

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

**Maple Height Senior Center**

**January 18, 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, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Ex. Lt. Brian Kevern on behalf of Police Chief Todd Hansen, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Tony Ciresi, Planning and Development Director Joe Duffy, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Finance Director Tinita Tillman arrived at 6:38 p.m. Police Chief Todd Hansen was absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said Councilwoman Jones from District 2 will have the Innovation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance for tonight's meeting. He said there was an Addendum to the Agenda for tonight's meeting. Mr. Jackson said he would be asking for approval of Minutes and asked if there were any Council Committee Reports. There were no Committee Reports.

Moving to the Legislation on the Agenda, Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2023-02** would authorize the waiver of the one hundred percent (100%) escrow requirement to correct point of sale inspection violations for the time period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. He asked if there were any questions on this legislation.

Mr. Jackson asked Mayor Blackwell if this legislation was the same as last year's ordinance, to which Mayor Blackwell responded in the affirmative.

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

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

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions regarding **Resolution No. 2023-03** approving the 2023 Exterior Home Repair Grant Program and authorizing the Mayor to award funding to eligible participants.

Councilman Shenett asked if the cap for individual grants would be the same amount as last year which he thought was \$3,000.00 per applicant.

In response, Planning and Development Director Duffy said the total budget for this grant program was the same as last year at \$100,000.00. He said it was funded in the same proportions as last year with \$50,000.00 from the City and \$50,000.00 requested from the County under the CDSG grant program. With regards to the maximum grant award per participant, Mr. Duffy said it may be reduced to \$2,700.00 to allow more grants to be awarded.

Mr. Duffy said forty-one (41) grants were awarded last year and the City still had a waiting list of participants.

Mr. Shenett asked if the City was able to determine the average amount spent on projects that had been approved, to which Mr. Duffy responded in the affirmative. Mr. Duffy said his department tracked every grant with regards to the full project costs.

Mr. Shenett said he thought that last year the average project cost came in at a little less than \$3,000.00.

Mr. Duffy said the range of project costs was from a few hundred dollars to others over \$5,000.00.

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

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

Ms. Jones asked Mr. Duffy if he could let Council know how much the \$100,000.00 grant fund leveraged. She asked if Mr. Duffy could get this exact dollar amount for Council.

In response, Mr. Duffy said that the grant awards were based on income requirements per County regulations. He said based upon these income guidelines the grant participants contributed either 10%, 20% or 30% of the project costs.

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

Mr. Shenett asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Councilwoman Anderson asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Councilman Tatum asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Duffy if the residents on the waiting list from last year would be contacted first.

Mr. Duffy said that these residents will be contacted and encouraged to re-submit an application for a project to be done this year.

Mr. Shenett asked if this was a “rolling” waiting list, to which Mr. Duffy responded in the negative. Mr. Duffy said this was more of a contact list since his department had retained applicants’ contact information. He said since this would be a new grant cycle, new applications will be required from the participants.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions on **Resolution No. 2023-03**. There being no other questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections he would ask Council to vote on this legislation at tonight’s meeting. There were no objections.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-04** concerned Council’s approval of the internal audit classification of certain expenditures from the General Fund to the COPS grant fund from advances to transfers and asked Finance Director Tillman to discuss this legislation.

With regards to this Resolution Ms. Tillman said the advances made to the COPS grant fund were “loans” from the General Fund and that when the Finance Department budgeted for this grant there were several line items that would not be approved for reimbursement under the grant. Ms. Tillman said this legislation was therefore requesting to change this “advance” to a “transfer.” She said that from the total advance that was sent to the COPS fund the Finance Department was asking for only a portion of that advance amount to be sent back to the General Fund. Ms. Tillman said under the Final 2022 Amended Appropriations \$100,000.00 would remain in the fund and only \$170,000.00 of the \$270,000.00 would be returned.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-05** was requesting the same approval from Council for the SAFER grant fund and asked Ms. Tillman to discuss this legislation also.

Ms. Tillman said that this Resolution concerned the same change in internal audit classifications, but for the SAFER grant fund in the amount of \$25,000.00. Ms. Tillman asked that this dollar amount remain in the SAFER grant fund as per the Final 2022 Amended Appropriations.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on either **Resolutions Nos. 2023-04 or 2023-05**.

Mr. Shenett asked Ms. Tillman to clarify the previous language referring to “internal audit classification.”

In response, Ms. Tillman said that this referred to a change being made within the Finance Department only, but it would not change anything in the budget.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions regarding **Resolution No. 2023-04**. There were no other questions. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions regarding **Resolution No. 2023-05**. There were no other questions. There being no other questions, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on both **Resolutions Nos. 2023-04 and 2023-05** at tonight’s meeting.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2023-06** authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and to advertise for bids for the City Hall Grading, Drainage & Landscaping Project, Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions from Council. There being no questions, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this Resolution tonight.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-07** authorized an agreement with 14900 Broadway Avenue LLC for the sale of the building and property located at 14900 Broadway Avenue for development and rehabilitation for a purchase price of \$10,000.00. He asked Mr. Duffy to discuss this legislation.

Mr. Duffy said this property was held by the City Land Bank and included a building on it. He said it was located in the Central Business District (CBD) Zoning District and was unique in that

it had a residential structure next door that had since been demolished. Mr. Duffy said this building had been used as an insurance agency by the people who had lived in the residential dwelling. Mr. Duffy said the building to be sold had no plumbing and was in need of rehabilitation.

At this time Mr. Duffy introduced Mr. Kevin Perkins of 14900 Broadway Avenue LLC to discuss this agreement.

Mr. Perkins thanked Mr. Duffy and Council for the opportunity to speak with them and said he has been involved in economic development for about a decade. Mr. Perkins said his company had been in communication with another insurance agent to use this building as an insurance agency again. Mr. Perkins said he was interested in using this project to build upon future development in Maple Heights. Mr. Perkins said he was interested in purchasing other residential properties in the future.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Shenett asked if this property had been one of the City-owned properties involved in the tax delinquency agreements.

In response, Mr. Duffy said this property had gone through a foreclosure process, but that was before coming into the City Land Bank. He said any back property taxes at that time would have been erased when the property went into the City Land Bank. Mr. Duffy said if there had been any back taxes those were typically negotiable with the buyer required to pay the back taxes.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions on **Resolution No. 2023-07**.

Mr. Tatum thanked Mr. Perkins for investing in the City and said he supported this project. Mr. Tatum asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Mayor Blackwell thanked Mr. Perkins for his work with the City.

Mr. Shenett asked what insurance agency will be coming to this building. In response, Mr. Perkins said that would be confirmed at a later date.

Mr. Jackson thanked Mr. Perkins for attending the Caucus Meeting.

Mr. Jackson said the last item of legislation on tonight's Agenda, **Resolution No. 2023-08**, had been added by Addendum and that it was the Final Resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to proceed with the Safe Routes to Schools Infrastructure Project (SRTS) and would authorize the Mayor to enter into this agreement.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or comments on this legislation.

Mr. Shenett asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

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

Mr. Jackson also asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or comments on this legislation.

Mayor Blackwell said this project will improve the sidewalks on Glenwood Avenue between Turney Road and Ramage Avenue to ensure children had safe walking routes to school. The Mayor thanked City Engineer Ed Hren for his work on this grant project.

Mr. Shenett asked if this project would also address the green space that had been discussed and would it also help the traffic issues in this area, to which Mr. Hren responded in the negative. Mr. Hren said the City had applied for this infrastructure project in 2019 and it was awarded by ODOT in 2020. He said the project included improvements to the crosswalks and signage in the area. He said it was to be administered by ODOT and was paid fully by ODOT from federal funding.

With regards to **Resolution No. 2023-08**, Mr. Hren said this legislation was the culmination of all of the amendments for this project. Mr. Hren said that Council had previously approved Amendments No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 as requested by ODOT as the contract needed to be amended to reflect changes in the project and changes in the amount of funding. He said this legislation will confirm that the original agreement conformed to the grant contract and that the three (3) amendments matched the final agreement.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Jones asked if the project would be done on the part of Glenwood Avenue behind the schools.

Mr. Hren said this project will do Glenwood Avenue and all of the intersecting side streets.

Ms. Jones asked if both sides of Glenwood Avenue would be done, to which Mr. Hren responded in the affirmative. Mr. Hren said it would take care of both sides of the street.

Mr. Shenett asked what was the timeline for this project.

Mr. Hren said this final agreement needed to be signed and returned to ODOT by January 25, 2023 and the project would be done during the 2023 construction season when the schools would be closed for summer recess if possible.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions. There being no other questions, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on **Resolution No. 2023-08** at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said there were no Expenditures for Council to review at tonight's meeting. He said Mr. Consolo wanted to discuss the one (1) Communication on the Agenda however.

Mr. Consolo said the communication was a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control concerning the application for a liquor permit regarding the property located at 16939-41 Broadway Avenue. Mr. Consolo said Ex. Lt. Kevern had completed some initial research on this application, but the Law Department would like Police Chief Hansen to also review it. He asked that this item be added to the Agenda for the February 1, 2023 Council Meeting. Mr. Consolo said the City did not know who this entity was that had filed for this liquor license and that the City needed time to complete its due diligence in this matter.

Mr. Jackson said this would also be on the agenda for Council's next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or comments. There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 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, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Ex. Lt. Brian Kevern on behalf of Police Chief Todd Hansen, Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Service Director Tony Ciresi, Planning and Development Director Joe Duffy and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Police Chief Todd Hansen was absent and excused.

Councilwoman Toni Jones gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson called the roll.

**ADDENDUM:** There being no objections, the Addendum was added to the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Shenett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of January 4, 2023.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** There was one (1) Communications for tonight's meeting:

From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

Notice regarding an application for the issuance of a new class "D5" liquor permit (Permit No. 3729391) from HEIRCLE LLC dba HEIR BAR & LOUNGE at 16939-41 Broadway Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio.

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

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas said the Fire Department calls to date were 256 and that on January 16<sup>th</sup> the Fire Department responded to a house fire in Garfield Heights at 13620 South Parkway. He said one (1) minor injury to an occupant was reported.

The Fire Chief reported that the Fire Department ended 2022 with 6,096 calls for service which was an increase of 152 calls over the total number calls in 2021 that were 5,944. He said December was extremely busy for the Fire Department with fires and accidents. Fire Chief Kavaliunas said the snow and deep freeze of Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> was very taxing on the department. He said the Fire Department had multiple utility-related calls along with water pipes broken in both domestic and fire sprinkler lines, most notably at Giant Eagle on Warrensville Center Road and the former Broadway Care Facility.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said that earlier last year the Fire Department sent their Sutphen Pumper Truck for refurbishment. The Chief said he was happy to report the truck was completed and had been picked up this past Monday. He said it was being outfitted to go back into service, hopefully in a week or so. The Fire Chief said new fire apparatus orders right now were being promised to municipalities in three (3) to three and a half (3.5) years.

The Fire Chief reported that the Fire Department recently had one (1) Firefighter resignation and that the department will be swearing in another FF/Paramedic cadet to fill this vacancy. The Chief said the Fire Department was processing another FF for the additional vacancy the department still had open.

Fire Chief Kavaliunas said the Law Director had mentioned in his report last meeting about the Fire Department's issues with individuals who called for service very frequently. The Fire Chief said the department had teamed up with Mrs. Vopat to address these issues. Fire Chief Kavaliunas said he was happy to report that they will be having their first meeting tomorrow afternoon to discuss these parties. The Fire Chief said the goal will be to ensure that these individuals will receive the care and follow-up that was needed instead of circling the EMS and hospital systems without receiving the needed care.

**Law Department** – Law Director Mr. Frank Consolo said he had received a question regarding the Open Meetings law and said he would ask Council to set aside some time at a Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss this and answer any questions regarding the Sunshine Laws. Mr. Consolo said that generally all City business must be conducted publicly. He said there have been decisions discussing subtleties of the law that were hard to grasp, but elected officials cannot do planned telephone calls, cannot poll Council Members, etc. Mr. Consolo said this update would be good to do anyway.

**Police Department** – Police Ex. Lt. Brian Kevern reported that so far in 2023 the Police Department responded to 1,294 calls for service that included 64 criminal reports, 13 accident reports, 53 traffic tickets and 51 parking citations.

With regards to Police Department personnel, Ex. Lt. Kevern said three (3) Officers have resigned and there was one (1) promotion.

**Human Services Department** – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat announced that on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> the Department of Human Services will be hosting a Recycling Right seminar at 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. She said the information provided will help residents to do recycling correctly to make an impact on our environment.

Mrs. Vopat also announced that the first Mobile Farmers’ Market for 2023 will be held tomorrow, January 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church on Maple Park Drive. She said these markets were very important since the increased SNAP allotments due to the Covid pandemic will be discontinued in March. Mrs. Vopat said the SNAP benefits will revert back to the pre-covid amounts and that for some people they will be impacted almost 50%. Mrs. Vopat said it was important to get the word out about the Mobile Farmers’ Market and other food distributions and the Maple Heights Food Pantry that was regularly opened 3 days a week.

Regarding the issue of infant mortality, Mrs. Vopat said there were many causes of child mortality including drowning, SIDS, homicide, etc. She said the numbers for 2022 have indicated a reduction in this metric, due in part to a number of resources available to mothers and families, including a new resource center to be located at 20700 Southgate Park Boulevard. Mrs. Vopat announced that Pregnant with Possibilities will be hosting its re-grand opening. She said this non-profit organization will offer services to new mothers including support groups, education, community distributions of needed baby items and transportation to doctor appointments.

**Finance Department** – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman reported that the Finance Department was reconciling the month of December, 2022 and will be issuing the financial report by Tuesday of next week. Ms. Tillman said FY 2022 was still open but that the Finance Department was working to close 2022 and will open FY 2023 at the same time this week.

Ms. Tillman said she wanted to thank the Mayor and Council for authorizing the new upgrade for the City’s financial software system. She said Finance Department staff were studying the new system and that after the classroom portion of the training there will be an “internship” before the system will go live in May, 2023. Ms. Tillman said with this new system purchase orders will be able to be completed online and Directors and employees will be able to manage payroll online also. Ms. Tillman said these upgrades will save time for the staff.

**Service Department** – Service Director Mr. Tony Ciresi said he wanted to thank the Mayor and the HR Director for helping him to hire a new Assistant Service Director. Mr. Ciresi introduced Mr. Nick Koudela as the City’s new Assistant Service Director. He said Mr. Koudela came to the City of Maple Heights with experience in a number of areas including mechanics and road repairs.

Mr. Koudela thanked Mr. Ciresi and everyone for having him. He said everyone had been extremely welcoming and that he looked forward to blending in with a new set of employees.



Mr. Ciresi reminded everyone about the Maple service e-mail address and said when people used this e-mail address other Service Department staff see the message besides the Service Director. He said there were 5 sets of eyes on this e-mail address.

Mr. Ciresi said the Service Department worked through two (2) substantial snow falls on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup> and did a good job maintaining the roads. Mr. Ciresi said he has been training new employees to plow the snow and asked residents to be patient. He said it will take a couple of years for employees to get familiar with the City. Mr. Ciresi reminded residents that snowplow drivers cannot get the snow out of the driveway aprons.

Mr. Ciresi reported six (6) water leaks during the extremely cold weather and concluded his report by stating that since the City started the road improvements program the Service Department has been using a reduced amount of asphalt resulting in material cost savings. Mr. Ciresi said the Service Department had been using about six (6) tons of asphalt/cold patch a day but were now using about six (6) tons per week.

**Planning and Development Director** -- Planning and Development Director Mr. Joe Duffy reported that staff of the Planning and Development Department have been working to update all of the twenty-seven forms used by the department to one consistent format. He said all of the updated forms will be uploaded to the appropriate web pages once the PDFs were made fillable.

Regarding the Housing Department, Mr. Duffy reported that the Request for Proposals for 2023 Grass Cutting Services will be published shortly. Mr. Duffy said that depending on the RFPs received, the Housing Department will be looking to contract with one (1) provider instead of three (3) different contractors as was done last year.

Mr. Duffy said the Housing Department will also be providing the public and landlords much needed communications in laying out expectations for what grass citations mean and how to avoid getting cited.

Mr. Duffy announced that the Building and Housing Departments had applied for and received a \$1,000.00 grant from the State of Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism to fund projects that will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He said this grant funding will be used to install a Little Free Library at City Hall which will basically be a free to the public book exchange. Mr. Duffy invited Council to attend the Grand Opening ceremony for the Little Free Library to be held at City Hall on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

A woman who identified herself as Datwuan Catchings aunt said it had almost been a year since Datwuan was killed and that on January 28<sup>th</sup> he would have been 23 years old. She said the family wanted closure, a little closure. His aunt said the family was hurting since it was still an open investigation and that they were tired of hurting.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said she heard what was being said and that closure will be coming. The Mayor said the City was waiting too, since there was a third-party investigation of this case. Mayor Blackwell asked Mr. Consolo what could be shared regarding this case.

In response, Mr. Consolo said the City never investigated itself in this matter. He said the City of Cleveland collected the facts and two (2) departments investigated it, the Homicide Unit and the Professional Standards Unit. Mr. Consolo said these departments handed over their findings to the Ohio Attorney General's Office. He said the City shared the family's frustration with the lack of closure. Mr. Consolo said in a week or two the Grand Jury will hear the facts of this case, but the City had no specific date as of yet.

In response, Mr. Shenett said the legal process has to take place but that as elected officials they truly cared for the Catchings family and will continue to pray for the family.

Mr. Terry Ocherski of Broadway Avenue said he would have liked to have had the chance to purchase the property located at 14900 Broadway Avenue which was located next to his property that he would maintain as part of his business. Mr. Ocherski said he would meet the purchase price described in the legislation and that the first time he heard of the property being for sale was when Mr. Duffy came to see the property.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said Mr. Duffy would speak with Mr. Ocherski after the meeting.

In response, Mr. Shenett asked if this legislation needed to be passed on emergency at tonight's meeting.

In response, Mr. Consolo said he would defer to the Mayor regarding Mr. Shenett's question but that if Council would pass this legislation at tonight's meeting, there would be no need for Mr. Duffy to meet with the resident.

Mayor Blackwell said she would ask Council to leave **Resolution No. 2023-07** on First Reading.

Mr. Dean Catchings thanked everyone for listening to his family and said that they would be leaving the meeting.

Mr. Mark Gabor residing at 5374 Lee Road, #10, said the Senior Center Advisory Site Council started a Grief Recovery Workshop today and that there will be eight (8) follow-up sessions to be facilitated by a Clinical Counselor from University Hospitals.

A gentleman who identified himself as Datwuan Catchings older cousin said he had taken photographs of Datwuan at different time periods of his life and wanted to share with Council some of these photos. He said the photos were of a life that was taken. Datwuan's cousin said no one was safe and that we were living in an uncivilized world.

Mr. Ernest Gardner said he was the owner of the Volt Loft on Broadway Avenue and that he wanted to announce the Grand Opening of his business on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Gardner said this property had been a Citizen Bank, and that he did all the work himself to

remodel it for a hair salon. He said there were seven (7) other different rooms for nails and massage therapists.

Mr. Gardner said he was very grateful to be able to be part of the City and thanked everyone in the City for their assistance. Mr. Gardner said he wanted to have an impact, to try to help the community and be there to help kids. He said the name of his contractor company was “His Way Construction” because we all have to help each other.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said what Mr. Gardner had done with this property was amazing and that she had just been interviewed for an article in *Crain’s* that discussed what was being done with bank buildings that had closed in low to moderate income communities.

In response, Mr. Shenett thanked Mr. Gardner for his investment in the City and congratulated him on his new business.

In response, Ms. Madden congratulated Mr. Gardner on his work and said she wanted to give everyone the address of Mr. Gardner’s business which was located at 15765 Broadway Avenue.

**LEGISLATION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02**

**AN ORDINANCE WAIVING FOR THE TIME PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023 THE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) ESCROW REQUIREMENT TO CORRECT VIOLATIONS RESULTING FROM POINT OF SALE INSPECTIONS PER CHAPTER 1494 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS TO OFFER AN INCENTIVE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AND OCCUPY SUCH RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, 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.

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No; Shenett: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to one (1) nay.

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

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: No; Shenett: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to one (1) nay. The Ordinance passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2023 EXTERIOR HOME REPAIR GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO AWARD FUNDING TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. Jones 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 and pass this Resolution on emergency

ROLL CALL on the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: No; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to one (1) nay.

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: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: No; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of six (6) ayes to one (1) nay. The Resolution passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04**

**A RESOLUTION RESTATING COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR'S INTERNAL AUDIT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2022 EXPENDITURES OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COPS GRANT FUND FROM ADVANCES TO TRANSFERS, AS SET FORTH IN THE FINAL 2022 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS, 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.

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: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: 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. 2023-05**

**A RESOLUTION RESTATING COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR'S INTERNAL AUDIT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2022 EXPENDITURES OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE SAFER GRANT FUND FROM ADVANCES TO TRANSFERS, AS SET FORTH IN THE FINAL 2022 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS, 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.

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: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: 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. 2023-06**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENGINEER TO BEGIN THE PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE CITY HALL GRADING, DRAINAGE, & LANDSCAPING 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. 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: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: 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. 2023-07**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH 14900 BROADWAY AVENUE LLC FOR THE SALE OF THE BUILDING AND PROPERTY LOCATED AT 14900 BROADWAY AVENUE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR A PURCHASE PRICE OF \$10,000.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Resolution was on First Reading.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08**

**A FINAL RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROCEED WITH THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (AGREEMENT NO. 35618) IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND AUTHORIZINGS THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Shenett 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 additional discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote for passage on emergency.

ROLL CALL on the vote for passage on emergency: Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Trojanski: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: 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 no Expenditures over \$25,000.00 or Disclosure of Purchases Orders over \$10,000.00 for review at tonight's meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Blackwell said she and Finance Director Tillman will be meeting with Moody's to discuss an increase again in the City's bond rating.

The Mayor said she recently joined with other elected officials and business owners to discuss the federal government's \$100 million dollar set aside for new and existing small businesses. The Mayor said in the past small businesses had problems accessing this money. She said past approval requirements included an equity injection of 25% by the Applicant which has now been reduced to 15%; technical training; and a credit check. The Mayor said the program was looking at ways to modify this credit requirement.

Mayor Blackwell also announced that she was excited about a new business coming to Maple Heights and concluded her report by stating that she has been working with Global Leadership to support refugees coming from the Congo as the City continued to increase its diversity. The Mayor said many of these refugees were trades people. Mayor Blackwell said a Hispanic manufacturing company that had outgrown its manufacturing space was coming to the City.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** welcomed the new Assistant Service Director and said she wanted to thank the Mayor and Service Director Ciresi for the new light that had been installed in Southgate Park in her District.

Ms. Jones announced that funding was available for furnaces and hot water heaters during the winter time to senior citizens who were income qualified. Ms. Jones said anyone interested in this program could contact her or Mrs. Vopat.

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 the present tax bill with any current arrearage. She said this funding will only be available until the end of July and advised taxpayers to take advantage of this program. She said applicants must be homeowners and fall within the income guidelines. Ms. Jones said funding can go up to \$12,000.00 for families with children. She said residents could contact her or Mrs. Vopat regarding this program also.

**Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3** said he had an opportunity to meet with members of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at their new location on S. Waterloo Road. He said individuals in need of these benefits should contact the local Commander of the DAV.

Mr. Tatum said that yesterday he visited the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging and said that the agency had a number of programs for seniors.

Mr. Tatum announced that this Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> he would be at the 360 Barber Shop at 5170 Dunham Road distributing steering locks to Hyundai owners and also clothing.

**Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4** announced that the Maple Heights City Schools will be hosting a family fun event on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Milkovich Middle School from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Anderson said residents can contact Ms. Angelique Shy at (216) 567-6100, extension 3704 for more details.

Ms. Anderson announced that there will also be a Prom Attire Drive through March 21<sup>st</sup> to distribute clothing, dresses and accessories to students.

**Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5** said she was looking forward to Mr. Gardner's grand opening for his business in her district. She said his business located near the corner of Libby Road and Broadway Avenue will be unique and very nice for the City.

Ms. Madden reminded residents to continue to reach out to her with any issues or concerns. She said there have been continuing problems with dogs running loose in the City. She asked people to be careful and to keep their dogs leashed.

Ms. Madden concluded her report by wishing everyone a "Good Evening."

**Councilman Richard Trojanski, District 6** wished everyone Happy New Year since he had not been at the first meeting of January.

Mr. Trojanski said District 6 had a number of businesses on the commercial strips of Warrensville Center Road and Northfield Road so he will be hosting a Meet and Greet for District 6 Businesses at the end of this month. Mr. Trojanski said this will give these businesses an opportunity to connect with local resources.

Mr. Trojanski also announced that he will also set aside time on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to meet with constituents of District 6. Mr. Trojanski said these Constituent Hours will be held at the McDonald's on Northfield Road.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** said that on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> the District 7 Dr. Martin Luther King Day Observance for the young people of the City was held at Alpine Valley in partnership with Chaplains Nelson Cancel and Kevin James of the International Police & Fire Chaplains Association. Ms. Agee said the Chaplains Association has been involved with youth engagement and introduced both Chaplains Cancel and James and asked them to discuss their program that will be sponsoring events from January through December.

Chaplain Kevin James said he was a Maple Heights resident who just completed his training for Chaplain at the end of December. He said one goal of the Chaplain ministry is to be present when there is a crisis. Mr. James said the Chaplains Task Force wanted to engage people and determine how groups would be able to work together. He said all ages were represented at their January event and that all wanted to be more involved with our youth. He said the goal was to



transfer this to the community at-large. Mr. James announced that this organization will be hosting a Black History Month presentation in February.

Chaplain Nelson Cancel said he served as a Shakes Heights Police Department Chaplain and said the goal as a Chaplains was to work with communities to determine where they can help you to help your community. He said the Chaplains Association wanted the community to come together, get to know each other and be open to new ideas.

Ms. Agee concluded her report by inviting members of Council to join her for the Chaplain's Association Black History Month presentation.

**Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1** announced that the Annual Districts 1 and 7 Combined Block Watch Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Maple Heights Library, Large Meeting Room from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Shenett said he was excited about the Grand Opening for ABA Hair Braiding Salon in District 1 that 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 in the Turney/Dunham Plaza.

Mr. Shenett thanked Mr. Ciresi for the Service Department addressing resident concerns in his District regarding trash, trees and the roads. He also thanked the Building Department for communicating with residents to avoid getting citations. Mr. Shenett said that having the inspectors talk with the residents first was very helpful.

Mr. Shenett said he also wanted to thank the Police Department regarding citations for a vehicle that had been parked on a street in District 1 for over a month. Mr. Shenett said after two or three citations had been issued the vehicle was towed.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by stating that he was happy to see the Chaplains in attendance at tonight's meeting and that he had attended the event for Dr. Martin Luther King Day. Mr. Shenett said he really enjoyed the event.

**Council President Ron Jackson** thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Passed: February 1, 2023

ATTEST:

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