

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

Maple Height Senior Center

June 1, 2022

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Law Director Frank Consolo, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Bob Gorentz, and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell arrived at 7:11 p.m. Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Finance Director Tinita Tillman and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said Councilman Tatum would have the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Jackson said there would be a Special Presentation/Tribute by District 7 Councilwoman Edwina Agee.

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 was on Third Reading, but it has been requested by the Finance Department that Council consider a motion to postpone discussion of this legislation to the July meeting. Mr. Jackson asked Councilman Shenett if he would make this motion, to which Mr. Shenett responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2022-48** concerned acceptance of a funding award from the County Healthy Tree Canopy Program (HTCP) and would authorize the City Engineer to begin the preparation of plans, bid specifications and cost estimates for the Northeast Quadrant Tree Planting Project and to provide the bidding of this project. Mr. Jackson said Mr. Hren had discussed this legislation at the Committee of the Whole Meeting and asked if there were any other questions from Council.

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

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

Moving to **Resolution No. 2022-50** determining that the unimproved City-owned lot at 5701 Harrison was not needed for municipal purposes, Mr. Jackson asked Councilwoman Madden if she supported this Side Yard Application to which Ms. Madden responded in the affirmative. Ms. Madden said this resident had been interested in this lot and was in support of this legislation.

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

Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections from Council, he would request that this legislation be passed by unanimous consent. There were no objections from Council.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2022-51** would authorize an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (CCLRC) for deed in lieu of tax foreclosure regarding property owned by the City on Granite Road. He said Law Director Consolo talked with him today regarding this legislation and has requested that this Ordinance be kept on First Reading at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Consolo said the Law Department was requesting that this legislation be kept on First Reading since it has been discovered that there is a sewage pump building on this property that will need to be dealt with through this property transfer.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2022-52** authorizing the Community Life and Education Committee to expend public funds and accept private donations for 2022 community events, Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or comments on this legislation. There were no questions or comments from Council. Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said Council had received an overview of **Ordinance No. 2022-53**, authorizing application to and acceptance of an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, Law Enforcement, for an APEX Officer Virtual Reality Training System at last evening's Committee of Whole Meeting. He asked if there were any other questions. There were no questions.

Mr. Jackson asked Council to pass this legislation on emergency since there was a deadline for this grant application.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2022-54** authorizing the contract to provide for the Stafford Park Safety Town and Ball Field Demolition Project had also been discussed by Mr. Hren at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. He asked if there were any other questions. There being no questions, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Shenett asked for clarification that the demolition of Safety Town included the buildings, to which Mr. Jackson responded in the affirmative. Mr. Jackson said the demolition included the building, fencing, etc.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2022-55** authorizing the contract to provide for the Northeast Quadrant Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 4 Project was also discussed by Mr. Hren and asked if there were any other questions.

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

Mr. Shenett also asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2022-56** regarding amendments to Council's 220 Rules would be on First Reading at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2022-57** concerned the approval of the final plat of resubdivision, vacation and dedication submitted by Hazelwood Court LLC for record only. Mr. Jackson said the Army Corps of Engineers had approved the tree clean-up for this area and the property for this project had finally transferred from the City to the Hazelwood Court LLC. He asked if there were any questions. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting

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.

There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

REGULAR 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, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Service Director Bob Gorentz and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas and City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND TRIBUTE:

District 7 Councilwoman Agee with the assistance of District 1 Councilman Shenett presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Richard Richey, Director of Security for the Maple Heights School District on the occasion of his retirement after 25 years of service.

In addition to the Proclamation for Mr. Richey, a number of residents offered testimonials to Mr. Richey including:

former students Ms. Alana Wilson and Ms. Cheryl Lynne Clark who thanked Mr. Richey for his support while they were in school and felt that he was everyone's father or uncle.

Ms. Adrienne Carr on behalf of the 2009 After Prom Moms who said Mr. Richey was a godsend for her son. She said his suggestions and guidance to the students have stayed with them as they grew up. Ms. Carr said he was a very honorable, respectable and stand-up man.

Ms. Rosalind Moore on behalf of the Maple Heights School Board said she first met Mr. Richey when her children were students. She said Mr. Richey was a mentor to the students and that he took good care of the School District and kept the children and staff safe. Ms. Moore thanked Mr. Richey for his service to the School District and said she really appreciated him.

Ms. Andrea Beaman on behalf of the support staff of the School District said she knew Mr. Richey from the school system and also as a neighbor down the street. She said Mr. Richey

worked to make sure the children would be successful which “takes a man of heart and a man of courage.”

In accepting his Proclamation Mr. Richey thanked God, saying that God was the center of his life and also thanked his wife of 45 years, “25 years of which were getting up with him at 3:00 a.m.” Mr. Richey thanked his daughter and grandson.

Mr. Richey thanked everyone who spoke on his behalf and told the students of Maple Heights to be respectful and remember that some things never change. He said you cannot change the foundation of what our country was founded on and reminded students to “keep their hats off and keep their pants up.”

Mr. Richey also thanked the Police Department for all their help whenever he called them and thanked Ms. Moore, Ms. Carr and Ms. Beaman. Mr. Richey said he appreciated everyone and loved Maple Heights. He also thanked the Mayor and Council Members Agee and Shenett for this presentation and said as elected officials they were the foundation of this community.

Ms. Agee also presented a Proclamation to Mr. Michael Rhodes on the passing of his wife, Ms. Michelle Rhodes, in recognition of her involvement in the community and work during various City elections.

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

MINUTES: Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to approve the Special Meeting of Council Minutes of May 12, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Shenett: Yes; Ms. Jones: Yes; Mr. Tatum: 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

Councilwoman Anderson, Chairwoman of the Community Life and Education Committee, reported that the Community Life and Education Committee awarded new bicycles the top students from the City’s three (3) Elementary Schools. Ms. Anderson said the Committee wanted to the acknowledge these students and hoped this would encourage other students to work hard.

Ms. Anderson thanked Committee Member Tatum and Council President Jackson for their work on this project.

Ms. Anderson said the Community Life and Education Committee would be participating in the Maple Heights Library Summer Reading Party on Saturday, June 4th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. She said there will be games, food and refreshments.

Ms. Anderson concluded her report by announcing that the Community Life and Education Committee will be sponsoring a Health and Wellness Fair and that more information will be forthcoming.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – There was no report for the Fire Department as Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas was absent and excused from tonight’s meeting.

Law Department –Law Director Mr. Frank Consolo introduced Ms. Cheryl Lynne Clark, currently working as an Intern in the Law Department. Mr. Consolo said Ms. Clark was shadowing Assistant Prosecutor Ridenour in Garfield Municipal Court.

Ms. Clark said she was happy to be interning this summer in the Law Department. She said it has been very eventful and has learned a lot about trial work with Ms. Ridenour. Ms. Clark said she has also worked on research projects for the Law Department and was learning best practices for legal work.

Police Department –Police Chief Todd Hansen reported that the Police Department has responded to a total of approximately 10,263 calls for service to date which was down from the total of 12,200 calls at this time last year. He said the call volume was down slightly for the year, but call volume for the month of May this year was slightly higher at 2,700 calls for service versus 2,600 calls last year. The Police Chief said the Police Department handled some high-profile cases recently and that the number of calls for service per day has averaged about 5 reports a day, 5 to 6 tickets per day and 3 arrests per day.

Police Chief Hansen thanked Mr. Glontz and the American Legion for the great Memorial Day Ceremony held at City Hall.

Police Chief Hansen announced that the Police Department will be hosting Coffee With a Cop on June 14th, Flag Day, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Northfield Road McDonald’s.

Police Chief Hansen said the Police Department has hired a new employee in the Records Department.

Police Chief Hansen concluded his report by thanking Mr. Richey for his service to the School District and the City. The Chief said he worked with Mr. Richey often and he was always helpful. Police Chief Hansen thanked Mr. Richey for his perseverance. He said Mr. Richey was always there and thanked him again for his years of service

Human Services Department – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat said she was happy to announce the first stage of the reopening of the Stafford Park Aquatics Center. She said the opening will be this Sunday, June 5th with the sprayground opening at Noon.

Mrs. Vopat announced that the Music In the Park concert series will begin with the first of the year on Tuesday, June 14th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with music provided by Blue Lunch. She said food will be available from a local business.

Mrs. Vopat said that the last free Covid Clinic at the Senior Center will be held on Wednesday, June 22nd from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Vopat said Covid shots, boosters and flu shots will be available and \$100 gift cards will be given for first time Covid vaccinations and that all shots will be administered by staff from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Mrs. Vopat said she had known Mr. Richey for many years and that he was always there to help the City administration. Mrs. Vopat wished him well on his retirement.

Finance Department – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman said the auditors have completed the City’s financial statements and have been converted to the GAAP statements and uploaded.

Ms. Tillman said the State Auditors found two (2) minor issues and were testing the federal programs being reviewed.

Ms. Tillman said the month-end financial report for May will be out tomorrow.

Service Department – Service Director Mr. Bob Gorentz said the Memorial Day Ceremony was well-attended and he thanked everyone who helped before and after the event.

Mr. Gorentz said the Service Department has been patching roads and will be starting in District 6 Thursday or Friday. He said Service Department staff were also busy cutting grass. Mr. Gorentz said he appreciated everyone’s patience while this work was completed.

Mr. Gorentz announced that the City’s Animal Warden was out on sick leave and that the County Animal Shelter has been very helpful picking up the dogs at the City shelter as soon as possible and caring for them. Mr. Gorentz said he has checked with neighboring departments regarding help with the trapping of nuisance animals but that will not be possible due to employee shortages. He said that at this time the City has had to discontinue this service to the residents.

Mr. Gorentz concluded his report by reminding everyone that trash pick-up will be delayed one day this week due to the Memorial Day Holiday on Monday.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:

Ms. Kimberly Brown extended her condolences to Mr. Rhodes and congratulated Mr. Richey on his retirement.

Ms. Brown commended Ms. Anderson on her leadership and presented her a plaque in recognition of her work.

Mr. Robert Gillette residing on Camden Avenue thanked Council and the Administration who attended the Memorial Day Service. He said it was a great ceremony that was well-attended. He also thanked Mr. Al Glontz for his work to organize the ceremony.

Mr. Gillette said he had a complaint regarding the old school property off Nitra Avenue. He said a couple of gates need to be shut and locked because people were dumping everything there. Mr. Gillette said the School District needed to be contacted to have this checked out.

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.

As this Ordinance was on Third Reading, Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to postpone discussion of this legislation until the July Meeting.

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

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.

Mr. Trojanski 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. There being no other 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: Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: 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. 2022-50

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE UNIMPROVED RESIDENTIAL LOT OWNED BY THE CITY AT 5701 HARRISON AVENUE, PPN 784-10-096, IS NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

There being no objections, this Resolution was passed by Unanimous Consent of Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-51

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR DEED IN LIEU OF TAX FORECLOSURE WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION (CCLRC) THEREBY TRANSFERRING PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY ON GRANITE ROAD, PPN 786-20-004, TO CCLRC WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT CCLRC WILL THEN DONATE THE PROPERTY VIA A PASS-THROUGH AGREEMENT TO THE CLEVELAND METROPARKS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was on First Reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-52

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY LIFE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO EXPEND PUBLIC FUNDS AND ACCEPT PRIVATE DONATIONS TO HOST THE FOLLOWING 2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS: HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR; VOTER REGISTRATION; FALL FESTIVAL; AND HOLIDAY EVENT, 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: Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: 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. 2022-53

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPT, WITH MATCHING FUNDS, AN EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT, LAW ENFORCEMENT, FOR APEX OFFICER VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,500.00, WITH MATCHING FUNDS OF 25% IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,875.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Jones 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.

Mr. Shenett thanked the Chief for presenting this legislation. He said it was a benefit to the City and would save money with in-house training. Mr. Shenett said it would also improve community engagement between the Police Department and residents.

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

Ms. Jones asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

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

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: 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. 2022-54

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE STAFFORD PARK SAFETY TOWN & BALL FIELD DEMOLITION PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Anderson 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.

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: Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: 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. 2022-55

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT SEWER REHABILITATION PHASE 4 PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Trojanski 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: Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: 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. 2022-56

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING COUNCIL'S RULES OF ORDER SET FORTH IN SECTION 220.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was on First Reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-57

A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO COD. ORD. SEC. 1242.03(B)(4) APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF RESUBDIVISION, VACATION AND DEDICATION SUBMITTED BY HAZELWOOD COURT LLC FOR RECORD ONLY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Madden 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.

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: Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: 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, only one (1) Disclosure of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell extended her condolences to Mr. Rhodes and said his wife had been a part of her campaign. The Mayor also thanked Mr. Richey for his work. She said Mr. Richey made sure people were safe and that his work was impactful.

Mayor Blackwell thanked the developer of Hazelwood Court, PIRHL Acquisitions LLC for their project to build a 53-unit affordable senior housing facility to be managed by Jennings. She said this will be a \$14 million dollar project. The Mayor said she knew the trees being cut down for this project were unsightly, but that there was pain with growth and development. Mayor Blackwell thanked the Planning and Zoning Commission for their support of this project and said that the Architectural Review Board (ARB) were very complimentary with regards to the design and materials being used for this project. The Mayor said the Army Corps of Engineers will be coming to inspect the area and then construction will be able to proceed.

Mayor Blackwell said the Sprayground will be opening this Sunday, June 5th and that Council had approved legislation to demolish Safety Town and the Ball Fields. She said the Maple Heights Boys League was using the field still in operation. The Mayor said the City had received grants to re-do Stafford Park including trails, trees, etc. based upon the City's Master Plan. She said the demolition of Safety Town will allow the installation of the fitness trails.

Mayor Blackwell said the pool will be repaired and reopened through the use of capital funding and that the first stage was the Sprayground. She said Hastings has been hired to manage the sprayground. The Mayor said the sprayground will be free to residents but will be open for limited hours due to staffing and supply challenges. Mayor Blackwell said the basketball courts at Stafford Park will also be rebuilt.

The Mayor concluded her report by announcing that the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization contract on the agenda for tonight's meeting will be transferring land to the Cleveland MetroParks.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3 said the Hope Alliance Convoy of Hope that was held May 21st was well-attended.

Mr. Tatum thanked Fire Chief Kavaliunas for the new smoke detectors from the American Red Cross and said he wanted to remind everyone to check their smoke detectors.

Mr. Tatum said there was a problem with trash pick-up being delayed on a couple of streets in his district.

Mr. Tatum concluded his report by announcing that Hope Alliance Baptist Church was sponsoring a Young Lives program to assist troubled youth in the Maple Heights and Garfield Heights High Schools.

Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4 extended her condolences to the Rhodes Family and congratulated Mr. Richey on his retirement.

Ms. Anderson thanked Ms. Brown for her recognition.

Ms. Anderson said there had been a watermain break at Raymond Street and Theodore Street and thanked Fire Captain Sypen for his work to get this problem rectified.

Ms. Anderson concluded her report by announcing that she would be starting her street meetings soon.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 said she hoped everyone had an enjoyable Memorial Day Holiday. Ms. Madden thanked Mr. Al Glontz for his long years of dedication to the Memorial Day Association and his work on the Memorial Day services. Ms. Madden said she was honored to be part of the Memorial Day Services.

Ms. Madden announced that the next Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Distribution will be held on Friday, June 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Southgate.

Ms. Madden concluded her report by announcing that the District 5 Newsletter will be out soon and asked District 5 residents to please contact her if they have any questions or concerns. Ms. Madden said she appreciated all their support.

Councilman Richard Trojanski, District 6 extended his condolences to the Rhodes Family and congratulated Mr. Richey on his retirement. He said Mr. Richey was very reassuring and that it was always good to see people dedicated to the community. Mr. Trojanski said Mr. Richey was very committed to the school institutions and to the community.

Mr. Trojanski said that with Council's summer schedule he will be more involved in the community and asked any District 6 residents interested in hosting a Meet and Great to please contact him. Mr. Trojanski said he wanted to stress the need to reinvest in our community and discover the possibilities to look for human connection, economic development and home ownership and the need to foster neighborhoods.

Mr. Trojanski said he was honored to attend the High School Award Ceremony and will be attending the graduation at Castle High School.

Mr. Trojanski concluded his report by recognizing June as Pride Month.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 – said that last Saturday she met with residents of District 7 to discuss various issues including crime, etc. and announced that there will be a District 7 Stand With Me meeting with the Mayor and Police Chief on Thursday, June 16th at the Maple Heights Library. Ms. Agee said more information will be forthcoming.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District said “Blessed are those who mourn” and extended his condolences to Mr. Rhodes.

Mr. Shenett thanked Mr. Richey for his service to the City and said he had known Mr. Richey for a number of years from the USFL Football League. He said Mr. Richey had a way of excellence about him.

Mr. Shenett thanked the Mayor and Police Chief Hansen for contributing to his District 1 Block Watch Meeting. Mr. Shenett said Chief Hansen was very knowledgeable about the City and did not take things for granted. He said the Police Department has engaged with the community and went beyond talk about policing.

Mr. Shenett said it was exciting that home values were increasing in the City but said he was concerned with private investors buying properties and then leave the properties uninhabited.

Mr. Shenett said he was grateful for the infrastructure work in District 1 and said that the Rowena Drive project was moving along with the sewer work. He said the Mendota sewer work would be starting June 6th. Mr. Shenett said work was also continuing on the properties on Dunham Road and asked residents in the area to be patient with any inconveniences during this project.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by thanking Mr. Glontz for the Memorial Day Ceremony. He said the Memorial Service was excellent.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 extended her condolences to the Rhodes family.

Ms. Jones said she first met Mr. Richey when her mother was on the School Board and that his kindness and compassion to the children was inspiring. Ms. Jones wished Mr. Richey well on his retirement.

Ms. Jones thanked Mr. Glontz for the Memorial Day Service and the Maple Heights Memorial Day pin.

Ms. Jones said she recently attended a meeting held by Judge Nicastro at Garfield Heights Municipal Court regarding a Housing Task Force to look for solutions for the increasing number of evictions. Ms. Jones said the meeting examined the best practices from Cleveland Housing Court and discussed a number of issues including mediation, sample leases, online support and how to promote rental assistance.

Ms. Jones said representatives from the Garfield Heights School Board also discussed the displacement of families in the school system.

Ms. Jones said other topics discussed included mental health issues, the negative affect of evictions on a tenant's record to secure other housing and the problem of sub-standard rentals. Ms. Jones said the next meeting for the task force will be at the end of this month.

Council President Ron Jackson extended his condolences to the Rhodes Family and congratulated Mr. Richey on his retirement. Mr. Jackson said he would see Mr. Richey everywhere around the schools and at all the school sporting events.

Mr. Jackson thanked the representative of PIRHL Acquisitions for bringing the Hazelwood Court Project to the City to meet the need for affordable senior housing.

Mr. Jackson also thanked Mr. Glontz for the Memorial Day Service and the food afterwards.

Mr. Jackson invited residents to bring their families to the Maple Heights Boys League games tomorrow from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Jackson concluded his report by announcing that despite Council being on Summer Schedule there will be a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday, June 15th.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Passed: August 8, 2023

ATTEST:

S/S
Leonette Cicirella Johnson Clerk of Council