

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

Maple Height Senior Center

January 4, 2023

MEETING CAUCUS

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

Mr. Jackson said Councilman Shenett from District 1 will have the Innovation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance for tonight's meeting. He said there were Minutes for Council to review and asked if there were any Council Committee Reports. There were no committee reports.

Mr. Jackson said there was one (1) Resolution on the agenda for tonight's meeting. He said **Resolution No. 2023-01** observing the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and honoring his life had been discussed at last evening's Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any additional comments on this legislation. There were no additional comments, but it was the consensus of Council that all members would be added as Co-Sponsors of this legislation.

Mr. Jackson said there was one (1) expenditure for Council review that had also been discussed at last evening's Committee of the Whole Meeting. He said Council will be voting to approve this expenditure tonight.

Mr. Jackson said since most of the Directors were not in attendance at tonight's meeting there would not be any Department Reports.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or comments. There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 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: Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden and Agee. Councilman Trojanski was absent and excused. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Planning and Development Director Joe Duffy and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Tony Ciresi 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: Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of December 7, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Shenett: Yes; Ms. Jones: Abstain; Mr. Tatum: Yes; Ms. Anderson: Yes; Ms. Madden: Yes; Ms. Agee: Abstain. The motion passed by the vote of four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays, with two (2) abstentions.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no Communications for tonight's meeting:

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – No Report.

Law Department – No Report.

Police Department – No Report.

Human Services Department – No Report.

Finance Department – No Report.

Service Department – No Report.

Planning and Development Director -- No Report.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: There were no Citizens' Comments for tonight's meeting.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01

A RESOLUTION OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND HONORING HIS LIFE.

Ms. Jones 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 additional discussion, Mr. Jackson 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; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) 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 was one (1) Expenditure in the amount of \$14,000.00 and one (1) Disclosure of Purchases Orders over \$10,000.00 for review at tonight's meeting. He said **Expenditure #2023-001** had been reviewed at last evening's Committee of the Whole Meeting and asked if there were any other questions or discussion. There being no other questions or discussion, Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve **Expenditure #2023-001**.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell said she wanted to wish everyone Happy New Year and said she was honored to have attended the swearing-in ceremony in Columbus for the City's new State Representative, Mr. Darnell T. Brewer. The Mayor said she thought it was important to show support for our elected officials. Mayor Blackwell said she also attended the swearing-in ceremony for Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jeffrey Saffold. She said Judge Saffold thanked the Maple Heights Democratic Club for its support.

Mayor Blackwell concluded her report by announcing that she would be meeting with Moody's to discuss the City's bond rating and said she hoped to see an increase in it.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1 said he was excited about a new business opening in District 1. He announced that the Grand Opening for ABA Hair Braiding Salon will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the salon located at 6156 Dunham Road.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 wished everyone a Happy New Year and announced that property tax bills will be mailed out next week. Ms. Jones said property tax assistance was still available for eligible property owners for tax amounts less than \$10,000.00. Ms. Jones said these grants allowed property owners to include this tax bill with any current arrearage. She said this funding will only be available until the end of June and advised taxpayers to take advantage of this program.

Ms. Jones announced that there will be a Housing Committee Meeting some time in February and concluded her report by wishing everyone a great New Year.

Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3 wished everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4 wished everyone a Happy New Year and announced that District 4 and District 6 will be holding the Second Coat and More Giveaway this Saturday, January 7, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Castle High School, 5310 Warrensville Center Road. Ms. Anderson said the coats were free and that all were welcome.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 wished everyone a Happy New Year and said she hoped everyone will have a healthy year in 2023.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 – No Report.

Council President Ron Jackson said he prayed that 2023 will be prosperous for the City and said he was looking forward to the meeting with Moody's regarding the City's bond rating.

Mr. Jackson wished everyone a Happy New Year and a great 2023.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Passed: January 18, 2023

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette Cicirella Johnson
Leonette Cicirella Johnson, Clerk of Council