

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

**Maple Heights Senior Center**

**August 24, 2022**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council members present: Jackson, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Councilman Shenett arrived at 7:05 p.m. Also present was Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Ex.Lt. Brian Kevern, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Bob Gorentz, Mr. Devin Edwards from Chagrin Valley Engineering on behalf of City Engineer Ed Hren and Clerk of Council Leonette Cicirella Johnson.

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

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Mr. Jackson said Sect. 220.01(c)(9) of the MH Codified Ordinances permit Citizens Comments only doing regular meetings of Council, but asked for a motion to add Citizens' Comments to the agenda for tonight's Special Meeting of Council.

So moved by Mr. Trojanski and seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

ROLL CALL on the motion: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any Citizens' Comments.

Ms. Vera Ann Markovich residing at 16112 Maple Park Drive said the streets in the City were horrible and needed to be patched. Ms. Markovich said she hoped the City got the money to fix the streets since they were ruining her car.

Mr. Alan Borsi of 18907 Longview Avenue thanked everyone for cleaning up the property.

Ms. Linda Smith-Peterson residing at 18401 Dalewood Avenue said she was a resident of District 7 and that she wanted to thank the Administration for their integrity and transparency regarding the 2022 street program. Ms. Smith Peterson said she attended the Town Hall Meetings to get more information on the 2022 proposal and attended the Districts 1, 5 and 7 Meeting. She said this meeting lacked integrity. Ms. Smith-Peterson said PCR system was unbiased and this was the beginning of a three (3) year repair project. She asked Council to vote "yes" on this legislation for the good of all the citizens of Maple Heights.

Mr. Roderick Weatherly of 18900 McCracken Road asked if McCracken Road was on the list to be repaired. Mr. Weatherly also stated that the area of Camden and Raymond Street was still messed up.

In response, Councilwoman Anderson said part of McCracken Road was on the list to be repaired this year.

Ms. Theresa Norvell residing at 5446 Beechwood Avenue said residents expect a level of integrity and homeowners expect results since they pay their taxes. Ms. Norvell said we hold ourselves accountable and what you do with your time. Ms. Norvell said Council should support this program so the City does not have to give any money back.

Mr. Johnson of 5660 Harrison Avenue said he worked in construction and asked if the money for the County roads was included in this program. Mr. Johnson said there seemed to be some discrepancies regarding the conditions of the roads and that if the City could repair enough roads this would save money in the future.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said there was a separate fund for County roads and additional funding from the Water Department and the Sewer District.

Ms. Pearl Means of 5422 Elmwood Avenue asked the Council Members from District 1, 5 and 7 about their meeting.

In response, Councilwoman Agee said they had wanted to go back to the table and discuss the proposed program. Ms. Agee said she and her colleagues tried to sit down and negotiate.

Councilman Shenett said he concurred with Ms. Agee and that they had requested a Special Meeting. Mr. Shenett said he was not sure about the communications, but he had sent a separate e-mail to the Mayor and to the City Engineer asking if the list of streets proposed for the 2022 program was negotiable. Mr. Shenett said the Mayor responded to his e-mail and respected her decision. Mr. Shenett said he did push for Summit Avenue in District 1 to be added to the list.

Ms. Veronica Collins residing at 5258 Milo Avenue said she would encourage everyone to come together in consensus. She said the road work needed to get done.

Ms. Pauline Jones of 5621 Lafayette Avenue said she lived with her Mom who was 93 years old. She said Lafayette was not on this year's list despite needing to zigzag to avoid the holes. Ms. Jones asked when with the road survey be done again and will it be possible to have the road repaired in 2023-2024.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the roads will be re-evaluated in 2023 and the program will be developed depending on the City revenues at the time. She said the City was projecting to spend \$1 million dollars per year.

Ms. Tina Marbury residing at 5228 Homewood Avenue said she had attended the Town Hall Meeting and the other District Meeting and asked why there was no discussion from Council regarding this legislation.

In response, Mr. Shenett said three (3) of the Members of Council requested a Special Meeting but the Council President made the decision to have these meetings. Mr. Shenett said they had wanted to let the residents know their positions on the street program. He said residents wanted to know when their streets would be repaired. Mr. Shenett said Council can ask the question, but have to respect the answer.

Ms. Charlene Jones of 5218 Paine Avenue said even if the streets were not able to be repaired she asked if the Service Department could cut the grass and weeds growing in the cracks in the street and clean the catch basins.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the streets will be repaired. The Mayor said she will discuss the 2023 program in early march with City Engineer Ed Hren and will check with ODOT and the County to see what programs will be available. She said the City will continue to address street repairs in Maple Heights.

Ms. Nartisha Bates residing at 18409 Lewis Drive said she had high regard for the Mayor and has worked with City Council. She said perhaps the money for streets repairs could be divided so that everyone had the opportunity to have one (1) street repaired. Ms. Bates said it was not an issue of attacking anyone's character, but working with integrity.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the road repair program did not work that way. She said the City received funding to repair Dunham Road with the bike lane project and Mendoza and Rowena were worked on with infrastructure project. The Mayor said District 1 had its fill of street repairs for this year. She said the City Engineer explained the issue of district equity. Mayor Blackwell said she lived in District 1 and her street was bad, but the funding will be used for other streets which is why her street will not be done.

Mr. Shenett said he respected the Mayor's position and a lot of work was done in his District. Mr. Shenett said he never disagreed with Mr. Hren. He said Dunham Road had been repaired due to safety issues and the side streets off of Mendota and Rowena benefitted from that infrastructure project.

Mr. Shenett said the Mayor could not push for her street, but as a Councilperson he can push for the residents on Summit Avenue and Longvale to have their streets repaired. Mr. Shenett said he had to speak up for these residents win or lose.

Councilwoman Madden said she was opposed to the 2022 program because when the rating system was prepared District 5 had several streets in the top 25 worst streets. She said President's Row was in very bad condition. Ms. Madden said the one street being proposed to be repaired was Marion Street that had only two (2) houses on it. She said District 5 deserved to have at least one (1) street with several homes on it so the residents would be able to see work being done by the City.

Ms. Madden said the members of Council had requested the Special Meeting to be able to work together to propose one (1) street per district.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said Ms. Madden had conversations with the city Engineer about the street program and the decisions will not be changed. She said District 5 had streets done last year and that President's Row will be looked at again next spring.

Ms. Madden said she did not understand why the rating system was kind of ignored since the worst streets from 1 to 25 were not being done. Ms. Madden said she felt the money spent on the rating system was not being honored.

Mayor Blackwell said the City Engineer checked street by street and the City received money from the County or the State for certain roads. The Mayor said the answer will not change and that the top 25 was a starting point.

Ms. Madden said she had not talked with Mr. Hren over and over again and have not called him. Ms. Madden said she only talked with Mr. Hren once, right after the Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Jones said she represented District 2 and half of Ramage Avenue was done due to County money for the resurfacing of Rockside Road from City limit to City limit. Ms. Jones said she wanted more streets to be done also with the number of calls that she has received from residents. Ms. Jones said she voted "yes" so the program could go forward. Ms. Jones said she wanted the program to get done this year so next year's program will be able to go forward. Ms. Jones said Council needed to agree to move forward on the street program.

Councilwoman Agee said that with all due respect to the Mayor, she was the Council member who spoke with Mr. Hren and he responded by e-mail that he had also copied to the Mayor.

In response to Ms. Smith-Peterson, Ms. Agee said they did not talk about the Mayor at their District Meeting. She said they did not say anything about Mayor Blackwell.

Mr. Jackson closed the Citizen's Comments at 7:48 p.m.

## **LEGISLATION:**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-78**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE 2022 ROADWAY REPAIR PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, 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.

Mr. Shenett said he wanted the record to reflect that he had sent an e-mail to the Mayor pleading for Summit Avenue to be repaired as soon as it was possible and also Longvale Avenue.

Ms. Jones said she wanted to remind Council that this legislation will need to pass on emergency for the work to get done this year.

Ms. Madden said she did not oppose Marion Street being repaired but there were only two (2) houses on that street and she wanted more residents who were homeowners and tax payers to benefit from this \$1 million dollar project. Ms. Madden said the Mayor and the Council President were elected by and work for the whole City but she was elected as Councilperson for District 5. Ms. Madden said she has spoken to a number of residents in District 5 about this matter and they agreed with her position.

Mr. Trojanski said three (3) streets in District 7 will be resurfaced with funds from other infrastructure projects but there were other streets that he would have also had included in the 2022 street program. Mr. Trojanski said even though Council Members represent their districts they also act as trustees for the City. He said the City needed economic development and that it took all of Council to work together for the City. Mr. Trojanski said he was not happy with the program, but did want what was best for the City.

Ms. Agee asked if Council was to work for the City why didn't the other Council people come to the table.

Mayor Blackwell asked Mr. Jackson to address this issue about the meeting that was being asked for.

Mr. Jackson said that after the vote at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting he talked with the Mayor, Mr. Hren and Mr. Consolo to get the legislation on another meeting. Mr. Jackson said he asked Mr. Hren what was the drop-dead date for the contract. Mr. Jackson said he decided to schedule the three (3) Special Meetings but Ms. Agee had also requested a Special Meeting. Mr. Jackson said these special meetings would not have cancelled out the requested meeting. He said what drove his dates for the meetings was the contract deadline from Mr. Hren.

Ms. Agee said she e-mailed Mr. Jackson on Sunday to request the Special Meeting so all of Council could attend and all the information from the Mayor, Mr. Hren and Mr. Consolo could have been shared with Council. Ms. Agee said if Council had had a discussion, things would be different.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or discussion. There being no other questions or further 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:  
Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes. Madden:  
No. The motion passed by the vote of five (5) ayes to two (2) nays.

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: Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: No. The motion passed by the vote of five (5) ayes to two (2) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Passed: September<sup>21</sup>, 2022

ATTEST:

S/S  
Leonette Cicirella Johnson, Clerk of Council