

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

**Maple Height Senior Center**

**September 21, 2022**

**MEETING CAUCUS**

Council President Pro Temp Trojanski called the Caucus Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Council President Jackson was absent and excused. Also present were Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell arrived at 6:39 p.m. Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Acting Service Director Tony Ciresi and Planning and Development Director Joe Duffy were absent and excused.

Mr. Trojanski said City Engineer Ed Hren was in attendance at tonight's meeting to discuss both **Resolution No. 2022-85** authorizing the contract for the 2022 Concrete Roadway Repair Program and **Resolution No. 2022-87** authorizing the contract for the Hansen-Watson-Raymond Road Resurfacing Project and to answer any questions from Council. Mr. Trojanski asked Mr. Hren to discuss both of these items of legislation.

In response, Mr. Hren said that as he had explained at the September 6, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting, **Resolution No. 2022-85** would authorize the contract for road repairs on the part of Lee Road from Broadway Avenue to I-480. He said the areas to be repaired have been marked and the contractor would be prepared to start this project next week or the first week of October. Mr. Hren respectfully requested that Council pass this Resolution on emergency at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There were no questions.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2022-87**, Mr. Hren said this legislation authorized the contract for the Hansen-Watson-Raymond Road Resurfacing Project had also been discussed at the September 6, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting. He said this Resolution authorized only the contract for the resurfacing work on sections of these streets from Warrensville Center Road to Northfield Road since the sewer repair work for this area has already been completed under other contracts. Mr. Hren said the contractor for this project was also prepared to start work on this project either the last week of September or the first week of October. Mr. Hren respectfully requested that Council also pass this Resolution on emergency at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions regarding this legislation.

Mr. Trojanski asked Mr. Hren if prior to the resurfacing work the contractor would provide a letter to the residents to inform them of this work to which Mr. Hren responded in the affirmative. Mr. Hren said the contractor would provide a letter to the residents living on these streets at least 48 hours prior to the commencing of the resurfacing work. He said the City had modified the contract so that residents will be notified this year regarding the milling and

resurfacing work and will also be notified next year when the contractor will be performing the chip and seal work.

Mr. Trojanski requested to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2022-88** authorizing acceptance of the City tax rates and certifying them to the County Budget Commission, Mr. Trojanski asked Mr. Consolo if he would discuss this legislation on behalf of Finance Director Tillman.

In response, Mr. Consolo said the council packet for this meeting included a copy of the tax rate letter received from the County that was based on the tax budget that Council had approved back in July. He said after passage of the tax budget at that time, the County processed the letter that scheduled the tax rates for FY 2023.

Mr. Consolo respectfully requested that Council pass this Resolution on emergency at tonight's meeting. He advised Council that the urgency in this matter was that a copy of this legislation must be provided back to the County by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions on **Resolution No. 2022-88**. There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Trojanski said **Resolution No. 2022-89** would adopt the County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan and asked Mr. Consolo to discuss this legislation also.

Mr. Consolo said that every five (5) years the County prepared an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan should a catastrophe happen in our area. He said the City was a signatory on the prior Plan five (5) years earlier. Mr. Consolo said it is a requirement that all cities have a hazard mitigation plan, and that it was the recommendation of the Administration that the City also join this County Plan. Mr. Consolo said signing onto this Plan helped the City when applying for grants and other funding.

Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions or comments on this Resolution. There were no questions on this legislation. Mr. Consolo requested that Council pass this Resolution on emergency.

Moving to the List of Expenditures, Mr. Trojanski said there were no Expenditures over \$25,000.00 and no Disclosures of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00 for review at tonight's meeting.

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

There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

## REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Pro Temp Richard Trojanski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Council President Jackson was 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 and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Assistant Service Director Tony Ciresi, Planning and Development Director Joe Duffy and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, Sr. 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:** Councilwoman Anderson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tatum, to approve the Special Meeting of Council Minutes of August 17, 2022.

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

Councilman Shenett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to approve the Special Meetings of Council Minutes of August 18 and August 24, 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.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shenett, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of September 7, 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 Dana D. Anderson, Chairwoman of the Community Life and Education Committee, reported that yesterday, September 20, 2022, the Voter Registration Day held at the Maple Heights Senior Center was a success. She said some residents were registered to vote and others applied for absentee ballots.

Ms. Anderson also announced that the Community Life and Education Committee in partnership with the Maple Heights School Board will be hosting a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Milkovich Middle School. Ms. Anderson said there will be food, music, games, resource vendors, candy for the children and a Best Costume Contest for all ages.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** –Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas reported that Fire Department calls to date were 4,316 and that the Fire Department responded to the following fires:

On September 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:20 a.m. to a garage fire at 15904 Northwood; there were no injuries reported or damage to surrounding homes;

On September 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:04 p.m. to an occupied house fire at 7509 Bancroft in Garfield Heights; no injuries reported.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said Fire Department personnel also assisted the Bedford Fire Department with a male who had fallen over the ledge into the ravine at the MetroPark on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. He said Firefighters were able to conduct a rope rescue and reported that the male suffered only minor injuries.

The Fire Chief reported that the two (2) candidates who received the Oath of Office on September 8<sup>th</sup> have finished orientation and were working on their assigned shifts.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas concluded his report by stating that the Fire Department has completed the interviews for the candidates for hire to replace an up-coming vacancy in October and will be continuing with the background and polygraph testing.

**Law Department** –Law Director Frank Consolo reported that the Law Department had received a copy of the sample ballot for the November 8, 2022 general election from the County Board of Elections. Mr. Consolo said the November ballot included City Issues 61 and 62 which were the renewal levies for the Fire Department and Police Department respectively. Mr. Consolo said that the rate for each levy was not to exceed 2 mills for each one dollar of valuation which amounted to 20 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation for a period of five (5) years.

Mr. Consolo said each levy had a particular purpose as noted in the language of the ballot. Mr. Consolo said Issue 61 regarding the Fire Levy was for the payment of salaries for fire fighters in the Division of Fire and for providing, maintaining, and operating fire apparatus, appliances, buildings and sites. He said Issue 62 regarding the Police Levy was for the payment of salaries of permanent police personnel, and to provide and maintain motor vehicles, communications and other equipment used directly in the operation of the Division of Police.

Mr. Consolo concluded his report by stating that it was his recommendation that City officials in elected positions take a “facts-only” approach with regards to the levies. He said City officials

can discuss the purposes of the levies and the fact that each will raise just over \$500,000.00 to help pay for Fire and Police Department expenses.

**Police Department** –Police Chief Todd Hansen reported that the Police Department has responded to approximately 1,200 calls for service since the last Council Meeting and just under a total of 20,000 calls for service to date. He said Police Department call volume had averaged about 90 calls per day and reported that 11 guns were taken off the streets so far in September.

The Police Chief said the Citizens Police Academy classes with Garfield Heights started last week and will be held every Wednesday. He said this was a first good meeting for the program and that members of MHPD and GHPD will be at these meetings.

Police Chief Hansen said Officer Carolyn Fields, one of the two (2) new Officers recently sworn-in started this week and Officer Bernard Fronzagliio will be starting in a couple of days.

The Police Chief concluded his report by thanking Mayor Blackwell for her work with Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz to secure two (2) extra police cruisers for the MHPD. He said the City of Independence donated to Maple Heights two (2) used 2015 Ford Explorers that had been used as police cruisers by that jurisdiction. Police Chief Hansen also thanked the City of Independence Purchasing Agent for assisting with this donation.

**Human Services Department** – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat announced that on September 23, 2022 Discount DrugMart will be offering flu shots and the shingles vaccine at the Senior Center and that on Thursday, October 27, 2022 the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Maple Heights Department of Human Services will be sponsoring another Covid Clinic from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Vopat said residents can begin calling for appointments for the Clinic starting Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. She said \$100.00 gift cards will be given for first dose vaccines and \$50.00 gift cards will be given for second dose or booster vaccines.

**Finance Department** – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman said she had only two (2) quick announcements for tonight's meeting. She said that the City website had been updated to include the monthly reports of all revenues and expenditures from December 2018 to August 2022. Ms. Tillman said these reports will be updated on a monthly basis. Ms. Tillman said she was also working with representatives from the State of Ohio Auditors to create a link on the City website for Ohio Checkbook, another program to help cities to be more transparent and show detailed expenditures.

Ms. Tillman said her second announcement concerned the 2021 audit. She said the audit was complete, but that she was not permitted to give the results until the audit report was released by the State Auditors. Ms. Tillman said the audit was scheduled to be released on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Service Department** – There was no report for the Service Department since Assistant Service Director Mr. Tony Ciresi was absent and excused.

**Planning and Development Department:** There was no report for the Planning and Development Department since Director Mr. Joe Duffy was absent and excused.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Mr. Eric Patterson of 18200 Knoll Drive said he wanted to first apologize to Councilwoman Agee for the angry and inappropriate e-mails he had sent to her. Mr. Patterson said it was just that he was very frustrated with the conditions of the City, including trash cans being left out after collection day and trash left out on tree lawns for weeks after move-outs. Mr. Patterson asked who was responsible regarding these issues.

Mr. Patterson also asked about streetlights not being replaced throughout the City. Mr. Patterson said he drove down Maple Heights Boulevard and counted six (6) streetlights out, nine (9) streetlights out on South Boulevard and fourteen (14) streetlights out on Lee Road. Mr. Patterson also asked about the street repairs.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said she had also received the resident's e-mails regarding his complaints. The Mayor said two (2) Directors had been excused from tonight's meeting and that Service Director Bob Gorentz had resigned after six (6) months on the job. She said the City was in search of a new Service Director and that there had been four (4) or five (5) changes in the Service Department as the City has been looking for workers. The Mayor said the ad for Service Department workers had been in the newspaper for ten (10) weeks.

Mayor Blackwell said she will be working with the interim Service Director to get him oriented with the position and advised the resident that there was a link on the City website to report streetlights that were not working. The Mayor said the City has had a lot of problems with employee turn-over and that the road repairs were behind because of the short time for this work. Mayor Blackwell apologized on behalf of the City.

Mr. Robert Gillette residing at 5228 Camden Road said he appreciated all that Council and the Administration did for the City, but there was another mudpie in the City that needed to be addressed. Mr. Gillette said Magic Beauty Supply on the corner of Libby and Lee Roads was in the main part of the City and had been under construction for several months now and looked like it would not be finished anytime soon.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the business owner has had three (3) different contractors trying to get the building addition completed. The Mayor said the owner has had issues finding contractors to finish the work. She said the City was aware of the problems the owner has been experiencing and has been working with him to get the work finished.

**LEGISLATION:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-85**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE 2022 CONCRETE ROADWAY**

**REPAIR PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Trojanski 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.

There being no further discussion on this legislation, Mr. Trojanski asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes.; Agee: Yes; The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-87**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A  
CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE HANSEN-WATSON-RAYMOND  
ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS,  
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Trojanski 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.

There being no further discussion on this legislation, Mr. Trojanski asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-88**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED  
BY THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING**

**THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Trojanski 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.

There being no further discussion on this legislation, Mr. Trojanski asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-89**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY 2022-2027 ALL-HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. Mr. Trojanski asked if there were any questions or discussion on this legislation.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Trojanski 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.

There being no further discussion on this legislation, Mr. Trojanski asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes.; Agee: Yes; The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

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

Mr. Trojanski said there were no **Expenditures over \$25,000.00 or Disclosures of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00** for review at tonight's meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Blackwell said she and City Engineer E Hren made a presentation to Cuyahoga County Council Representative Pernel Jones to defend the City's



request for a \$700,00.00 grant for various projects in the City. The Mayor said this funding was from the American Rescue Funds and that the County legislation regarding the distribution of these funds was on second reading and would be presented to the full Council in October. She said the funding was being requested for the purchase of a generator for the Senior Center since at the present time the City did not have any community facility to house residents in the case of an emergency. Mayor Blackwell said some of the funding would be used to install a new roof at Fire Station No. 1 and to make roof repairs at Fire Station No. 2. The Mayor said some of the money was also requested to support the Police Department locker room expansion project. Mayor Blackwell said their presentation was well-received.

Mayor Blackwell announced that the Joint State of the City and State of the Schools Address will be held next Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Milkovich Middle School. The Mayor said this address was similar to what other Mayors present regarding the conditions of their cities. Mayor Blackwell said the City has presented this address together with the School Superintendent over the years since the City worked closely with the Schools. The Mayor said the Joint Address will also be available on the City website.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1** said he wanted to remind District 1 residents that the next District 1 Block Watch Meeting will be held Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours Church on Turney Road. He said there will be several topics for discussion including updates on the infrastructure projects on Dunham Road and Mendota and Rowena; new businesses in the City and his work with Mr. Duffy to attract businesses to Turney-Dunham Plaza and an update from NOPEC regarding a new electricity supplier for the City.

Mr. Shenett announced that the Annual Trunk or Treat and Costume Parade will be held on Sunday, October 30, 2022 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Stafford Park. Mr. Shenett said he was looking forward to seeing all the children in a variety of costumes.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by wishing everyone a good evening and encouraging everyone to attend the Joint State of the City and State of the Schools Address to be held on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Milkovich Middle School.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** said that District 2 will be joining District 3 for a Town Hall Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Abundant Grace Fellowship Church located on the corner of Rockside and Dunham Roads.

Ms. Jones said funds were still available for people in need of help paying their property taxes. She said grants of up to \$10,00.00 or \$12,000.00 if there were children living in the home were available from Covid Relief funds.

**Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3** asked District 3 residents to support the District 2 and District 3 Town Hall Meeting to be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> and invited residents to attend the

Community Life and Education Committee Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at Milkovich Middle School.

Mr. Tatum thanked the Police Department for removing a vehicle that had been parked on Maple Street and for their assistance with other issues. Mr. Tatum said he has been walking his district and talking with residents. Mr. Tatum announced that the District 3 Newsletter would be coming out soon.

**Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4**, said that at the last meeting she talked about the Block Party on Nitra Avenue and wanted to thank the studios that donated boxes of school supplies.

Ms. Anderson announced that the Districts 4 and 6 Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, October 15, 2022 and the Districts 4 and 6 Town Hall Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022. Ms. Anderson said Mayor Blackwell and Police Chief Hansen will be the special guests at the Town Hall Meeting.

**Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5** - No report.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski, District 6** said the District 6 Fall Newsletter will be coming out next week and that this weekend he will be attending Meet and Greets on Clare Avenue and Hillgrove Avenue. Mr. Trojanski said these Meet and Greets were a good opportunity for residents to get to know their neighbors and to share information.

Mr. Trojanski concluded his report by announcing that there would be a Public Works and Safety Committee Meeting held on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 7 to discuss Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** said she received a call today from resident on Elmwood Avenue who asked her to thank Assistant Service Director Tony Ciresi for taking care of a problem on her street.

Ms. Agee also thanked Southgate management for their work to bring the Chipolte restaurant to the City.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Pro Temp Trojanski adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Passed: October 5, 2022

ATTEST:

S/S

Leonette Cicirella Johnson Clerk of Council