

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

Maple Height Senior Center

May 18, 2022

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Madden and Agee. Councilwoman Anderson and Councilman Trojanski were absent and excused. Also present were Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Service Director Bob Gorentz, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell was absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said Councilwoman Jones would have the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Turning to the Legislation on the Agenda for tonight's Meeting, Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2022-42** adopting the Alternative Tax Budget Information for the City of Maple Heights would be on Second Reading.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2022-45** was the fire levy legislation declaring it necessary to renew an existing 2.0 mill tax levy for the Fire Department and asked if there were any questions on this legislation.

Councilman Shenett asked if this legislation needed to be passed on emergency.

Mr. Jackson asked Law Director Frank Consolo to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mr. Consolo said that as had been previously discussed, the levy renewal was a two-part process and that this first part was declaring the necessity of the levy. He said this Resolution will go down to the County Fiscal Officer to request certification of the tax valuation and revenue from the levy to show that the renewal of the existing levy was necessary for the purposes permitted per the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

Mr. Consolo said the second piece of legislation that Council will need to consider will be to place the levy renewal on the ballot which must be done by Council and submitted to the Board of Elections as soon as possible.

Mr. Consolo asked Council to pass this legislation on emergency at tonight's meeting so it can be sent to the County Fiscal Officer to receive the tax information as soon as possible.

Mr. Shenett asked if the passage on emergency required five (5) affirmative votes to which Mr. Consolo responded in the affirmative. He said the first vote is for the suspension of the rules that required three (3) readings for legislation. Mr. Consolo said the second vote was for passage on

emergency which would make it effective when passed by Council which also required five (5) affirmative votes.

Mr. Consolo said if Council passed this Resolution tonight, the City would receive the information from the County Fiscal Officer and then there would be legislation on the agenda for the July Council Meeting to place the renewal levy on the November ballot.

Mr. Shenett said this would allow Council to get the information for their residents to let them know how much the renewal levy will cost the residents. He asked if this would be the same for **Resolution No. 2022-46** regarding the renewal levy for the Police Department to which both Mr. Jackson and Mr. Consolo responded in the affirmative.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2022-47** authorizing the Mayor and City Engineer to submit an application for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Natureworks Grant for improvements to the Stafford Park basketball courts, Mr. Jackson asked City Engineer Ed Hren to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mr. Hren said this legislation would authorize the City to apply for a grant from the ODNR's annual Natureworks Grant Program which would be used as a follow-up to the other demo work in Stafford Park. He said the City also had a grant application for the parking lot.

Mr. Hren said this grant would specifically rework the basketball courts by adding two (2) courts that would be either four (4) full courts or eight (8) half courts and would properly resurface the basketball courts.

Mr. Hren said this grant application will be due June 1st so although this Resolution will be on First Reading at tonight's meeting, he would respectfully request that it be passed on emergency.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Hren to also discuss **Resolution No. 2022-48**, a Resolution accepting a funding award from the Cuyahoga County Healthy Tree Canopy Program (HTCP) and authorizing the preparation of plans, specifications and cost estimates and bidding for the Northeast Quadrant Tree Planting Project.

Mr. Hren said this Resolution was a follow-up to existing legislation concerning a \$44,000.00 plus grant from the County to plant trees in the Northeast Quadrant of the City on the streets of Hansen, Watson, and Raymond at the completion of the sewer and road work in that area.

Mr. Hren said the trees will be planted in early Spring so the project will go out to bid in the Fall. He said there will be separate bid packages for this project, one for the purchase of the trees and then another bid for the contract for the installation of the trees.

Mr. Hren said this grant agreement was due at the County by June 10th so this legislation could be on First Reading at tonight's meeting and passed on emergency at the June Council Meeting.

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

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2022-49** would authorize a professional services agreement with the Consolo Law Firm to provide paralegal and administrative services to the City and asked Mr. Consolo to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mr. Consolo said this Resolution presented a proposal to outsource the paralegal and administrative services of the City's Law Department to all be run out of his private law office. He said the Law Department would still have a physical office at City Hall, but there would not be any administrative staff there. Mr. Consolo said this was a good opportunity for the City and would result in cost savings of approximately \$45,000.00 per year.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions from Council.

Mr. Shenett asked if the contact information for the Law Department would be the same to which Mr. Consolo responded in the affirmative. Mr. Consolo said he would set up a separate phone line at his law office and the same with the e-mail system so it would tie-in with the City. He said this would be done quickly.

Councilwoman Madden said she had contacted Finance Director Tillman to get an explanation of the \$45,000.00 in savings to the City and asked if Ms. Tillman could explain this breakdown of the savings again for the benefit of all of Council.

In response, Ms. Tillman provided Council with a spreadsheet detailing the breakdown in savings with this new professional services agreement and said that the City would save approximately \$3,766.38 per month.

Mr. Consolo said this was just the employee expense savings and that overhead would also be saved.

Councilwoman Jones thanked Mr. Consolo for looking out for the City.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or comments regarding this legislation. There were none.

Moving to the List of Expenditures, Mr. Jackson said there were no Expenditures over \$25,000.00 for review at tonight's meeting, only one (1) Disclosure of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00.

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

Councilwoman Agee said she did not have a question regarding the legislation on the Agenda for tonight's meeting, but did have a question about the status of the Housing Manager position. She asked if there was any information regarding a new employee for this position, to which Mr. Jackson responded in the negative.

Ms. Agee said residents have been asking questions about the Exterior Home Repair Grant Program and she wanted to make sure she responded to their inquiries correctly.

Ms. Shenett said it was his understanding that the new Planning and Development Director would be starting June 6th so there were questions about the grant application deadline. He said residents were concerned when the City would be reviewing these applications. Mr. Shenett said he concurred with Ms. Agee and was concerned what Council should tell the residents. Mr. Shenett said residents in his district were very interested in the grant program and he wanted to tell them the correct information.

Mr. Jackson said Council will need to wait for the Mayor to respond to this inquiry.

There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Madden and Agee. Councilwoman Anderson and Councilman Trojanski were absent and excused. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Service Director Bob Gorentz and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

Councilwoman 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: Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Madden, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of April 20, 2022.

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

Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of May 4, 2022.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: There was one (1) Communication for tonight's meeting.

Planning and Zoning Appeal regarding Case No. 2022-PZ-16, Mr. Levell Woodruff, Appellant

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Woodruff to present his Appeal to Council.

Appellant Levell Woodruff of Blessed Assistance said he was appealing the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission rendered in this case which had been an appeal from the decision of the City Building Inspector regarding the last two (2) items of a Point-of-Sale inspection for property located at 5696 Garfield Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio. He said these last two (2) open inspection items were preventing the property from passing this inspection. Mr. Woodruff said the Commission denied his appeal in that case and advised him of his right to appeal that decision to Council.

Mr. Woodruff said he was the contractor for the owner of this property who had purchased it in September 2021. He said the point-of-sale inspection had expired in July 2021 so his customer had to re-apply for a current point-of-sale inspection. He said the question for consideration on this appeal concerned the violations requiring replacement of the asphalt over concrete driveway and also the replacement of concrete block between apron and driveway that was poured without a permit or pre-pour inspection.

The Appellant said the violations cited under Section 302 of the Property Maintenance Code pertaining to driveways were to replace the asphalt driveway over the concrete. He said it did not say to “tear-out” or “replace” the asphalt driveway. Mr. Woodruff said the cost estimate he submitted to the City for the escrow hold also reflected that this work would be a resurfacing and not replacement of the asphalt driveway since the estimate was only \$2,800.00. He said this estimate had been approved by the Building Official. Mr. Woodruff said \$2,800.00 would not be sufficient to replace a driveway. The Appellant said he received the permit for this work and at that time no questions were raised about this work. He said the issue arose at the time of the final inspection to close out the job. Mr. Woodruff said the other problem that occurred at the time of closing-out the inspection was the possibility of no pre-pour inspection since the work had already been completed.

Mr. Woodruff asked Council to reconsider the wording or verbiage being used for the Code inspections. At this time the Appellant provided Council with copies of additional information, including pictures of other inspection reports and violation notices.

The Appellant said another issue with the inspection was the garage that had already been demolished by the previous owner without a permit. Mr. Woodruff said the Building Inspector would not sign off on this permit issue until he got another permit for this work.

Mr. Woodruff said Code Section 302.3.1 dealt with unpaved public sidewalks and Section 303.3 concerned driveways and treelawns, but neither covered the issues with this inspection. The Appellant said he was told he could not resurface the concrete driveway and that asphalt was not permitted without the approval of the Building Official.

The Appellant said the Code was very confusing and that clarification was needed. He said there were a number of different situations and that in some examples the inspection used the word “replace” as the description for the work to be done. Mr. Woodruff said it was difficult to figure out what to do. The Appellant said he had questions about the Building Code and its application

to his case. He said that on behalf of the property owner he was requesting relief from these orders issued under the Building Code.

Mr. Jackson said Council will take all of this information into consideration on this appeal. He asked if there were any questions from Council.

Mr. Shenett thanked the Appellant for coming before Council on this appeal after the denial of his case by the Planning and Zoning Commission with regards to the asphalt resurfacing over the concrete driveway. Mr. Shenett said that with regards to the Code language quoted by the Appellant in his information submitted to Council, he will defer to the Law Department and Law Director Consolo.

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

There being no other questions or comments, Mr. Jackson said Council will consider the Appeal and discuss it at another meeting before rendering its decision.

Mr. Consolo advised that he will prepare a memo for Council to discuss the Building Department and Law Department position in this matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Council Committee Reports for tonight's meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department - Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas said that Fire Department calls for service to date were 2,202 and that on May 5th at 5:00 p.m. the Fire Department responded to an apartment fire at 6000 Bear Creek Drive in Bedford Heights. The Chief said the fire was held to the apartment of origin and that there were no injuries reported.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said hydrant flushing throughout the City was continuing and that daily updates on the areas scheduled for flushing can be viewed on the Fire Department's web page and on Twitter. He said the Fire Department will also continue painting hydrants again this year.

The Fire Chief reported that five (5) members of the Fire Department volunteered to participate in the American Lung Association, "Fight For Air Climb", this past Sunday, May 15th, at Progressive Field. Fire Chief Kavaliunas said it ended up being a beautiful day for the event and that this was the Fire Department's second year for participating. The Chief congratulated the Firefighters for volunteering for a great cause.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said he was happy to report that the American Red Cross has again started the "Sound the Alarm" smoke detector program. He said this program was suspended during the Covid 19 pandemic. The Fire Chief said the City's next scheduled date will be this coming Monday, May 23rd. He said the area to be covered will be determined by the end of this week.

The Fire Chief said he was sad to report the passing of retired Firefighter Robert Miller. He said Bob had joined the Fire Department in 1971 and served the City for 25 years retiring in 1996.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said he had the pleasure of being on shift with Bob for 6 years and that he would be missed. The Fire Chief said Bob's son Bobby Jr. had also served as a Police Officer for the City of Maple Heights.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas concluded his report by wishing everyone a wonderful Memorial Day Holiday and asking everyone to please take time to remember all the brave who fought to provide security and to protect the freedom that we all enjoy.

Law Department – Law Director Mr. Frank Consolo said that during his report he had intended to introduce the intern currently working in the Law Department, but she was not present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Consolo said Ms. Clark had finished her first year of law school at Cleveland State University Law School and that she will be interning through June 24th. He said she started in May and will be returning in August to complete this internship. Mr. Consolo said Ms. Clark has worked on three (3) research projects for the Law Department including the garbage can storage issue, sex offenders' registry and updates regarding police and fire pension funding.

Police Department – Police Chief Todd Hansen reported that the Police Department recently responded to a couple of high-profile cases and has responded to a total of just under 10,000 calls for service to date. He said that the number of calls for service per day has averaged in the mid 80's and included about 5 reports a day and 10 tickets per day including parking and moving violations. The Police Chief reported that the Police Department took 6 guns off the streets in the month of May.

Police Chief Hansen said last Sunday was Police Memorial Day, a day set aside to honor all the fallen police officers. He said Police Memorial Week was celebrated from last Wednesday, May 11th to this Wednesday and that the City of Cleveland Police Officer Memorial Week will culminate with a Memorial Service in Downtown Cleveland this Friday, May 20th at 11:00 a.m. Police Chief Hansen asked everyone to "thank an Officer" for their service.

The Police Chief said he wanted to invite everyone to attend the City's Memorial Day Ceremony that will be held on Monday, May 30th at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans area in front of Maple Heights City Hall. He asked everyone to gather at 10:45 a.m. at City Hall.

Police Chief Hansen concluded his report by announcing that MHPD Detectives saved five ducks in District 7 which was included on the Police Department Facebook page. He said the Police Department also finished hosting a high school intern.

Human Services Department – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat announced that the next Mobile Farmers' Market will be held tomorrow, May 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church. She said a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables would be available.

Mrs. Vopat announced that the next free Covid Clinic at the Senior Center will be held on Wednesday, May 25th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Vopat said vaccines and booster shots

will be available and that \$100 gift cards will be given for first time Covid vaccinations. She said all shots will be administered by staff from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Mrs. Vopat concluded her report by announcing that the Department of Human Services had applied for and was awarded an increased capacity grant from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in the amount of \$4,450.00 to be used for the purchase an industrial-size refrigerator and equipment for delivery of meals.

Finance Department – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman said an Audit Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center and that this Committee also included the members of Council’s Finance Committee. She said that the Audit Committee elected the following officers for this year: Chair: Ms. Andrea Morris; Vice-Chair: Ms. Danielle Clark and Secretary: Pricilla Pointer-Hicks. Ms. Tillman said the Audit Committee will be working on their bylaws and reviewing the City audit.

Ms. Tillman reported that the Finance Department was still participating in the City’s audit and that the finished report will be posted on the Auditor’s website.

Service Department – Service Director Mr. Bob Gorentz said the Service Department was continuing to patch City roads and had been working in the areas of Summit, James and McCracken which were some of the worst areas. He reported that the Service Department was currently working on the Industrial Streets.

Mr. Gorentz also reported that the Service Department staff were updating STOP signs in the City to change them to meet the current reflectivity standards. He said the Service Department has also been busy cutting grass in the City parks and City-owned lots.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:

Mr. David Moss, Jr. of 5456 Grasmere Drive said he and his brother, Devon Moss, attended tonight’s meeting on behalf of the Maple Heights Boys League. Mr. Moss said they had been informed of the Stafford Park Ball Field Demolition Project that had gone out to bid. On behalf of the Maple Heights Boys League, he asked if this project could be reconsidered. Mr. Moss said that with 80 children signed up for the baseball league this program will need more ball fields. Mr. Moss said he was concerned that the demolition of the baseball fields will take away this activity for these children and that he had a plan that he would like to submit as a proposal to the City.

In response, Mr. Shenett said for clarification he did not think the demolition project was for the baseball fields since Mrs. Vopat had talked with Council about this year’s baseball program. Mr. Shenett said there was a project proposed to demolish Safety Town at Stafford Park.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said that there was a project to demolish Safety Town and rebuild the basketball courts at Stafford Park. The Mayor asked Mrs. Vopat to discuss the baseball field demolition project.

In response, Mrs. Vopat said three (3) of the baseball fields were overgrown and had become difficult to maintain, so one (1) or two (2) of these baseball fields may be removed. Mrs. Vopat said the baseball field currently being used by the Boys League will remain.

Mayor Blackwell said the City's Master Plan had been in the works for these past years and it envisioned a comprehensive renewal of Stafford Park for use by all. The Mayor said she hoped Mr. Moss would have success this year with the Boys League.

Mr. Shenett asked Mrs. Vopat if a couple of the baseball fields will be demolished then, to which Mrs. Vopat responded in the affirmative. Mrs. Vopat said that decision was made since the City could not maintain all of the ballfields.

Mr. Al Glontz residing at 5758 Longwood Avenue invited everyone to attend the City's Memorial Day Ceremony to be held at the City Hall Veterans' Honor Roll on Memorial Day, May 30th. He said the ceremony will be begin at 11:00 a.m. and asked everyone to meet at City Hall at 10:45 a.m. Mr. Glontz said he would meet with Councilwomen Jones, Madden and Agee about the flowers to be arranged at the memorial and with the Chief when he would be available. Mr. Glontz said he normally planned the Memorial Day Ceremony through e-mail, but his WOW cable and internet has been down since May 9th so he has not able to get into his e-mail system.

Mr. Glontz said he had American Flags available for people to take to the cemetery compliments of the Maple Heights Memorial Day Association. Mr. Glontz said he hoped to see everyone at the Memorial Day Services and asked everyone to remember those who have died for our freedom.

In response, Ms. Tillman said the City had received a notice that WOW had been acquired by Breezeline, so that was probably the reason for the service interruption.

Mr. Peter Kwiatkowski said he was not a resident of Maple Heights but was an Associate Professor at Baldwin Wallace University who wanted to recognize resident David Moss and his brother. Prof. Kwiatkowski said David was a student in his business course and had asked him for assistance to create the formal structure of the Maple Heights Boys League. He said Mr. Moss had asked for information on how to start a non-profit organization to solicit donations for the creation and operation of a Boys Baseball League. Prof. Kwiatkowski said David had recognized that the City did not have a full-time Recreation Director and that he wanted to do this for the benefit of the kids. He said 80 kids were now participating in the Boys League. Prof. Kwiatkowski said David was a student of vision who truly wanted to help the youth of the City. The Professor invited everyone to join him at the Opening Day of the Maple Heights Boys League to be held this Saturday, May 21st at Noon.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-42

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET INFORMATION

OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023; SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE BUDGET COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was on Second Reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-45

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW AN EXISTING 2.0 MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES FOR FIRE FIGHTERS IN THE DIVISION OF FIRE, AND PROVIDING, MAINTAINING AND OPERATING FIRE APPARATUS, APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES, AND REQUESTING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THAT RENEWAL LEVY, 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; Madden: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-46

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW AN EXISTING 2.0 MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES FOR PERMANENT POLICE PERSONNEL IN THE DIVISION OF POLICE, AND PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING MOTOR VEHICLES, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT USED DIRECTLY IN THE OPERATION OF THE POLICE DIVISION, AND REQUESTING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THAT RENEWAL LEVY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, 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; Madden: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-47

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ENGINEER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR) NATUREWORKS GRANT PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STAFFORD PARK BASKETBALL COURTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, 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; Madden: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-48

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FUNDING AWARDS FROM THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY HEALTHY TREE CANOPY PROGRAM (HTCP) AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO PREPARE PLANS, BID SPECIFICATIONS AND COST ESTIMATES FOR THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT TREE PLANTING PROJECT (MAP-22-01), AND TO PROVIDE FOR BIDDING SAID PROJECTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution was on First Reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-49

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CONSOLO LAW FIRM CO., LPA TO PROVIDE PARALEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR 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.

Mr. Shenett thanked the Law Director for taking the time to propose a system to keep the Law Department running smoothly while helping the City to save money.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions. There being no other questions, 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; Madden: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of five (5) 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, only one (1) Disclosure of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell said in response to Mr. Moss and his request regarding the baseball fields that a Recreation Director was on her wish list. The Mayor said she would be joining the Opening Day for the Maple Heights Boys League and apologized for the timing of the news of the demolition work at Stafford Park. Mayor Blackwell said it has been a challenge for the City to maintain Stafford Park so the City worked to re-imagine Stafford Park before the Baseball League started again. She said the City will open the Stafford Park Sprayground on June 5th and hoped to open the pool next year. Mayor Blackwell said the City has also leased space at Stafford Park to the School Board to park their buses. She said the grant money has already been assigned to be used for specific purposes, but she would work with Mr. Moss to keep some of the baseball fields. Mayor Blackwell said the City tried to take a holistic approach to Stafford Park. She said the Service Department has prepared the Park for these different uses.

The Mayor said there was another resignation in the City and announced that Housing Manager Brendan Zak will be leaving May 27th. Mayor Blackwell said there were a couple of candidates interested in the position and that the Cleveland Foundation has approved a grant for an intern to be hired to administer the Exterior Home Repair Program. She said the May 16th deadline for

Exterior Home Repair Grant applications will be extended to June 1st due to this disruption in the Building Department. The Mayor said she will confirm the date when this intern will be starting.

Mayor Blackwell said the City was aggressively citing for grass violations and warned that the City will assess \$200.00 per cut on these property taxes. The Mayor said the City had hired independent grass cutters for this work.

The Mayor said the City was also continuing to patch potholes but the City was being overwhelmed by move-outs. She said the move-outs interrupted and disrupted the Service Department work schedule

Mayor Blackwell concluded her report by announcing that the Stafford Park Sprayground will be opening June 5 and will be free to all residents since the City received capital funding for it. The Mayor said Music in the Park will be starting on June 14th and also invited everyone to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at City Hall.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 thanked the Service Department for installing the basketball hoop in Southgate Park and said she wanted to thank all of the City Departments for doing all that they do with what resources they have to work with. She asked the residents to be patient with all of the departments and the work in the City.

Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3 announced that Hope Alliance Baptist Church will be sponsoring the Convoy of Hope at Stafford Park from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. this Saturday, May 21st. He said the Maple Heights Boys League would also be starting their summer baseball season this Saturday, May 21st at Noon.

Mr. Tatum said his Newsletter will be coming out quarterly and will be available in District 3 businesses.

Mr. Tatum said the first Bike Giveaway was held in conjunction with the Community Life and Education Committee and Council President Jackson. He said the top student from each of the City's three Elementary Schools each received a new bicycle.

Mr. Tatum concluded his report by announcing that Pastor Morrison from Hope Alliance will be hosting a Young Life High School Club Southeast Banquet on May 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 said she wanted to recognize Ms. Horton from Finding Blank and thank her for the upcoming Summer Party this organization will be hosting this Friday, May 20th, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Obama Elementary School in Districts 1 and 2.

Ms. Maddens thanked Mr. Graham Welling from PIRHL Acquisitions, LLC for his e-mail response to District 5 resident concerns regarding the trees that had been cut down for the Hazelwood Court Project but not yet removed. She said he informed her that the project was

moving forward and that the trees would be removed as soon as possible. Ms. Madden thanked him for this update since the trees were an eyesore and affecting the neighboring properties.

Ms. Madden concluded her report by wishing everyone a Happy Memorial Day and reminded everyone to stay safe.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 – No Report.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1 said there was construction work being done in District 1 due to the construction of new homes on Dunham Road and said that there was some disruption of that street again since the contractor had to cut into the street to install new water lines. He asked residents to be patient with this work despite any inconvenience it may cause.

Mr. Shenett said his District 1 Newsletter has been distributed and was available at a number of District 1 locations including Huntington Bank and China Wok in Turney-Dunham Plaza, Beverage Store at 6191 Dunham Road and the One Stop Gas Station at Turney and Dunham.

Mr. Shenett announced that the next District 1 Block Watch Meeting had been rescheduled to this Saturday, May 21st at St. Martin of Tours Church on Turney Road from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by stating that he was very encouraged by the legislation presented to and passed by Council for the improvements to the basketball courts at Stafford Park. He said it was important that we invest in the young people of the City and that he was very happy to have been able to work with his colleagues, Councilwoman Madden and Councilwoman Agee, on the Hoop-It Up-Bridge the Gap program for a number of years. He said it was important to help people along the way.

Council President Ron Jackson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and invited everyone to attend the Memorial Day Service at City Hall on May 30th at 11:00 a.m.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Passed: July 6, 2022

ATTEST:

SLS
Leonette Cicirella Johnson Clerk of Council