

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

Maple Height Senior Center

September 15, 2021

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:33 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, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Tony Ciresi, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell arrived at 6:39 p.m. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson asked Councilman Ostenson if **Ordinance No. 2019-61, As Amended** regarding the tree program would be staying in the Finance Committee to which Councilman Ostenson responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Jackson said discussion on **Ordinance No. 2021-74** amending Section 452.14 of the MH Codified Ordinances concerning prohibited parking hours had been postponed to tonight's meeting and asked Mr. Ostenson if discussion on this legislation would still be postponed.

In response, Mr. Ostenson said discussion on this Ordinance need not be postponed. He said the Ordinance would be voted on tonight with the present language without amendment.

Councilwoman Anderson asked if Council could go back to **Ordinance No. 2019-61, As Amended** and asked why was this legislation still in Committee since a lot of residents need help with trees.

Mr. Ostenson said the Finance Committee was waiting for recommendations from the Mayor since this legislation her legislation. He said the legislation would remain in Committee until the recommendations had been received from Mayor Blackwell.

Councilwoman Madden asked Mr. Jackson if Council could return to **Ordinance No. 2021-74** and asked about the amendment that had been discussed regarding the hours listed in the legislation.

Mr. Ostenson said he talked with Mr. Consolo, Police Chief Hansen and Mr. Grogan-Myers and it was determined that it would be difficult to distinguish between zoning districts with regards to the hours for parking.

Mr. Consolo said it would be ok to just change the hours to what was already listed in this Ordinance.

Mr. Jackson confirmed if there would be any amendment on the floor to which Mr. Consolo responded in the negative. He said the Ordinance would stay the same as presently introduced.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions. There were no other questions.

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Tillman to discuss **Resolution No. 2021-103** regarding the acceptance of the Budget Commission's amounts and rates for the City tax levies. Ms. Tillman said this legislation was done every year and that it was due to the County Fiscal Officer by September 30, 2021. She asked Council to pass this Resolution on emergency at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions from Council. There were no questions.

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Tillman to also discuss **Ordinance No. 2021-104** approving the Amended Appropriations.

Ms. Tillman said that a Finance Committee had been held on September 2, 2021 and the amended appropriations had been discussed at that meeting. She requested that this legislation also be passed on emergency at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were questions or discussion. There were no questions. Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Tillman if there was a deadline regarding the amended appropriations to which Ms. Tillman responded in the affirmative. Ms. Tillman said the appropriations needed to be passed tonight.

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

Moving to **Ordinance No. 2021-105** authorizing the City to accept title to six (6) vacant parcels owned by the Cuyahoga County Land reutilization Corporation (CCLRC) equipment, Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Grogan-Myers to discuss this legislation.

Mr. Grogan-Myers said that the CCLRC has these six (6) vacant parcels in their inventory that had been recently cleared all liens. He said that with the liens cleared the CCLRC would now be able to transfer the parcels to the City's land bank which is what this Ordinance would approve.

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

Mr. Trojanski asked about the Hansen Road property that had been scheduled for demolition.

Mr. Grogan-Myer said this property was on the 2019 demolition list.

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

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2021-106** authorized application to the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA) for grant funding to continue the services provided by the Maple Heights Office on Aging and also to sign any required contracts and asked Mrs. Vopat to discuss this legislation.

Mrs. Vopat said this legislation would authorize the Department of Human Services to apply for a grant from the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging for funding to assist the Human Services Department provide congregate meals and transportation to seniors and disabled residents. Mrs. Vopat said the grant documents must be completed by October 1, 2021. She said approximately \$40,000.00 will be expended for meals and that all of these costs were covered under the grant. Mrs. Vopat said the legislation will also authorize the Mayor to execute any contract documents to accept this grant if awarded.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions from Council. There were no questions from Council, But Mr. Shenett, Ms. Jones, Ms. Madden and Mr. Trojanski each asked to be added as Co-Sponsors of this Resolution.

Mr. Jackson said Council would vote on this Resolution at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2021-107** would enact new Sections of the Codified Ordinances defining certain vehicle parking prohibitions as nuisances and provide procedures to abate these nuisances. He asked Councilwoman Agee if she wanted to discuss this legislation since she introduced the legislation.

Councilwoman Agee said she would defer to Mr. Consolo to explain these new Code Sections.

Mr. Consolo said that he had been contacted by Ms. Agee about the problems of cars parking on tree lawns, front lawns, sidewalks, etc. and was asked if these could be treated as nuisances under our Code.

Mr. Consolo said that after he talked with Ms. Agee, the Mayor and Police Chief Hansen about this issue he recommended that certain parking violations could be classified as nuisances and added to the nuisance abatement ordinance.

Mr. Consolo said currently parking vehicles on tree lawns, sidewalks, grassy areas of lots other than driveways or blocking driveways were prohibited under the Parking section of the Traffic Code but if added to the nuisance ordinance, the Mayor could declare this behavior to be a nuisance and take action to abate it. He said this would be another tool for the city to use in nuisance abatement.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Ostenson asked if vehicles would be cited by the police or would that be necessary only if the vehicle was being towed.

Mr. Consolo said that under this Ordinance whoever the Mayor designated could issue the notice. He said a notice would be created that could be placed on the windshield of the vehicle similar to the citation issued for tall grass, garbage containers left out, etc. Mr. Consolo said maybe this would give a quicker response. Mr. Consolo said once the vehicle was cited if there had been other violations in a past timeframe then the vehicle could be towed at the Mayor's discretion.

Ms. Anderson asked if a Councilperson saw a car parked in this way who would they call.

In response Mr. Consolo said he will work with the Mayor to make this determination and work out the specific procedures. He said that for now Council could call the Law Department. Mr. Consolo said this legislation addressed limited parking issues only, not like the problems described on Greenhurst Drive.

Ms. Jones said since most City departments worked Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. what could be done if this happened on a weekend. Ms. Jones said in her district these parking issues were only seen on the weekend.

Mr. Consolo said the Councilperson would have to wait until Monday to report it, but could call the Police Department since these violations would still be part of the Traffic Code. Mr. Consolo said Council could let the residents know that this was a violation. He said the notice or information regarding this issue could be included on the City website and Council could be given something to pass out their residents.

Ms. Jones asked if a photo would need to be submitted with a parking complaint.

Mr. Consolo said it would not be necessary since if the car would be gone the mission has been accomplished. He said the purpose of the legislation was not to punish but to get the cars off the tree lawns.

Mr. Ostenson asked if the time for cars to be cited under this legislation had been determined.

Mr. Consolo said this will be developed by the Administration since the language of the legislation permits the Mayor to “take all reasonable actions...” He said since this will be part of the nuisance abate ordinance individuals cited under it would have the right to appeal the nuisance abatement.

Mr. Shenett said since this legislation mirrored the other nuisance violations such as grass violations, etc. it would be the same principle regarding not being able to cite on weekends. He said it was part of that same situation.

Mr. Consolo said that was correct and that the important thing was to get the information out to the residents.

Mayor Blackwell said since the challenge will be the implementation of this section she asked if this Ordinance could be on First Reading to give the Administration time to develop the procedures to implement it, especially on the weekends. The Mayor said the Police Department was challenged by their call volume.

Police Chief Hansen said the legislation would give an extra set of people to give out the notice during normal business hours. He said it would give more people the right to give notice of these violations and help with enforcement. The Police Chief said off time it would still be on

the Police Department as needed and that the Police Department would still be responsible for towing vehicles.

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

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Agee if this legislation will be on First Reading or be voted on tonight.

Ms. Agee said it will be on First Reading.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2021-108** authorized a service agreement with Online Solutions LLC for the use of Citizenserve software in the Building Department and asked Mayor Blackwell to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said she would defer to Mr. Grogan-Myers.

Mr. Grogan-Myers said this legislation would authorize a service agreement for code enforcement software to be used in the Building Department at a total cost of \$26,500.00. He said the costs included a fee of \$10,000.00 for data migration and integration from the current IMPACT system to this new system. He said the cost for the second year and beyond would be \$12,000.00 per year for five (5) users. Mr. Grogan-Myers said online training was also incorporated in this agreement.

Mr. Grogan-Myers said the Citizenserve system would integrate into the County system and would streamline data, reports, etc. He said information would be transferred directly into this system from County connection. Mr. Grogan-Myers said this system would be amore “holistic” regarding issues such as nuisance abatement, invoicing, etc. He said this updated system would also allow the Building Department to accept applications online and accept payments online.

Mr. Grogan-Myers said this will be a phased-in approach and requested that this legislation be passed on emergency so the Building Department could implement it for use with the 2022 Rental Registration program and then add other Building services. He said the timeliness was for the rental registration.

Mr. Jackson asked where the \$26, 500.00 cost was proposed from the budget.

In response, Ms. Tillman said that these funds were well within the Building Department budget for this year. She said the Building Department was well under budget at approximately \$100,000.00 so that department would be ok with this purchase.

Ms. Jones asked if other suburbs who participated in this system could share data about landlords or code violations in other cities to which Mr. Grogan-Myers responded in the affirmative. He said that was correct and that the cost reflected a \$15,000.00 cost reduction since the City was part of the First Suburbs Consortium (FSC). He said FSC had bid this project out together for its member communities and that ten (10) communities were already using or transitioning to this new system. He said as all cities build out their systems they will be able to share information.

Mr. Ostenson asked if the \$10,000.00 fee for the data migration was for the entire system or just the rental registration part of it.

Mr. Grogan-Myers said the migration fee was for all the information and data but that the Building Department would start with the Rental Registration first.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions.

There were no other questions but both Ms. Jones and Mr. Ostenson asked to be added as a Co-Sponsors of this legislation.

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

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

Ms. Anderson asked Mayor Blackwell the status of the tree program under **Ordinance No. 2019-61, As Amended.**

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the Administration was not working on the tree program at this time and will revisit it when the Service Department was reorganized.

Moving to the List of Expenditures, Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions. There being no questions on the List of Expenditures, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Tony Ciresi, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

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

ADDENDUM: There was no Addendum for tonight's meeting.

MINUTES: Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of July 7, 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, Chair of the Community Life and Education Committee, along with Committee Members Ms. Madden and Ms. Agee, honored Service Director Tony Ciresi with a Proclamation in recognition of his years of service with the City as an employee of the Service Department and then Service Director since 2017. Mr. Shenett said the Committee wanted to acknowledge Mr. Ciresi and that Council was very grateful for his service to the City.

Mr. Ciresi thanked the members of the Community Life and Education Committee for the Proclamation and the recognition it signified.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department - Fire Chief Kavaliunas said that Fire Department calls for service to date were 4,113 and that the Fire Department responded to the following fires:

On September 11th at 1:51 p.m. a house fire at 14307 Kennerdown Avenue. The Chief said damage was to the second floor of the house and that the residents were assisted by the Red Cross. He said there were no injuries.

On September 11th at 4:00 p.m. a fire at 21200 Libby Road at Southgate mall. The Fire Chief said the fire originated in the overhang column and spread to the overhang where the Fire Department was able to stop it at that point. He said there were no injuries.

On September 12th at 1:55 p.m. a fire on the front porch at 5154 Miller Avenue. The Chief said the fire was contained to the porch and that there were no injuries.

The Fire Chief announced that on Wednesday, September 8th Mayor Blackwell administered the Oath of Office to two (2) new Firefighter/Paramedic Cadets, Clayton Blahovec and Daniel Green. He said these cadets will bring the Fire Department back to full strength. Fire Chief Kavaliunas said both cadets were having their 40 hour orientation this week and would go on shift Monday.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas thanked Ms. Nancy Markus and Mr. Don Adams for their very generous donation of \$1,000.00 to the Fire Department in the name of their mother, Helen Adams who had been a resident of Maple Heights since the summer of 1949 until she passed away at the age of 97 last year. He said this donation was very much appreciated and would certainly be put to good use.

In recognition of Mr. Ciresi's resignation as Service Director, Fire Chief Kavaliunas said it had been a pleasure to work with Mr. Ciresi over all these years. He said Mr. Ciresi had been a good friend and colleague and wished him well on all his endeavors in the future.

Law Department –Mr. Consolo announced that he had received the sample ballot from the Board of Elections with the Issue numbers assigned for City’s Charter Amendments. Mr. Consolo said the six (6) Charter Amendments for Maple Heights will be Issues 42 through 47 and that he will prepare summaries of the charter issues for Council to give to their residents and to post on the City website.

Mr. Consolo said the Law Department has been working with the Service Department regarding the bidding for a new solid waste and recycling contract. Mr. Consolo said the invitation for bids will be advertised in newspaper on September 22nd and September 29th with a pre-bid meeting scheduled for Friday, October 1st. He said the bid opening has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 13th.

Mr. Consolo concluded his report with a special thank-you to Mr. Ciresi for all his work on with this contract award. Mr. Consolo said it had been a pleasure to work with Mr. Ciresi and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Police Department – Police Chief Hansen reported that the Police Department has been enforcing the parking violations and recently issued thirteen (13) parking tickets and towed cars from Hazelwood Avenue and Greenhurst Drive. He said no violations were found on E. 141st Street. He said Officers checked on parking complaints, spoke to residents in the area and spoke with the resident without a driveway.

The Police Chief also reported that the Police Department has responded to just under 1,200 calls for service since the last Council Meeting and approximately 20,500 calls for service to date. The Chief said that during the month of July the number of calls for service per day for the Police Department averaged about 80 +calls per day including 5, reports, 8 tickets mostly for parking, and made 15 arrests. He reported that the Police Department took 6 guns off the streets so far in September.

Police Chief Hansen announced that NetFlix will be filming a movie in the Bedford area and will be using a portion of Northfield Road. He said Northfield Road will be closed for a few minutes during the filming.

Chief Hansen said he also wanted to thank Ms. Nancy Markus and Mr. Don Adams for their very generous donation to the Police Department and that it will be used for the Police Department Annual Appreciation Dinner.

The Police Chief announced that the Police Department will be hiring a new Police Officer and there will be a couple of promotions to Sergeant and Lieutenant but that the Police Department was still four (4) officers less than full strength.

Police Chief Hanen said the Police Department had started working with the Flock Camera company to select the locations for the cameras and said he hoped to have the date for the camera installation and implementation of the program by the next Council Meeting.

Chief Hansen said the Police Department would also be working on a towing bid since Shade's Garage in Maple Heights has closed and will be moving to Medina. He said Shade's Towing had been the City's towing company for many years and the Police Department will miss them. The Chief said that during the bid process the City will be using Kelly's Towing here in Maple Heights.

Police Chief Hansen concluded his report by thanking Mr. Ciresi for his years of service to the City and said they had done a lot of projects together. The Chief said he will miss Mr. Ciresi and that the Police Department had been well taken care of by the Mr. Ciresi's staff. He wished Mr. Ciresi well.

Human Services Department – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat announced that Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) was looking for caregivers to individuals suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia for a study on caregivers' stress. She said study participants will be compensated. Mrs. Vopat asked residents interested in participating to call the Senior Center for more information.

Mrs. Vopat said the HEAP Summer Crisis Program was coming to end due to the time of the year but households over 60 who have covid-related problems or medical conditions were still eligible for help. She asked residents who may qualify for this program to call her. Mrs. Vopat said the deadline to file will be September 30th.

Mrs. Vopat reminded residents that flu shots, pneumonia shots and the shingles vaccine will be available at the Senior Center on Monday, September 20th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. She said Walgreen's will be providing these shots free of charge for residents with insurance, except Care Source Insurance. Mr. Vopat said residents will need to call for a reservation.

Mrs. Vopat announced that the next Community Shred Day will be Saturday, October 9th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church.

Mrs. Vopat said that former District 1 Councilman Alex Adams had been a longtime friend of the Senior Center and that with his death donations were requested to be made to Maple Heights Senior Development and the Maple Heights Food Pantry. She said that to date \$1,000.00 in donations has been received. Mrs. Vopat said the Senior Center recently lost another resident and her family also donated the desserts for the Senior meals and a \$1,000.00 check in her memory. Mrs. Vopat thanked them for their generosity.

Mrs. Vopat concluded her report by telling Mr. Ciresi it had been a pleasure to work with him and that the Senior Center will miss him. Mrs. Vopat said Mr. Ciresi always did an excellent job and wished him the best of luck.

Finance Department – Finance Director Tinita Tillman said that at the recent Finance Committee Meeting the Finance Department Accountant position was discussed. She said the amended appropriations were also discussed. Ms. Tillman said the first Audit Committee Meeting was also held on September 2nd as a Meet and Greet for the members to learn what will be the work of this Committee.

Ms. Tillman said the Finance Department has reconciled the month of August, 2021 and forwarded copies of the monthly finance report to Council and the Administration on September 4th. She said the unexpended balance in the General Fund at August 30th was \$6,866,726.40 and the unexpended balance for all funds was \$16,521,496.17.

Ms. Tillman said that on behalf of the Finance Department she wanted to thank Mr. Ciresi for his service and that it had been a wonderful experience to work with him. She also wished Mr. Ciresi well in his future endeavors.

Service Department – Service Director Tony Ciresi said he wanted to acknowledge the passing of Alex Adams and said that every Christmas Mr. Adams would visit the Service Department and give gift cards to the Service Department staff.

Mr. Ciresi said the City has been behind with the trash bulk pick-ups because some landlords load the entire tree lawn. He said the rubbish trucks can only pick-up a couple of loads before the trucks get full and need to go to the dump so Waste Management has been leaving some of this work for the Service Department. Mr. Ciresi said the Service Department has been working with the Building Department regarding this problem. He said that moving forward this issue will be part of the new solid waste and recycling contract.

Mr. Ciresi said the Service Department has completed approximately 46 dig job since they started this year.

Mr. Ciresi announced that the Service Department will receive the second leaf vac and that the leaf collection program will begin on October 25th with one (1) truck. He said as the season progressed two (2) trucks will be used.

Mr. Ciresi said his contact information will tie-in with Bob Dloniak who will be the Acting Service Director.

Mr. Ciresi said he wanted to thank everyone since this will be his last Maple Heights Council Meeting. He said the last 6 to 8 months have been extremely difficult for him and that will be difficult for him to have a life without Maple Heights. Mr. Ciresi said 48 of his 52 years have been here in Maple Heights.

Mr. Ciresi thanked Mayor Blackwell for everything and for the opportunity to have served as Service Director of the City. He thanked Mr. Consolo for all his work and said Mr. Consolo was the best at what he did.

Mr. Ciresi thanked both Fire Chief Kavaliunas and Police Chief Hansen and said it was amazing how both of them face the daily challenges that they do yet remain calm. He said they carry the City and were both extraordinary human beings.

Mr. Ciresi said that what Mrs. Vopat did in the Department of Human Services and the Senior Center was incredible. He said Mrs. Vopat has helped so many people. He said may she be blessed.

Mr. Ciresi thanked Ms. Tillman for all her help and her attention to detail. Mr. Ciresi said he will remember that Ms. Tillman's favorite word was "no."

Mr. Ciresi said that Mr. Grogan-Myers had a phenomenal work ethic and that City Engineer Ed Hren has been a great ally to Mr. Ciresi. He said Mr. Hren was great to work with and very knowledgeable regarding all the City projects.

Mr. Ciresi said he also wanted to thank the Council President, Council and the Clerk of Council for their support and willingness to thank his Department. He said the staff appreciated it.

Mr. Ciresi said he wanted to thank each and everyone of his staff in the Service Department. He said they were all hard workers. Mr. Ciresi said that finally he wanted to thank Ms. Ulee, his Administrative Assistant in the Service Department. Mr. Ciresi said Ms. Ulee was the backbone of the Department and that the number of calls she would handle on a daily basis was amazing. He said Ms. Ulee was able to talk with angry residents and really calm them down.

Mr. Ciresi concluded his report by saying that he will always remember Maple Heights.

Economic Development Director: Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers reported that the Building Department had been responding to an increasing number of tree lawns packed with items from setouts. He said the Building Department was responding as quickly as possible with the Service Department to address these issues when they occur. Mr. Grogan-Myers said this was occurring throughout Cuyahoga County. He said CHN Housing Partners reported an increase in calls of approximately 50% as the eviction moratorium ended. Mr. Grogan-Myers said there were early indications that evictions were increasing and that the City will continue to support residents and tenants as much as possible through these trying times.

Regarding the Building Department, Mr. Grogan-Myers reported that it collected almost \$47,000.00 in registrations, permit and plan review fees in August, with 137 permits issued. He said the work performed under these permits was valued at just over \$1 million dollars. Mr. Grogan-Myers said that with the August figures, the Building Department has collected over \$438,000.00 and has kept pace with 2020, 2019 and 2018 figures. He said this was a positive indicator of how the City was recovering from the pandemic.

Mr. Grogan-Myers said another positive indicator was the City's property valuations from the County's Triennial Update. He said this Update indicated that residential property values in the City increased 29%, commercial valuations increased by 6% and industrial properties increased in value by 10%. Mr. Grogan-Myers said that on average the property values in the City were projected to increase by 23% which was the second highest increase in property values in Cuyahoga County, second only to Lakewood.

Mr. Grogan-Myers concluded his report by announcing that the Building Department has hired a new Code Enforcement Officer who will be starting Monday, September 27th. He said an e-mail introduction will be sent out with more details.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Ms. Daphne Coleman residing at 19607 Libby Road said the gas company was putting new gas lines on her street and had to break the concrete so she was wondering who would be coming to fix the concrete. She also asked what the City would do to fix the tree roots that were pushing up her sidewalk.

In response, Mr. Jackson said that the gas company will come back to make the repairs and replace all the sidewalks as a result of the gas line replacement work. He said with regards to the tree root problem, Mr. Jackson said the first step was usually to cut the root and then if the problem still continued the tree may need to be cut down. Mr. Jackson suggested that Ms. Coleman keep pictures that may need to be submitted to the company.

In response, Mr. Trojanski said he had talked with Ms. Coleman prior to the Council Meeting and asked her to send him the pictures.

Mr. Timothy Tatum of 5507 E. 141st Street asked what was the procedure of a Council person leaves the position prior to the end of the term. He asked how was the position filled and were any records kept of the proceeding. Mr. Tatum also asked why there was constant bickering and disparity among the Council members.

In response, Mr. Consolo said Charter Article VII, Section 2 titled "Vacancy" outlined the procedure to fill a vacant Council position. He said it required that a successor from the District must be appointed by a majority vote of councilpersons within 30 days of a vacancy having been declared otherwise the Mayor was required to appoint a successor. Mr. Consolo said these procedures were done publicly.

In response, Mr. Jackson said Council members were no different than other people and that there will be differences of opinion. He said all members of Council want what is best for the City.

Ms. Imari Capri residing at 5961 Dunham Road asked about the City website and updating it with meeting information.

In response, Mr. Grogan-Myers said that each City Department has been trained to post information to the pages.

In response, Mr. Jackson said he will check into updating the website to make meeting information available online.

Ms. Tisha Bates said she was a resident of Maple Heights and that she wanted to thank Police Chief Hansen for the manner in which the Police Officers handled a domestic situation on here street regarding a neighbor, the neighbor's boyfriend and the father of the neighbor's children. She said it involved visitation under a shared parenting agreement and the neighbor and her boyfriend were threatening to shoot the father. Ms. Bates said the children were in the vehicle. Ms. Bates also said she wanted to let the Officers know to be on alert that there was a gun in the

vehicle when the parties would be coming to the Police Department parking lot under the parenting agreement.

In response, Police Chief Hansen thanked Ms. Banks for her compliment to the Police Department, her concern for the officers and her involvement in this situation.

Mr. Richard Thompson of 5656 Jefferson Street said that Lafayette Avenue was a hot spot for cars running red lights and asked if it would be possible to have some police patrol in the area or have the State Highway Patrol back in the area.

In response, Police Chief Hansen said the Police Department did speed enforcement and was taking action whenever possible. He said the speeding problem was one of the reasons for the Charter Review Commission recommendation to remove the prohibition on speed/traffic cameras from the Charter.

Mr. William Hardwick residing at 16655 Anthony Street said there were a lot of problems in our community including dogs in the front yards, residents barbequing in the front yard, tires along properties, etc. Mr. Hardwick said he has tried to contact his Councilperson. Mr. Hardwick said there was a property on Anthony Street that had a trailer in the driveway for over a year and a house that has been empty for over five (5) years that was not being maintained and had wild animals living in it.

In response, Ms. Anderson said she had returned Mr. Hardwick's calls and that she has taken the complaints to the Housing Department and they will be following up on them.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said she will work with the Building Department and the Economic Development Director to give status reports to Council so the Council members will have the information to share with their residents.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-61, As Amended

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 660.16(C) CREATING A COST-SHARING PROGRAM WITH PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS FOR REMOVAL OF DEAD, DISEASED, OR DAMAGED TREES AND THOSE TREES WHOSE ROOTS HAVE ADVERSELY IMPACTED SIDEWALKS AND SEWERS FROM TREE LAWNS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance remained in the Finance Committee upon the recommendation of Mr. Ostenson, Chairman of this Committee.

Mayor Blackwell said work needed to continue on this program before the legislation could be passed by Council. She said legislation would not be passed to pay for entire trees. The Mayor said the City would need to make a commitment that it could fund this program. Mayor

Blackwell said the program would be a grant of perhaps up to \$500.00 per application. She said there were approximately 9,000 housing units in the City to consider.

Mayor Blackwell said City will come up with a tree program by the end of the year after the Administration can prepare an average quote for tree removal.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-74

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 452.14 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS CONCERNING PROHIBITED PARKING HOURS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Ostenson 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: Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: 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. 2021-103

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections, this Resolution would pass by unanimous consent. There being no objections, this Resolution was passed by unanimous consent.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-104

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections, this Ordinance would pass by unanimous consent.

There being no objections, this Ordinance was passed by unanimous consent.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-105

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAPLE HEIGHTS LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM TO ACCEPT TITLE TO SIX (6) VACANT PARCELS IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS OWNED BY THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION (CCLRC), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections, this Ordinance would pass by unanimous consent. There being no objections, this Ordinance was passed by unanimous consent.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-106

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING (WRAAA) FOR TITLE III-B, C1 AND C2 FUNDING UNDER THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING CERTAIN SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MAPLE HEIGHTS OFFICE ON AGING, TO SIGN ANY REQUIRED CONTRACT DOCUMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections, this Resolution would pass by unanimous consent. There being no objections, this Resolution was passed by unanimous consent.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-107

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW SECTION 680.01(a)(7) DEFINING CERTAIN VEHICLE STANDING AND PARKING PROHIBITIONS AS NUISANCES AND NEW SECTION 680.08(c) PROVIDING PROCEDURES TO ABATE SUCH STANDING AND PARKING NUISANCES AS PART OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was on First Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-108

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM AND ONE (1) YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ONLINE SOLUTIONS LLC (CITIZENSERVE) FOR FIVE (5) USERS TO ACCESS AND USE CITIZENSERVE SOFTWARE IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING SET-UP, TRAINING, IMPLEMENTATION AND DATA MIGRATION AT A TOTAL COST OF TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$26,500.00), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Ms. Jones 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: Jones: Yes; Ostenson: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: 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: 2021-043 through 2021-044

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the **List of Expenditures over \$3,500.00: 2021-043 through 2021-044**. There were no questions or discussion.

There being no questions or discussion on the List of Expenditures over \$3,500.00, Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett, 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 there were a number of issues to be addressed in the City and that the City had two (2) main sources of revenue. She said income tax revenue was the largest source of revenue and that the second source was property tax revenue. The Mayor said some residents may be upset that their property values have gone up but the increase in values will give property owners a return on their investment. Mayor Blackwell said the average home value in Maple Heights was approximately \$80,000.00. She said property owners may file a complaint with the County Board of Revision if they feel that their property was overvalued.

Mayor Blackwell said the County and not the City assessed the property values and these valuations included infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects performed in the City. The Mayor said the City will be completing water main replacement and infrastructure projects valued at approximately \$2,256,000.00.

The Mayor thanked the Fire and Police Chiefs and Mrs. Vopat for having made everyone aware of all the donations their departments have received. She said these donations represent how

people feel about the City. Mayor Blackwell said she also received a letter recently from the City of Garfield Heights commending the Maple Heights Fire Department for their mutual aid assistance.

Mayor Blackwell said the Community Meeting she held last week was well attended and that it was good to have positive things to talk about. She said that was the purpose for this meeting and that it was good to look at the City holistically. The Mayor thanked the resident during the Citizens' Comments for complimenting the Police Department.

The Mayor concluded her report with a special message to Mr. Ciresi. She told Mr. Ciresi that she was very grateful for his service to the City. Mayor Blackwell said Mr. Ciresi was sincerely and honestly dedicated to the City. The Mayor said Mr. Ciresi was always on the scene and truly loved the City. She said Mr. Ciresi helped the City with the sewer and water line replacement projects and understood what it took to get the work done for our residents.

In response, Mr. Ciresi thanked Mayor Blackwell for her kind words, thanked all of his co-workers and thanked the residents of the City who he was proud to serve.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

At this time **Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** made Motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett, to adjourn the Council Meeting. On the motion to adjourn, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Dated: October 6, 2021

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette Cicirella Johnson, Clerk of Council

