

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

**Maple Height Senior Center**

**March 16, 2022**

**MEETING CAUCUS**

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:36 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, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Bob Gorentz, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Finance Director Tinita Tillman was absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said Councilman Tatum had the Invocation and would be leading the Pledge of Allegiance for tonight's meeting.

Moving to the legislation on the agenda for tonight's meeting, Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2022-21** amending and restating Chapter 236 regarding the Department of Planning and Development was tied to **Ordinance No. 2022-22** regarding amendment of the authorized pay schedule for non-bargaining unit City employees. He asked Mayor Blackwell to discuss these items of legislation.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said these changes were being requested to accommodate changes in the job description for Mr. Grogan-Myers' position. She said it was the consensus of the Mayor and law Director that more job duties were involved with this position than an Economic Development Director regarding business retention.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on **Ordinance No. 2022-21**.

Councilwoman Agee asked if there was a job description for this position.

In response, Mr. Consolo said the job description was basically in the ordinance but he would check with the City's HR Director.

Mr. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on **Ordinance No. 2022-22**.

Mayor Blackwell said in addition to adding the position of Planning and Development Director this amendment also added with Council's approval the position of Communications Coordinator to maintain all of the City's social media. The Mayor said Mr. Grogan-Myers had been doing this and Bill Brantsch had also been doing some of it.

Mr. Jackson asked if Council was prepared to vote on **Ordinance No. 2022-21** at tonight's meeting.

Mayor Blackwell said she had a candidate for the position of Planning and Development Director at tonight's meeting and introduced Mr. Kerby Freeman to Council.

Mr. Shenett asked if the language regarding the appointment of this Director had changed.

Mr. Consolo said the language of Chapter 236.02 established the Department of Planning and Development and that the Director was appointed by the Mayor with the approval of Council.

Mr. Freeman thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to attend tonight's meeting and gave Council a brief overview of his background and past employment experience.

The Mayor said she will make his resume available to Council and that he came by recommendation from a Principal at the Cleveland Growth Partnership.

Mr. Shenett said he trusted the Mayor's judgment but did not feel totally comfortable with the appointment without being able to review the candidate's resume.

Mayor Blackwell said she was not presenting Mr. Freeman as her candidate for appointment.

Councilwoman Jones said she understood the concept of renaming the title of this position since it involved planning and community development besides economic development.

Mr. Jackson said Council would have the opportunity for more in-depth questioning after the candidate's resume has been received.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions regarding **Ordinance No. 2022-21** for Council to vote on it tonight. There were no other questions.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions regarding **Ordinance No. 2022-22** for Council to vote on it tonight. There were no other questions.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2022-24** designating March as National Kidney Month, asked if there were any questions on this legislation.

Mr. Jackson said he would like tom be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. Agee asked if Council could go back to **Ordinance No. 2022-22** and asked if the position of Communications Coordinator was still being considered as a position for a college intern.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said there was no interest in this position from college students, but that there was interest from a college instructor who was currently a part-time Application Officer at CSU.

Returning to **Resolution No. 2022-24**, Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on this legislation.

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

Moving on to **Ordinance No. 2022-25**, Mr. Jackson said this legislation amended the Stafford Park pavilion fees and asked if there were any questions or comments on this legislation.

Mayor Blackwell said Council had received a spreadsheet to include a comparison of the pavilion fees charged by neighboring communities and said that Mrs. Vopat will be available to talk with Council regarding this legislation. The Mayor said this Ordinance could be on First Reading at tonight's meeting to give Council time to do its due diligence.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2022-26** will authorize the City Engineer to prepare an updated pavement condition rating report and asked Mr. Hren to discuss this legislation.

Mr. Hren said this Resolution will authorize Chagrin Valley Engineering to review all the City streets and establish a pavement condition rating based upon ODOT's rating system. He said this will allow engineering staff to assign actual numbers to the pavement condition. Mr. Hren said this system looked at all types of distress and used a scientific method to assign numbers to the condition of the street. He said as they make progress with this program it will help the City to determine the order of street repairs based upon their conditions.

Mr. Hren said another advantage of adopting this system was that it was the same system used for grant applications. He said sometimes grant opportunities just pop-up and this would be helpful to have an established ranking system to submit for various grants.

Mr. Hren said it will take about 1 to 3 weeks to prepare the rankings and requested that Council pass this Resolution on emergency at tonight's meeting so he could get started on the rating and ranking system as soon as possible.

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

Ms. Jones asked if the evaluation was based on condition would it be for this year and how long was the ranking good for.

Mr. Hren said typically the evaluation would be done every couple of years unless a significant event would occur that affected the road conditions. He said ODOT performed their reviews every two (2) years and the system had a built-in degradation value. Mr. Hren said for example the rating will drop 3 to 4 points over time.

Ms. Jones said last year the same street review was done and asked how much weight will last year's street survey carry with this new evaluation.

In response, Mr. Hren said he would be starting from scratch with this project. He said a couple of other considerations will be included in these evaluations, for example, other infrastructure work to be done such as watermain or water line replacements. He said this evaluation will not include those streets for repair or replacement under this program.

Mr. Hren said this program will give the City a basis to rank the streets on conditions only.

Mr. Shenett said this scientific method will be difficult to explain to residents.

Mr. Hren said the scientific method being used will start every pavement with a score of 100 points and then points will be deducted which then establishes the ranking. He said there will be a form for each street that will become a part of the database and library. Mr. Hren said these were important to be included with any grant applications.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions regarding this Resolution. He said if there were no objections, he would ask Council to vote on this legislation tonight.

Moving to the List of Expenditures, Mr. Jackson said there were no expenditures for review at tonight's meeting.

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

There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

### **REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Bob Gorentz and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Finance Director Tinita Tillman and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Councilman Timothy Tatum. gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson called the roll.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** District 7 Councilwoman Edwina Agee said that March has been designated as Women's History Month during which time the achievements of women was celebrated worldwide. Ms. Agee said there were women in the City of Maple Heights to celebrate also.

Ms. Agee asked Councilman Shenett to assist her in recognizing the following Women of Maple Heights who have accomplished much in the areas of politics, community service, education, the arts and religion:

Ms. Jackie Albers  
Ms. Andrea Beeman  
Ms. Rainie Austen  
Ms. Sharri Thomas

Each recipient was awarded a Certificate of Recognition.

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

**MINUTES:** Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of February 16, 2022.

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

**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*

Councilwoman Anderson, Chairwoman of the Community Life and Education Committee, reported that the Community Life and Education Committee met on March 9, 2022 and discussed some activities for this year.

Ms. Anderson said the Committee discussed with Mrs. Vopat the idea of sponsoring a Funniest Easter Video Contest for families with children ages 12 and under. She said the videos should be 20 to 45 seconds long and top three entries will receive a \$100.00 gift card for first place, a \$50.00 gift card for second place and a \$25.00 gift card for third place.

Ms. Anderson said the Committee also discussed other events such a fall event and Christmas event and sponsoring a Health and Wellness Fair and Voter Registration Fair.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** - Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas said that Fire Department calls for service to date were 1,242 and that the Fire Department responded to the following fire:

March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to 7609 Jeffries in Garfield Heights for a house fire. The Chief said it was reported that the house was well-involved in fire with multiple children trapped. He said the Cleveland Fire Department responded as well as the house was located literally right on the boarder of Cleveland and Garfield Heights. Fire Chief Kavaliunas said approximately 50 to 60 Firefighters were on scene but sadly a 6-month-old and 1-year old child died in the fire. He said all of the other occupants were removed without injury. The Fire Chief reminded everyone to be cognizant of fire safety at home and said this fire was extremely tragic.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas announced that the Maple Heights Fire Department received recognition from the Cleveland Clinic and Marymount Hospital for treatment of a patient earlier this month. He said the squad personnel quickly realized that the patient was having a stroke and treated the patient accordingly along with alerting the stroke team at the hospital. The Chief said this greatly diminished the long-term effects of the stroke to this patient. Fire Chief Kavaliunas said kudos to the members of the "A" shift for a job well done. The Fire Chief said the Fire Department also received recognition from Metro hospital for treatment and rapid transport of a

very seriously injured victim of a motor vehicle vs. pole accident on Broadway Avenue. The Chief said there have been three (3) major accidents on Broadway Avenue in the past two weeks. He said people need to slow down!

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said that in 2021 the Fire Department had two (2) retirements and five (5) resignations. He said the Fire Department recently had another retirement with an additional retirement coming this fall. The Chief said the Fire Department was in the process of hiring three (3) cadets at this time and will be promoting a Firefighter to the rank of Lieutenant. Fire Chief Kavaliunas said the Fire Department will be giving a Captains promotional exam on March 28<sup>th</sup>. He said if all goes well the Fire Department should have its staffing and officers back to their budgeted levels by the end of April.

**Law Department** – Law Director Mr. Frank Consolo said he wanted to update everyone about the new legislation recently signed into law by Governor DeWine regarding Ohio’s gun law. He said Senate Bill 215 was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and will make it legal to carry a concealed weapon without a license. Mr. Consolo said the new gun law will be effective June 13, 2022. Mr. Consolo said one of the highlights of the law was that it changed to the concealed carry law so that obtaining a concealed carry weapon (CCW) license would be optional. He said there was no longer a duty to identify a ccw when stopped by a police officer. Mr. Consolo said if a person obtained a ccw license it no longer needed to be disclosed.

Mr. Consolo said Ohio’s new gun law applied to “qualifying adults” as defined in the legislation as an individual 21 years of age or older and who satisfied specified criteria. He said one area that was still unclear was what buildings or areas people with ccw will be permitted to go into. Mr. Consolo said it was not clear what the signs in schools, etc. will mean now. Mr. Consolo said the Law Department will be working with the Police Department regarding the new law and will report back regarding this issue.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Todd Hansen reported that the Police Department has responded to approximately 5,000 calls for service to date and was still averaging about 5 reports a day and 12 tickets per day. The Police Chief also reported that arrests have increased to about 2.5 arrests per day and that the Police Department took 6 guns off the streets in March and confiscated drugs and money.

Police Chief Hansen said that the new CCW law did not change things much for the Police Department. He said the Police were used to dealing with the disability factors included in the new law. The Chief said from practical standpoint what will happen is that people stopped by the police may get asked more often about a CCW since the police now have to ask. He said the new law will not change too much of how the Police Department operated. Chief Hansen said the Police Department will work with the Law Department regarding the rules concerning buildings.

Police Chief Hansen announced that the Police Westside Substation was opened this past weekend. He said the new substation will get more use as more computers were added to the substation. The Chief said the substation was a good addition to the westside area.

The Police Chief concluded his report by announcing that the Police Department's new strategic report was completed. The Chief said this was a 5-year plan for the Police Department that included its goals and objectives for the next 5 years. He said it was prepared with community input through Council, administrative input from the Mayor and input from Police Department staff.

**Human Services Department** – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat asked Council to consider Ordinance No. 2022-25 regarding the pavilion rental legislation and said she had prepared a spreadsheet for Council review and would discuss any questions from Council. She said the rate for pavilion rentals had not changed since 2018 but the City's costs to clean and maintain the pavilions had increased. Mrs. Vopat said the pavilion rental fees were used to defray the costs of this maintenance.

Mrs. Vopat said another item of legislation on tonight's agenda recognized March as National Kidney Month and said this was important to raise awareness of this disease. She said there were about six dialysis centers within a 4-mile radius of our area and that nine people are transported to dialysis by the Senior Center transportation services. Mrs. Vopat said about one in three people will be diagnosed with kidney disease this year and said that the Department of Human Services will be partnering with the National Kidney Foundation to offer programs for testing, etc.

Mrs. Vopat announced that the first Community Shred Day will be Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at Stafford Park and that the next Covid Clinic will be held on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Center. She said all three (3) Covid shots, booster shots, pneumonia shots and flu shots will be available.

Mrs. Vopat concluded her report by announcing that the next Mobile Farmers' Market will be held tomorrow, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church. She said fresh produce will be distributed.

**Finance Department** – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman was absent and excused so Mayor Blackwell presented the report for the Finance Department. The Mayor said all funds had positive fund balances and that the currently the unexpended balance in the General Fund was approximately \$6 million dollars and the unexpended balance for all funds was \$15 million dollars.

**Service Department** – Service Director Mr. Bob Gorentz reported that the Service Department was making progress cold patching the City streets. He said the Service Department was using about 25 to 30 tons of cold patch every two weeks. Mr. Gorentz said the asphalt plants will be opening at the end of March or beginning of April so the City will be able to get hot patch which was more permanent of a repair.

Mr. Gorentz said the street sweeper was out a couple of days last week and made a vast improvement on the streets.

Mr. Gorentz also reported that the Service Department has continued to work with the Building Department regarding the trash clean-ups. He said the Building Department will issue the citations and then the Service Department will complete the clean-ups if not done by the property owners.

Mr. Gorentz concluded his report by announcing that the local EPA picked up 500 tires from the Service Garage that had been picked up throughout the City.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Mr. Willie Hardwick residing at 16655 Anthony Street asked why residents did not know about the Waste Management changes about only one container and two (2) extra items. Mr. Hardwick also asked why had property taxes increased. He also complained about residents who put their trash out early and that there were problems with deer in the City.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said that the property taxes went up because the property values increased. Regarding Waste Management, the Mayor said the contract negotiated by the City limited the trash collection to one (1) container and two (2) additional items. She said if residents have more trash they need to get a dumpster. With regards to the deer problem, Mayor Blackwell said she cannot do anything about the deer. She said new houses being built were taking the deer's habitat.

Mr. Mitchell Todd of 5550 Sunny Lane Road said he came before Council to pass out two (2) additional police reports.

Mr. Roderick Weatherly residing at 18900 McCracken Road said he has been a resident for 33 years and that his street needed both street and sidewalk repairs. He asked if the tree in front of his house could be cut down since the birds mess up the sidewalk and his front steps. Mr. Weatherly said there was a fire hydrant on his street that had been leaking for 3 months and that there were a number of houses that looked very bad with trash and debris, especially the house at the corner of Raymond and Camden.

In response, Ms. Anderson said she has discussed these issues and the City will be getting to the street repair. Ms. Anderson said she had talked with the Housing Manager and the house at Raymond and Camden was in the process of having a Point of Sale inspection. She said she will defer to the Mayor regarding the resident's tree complaint.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said she will have Mr. Gorentz check on the tree,

Mr. Jason Young and Ms. Linda Evans of 16901 Raymond Street said they had requested the Planning and Zoning Appeal before Council and asked when will Council make their decision regarding this matter.

In response, Mr. Jackson said Council will discuss this appeal at their April 4<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole Meeting and vote on it at the first meeting of April which will be April 6<sup>th</sup>.



In response, Ms. Anderson asked her colleagues on Council to drive by the property to see the deck.

Ms. Agee asked Council to review what the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed about this case and what Mr. Grogan-Myers had said at the P & Z Meeting.

Ms. Sharri Thomas residing at 19812 Gardenview Avenue said she wanted to thank Council Members Agee, Shenett and Madden for her Certificate of Recognition in honor of Women's History Month. Ms. Thomas said she also wanted to invite Council to the Southeast Community Coalition Meeting that was a collaboration of the five surrounding communities of Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Warrensville Heights, Bedford and Bedford Heights. She said these communities were working together to discuss problems that were affecting all of our communities and the nation and world. Ms. Thomas said the goal of this Coalition was to work together to resolve issues such as youth violence, etc., that were exaggerated during the pandemic. Ms. Thomas said this meeting will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Garfield Heights Public Library. She said the last meeting had a good mix of people in attendance.

Ms. Deva Walker, Branch Manager for the Maple Heights Regional Library, said the Library has created a decorative fence in the front of the Library with benches and a picnic table that can be used for programs in the area. She said anyone will be able to enjoy these amenities.

Ms. Walker announced that next month will be the Library's Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Distribution through September.

Ms. Walker said the Library was also granted a seed library to help people grow fresh fruits and vegetables. She said the seeds were available free of charge.

Ms. Walker also announced that there will be a number of summer programs at the Library including summer lunches available Monday through Friday.

Ms. Walker said that on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Maple Heights Schools will be hosting a Grief and Trauma Seminar at Maple Heights High School.

### **LEGISLATION:**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-21**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-STATING CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 236 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, 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. ROLL CALL on the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency: Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to one (1) nay.

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: Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: 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.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-22**

**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 FULL-TIME NON-BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES BEGINNING 2022 AND 2023, AND SETTING THE PAY RANGE FOR THE POSITIONS OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, AND INTERN, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-163, 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: Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: 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. 2022-24**

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MARCH 2022 AS "NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH" IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, 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: Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: 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. 2022-25**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1062.07(e) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS REGARDING THE USE OF THE PAVILIONS AT STAFFORD PARK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Ordinance was on First Reading.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-26**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENGINEER TO PREPARE AN UPDATED PAVEMENT CONDITION RATING REPORT FOR VARIOUS STREETS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or discussion. 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. There being no discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: 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.

**EXPENDITURES OVER \$25,000.00:**

Mr. Jackson said there were no **Expenditures over \$25,000.00** for review at tonight's meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Blackwell said she wanted to address the issue of the conditions of the City streets. The Mayor said the City received funds to repair and maintain State routes and County routes to keep them operational, but the side streets have suffered from years of limited road maintenance. Mayor Blackwell said **Resolution No. 2022-26** will establish a road maintenance program. She said cold patch was only a temporary fix.

Regarding the increase in home values in the City, the Mayor said these values were set by the County Treasurer and that an increase in the valuation will increase property taxes. Mayor Blackwell said the City had several sources of income, including income taxes which were the first source, the second source was property tax revenues and the third source was Local Government Fund (LGF) money and grants. She said the City received only about 25% to 30% of the property taxes collected though, since the other part was distributed to support county libraries, the local school district and other county programs. The Mayor said grants helped the City save money in the General Fund

Mayor Blackwell said there was pending State legislation to reduce the state gas sales tax. The Mayor said this proposal will reduce the money going to cities to repair roads.

Mayor Blackwell concluded her report by announcing that the Cuyahoga County Planning Office released information regarding housing in the 59 communities in the area. She said for 19 communities the median sales price had increased 34% from 2009 to 2021. The Mayor said that the median sales price for our area was approximately \$95,000.00.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5** said there has been a serious speeding problem on Broadway Avenue resulting in several accidents. She asked residents to please observe the speed limits and drive carefully.

In reference to Mr. Consolo's Law Department Report regarding the passage of Senate Bill 215 and the changes in Ohio law, Ms. Madden said was concerned about this legislation. She said and it has been working on her conscience so she will be planning a meeting to discuss this change in State law and what actions the City and the residents should consider. Ms. Madden said this meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> with additional information to be forthcoming.

Ms. Madden concluded her report by reminding everyone to stay safe.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski, District 6** said he had one reminder about the District 4 and District 6 Town Hall Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library. He announced that the City's new Service Director will be one of the guests.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** announced that the District 7 2022 Round Table for District 7 High School Students will be held on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library, Large Meeting Room. Ms. Agee said the topic for discussion will be what to do after high school graduation and selection of the District 7 scholarship winner.

**Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1** thanked the Service Department for their assistance with water main issues and flooding issues in District 1. Mr. Shenett said he also discussed a right-of-way issue with City Engineer Ed Hren. He said District 1 was also dealing with an excessive trash issue.

Mr. Shenett also thanked the Building Department for their prompt response regarding a number of violations in his District and thanked Mayor Blackwell and Chief Hansen regarding the Westside substation. He said it was important to have a police presence in this area.

Mr. Shenett said he was excited about the new LED street lighting on Dunham Road.

Mr. Shenett said he has been working on some neighbor property lines issues in his District and asked residents to respect each other's property lines. He said residents should try to work with the Building Department.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by announcing that the three (3) new homes in District 1 were close to completion and that two (2) have sold.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** thanked the Service Department for cleaning up the trash after the snow melted. Ms. Jones said she wanted to remind residents that there was a process regarding clean-ups. She said the Building Department will cite for this violation but must give the resident time to respond. She said after this time has lapsed then the Service Department will clean up the property and assess the charges to the property owner.

Regarding Mr. Todd's comments, Ms. Jones said that these neighbors were involved in a court case so that was why she cannot comment on this matter.

Ms. Jones said that a recent Maple Heights Democratic Club a representative from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections announced that they were looking for poll workers for the upcoming elections.

Ms. Jones concluded her report by stating that the District 2 Newsletter will be out in the next couple of weeks and that postcards had been sent out for the District 2 Town Hall Meeting with District 3 to be held on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrew's Orthodox Church. She said refreshments will be served.

**Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3** thanked the Service Department for the road repairs.

Mr. Tatum announced that Hope Alliance Baptist Church will be bringing the Convoy of Hope to Stafford Park on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Tatum said he will be sponsoring a baseball team in the Maple Heights Boys League and that the league was looking for volunteers and donations.

Mr. Tatum conclude his report by stating that he looked forward to meeting residents at the District 2 Town Hall Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4** said the Financial Literacy Workshop with District 6 took place at Castle High School and about 115 students were in attendance with their parents. She said more financial literacy events will be planned this year. Ms. Anderson said she looked forward to working with Ms. Deva Walker from the Maple Heights Library.

Ms. Anderson reminded residents of District 4 and District 6 about the upcoming Town Hall Meeting scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Council President Ron Jackson** said he wanted to remind parents that the Maple Heights Boys League will be back this year as a recreational activity for children. He said practice and try-outs for this league will be coming up.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Passed: April 20, 2022

ATTEST:

s/s  
Leonette Cicirella Johnson Clerk of Council