

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

Maple Heights Senior Center

February 2, 2022

MEETING CAUCUS

Let the record show that due to inclement weather, the Regular Meeting of Council of February 2, 2022 was conducted as a Special Meeting, starting with a Caucus Meeting called to order by Council President Jackson at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Acting Service Director Bob Dloniak, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said that Councilwoman Jones had the Invocation and would be leading the Pledge of Allegiance at tonight's meeting. He said that the Planning and Zoning Appeal scheduled for tonight's meeting had been continued. Mr. Jackson said that due to the inclement weather he would be asking Council to suspend the rules and dispense with all regular meeting agenda items except for the Minutes, Legislation and List of Expenditures.

At this time Mr. Jackson said Council would discuss the motion on the agenda for tonight's meeting regarding the appointment of Mr. Robert Gorentz as Service Director. Mayor Blackwell introduced Mr. Gorentz to Council. She said Mr. Gorentz was currently employed by the City of Highland Heights Service Department where he had approximately twenty (20) years of experience in that city. The Mayor said Mr. Gorentz had worked as the Assistant Service Director in Highland Heights.

Mayor Blackwell said she hoped Council would approve this appointment and that she had talked with Mr. Dloniak regarding the Applicant. The Mayor said Mr. Dloniak supported Mr. Gorentz's appointment as Service Director.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Gorentz to tell Council about his background.

Mr. Gorentz said he had twenty (20) plus years of experience in the Highland Heights Service Department where he worked for seventeen (17) years before being promoted to Assistant Service Director for that City, a position which he held for five (5) years. Mr. Gorentz said he was currently employed as Head Foreman in the Highland Heights Service Department.

Mr. Gorentz said prior to working at Highland Heights he was employed at The Illuminating Company where he did a variety of construction work, general building maintenance and snow removal.

Mr. Gorentz said he had broad experience in service and construction work and had worked to achieve a high level of customer/resident satisfaction at Highland Heights. Mr. Gorentz said Highland Heights offered the same services to their residents as Maple Heights and that he would continue to do offer a high level of resident satisfaction in Maple Heights as well. Mr. Gorentz said he was married for thirty-eight (38) years and had two (2) adult children.

Mr. Jackson asked if Council had any questions for Mr. Gorentz.

Mr. Shenett said the Applicant had an impressive number of years of experience. He asked Mr. Gorentz for clarification regarding his job positions in Highland Heights as Assistant Service Director and then Head Foreman. Mr. Shenett asked if this change had been his choice to which Mr. Gorentz responded in the negative. Mr. Gorentz said he had been the Assistant Service Director until the new Mayor of Highland Heights brought in a new Service Director and Assistant Service Director.

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

Moving to the Legislation on tonight's Agenda, Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions on **Ordinance No. 2022-11** authorizing acceptance of the NOPEC 2022 Energized Community Grant(s). There were no questions. Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation tonight.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2022-12** authorized the City to accept title to one (1) vacant parcel on Hillgrove Avenue under a conveyance agreement with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (CCLRC) and asked if there were any additional questions on this legislation.

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

Mr. Shenett asked Mr. Consolo if it would be possible for Council to pass this Resolution by unanimous consent since there were no questions or concerns from Council.

In response Mr. Consolo said it would be possible for Council to pass this legislation by unanimous consent if they all agreed. It was the consensus of Council to pass this Resolution by unanimous consent.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2022-13** authorized the sale of three (3) vacant city-owned lots for the construction and sale of single-family houses and asked if there were any additional questions regarding this Resolution.

Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections Council would pass this legislation by unanimous consent.

Mr. Consolo advised Council to vote on this Resolution instead of passing it by unanimous consent since it involved the sale of City-owned property.

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

Moving to **Resolution No. 2022-14**, Mr. Jackson said this Resolution concerned the City's 2022 Exterior Maintenance Grant Program. He said Mr. Grogan-Myers had requested that this Resolution be on First Reading at tonight's meeting and be placed in the Housing/Economic Development Committee for further discussion.

Councilwoman Jones, Chair of the Housing/Economic Development Committee, announced that a Housing/Economic Development Committee Meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 7.

There being no objections, Mr. Jackson said this Resolution would be on First Reading and placed in Committee.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any additional questions regarding **Resolution No. 2022-15** authorizing the City Engineer to begin the preparation of plans and specifications for the Southwest Sewer District Sewer Repairs Phase 2 Project.

Mr. Shenett said he did not have any questions on this legislation, but requested to be added as a Co-Sponsor.

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

There being no questions or further discussion on this legislation, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote it at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Shenett if he would make the motion on the Agenda to approve the appointment of Mr. Gorentz to which Mr. Shenett responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Shenett asked if Council could return to discussion on **Resolution No. 2022-13** and asked Mr. Consolo if the vote by unanimous consent on the previous legislation was possible because that legislation concerned a lot consolidation and **Resolution No. 2022-13** concerned another issue.

In response, Mr. Consolo said that was correct and that he advised the vote on **Resolution No. 2022-13** be on the record since that legislation involved the selling of City property to a private individual.

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

Mr. Jackson said that due to the weather the Department Reports and Mayor's Report had been suspended for tonight's meeting. He polled each Council Member regarding the suspension of Council Reports and it was the consensus of Council to also suspend this Agenda item.

Mr. Jackson said former Councilwoman Sharri Thomas was to be in attendance at tonight's Council Meeting to discuss the Peace Garden and asked if she was present.

Mayor Blackwell said Ms. Thomas had called to let her know she would not be attending tonight's Caucus Meeting due to the weather.

There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

SPECIAL 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, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Acting Service Director Bob Dloniak, Economic Development Director Patrick Grogan-Myers and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to dispense with all regular Agenda items except for the Minutes, Legislation and List of Expenditures.

ROLL CALL on the motion to dispense with all regular agenda items: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays.

MINUTES: Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of December 15, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Shenett: Yes; Ms. Jones: Yes; Mr. Tatum: Abstain; Ms. Anderson: Yes; Ms. Madden: Yes; Mr. Trojanski: Yes; Ms. Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to zero (0) nays with one (1) abstention.

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the Special Meeting of Council Minutes of January 5, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Shenett: Yes; Ms. Jones: Yes; Mr. Tatum: Yes; Ms. Anderson: Yes; Ms. Madden: Abstain; Mr. Trojanski: Yes; Ms. Agee: Abstain. The motion passed by the vote of five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays with two (2) abstentions.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-11

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2022

ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S), 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: Jones; Yes; Tatum: 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12

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

This Ordinance was passed by Unanimous Consent of Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AMATO HOMES I, LLC TO SELL THREE (3) VACANT LOTS LOCATED AT 15720 ROCKSIDE ROAD (PPN 786-03-015); V/L ROCKSIDE ROAD (PPN 783-03-046); AND 5540 SOUTH BOULEVARD (PPN 783-01-017) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND SALE OF A SINGLE FAMILY, OWNER-OCCUPIED HOME ON EACH PROPERTY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Jones 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. Shenett said some residents had been concerned that earlier new home construction projects would be too large for the lot sizes, but Mr. Grogan-Myers had done a great job explaining how these new homes will fit on the lots within these neighborhoods. He said his colleague Ms. Jones has also offered her expertise in this area.

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

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 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 it was wonderful that Mr. Amato had taken the opportunity to build new homes on Dunham Road and was pleased that Mr. Amato would be staying in Maple Heights to build four (4) more homes.

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

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Jones: Yes; Tatum: 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 Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2022 EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO AWARD FUNDING TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution was on First reading and was placed in the Housing/Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Jones announced that there would be a Housing/Economic Development Committee Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 7. She said the agenda for this Committee Meeting would be forthcoming.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-15

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO BEGIN THE PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SOUTHWEST SEWER DISTRICT SEWER REPAIRS PHASE 2 PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Jones 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.

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: Jones; Yes; Tatum: 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 Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

Mr. Jackson said this ended the legislation on the agenda for tonight's meeting, but asked for a **Motion pursuant to Charter Art. V, Sect. 4 to Approve the Mayor's Appointment of Robert J. Gorentz as Service Director and Head of the Service Department.**

This motion was So moved by Mr. Shenett, and seconded by Mr. Trojanski.

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

Mr. Jackson congratulated Mr. Gorentz on his appointment as the City's Service Director.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$25,000.00: 2022-002 through 2022-003

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the **List of Expenditures over \$25,000.00: 2022-002 through 2022-03.** There were no questions or discussion on the expenditures.

There being no questions or discussion on the List of Expenditures over \$25,000.00, Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the **List of Expenditures 2022-002 through 2022-003.**

ROLL CALL on the motion to approve the List of Expenditures: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: 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.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Passed: February 16, 2022

ATTEST:

S/S
Leonette Cicirella Johnson, Clerk of Council