

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

**Maple Height Senior Center**

**December 15, 2021**

**MEETING CAUCUS**

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Jones, Ostenson, Anderson, Madden, and Trojanski. Councilwoman Agee arrived at 6:33 p.m. Councilman Shenett arrived at 6:35 p.m. Also present were Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Ex. Lt. Brian Kevern on behalf of 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 and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions on **Ordinance No. 2021-144** regarding the amended appropriations for 2021. There were no questions.

Mr. Consolo said Ms. Tillman was preparing hard copies of the changes to the appropriations and would be at the meeting shortly.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions regarding **Ordinance No. 2021-145** authorizing the budget for 2022. There were no questions or comments.

There being no questions, Mr. Jackson said that both of these ordinances would be on Third Reading at tonight's meeting so Council would be voting on them tonight.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2021-153** declaring 5504 Grasmere Avenue to be a structural/maintenance nuisance property, Mr. Jackson asked Councilwoman Madden if she concurred that this was a nuisance property, to which Ms. Madden responded in the affirmative. Ms. Madden said this property needed nuisance abatement.

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

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2021-154** authorized the City to make application to the 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and **Resolution No. 2021-155** authorized the City to make application to the 2022 Community Development Supplemental Grant Program (CDSG) and asked if there were any questions on either of these Resolutions.

Councilwoman Jones said she wanted to verify with Ms. Tillman whether the City had sufficient matching funds for the 50-50 match.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Grogan-Myers to discuss these Resolutions.

In response, Mr. Grogan-Myers said that a couple of months ago a public hearing was held to receive feedback from the public regarding community needs that would be the best use of the CBDG and CDSG program funds. He said that after reviewing the public comments it was determined that continued improvements to Stafford Park to include a fitness trail that was handicap accessible and the removal of Safety Town would be the best use of CBDG funds in the grant application authorized by **Resolution No. 2021-154**. Mr. Grogan-Myers said this project would not have any projected impact on the City budget and that no matching funds were required.

Mr. Grogan-Myers said the grant application for CDSG program funds authorized in **Resolution No. 2021-155** also had no matching grant requirement but an analysis of the proposed Exterior Maintenance Grant Program to address the home repair, maintenance and tree issues of the residents may need additional City funds to supplement this program. Mr. Grogan-Myers said the suggested budget for 2022 included \$50,000.00 develop a grant to residents from the City similar to the Paint the City Program.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was a deadline for the City to apply for these grants to which Mr. Grogan-Myers responded in the affirmative.

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

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2021-156** authorized the professional services contract of City Engineer Ed Hren, Assistant Engineer James Shea and Chagrin Valley Engineering Ltd. He asked if there were any questions from Council. There being no questions, he asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Moving to **Ordinance No. 2021-157** adopting the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to re-zone PPN 781-19-033 from Residential Single Family-Medium Density (RSF-M) Zoning District to Residential Multi-Family (RMF) Zoning District for the Hazelwood Court Project, Mr. Jackson asked if there were questions or comments.

Councilwoman Madden asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

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 asked if there were any questions regarding **Ordinance No. 2021-158** authorizing the 100% escrow waiver requirement from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Councilwoman Agee asked Mr. Grogan-Myers how many residents used this program over the current year.

In response, Mr. Grogan-Myers said there had been seventy (70) 100% escrow waiver applications in 2021 through the end of November.

Councilman Trojanski asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions.

Ms. Jones asked to also be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

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

Mr. Jackson said there were two (2) Motions on tonight's Agenda that Council would be voting on and asked Councilman Shenett if he would be making both of them to which Mr. Shenett responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Jackson said the following items of legislation would be added to the Agenda for tonight's meeting by Addendum if there were no objections;

**Ordinance No. 2021-159** authorizing an advance from the General Fund to the EMS Grant Fund (Fund #256);

**Ordinance No. 2021-160** authorizing an advance from the General Fund to the SAFER Grant Fund (Fund #295); and

**Ordinance No. 2021-161** authorizing an advance from the General Fund to the COPS Grant Fund (Fund #250)

**Ordinance No. 202-162** authorizing the Finance director to change the internal audit classification of certain expenditures out of the General Fund to the COPS Grant Fund from Advances to Transfers.

Mr. Jackson asked s. Tillman to discuss each of these items of legislation.

Regarding **Ordinance No. 2021-159**, Ms. Tillman said that normally the EMS Grant Fund did not have a fund balance and was only used when grants funds were to be reimbursed or there were matching funds. She said the amount included in the legislation (\$2,631.74) will be reimbursed to the City so this amount will need to be added to the General Fund.

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.

Ms. Tillman said **Ordinance No. 2021-160** concerned the SAFER grant Fund and that there will be a local match completed in February 2022 in the amount of \$25,000.00. She said the City will need to advance this match amount that will be reimbursed under the Grant which is what this ordinance would authorize her to do.

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

Ms. Tillman said **Ordinance No. 2021-161** regarding the COPS Grant was similar to the SAFER Grant except the COPS grant did not have a local match requirement. She said some of the Police Officer expenses such as uniform allowances, education allowances, etc. however were not covered by the grant. Ms. Tillman said some of these line items were not paid by the COPS

grant so the City would need to cover those expenses. Ms. Tillman said the amount of these advances would be reimbursed up to \$270,00.00 as described in this legislation.

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

Regarding **Ordinance No. 202-162**, Ms. Tillman said this legislation was a component of **Ordinance No. 2021-161** and the City was being pro-active by requesting this legislation. She said the COPS grant was a 100% reimbursable grant so all expenses covered under this Grant were classified as advances. Ms. Tillman said since not all expenses were covered by the grant and therefore reimbursable, the classification of those expenses needed to be changes from advances to transfers which is done under in this legislation.

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

Moving to the List of Expenditures, Mr. Jackson said asked if there were any questions. There were no questions from Council on the List of Expenditures.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Mr. Shenett said there would be a Community Life and Education Report at tonight's meeting.

There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 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 Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Acting Service Director Bob Dlaniak, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell arrived at 7:11 p.m. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, Sr. 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.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the Special Meeting of Council Minutes of November 10, 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, on behalf of Council Committee Members Councilwoman Madden and Councilwoman Agee, announced that the Committee's Annual Youth Christmas Event will be held Tuesday, December 21, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Southgate USA. He said this will be a drive-through event again this year with Santa and his elves. Mr. Shenett said the deadline to register children ages 13 and under was 6:00 p.m. Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Shenett said another project of the Community Life and Education Committee has been the Committee's Annual Employee Recognition Award. Mr. Shenett said staff members who made a difference in the City were nominated each year for this award but due to the pandemic there was no award made in 2020. He said this year the Community Life and Education would be awarding the Certificate of Employee Recognition for both 2020 and 2021. He said the Committee was happy to recognize Finance Director Tinita Tillman for 2020.

Ms. Tillman thanked the Committee for this honor and thanked everyone for their work with her to keep the City fiscally sound.

Mr. Shenett said the Committee was proud to honor Law Director Frank Consolo as the 2021 recipient of this award. Mr. Shenett said Mr. Consolo has served the City as Law Director and Prosecutor and has assisted Council and the City in its efforts to diversity staff, etc.

Mr. Consolo also thanked the Committee for this recognition and said it has been a pleasure to work with the Administration and Council on behalf of the residents of Maple Heights.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** - Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas said that Fire Department calls for service to date were 5,592 and that the Fire Department responded to the following structure fires:

November 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:55 a.m. to 16309 Mendota Avenue for a fully involved garage fire, no injuries reported;

November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:58 p.m. to 380 Broadway Avenue in Bedford for a house fire, no injuries reported;

November 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:51 a.m. to 18417 Libby Road for a house fire, no injuries reported;

December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:03 p.m. at 5406 Northfield Road for a commercial fire, no injuries reported;

December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:12 p.m. to 13995 Summit Avenue for a house fire, one(1) minor injury;

December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:17 p.m. to 330 Freda in Bedford for a fire in a condo, no injuries reported.

The Fire Chief reported that the Fire Department should be receiving their new rescue squad next week and that this will become Rescue Squad #2 stationed on Dunham Road.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas announced that on December 18<sup>th</sup> the Fire Department will be teaming up with other local departments to do live fire training in Valley View on an acquired building located off of Rockside Road.

The Fire Chief reminded everyone that if their power should go out do not leave candles unattended and for those who rent to make sure they buy renter's insurance. He said it was also important for residents to make sure that any contractors who will be working on their homes were registered with the City and were licensed, bonded and insured.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas conclude his report by stating that since this was our last regular Council Meeting of the year he wanted to thank the Administration and also all the members of Council for their continued support of the Fire Department in these difficult times. The Chief said he hoped that we can continue to work towards improving the City, provide our citizens with the best community we can, and during this holiday season take a moment to appreciate our employees throughout all departments who continue to work every day with limited resources to the best of their ability, to protect and be proud of the community we serve.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said that on behalf of all the members of the Fire Department he wanted to wish everyone and their families a safe and Happy Holiday season.

**Law Department** – Law Director Mr. Frank Consolo thanked the Community Life and Education Committee for their recognition award.

Mr. Consolo announced that change in employ health insurance coverage with Medical Mutual through the Summit County Consortium was progressing and that the open enrollment period for employees will be closing next week.

Mr. Consolo said that a new Judge has been appointed to the Garfield Heights Municipal Court with the retirement of Judge Weiler. Mr. Consolo said he was happy to announce that the new Judge will be Serio DiGeranimo who he had gone to law school with at Case Western Reserve University. Mr. Consolo said Judge DiGeranimo had previous to his appointment served as Law Director for the City of Brecksville. He said Assistant Prosecutor John Thomas will be working on this docket.

Mr. Consolo said that Judge Wanda Jones will be returning to the Common Pleas Bench and will start on Monday.

Mr. Consolo wished Mr. Ostenson good luck and said it had been a pleasure working with him on Council.

Mr. Consolo concluded his report by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**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 approximately 27,500 calls for service to date which was a little lower than last year since the Police department eliminated alarm calls. The Chief said that the number of calls for service per day during December for the Police Department averaged about 80 calls per day including 5-6 reports a day, 11 tickets per day and about 2 arrests per day. The Police Chief also reported that the Police Department took 4 guns off the streets so far in December.

The Police Chief said in the area of personnel the Police Department had a new officer in the field training program but the Police Department still had new officer and lateral positions open. The Chief said the Police Department was also short-staffed for Correction Officers.

Police Chief Hansen said members of the Police Department participated in the Shop With a Cop Event on December 11<sup>th</sup> and thanked the Senior Center for the use of their facilities for the pizza party. The Chief thanked Council and the Administration for their support which enabled the Police Officers to take 18 children Christmas shopping.

Police Chief Hansen said Officers also participated in Operation Santa's Sleigh that helped University Hospitals Officers distribute gifts at UH Hospitals.

The Chief thanked everyone who helped out with the Police Department Employee Appreciation party held recently at the Bedford FOE.

Police Chief Hansen concluded his report by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Human Services Department** – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat said it was a pleasure to participate in the Shop With a Cop Event and thanked Teresa's Pizza for providing the individual pizzas for the children and thanked Council President Jackson who provided the dessert.

Mrs. Vopat announced that with Covid numbers spiking the Metro Health Clinic on Northfield Road will be offering Covid 19 vaccinations and booster shots. She said appointments for the shots could be scheduled by calling Metro health at 216-778-600.

Mrs. Vopat reminded residents that the AARP Tax Service will be starting again in January at the Senior Center. She said the Senior Center will be starting to take appointments for residents to drop off their paperwork.

Mrs. Vopat said the last Mobile Farmers' Market for this year will be held tomorrow, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church.

Mrs. Vopat concluded her report by wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas and Joyous new Year on behalf of the staff of the Department of Human Services.

**Finance Department** – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman said at the last Council Finance Committee Meeting the Finance Department was able to finalize the 2021 final amended appropriations and the 2022 budget. She said the Finance Department will be working on the GAAP conversion reports.

Ms. Tillman concluded her report by thanking Mr. Ostenson for his work on the Finance Committee and his handling of the Finance Committee Meetings. Ms. Tillman wished Mr. Ostenson well on his future endeavors and wished everyone a Merry Christmas on behalf of the Finance Department.

**Service Department** – Mayor Blackwell reported on behalf of Acting Service Director Mr. Bob Dloniak that the Service Department had been clearing trees after the last storm and will be continuing the leaf collection program. The Mayor said this will be the fourth and final round of the leaf collection program for this year. She reported that the leaf program has been completed for parts of the City north and south of Libby Road. Mayor Blackwell said Service Department staff were still collecting leaves on the west side of the City. The Mayor said the goal was to collect all the leaves that have been raked to the curbs by Christmas so the trucks can be changed out for snow removal.

**Economic Development Director:** Economic Development Director Mr. Patrick Grogan-Myers reported that the Building Department closed the books on November 2021 with 146 permits issued and \$49,500.00 in permit and registration fees collected. He reported that almost \$1.5 million dollars in commercial and residential investment was made in the month of November. Mr. Grogan-Myers said 2021 continued to be an impressive year for investment and reinvestment in the City's housing and commercial stock.

Mr. Grogan-Myers concluded his report by thanking Mr. Ostenson for his work on Council and said it had been a pleasure working with him. He wished Mr. Ostenson well and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Mr. Ozell Dobbins residing at 19608 Longview Avenue said he wanted to compliment Police Chief Hansen on how the MH Police Officers handled a recent call for service on his street. Mr. Dobbins said Officer Crawford did an outstanding job of talking this individual down. He said this person was going through some issues but the Police helped him and prevented any further problems.

Mr. Dobbins told everyone to have a nice Christmas.



**LEGISLATION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-144**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021, 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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. 2021-145**

**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.**

Mr. Trojanski 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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. 2021-153**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING 5504 GRASMERE AVENUE, MAPLE HEIGHTS TO BE A STRUCTURAL/MAINTENANCE NUISANCE PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING ABATEMENT OF THE NUISANCE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 680 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. Madden made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-154**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEER TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG) FOR 2021, AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF CONTRACTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELEVANT THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Ostenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-155**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING MANAGER TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM (CDSG) FOR 2022, AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF CONTRACTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELEVANT THERETO, 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.

Ms. Jones said this Resolution authorizing the application to the County for CDSG funding would allow the City to create an exterior grant program to help residents maintain their homes.

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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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. 2021-156**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH ENGINEER EDWARD J. HREN, P.E., ASSISTANT ENGINEER JAMES T. SHEA, P.E., AND THEIR ENGINEERING FIRM, CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING, LTD., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Ostenson 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes.; Agee: 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. 2021-157**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION THAT PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 781-19-033 BE RE-ZONED FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY-MEDIUM DENSITY (RSF-M) ZONING DISTRICT TO RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY (RMF) ZONING DISTRICT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING COMMUNITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. Madden 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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. 2021-158**

**AN ORDINANCE WAIVING FOR THE TIME PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022 THE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) ESCROW REQUIREMENT TO CORRECT VIOLATIONS RESULTING FROM POINT OF SALE INSPECTIONS PER CHAPTER 1494 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS TO OFFER AN INCENTIVE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL**

**PROPERTIES AND OCCUPY SUCH RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to one (1) nay. The Ordinance passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-159**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ADVANCE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO-THOUSAND SIX-HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-FOUR CENTS (\$2,631.74) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE EMS GRANT FUND (#256), 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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. 2021-160**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ADVANCE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO**

**CENTS (\$25,000.00) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE SAFER GRANT FUND (#295), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Shenett 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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. 2021-161**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ADVANCE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO-HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$270,000.00) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COPS GRANT FUND (#250), 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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. 2021-162**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO CHANGE THE INTERNAL AUDIT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2021 EXPENDITURES OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COPS GRANT FUND**

**FROM ADVANCES TO TRANSFERS, THEREBY CHANGING THE AMOUNT TO BE REIMBURSED TO THE GENERAL FUND, 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: 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.

**MOTION: A Motion to observe the New Year's Day 2022 Holiday on Monday, January 3, 2022 Instead of Friday, December 31, 2021 for Non-Bargaining Unit City Employees so that the Employee Holidays Remain Consistent in 2021 and 2022.**

So moved by Mr. Shenett and seconded by Ms. Jones.

ROLL CALL on the Motion to observe the New Year's Day 2022 Holiday on Monday, January 3, 2022 : Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays.

**MOTION: A Motion to waive the requirements of Charter Article VII, Section 3 to Hold the Official Swearing in of the Newly Elected Members of Council on January 5, 2022 from the Maple Heights Senior Center, the Usual Place of Holding Council Meetings, to Maple Heights High School.**

So moved by Mr. Shenett and seconded by Ms. Jones.

ROLL CALL on the Motion to waive the requirements of Charter Article VII, Section 3: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays.

**EXPENDITURES OVER \$3,500.00: 2021-052 through 2021-053**

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the **List of Expenditures over \$3,500.00: 2021-052 through 2021-053.**

Mr. Shenett asked Ms. Tillman for clarification regarding the negative balance in Item #052.

In response, Ms. Tillman said that it has discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting that this line item had not been appropriated but the funds in that account needed to be remitted to the Ohio Board of Building Standards (OBBS). Ms. Tillman said with the passage of the amended appropriations to increase this line item, the Finance Department can now accommodate this item on the list of expenditures.

There being no further questions or discussion on the List of Expenditures over \$3,500.00, Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ostenson, to approve the **List of Expenditures over \$3,500.00.**

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Blackwell said she was a Board member of the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) and that there have been discussions about H.B. 197 that was recently passed by the Ohio General Assembly that changed the situs of income tax payments to cities in 2021. The Mayor said income tax was the largest source of revenue for cities and that it was under attack from this legislation. Mayor Blackwell said H.B 197 changed the city receiving employee income tax from employees working at home to their city of residence. The Mayor said a couple of proposals had been discussed including proration of income taxes such as a hybrid system for employers to remit taxes based upon the number of days employees work from home or a tax refund request program. Mayor Blackwell said the City needed to be creative and strategic so the City did not go into fiscal emergency again. The Mayor said the City also will be having levies coming up for renewal in 2022.

Regarding the issue of youth violence, Mayor Blackwell said the City was working on initiatives to address this problem and make the City a safer place for families and to preserve residents' quality of life. Mayor Blackwell said the Ohio Legislative Service Commission had a presentation regarding two (2) state propositions that created a \$250-million-dollar fund regarding Community Violence First Responders. The Mayor said Police Chief Hanson was working on a SWAT analysis that could be used to access this funding that would be holistic, impactful and strategic. Mayor Blackwell said fund access required programing, parent participation and parent accountability. The Mayor said the City Administration will assist with the programing aspect of this initiative and would need to discuss at what point the schools would be engaged.

Mayor Blackwell announced that the Dunham Road Westside Police Substation at Turney-Dunham Plaza will be opened mid to late January 2022. She said this will give the Police Department a presence on the westside of the City and will allow Officers to have a place to do paperwork, etc. The Mayor said an open house for the substation will be planned.

Mayor Blackwell wished Mr. Ostenson the best in whatever he did in the future. The Mayor said she first met Mr. Ostenson as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and then he came to Council. She said Mr. Ostenson was straightforward and talked with all the Directors for his residents. Mayor Blackwell thanked his for service on Council.



The Mayor concluded her report by wishing everyone a Blessed Holiday Season and thanking Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas and Mrs. Vopat for their work to keep the City safe during the pandemic.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1** said he was excited about the westside Police substation that would be opening sometime in January 2022. Mr. Shenett said he was also excited about the new homes on Dunham Road being built by Amato Homes that he recently toured. Mr. Shenett said the Community Reinvestment Act legislation that provided for tax abatements throughout the City was one of the reasons that Mr. Amato was able to build in Maple Heights. He thanked Council for supporting this legislation.

Mr. Shenett said he had worked with Mr. Ostenson on both the Planning and Zoning Commission and Council and that he was always someone who was straight and to the point. Mr. Shenett said he concurred with the Mayor that their paths with Mr. Ostenson would cross again and that he looked forward to continuing to work with him.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2**, addressing Mr. Ostenson, said it had been a pleasure to work with him on the Housing/Economic Development Committee and extended her Best Wishes to him in his future endeavors.

To the residents of District 2, Ms. Jones wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Ms. Jones concluded her report by wishing everyone a blessed and safe new Year.

**Councilman Christian Ostenson, District 3** thanked all of the residents and his colleagues that worked with him over these past two (2) years for helping him to be successful. Mr. Ostenson thanked his colleagues for tolerating him with his rash decisiveness and his very straightforward manner.

**Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4** said the second District 4 and 6 Coat and More Giveaway held last Saturday at Castle High School was successful. She thanked Principal Gary Robinson for his participation.

Ms. Anderson wished Mr. Ostenson well.

Ms. Anderson concluded her report by wishing everyone Merry Christmas and reminding everyone to stay safe.

**Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5** thanked Council for passing Ordinance No. to approve the re-zoning for the parcel needed for the Hazelwood Court Project.

Ms. Madden thanked Mr. Ostenson for his work on Council and said it was a pleasure to work with him on the food giveaways and other projects. Ms. Madden said that as a friend, she was

able to work well with Mr. Ostenson and appreciated all he did. Ms. Madden said God Bless You to Mr. Ostenson and wished the residents of District 5 a Merry Christmas and safe holiday.

Ms. Madden concluded her report by thanking everyone who attended tonight's meeting.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski, District 6** said the Coat Giveaway was very successful and reminded everyone that the need was great for winter coats and other items. He thanked Castle High School and Principal Gary Robinson and his colleague in District 4 for their involvement.

Mr. Trojanski told Mr. Ostenson that being an elected official was the highest achievement and said he should remain involved in the community. He wished Mr. Ostenson well on his future endeavors.

Mr. Trojanski concluded his report by wishing a Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza and Happy New Year to those who celebrate these Holidays.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** announced that the 12<sup>th</sup> Food Distribution will be held on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Southgate.

Ms. Agee called Mr. Ostenson her brother and thanked him for all that he had done for Maple Heights and will continue to do for the City.

**Council President Ron Jackson** thanked all of the directors, employees, safety forces and residents for all their work and support throughout the year. He thanked Mr. Ostenson for all his work as a member of Council. Mr. Jackson said Mr. Ostenson was a hard worker and that he much appreciated his hard work. Mr. Jackson also thanked the resident who was responsible for the flowers given to Council.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Passed: February 2, 2022

ATTEST:

/S/ Leonette Cicirella Johnson Clerk of Council