting the Church and said that they have been a good partner with the City.

**MOTION:** Councilman Ostenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett, to overturn the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission in **Case No. 2021-PZ-49** and grant a 2' variance to install a 5' fence at the property located at 5050 Stanley Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio.

ROLL CALL on the Motion to Overturn the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission: Mr. Shenett: Yes; Ms. Jones: Yes; Mr. Ostenson: Yes; Ms. Anderson: Yes; Ms. Madden: Yes; Mr. Trojanski: Yes; Ms. Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Ostenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of November 17, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Shenett: Yes; Ms. Jones: Yes; Mr. Ostenson: Yes; Ms. Anderson: Yes; Ms. Madden: Yes; Mr. Trojanski: Yes; Ms. Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** There were no Communications for tonight's meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** There was one (1) Council Committee Report for tonight's meeting.

***Community Life and Education Committee***

Mr. Shenett, Chairman of the Community Life and Education Committee, reported that the Committee hosted a "You Speak, We Listen" discussion for Maple Heights youth on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at Life Church Ministries, 18900 Libby Road, Maple Heights. He said Committee Members Shenett, Madden and Agee were in attendance along with a number of young residents, parents, pastors and community members. Mr. Shenett said MH School Superintendent Dr. Charles Keenan and the School Board President were also in attendance.

Mr. Shenett said three (3) issues were discussed by the youth including gun violence in our community, the problems of low self-esteem and youth suicide and the issue of bullying. Mr. Shenett said the youth also discussed the pressure on them to join gangs and that this problem was part of the environment for both boys and girls.

Mr. Shenett said the discussion with the youth ended at 7:30 p.m. and was followed by a half-hour discussion with school representatives and community members. He said the Community Life and Education Committee will continue to collaborate with these individuals to help the youth and our community to address these issues.

Mayor Blackwell said that as Safety Director she wanted to be included in these discussions and that she had received a number of questions that this meeting was a safety meeting. The Mayor said she thought this was a Community Life and Education Committee Meeting.

The Mayor said she had been working with the Public Works and Safety Committee Chair regarding certain initiatives and asked that Council collaborate and be cooperative. She said that everyone needed to work together to get measurable results and needed to be careful with the presentation of these issues.

In response, Ms. Agee said our City needed to have this discussion because our children were getting killed.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by announcing that the next Community Life and Education Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 7 to discuss the Door-to-Door Inspection Program. He said the Committee will discuss what has been learned about this inspection program and clarify residents' concerns.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** - Fire Captain Dan Sypen said that Fire Department calls for service to date were 5,326 including both fire and EMS calls which represented an increase of 2% over last year at the same time. He reported that for the month of November the Fire Department responded to 326 EMS calls of which 266 patients were transported to area hospitals for a transport rate of 82%.

Captain Sypen said the Fire Department was interviewing candidates for employment for two (2) positions opened due to resignations. He also reported that the new ambulance had been built and was close to delivery. Captain Sypen said the next step was to mount their equipment in the ambulance and outfit it with radio and communications equipment.

Captain Sypen reminded everyone to be prepared for severe weather and said that winter storms can last from hours to days, limiting access to warmth, food and water. He said everyone needed to be prepared with food in storage, water and warm clothing, especially if weather will prevent travelling for these necessities. Captain Sypen said that older adults were at increased risk from severe weather because of limited access to necessities. He asked everyone to check on their elderly neighbors.

Captain Sypen said currently the flu season was in full swing and that the MHFD would encourage everyone to get a flu shot. He said the MHFD also encouraged the initial vaccinations and booster vaccinations against the Covid 19 virus, especially as new variants of the virus were emerging. Captain Sypen said the goal was to minimize the number of people needing to be hospitalized.

Captain Sypen concluded his report by reminding everyone to please keep themselves safe.

**Law Department** – Law Director Mr. Frank Consolo thanked Fire Captain Dan Sypen for his assistance to the Law and HR Departments regarding any Covid issues the City had with its employees. He said Captain Sypen helped the City to not lose track of the Covid isolation procedures in their efforts to help employees.

Mr. Consolo also thanked Council for their support for **Ordinance No. 2021-151** that would enforce the 2% pay increases for the non-bargaining unit employees for 2022 and 2023 and also the health care insurance and for Council's support of **Ordinance No. 2021-152** regarding the third opioid settlement with Johnson & Johnson.

Mr. Consolo said that Judge Nicastro of Garfield Heights Municipal Court had reached out to Mayor Blackwell and himself for the City to be involved in a free Continuing Legal Education

(CLE) program for prosecutors regarding victims' rights. He said the first session will be held on January 28, 2022 and the second session will take place in February.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Todd Hansen reported that the Police Department has responded to approximately 1,000 calls for service since the last Council Meeting and over 26,000 plus calls for service to date. The Chief said that the number of calls for service per day for the Police Department averaged about 90 calls per day including 5-6 reports a day, 12 tickets per day and about 4-5 arrests per day. The Police Chief also reported that the Police Department took 12 guns off the streets in November and another 3 guns off the streets today.

The Police Chief said that all the Flock cameras have been installed throughout the City and that most have been connected to a power source. He said a few of the poles did not have power however, because the poles were owned by neighboring communities.

Police Chief Hansen said the Police Department was continuing to hire Officers since the Department was only at 29 Officers which was below their strength of 33 Officers on staff. He said there were three (3) Officers in training and that a new candidate would be starting on December 6, 2021. The Police Chief said with more Officers there would be more Police Department visibility in the community.

The Police Chief also announced that he would be meeting individually with Council Members for input to draft a new mission or value statement for the Police Department and to also prepare a new Police Department strategic plan for the next 3 to 5 years.

Police Chief Hansen also announced that one (1) of the new Police cars came in and will be outfitted with the required equipment and the second car was scheduled to come in next week. He said the last car will be in at the end of December.

The Police Chief said he wanted to remind everyone that with winter coming the parking snow bans will go into effect. He said the snow bans eliminated parking on all City streets to allow public service vehicles to travel on the streets and to also allow the Service Department to plow the streets.

Police Chief Hansen concluded his report by reminding everyone that tickets for the Shop With a Cop event were still available for \$1.00 each or six (6) for \$5.00. He said the money raised from the ticket sales allowed the Police Department to give \$150.00 gift cards to disadvantaged children. The Police Chief said that there had been a recent change with this event and that now MH Police Officers will be taking the children shopping on December 11<sup>th</sup>. He said the deadline for all ticket sales will be this Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Human Services Department** – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat said that her department had received information that the Metro Health Center at Southgate would be offering Covid booster and flu shot clinics during the month of December. She said appointments could be scheduled on the Metro Health website or by calling Metro Health at (216) 778-6100. Mrs. Vopat said the Moderna shots would be available on December 9<sup>th</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Pfizer shot would be available on December 16<sup>th</sup>. She said flu shots



would be available on a walk-in basis. Mrs. Vopat said it was very fortunate to have Metro Health in the City.

Mrs. Vopat reminded residents that the open enrollment period for Medicare will be ending on December 7<sup>th</sup> and that residents can contact the Senior Center for assistance in reviewing their health insurance coverage.

Mrs. Vopat announced that the 2022 AARP tax program will be starting in January. She said this will be a drop-off service and that the Senior Center will be taking appointments for Mondays in January.

Mrs. Vopat also announced that on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> there will be the Holiday Lighting at City Hall from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She said St. Nick will be visiting and there will be cookies and hot chocolate.

Mrs. Vopat concluded her report by requesting Council's support of **Resolution No. 2021-148** regarding the contract renewal for Senior Transportation Connection (STC) to continue their services for the next two (2) years. Mrs. Vopat said STC provided the call center operations for the senior transit operations to provide transportation for the City's senior citizens and disabled residents.

**Finance Department** – Mayor Blackwell, on behalf of Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman, reported that the Finance Department was reconciling the month of November and completing the finance reports. The Mayor said she had met recently with Ms. Tillman to finalize the 2022 budget and that Ms. Tillman was working with the Finance Committee to schedule a Finance Committee Meeting. Mayor Blackwell said that even though the Audit Committee had been formalized this year, this Committee will not be holding a meeting until January, 2022 after the Council Committee assignments have been made.

**Service Department** – Acting Service Director Mr. Bob Dloniak reported that the Service Department was working on the fourth pass throughout the City for the Leaf Collection Program. He said one leaf box had to be taken out of service for repairs and that there was no leaf collection on Monday due to the snow.

Mr. Dloniak said the salt crews had been out on November 27<sup>th</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup> and Service Department staff had been out using cold patch to repair some of the larger potholes in the City.

Mr. Dloniak concluded his report by stating that the Service Department was finishing and fine-tuning the Christmas lights for Saturday's lighting at City Hall.

**Economic Development Director:** Economic Development Director Mr. Patrick Grogan-Myers said the Building Department was working to close the books for November.

Mr. Grogan-Myers reported that he and Mayor Blackwell met with members of the Cuyahoga County Department of Development regarding the Hazelwood Court Senior Development Project and that he was happy to announce that the County would be funding \$450,000.00

toward the Hazelwood Court Project. He said the developers were working to finalize the construction costs of this Project but that it was currently valued at \$12.9 million dollars.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Ms. Shirley Merritt of 17000 Libby Road said she was humbled to be a resident of Maple Heights and that the City needed its residents to help do the work of community service.

Mr. George Grisin of 6272 Dunham Road said the City's Building Department was working to improve residential areas but businesses in District 1 needed to be held to the same standards.

Mr. Willie Hardwick residing at 16655 Anthony Street said the City was doing a good job but there were still problems with back yards looking like junk yards; there was a trailer in a yard for over 2 years and leaves not being picked up by the City. He said on Anthony Street there were leaves on the tree lawns that got blown into the street and then go into the sewer when it rained. Mr. Hardwick asked if the Sewer Department could clean the sewers.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the Service Department had been collecting leaves but one of the leaf boxes was broken. Regarding the sewer issue, the Mayor said she would address that in her Report.

In response to the trailer complaint, Mr. Ostenson said the trailer was in a side lot that belonged to the Church and that it was a construction trailer for some work being done on their property. Mr. Ostenson said the trailer would be on their property for some time but he would check with the Church regarding the timeframe for the completion of the construction.

Mr. Henry Anderson residing at 21104 Clare Avenue said his 14-year-old son was killed by young boys 12 and 13-years old. Mr. Anderson said he had attended the Community Life and Education Committee and he was very concerned that his three (3) children were scared to go out in Maple Heights. Mr. Anderson said talk about leaves and cars and ambulances was not important and asked about programs to help the children. He said the City needed to address the problem of youth violence.

In response, Mayor Blackwell extended her sincere condolences to Mr. Anderson on the death of his son and that she had heard about the balloon release for his son. The Mayor said Council Meetings were meetings for Council to pass legislation and conduct the City's business. She said the City needed to make sure leaves were picked up for the residents and that vehicles such as cars and ambulances needed to be purchased so Police Officers and Firefighters/Paramedics can go to calls for service.

The Mayor said violence plagued our country and our world and encouraged Mr. Anderson to talk with her privately.

Ms. Deva Walker, Branch Manager for the Maple Heights Regional Library, thanked Ms. Anderson and Mr. Trojanski for allowing her to attend their free coat giveaway.

Ms. Walker also announced that the Library would be offering ESL (English as a Second Language) classes and GED classes. She said there were also a number of activities offered by the Library for young children. She said toys can be checked out from the Library and the Kids Café offered lunches for youth ages 18 and under Mondays through Fridays. Ms. Walker said information regarding activities available at the Library for children in Grades 1 through 8 was available on the back table.

Ms. Walker said the second Tuesday of December, December 14, 202, the Food Bank would be at the Library distributing food items from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and that free books would be available at the same time.

Ms. Walker said Library staff will also be working with day cares to select books by specific topics and make them available for pick-up at the Library. She said the Library continued to offer virtual Story Time during the pandemic.

### **LEGISLATION:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-138**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT SEWER REPAIRS PHASE 3 PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules. On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any discussion on this Resolution. There being no discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-144**

#### **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ANNUAL**

**APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Ordinance was on Second Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-145**

**AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Ordinance was on Second Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-147**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FIRE CHIEF TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT, WITH MATCHING FUNDS OF 10% OF THE AWARD, A FISCAL YEAR 2021 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FOR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules. On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any discussion on this Ordinance. There being no discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Ordinance passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-148**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SENIOR TRANSPORTATION CONNECTION (STC) TO CONDUCT THE DAY-TO-DAY CALL CENTER AND SCHEDULING OPERATIONS OF THE CITY'S SENIOR TRANSIT OPERATIONS FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2022 AND 2023 IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$800.00) PER MONTH FOR YEAR ONE AND EIGHT HUNDRED**

**TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$825.00) PER MONTH FOR YEAR TWO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules. On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any discussion on this Resolution.

Mr. Shenett asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any further discussion on this Resolution. There being no further discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-149**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAPLE HEIGHTS LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM TO ACCEPT TITLE TO ONE (1) VACANT PARCEL IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS OWNED BY THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION (CCLRC), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules. On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any discussion on this Ordinance. There being no discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Ordinance passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-150**

**A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE UNIMPROVED RESIDENTIAL LOT OWNED BY THE CITY AT 16720 GERARD AVENUE, PPN 784-09-105, IS NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. Madden made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules. On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any discussion on this Resolution. There being no discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-151**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING THE AUTHORIZED PAY SCHEDULE FOR NON-BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES FOR 2022 AND 2023, AND PROVIDING A HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN WITH A HEALTHCARE SAVINGS ACCOUNT (HSA) AND ESTABLISHING CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS TO THE HSA ACCOUNTS FOR NON-BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES BEGINNING 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. Madden made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ostenson, to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules. On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any discussion on this Ordinance. There being no discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes. The motion passed by the

vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Ordinance passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-152**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE ONE OHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AND TO SIGN THE ONEOHIO SUBDIVISION PARTICIPATION FORM WITH JANSSEN/JOHNSON&JOHNSON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. Jones, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules. On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any discussion on this Ordinance. There being no discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Ordinance passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**EXPENDITURES OVER \$3,500.00:** There were no expenditures for review at tonight's meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Blackwell said she had received another e-mail regarding the excellent medical care provide by the MHFD paramedics. The Mayor said a recent emergency call involved a patient with a blocked artery that the paramedics treated with several medications to keep the patient's blood flowing during the transport to Ahuja Medical Center. Mayor Blackwell said she had been notified that the time for this call from start to the patient taken into the cath lab was 93 minutes compared to the standard time frame of 120 minutes. She said this was common for the Fire Department and that it had one of the highest ranking in the County regarding response time.

The Mayor said she was very excited about the Holiday Lighting Ceremony to be held this Saturday. She said there were more decorations this year and that although there has been a lot of sadness there was a lot of gladness also. Mayor Blackwell said there will be Holiday carols, Santa and the City safety forces will also be participating.

Mayor Blackwell said the City was still facing challenges with Covid and City employees. She asked everyone to keep themselves and their families safe, especially with another variant identified. She said Metro Health came back to Maple Heights to offer booster shots and flu shots. The Mayor said this information was available on the City's social media.

The Mayor said Covid has caused a lot of fiscal challenges for cities. She said communities were fighting a current House Bill that would change the location of paying income taxes for employees who worked from home. Mayor Blackwell said the biggest source of revenue for the City was income tax collections. She said cities were fighting this legislation but it may be passed.

Mayor Blackwell reported that NOACA which was a regional transportation organization in Cuyahoga County supported an increase in the gas tax to help cities repair local roads. The Mayor said Maple Heights needed more money from the gas tax revenue to repair the City streets since the Build Back Better legislation will not repair city streets.

The Mayor said with the redistricting of the congressional maps one congressional seat will be lost and the City of Maple Heights will have a new State Representative and a New State Senator. Mayor Blackwell said she did not know how this will affect these issues.

Mayor Blackwell announced that she had received the 2020 Annual Report from the Cuyahoga County Division of Public Works that described the work performed in the City last year. She said the report indicated that sewer cleaning was performed on 135 sewers, both sanitary and storm, for a total of 31,626 footage. The Mayor reported that 68 inspections of sanitary sewer lines for a total of 14,876 footage was done in the City. She said these inspections used the closed-circuit camera system. Mayor Blackwell said the County also performed dye testing, cleaned 25 catch basins and provided water treatment for our residents. She said over \$1 million dollars was spent in 2020 and that sewer dollars collected from our sewer bills were spent within the City system. The Mayor said grant dollars were used for some of these projects.

The Mayor concluded her report by reminding residents that it was very important to keep grass clippings and leaves out of the City sewers.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** thanked all of the volunteers who helped the Community Life and Education Committee distribute the turkeys, hams and produce on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Agee announced that the next Fresh Fruits and Vegetables distribution will be on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at 5345 Warrensville Center Road.

**Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1** said he also wanted to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the turkeys, hams and produce giveaway. He said that over 100 families benefitted from this event.



Mr. Shenett said he was looking forward to the next Community Life and Education event which will be the Youth Christmas Event on December 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Southgate. He said this will be a drive thru event as it was last year and that Santa will be visiting. Mr. Shenett said the registration deadline for children ag 13 and younger will be 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Shenett thanked City Engineer Ed Hren for his work keeping track of the well-capping project on Turney Road and his updates to the City officials.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by announcing that annual Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Martin of Tours Church on Turney Road and that the District 1 December Newsletter was out and was available at Huntington Bank, China Wok and the One Stop Gas Station.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** said that CHN Housing Partners will be making CARES Act money available to assist homeowners behind in property taxes with fresh start grants up to \$10,000.00. Ms. Jones said the link to the online application was on the City's website. She said \$1 million dollars was available for this program but the money was going fast with only about \$500,000.00 left. Ms. Jones said this program was not limited to low-income participants.

Ms. Jones announced that that there would be a short Housing/Economic Development Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Christian Ostenson, District 3** thanked the Community Life and Education Committee for inviting him to participate in the Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. He said it was great experience to be involved in that event.

**Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4** said that the District 4 and District 6 Free Coat Giveaway was very successful. Ms. Anderson announced that on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a second Free Coat Giveaway and more including hats, gloves, boots, etc. from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Castle High School.

**Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5** said she hoped everyone had a good Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski, District 6** said **Resolution No. 2021-138** regarding the contract for sewer repairs in District 6. He said this sewer project was a significant investment in strengthening the infrastructure in District 6.

Mr. Trojanski said **Ordinance No. 2021-149** authorized the City to accept title to a vacant parcel on the corner of Gardenview Drive and Maple Heights Boulevard which will be critical to move forward with economic development that will help District 6.

Mr. Trojanski said the Coat Giveaway was very successful and that there was a tremendous need for coats, etc. He asked anyone who was interested in donating coats to contact either himself or his colleague Ms. Anderson.

Mr. Trojanski said the District 6 Winter Newsletter would be coming out shortly and said he wanted to remind everyone that today was World AIDS Day. He said this day commemorates the fight against HIV, support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died from HIV diseases.

Mr. Trojanski concluded his report by announcing that there would be a Public Works and Safety Committee on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 7.

**Council President Ron Jackson** said there was consideration of suspending the gas tax at the federal level which would take away money for road repairs.

Mr. Jackson reminded everyone to purchase their Shop With a Cop tickets from Chief Hansen and to pick up a copy of the flyer for the City Hall Lighting Ceremony this Saturday.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Passed: January 19, 2022

ATTEST:

/S/ Leonette Cicirella Johnson Clerk of Council