

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

Maple Heights City Hall Room 7

December 20, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with the following Council members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Ostenson, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Finance Director Tinita Tillman and Clerk of Council Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Law Director Frank Consolo was available by cell phone.

Councilman Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ostenson, to dispense with all regular agenda items except for the Legislation.

ROLL CALL on the motion to dispense with all regular agenda items: 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.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-163

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 2023, AND SETTING THE SALARY OF THE SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-151, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilwoman Anderson 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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-164

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022, PROVIDING A MONTHLY CELL PHONE EXPENSE ALLOWANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Councilwoman Jones asked about the cell phone expense allowance and said she did not remember that as part of the earlier discussion regarding this legislation.

In response, Mr. Shenett said at the Finance Committee the original amount for a cell phone allowance was \$50.00 per month but that amount was reduced to \$30.00 per month since the average cell phone bill was \$70.00 or \$80.00 per month.

Ms. Jones asked as a follow-up question whether or not a copy of the cell phone bill would need to be submitted to receive the \$30.00 allowance.

In response, Ms. Tillman said the \$30.00 per month allowance would be approved in the legislation so the procedure to be reimbursed could be discussed at a later date.

Mr. Consolo said he concurred with Ms. Tillman that since the legislation was written to include a \$30.00 per month cell phone allowance a cell phone bill would not need to be shown to the Finance Department.

Mr. Jackson asked if the Council members would receive a separate check for the cell phone allowance or would it be included in the Council paychecks.

Mr. Consolo said the method of payment would be decided by the Finance Director but he had seen allowances paid either way. Mr. Consolo said he would discuss this further with Ms. Tillman.

Mr. Jackson asked if the allowance would be taxable if it was included in the payroll check.

Mr. Consolo said the allowance amount would be taxable income whether it was paid through payroll checks or by separate checks. He said Council needed to be aware that this allowance would result in an additional \$360.00 of taxable income to be taxed at the taxpayer's rate of tax.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any further questions or discussion on this legislation.

Ms. Anderson said Council would not be getting the full \$30.00 per month then.

Mr. Jackson said if the tax rate was 10% the Council person would receive a net amount of \$27.00 per month.

Mr. Shenett said either way there was no way around having to pay tax on this benefit.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any further questions or comments on this legislation.

There being no further questions or comments, 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 seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Ordinance passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-165

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 240.05 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR EXPENDITURES OVER TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000.00), 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.

Mr. Shenett said Council had been working closely with the Finance Director and the Mayor to help make the business of the City move more smoothly. He said since the City has been getting more financially responsible he supported this legislation.

Councilwoman Madden asked Ms. Tillman how was the dollar amount change from the current \$3,500.00 expenditure amount to the proposed \$25,000.00 expenditure amount determined.

In response, Ms. Tillman said the City needed a higher spending limit for the Mayor since costs of items have been increasing. Ms. Tillman said the purpose of this legislation would allow the City to process purchase orders more quickly. She said the legislation will not keep expense information from Council and will require that any expense over \$10,000.00 be reported to Council. Ms. Tillman said the main point of the increase was that it will allow the Finance Department to continue to move on paying expenses. She said as an example was the contract

with the School District for gasoline. She said this expense would be over \$10,000.00 so the Finance Department would need to hold onto this bill until the next Council Meeting or ask for Council President approval. Ms. Tillman stressed that nothing was being approved unless it was in the budget.

Mayor Blackwell said the Finance Director researched other cities and found that the amount of expenditures permitted without Council approval ranged from \$15,000.00 to \$50,000.00, so Ms. Tillman conferred with the Law Director to determine the amount of \$25,000.00. The Mayor said Council received the monthly financial reports so they would be able to check what was being spent by the departments, etc. Mayor Blackwell said Council also approved the budget and approved changes to the budget. She said the increase in the Mayor's spending limit would reduce reliance on the Council President to sign emergency PO's which could delay the payment process. She said it would also resolve the problem of 10-day bill due dates.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any further questions or discussion on this legislation.

Ms. Madden said she was not opposed to the increase in the expenditure limit, but that she requested the additional information for the record.

There being no further 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: No; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes. 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.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Passed: January 19, 2022

ATTEST:

/S/ Leonette Cicirella Johnson Clerk of Council