

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

Maple Heights Senior Center

November 10, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council members present: Jackson, Shenett, Ostenson, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Councilwoman Jones was absent and excused. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, and Clerk of Council Leonette Cicirella Johnson.

Councilman Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Councilman Shenett, to dispense with all regular agenda items except for the Legislation and the Discussion of the Sub-Committee Funds.

ROLL CALL on the motion to dispense with all regular agenda items: Shenett: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to zero (0) nays.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-135

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR POLICE CHIEF TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH LIBERTY FORD INC. FOR THREE (3) 2022 FORD INTERCEPTOR VEHICLES, WITH UPFITTING TO BE INSTALLED BY NORTHCOAST TWO-WAY RADIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Tillman to discuss this legislation.

In response, Ms. Tillman said the same information pertained to all three (3) items of legislation on the agenda for tonight's meeting. She said that in the process of working on the 2022 budget the City contacted auto dealers regarding the purchase of these new vehicles and was informed that the City would be 174 or 175 on the list to purchase new vehicles under the State program. Ms. Tillman said the City was able to locate a vender who was awaiting delivery of five (5) vehicles that the City could select three (3) for the Police Department. She said this would require a letter of intent from the City which required approval of the legislation now before Council.

Ms. Tillman said she would defer to Police Chief Hansen regarding the details of this vehicle purchase.

Police Chief Hansen said that although the Police Department had recently purchased Tahoes the MHPD needed vehicles and that most departments have started moving toward Chevys for this use. He said that with the worldwide chip shortage though, it would not be possible to get any Chevy vehicles until 2023. He said Dodge vehicles would not be available until the end of 2022. Chief Hansen said that although Ford also had an issue in securing new vehicles, Liberty Ford had five (5) older model vehicles on order that would be available. He said that Liberty Ford was not a State vender but agreed to meet the State bid price. The Chief said these would be 2022 vehicles that were in production so the chips were available for these vehicles.

Police Chief Hansen said the purchase of the vehicles was a permitted use of the Police Levy funds and that this was a great opportunity for the City.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were questions.

Councilman Ostenson asked if the vehicles to be acquired were to replace vehicles in the fleet to which Chief Hansen responded in the affirmative. He said the MHPD had not purchased vehicles until recently and that the newest cars were two (2) years old and four (4) years old. He said the two (2) year old vehicles already had 70,000+ miles on them. The Chief said other cars in the fleet were from 2008 and 2009.

Mr. Ostenson asked if the new cars would be black in color to match the earlier purchase.

Ms. Tillman said the quote was for either black or white vehicles.

Police Chief Hansen said the Police Department would take either color.

Councilwoman Madden asked if the price included all the decals for the vehicle.

In response, Chief Hansen said the price for the upfitting did not include the decals which would be under the next budget. He said that was a relatively minor expense. The Chief said “upfitting” included the wiring for the radios and computers and the cages, etc.

Mr. Jackson asked if the computers would go from the older cars to the newer vehicles to which Chief Hansen responded in the affirmative. The Chief said the computers from the worst three (3) cars will be moved to the new cars. He said these older vehicles will be kept and put to use for the Auxiliary.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any further 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; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes ; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-136

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR FIRE CHIEF TO ACCEPT SUTPHEN CORPORATION'S PROJECT QUOTATION TO REFURBISH THE 2002 SUTPHEN PUMPER IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$178,549.00), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Jackson asked Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas to discuss this Resolution.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said his comments concurred with that of the Police Chief and said that the MHFD needed equipment. He said delivery of the ambulance that had been approved by Council earlier this year will be pushed back to December and a pick-up truck had also already been approved. The Chief said to build a fire truck would take about 2 or 2.5 years and new ambulances were out 5 to 6 years. He said at Year 4 the Fire Department would generally start looking for a replacement vehicle. The Chief said the last fire engine was purchased in 2016.

The Fire Chief said the Fire Department relied on three trucks to have one (1) at each Fire Station and (1) back-up truck. He said the 2016 truck had about 60,000 miles on it and the other trucks were 2001 and 2002 models.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said the FD tried to find a gently used truck but there were none available so they asked the company that manufactured their earlier trucks to check one of them to see if it could be refurbished. He said the company had determined that it would be a good candidate to be refurbished which will add ten (10) years to the life of the vehicle. The Chief said it would be refurbished to meet national fire equipment standards and there would be a 9 to 15 week turn-around time to retrofit the truck.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Trojanski asked if there would be repairs to the engine.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said the new trucks were incredible regarding emission compliance and that it was beneficial to get the engine repaired. He said from the safety aspect and maintenance,

the engine and the transmission were in good shape. He said the biggest problem with fire trucks was the wiring due to corrosion from salt, etc.

Mr. Ostenson asked what would be the cost of a new fire engine.

The Fire Chief said the 2016 fire engine cost \$357,000.00 but new vehicles would be \$470,000.00 to \$480,000.00 which the City just could not afford.

Mr. Ostenson said if the Fire Department will get the benefit of a newer vehicle with the refurbishment, then it was a great idea.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any further 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; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes ; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-137

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY FORD TRUCK INC. FOR A 2022 FORD F250 4X4 REGULAR CAB PICKUP TRUCK WITH SNOW PLOW PACKAGE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$50,500.00), 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.

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Tillman to discuss this legislation.

Ms. Tillman said the Service Department was in the same situation as Police Chief Hansen. She said funds for another vehicle had been included in the 2022 budget but the City could not get an estimate and was told there were no trucks available.

Ms. Tillman said a quote was received yesterday that there was a vehicle in production scheduled for delivery in mid-December. She said if Council will pass this legislation the City will be able

to sign a letter of intent to purchase and the dealership will set the truck aside for the Service Department.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any further 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; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes ; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

Moving to the next item on the Agenda, Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Agee to discuss the sub-committee funding.

In response. Ms. Agee said the Community Life and Education Committee had two (2) remaining City events for this year and two (2) recognitions for 2020 and 2021, but the Committee had not been able to secure donations this year as had been done in the past. She said for the Thanksgiving Giveaway, funding would be needed for 75 turkeys and 50 hams and toys will be needed for the Youth Christmas Event.

Mr. Jackson asked what was the amount that would be needed for these activities.

Ms. Agee said the Committee worked with Ms. Tillman and it was estimated that \$2,058 would be needed for the turkeys and hams and approximately \$1,000.00 for the gifts and food for the lunches served at the Christmas Event. Ms. Agee said Mr. Chicken was not able to donate the food for the lunches as he had done in past years. She said the costs for the Christmas Event could be adjusted to perhaps \$500.00 plus the food or \$700.00 plus the food.

Mr. Shenett said the remaining budget for the Committee was \$800.00.

Ms. Tillman said this had never happened before where the Committee did not get donations for these events. She said the seven (7) members of Council control Council's budget so she talked with Mr. Consolo and it was suggested that Council pass a motion to appoint one of its members to control its budget and to oversee it.

Ms. Tillman said she was not trying to increase Council's budget and that the current budget did have \$5,000.00 in the Continuing Education Line Item that would need to be spent by December 31, 2021. She said this money could be transferred to another Council Line Item such as the Council Committees.

Ms. Agee said she concurred with Ms. Tillman that Council needed a point person to oversee Council's budget.

Mr. Jackson said Mr. Consolo had suggested that Council pass a motion to make this this appointment.

Ms. Anderson asked if the \$5,000.00 from Continuing Education would be divided equally among all the Committees to which Ms. Tillman responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Ostenson asked Ms. Agee if she planned to attend any continuing education by the end of this year to which Ms. Agee responded in the negative.

Mr. Trojanski said he would propose that the money be divided equally among the Committees and that he would like to nominate Council President Jackson to oversee Council's budget.

Mr. Shenett suggested that Council first do the motion to divide the funds among the Committees and then appoint a point-person to oversee the budget.

Ms. Anderson asked if the point-person would have the final say over budget decisions for Council.

Ms. Tillman said the person selected would be the overseer and could make decisions for Council, but Council could put specific constraints on the powers of the overseer such as the amount of money they could work with, etc.

Ms. Anderson said she would agree to the appointment of an overseer but with stipulations so that individual was not solely responsible for Council's budget. Ms. Anderson said the overseer would need to work with Council.

Ms. Tillman said that as Finance Director she needed someone to guide her mainly to work with Council's budget.

Chief Hansen said Council would need to specify the Committees to receive a portion of the \$5,000.00 to be transferred because technically the Committee of the Whole was also a Council Committee.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any further questions or discussion before Council considered the motion to divide the \$5,000.00 among the Committees and the motion to appoint a point-person for Council's budget.

There being no further questions or discussion, Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett to divide equally the \$5,000.00 from the Continuing Education Line Item equally among the following Council Committees: Community Life and Education, Housing/Economic Development, Finance and Public Works and Safety.

ROLL CALL on the motion to divide these funds equally: Shenett: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Regarding the appointment of a point person to oversee Council's budget, Ms. Agee nominated Mr. Shenett which was seconded by Mr. Ostenson.

Mr. Trojanski nominated Council President Jackson but there was no second on the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the nominations were closed at this time.

ROLL CALL on the motion to appoint Mr. Shenett to act as the point person to oversee Council's budget with stipulations to be determined at a later Committee of the Whole Meeting: Shenett: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: No; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of Five (5) ayes to one (1) nay.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Passed: December 15, 2021

ATTEST:

/S/ Leonette Cicirella Johnson, Clerk of Council