

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

**Maple Height Senior Center**

**September 6, 2023**

**MEETING CAUCUS**

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Police Chief Todd Hansen, Fire Chief Dan Syphen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Service Director Tony Ciresi, Planning and Development Director Joe Duffy and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Finance Director Tinita Tillman arrived at 6:33 p.m. Law Director Frank Consolo arrived at 6:37 p.m. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said that Councilman Shenette would have the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance for tonight's meeting. He also said there were minutes for Council to approve.

Moving to the legislation on tonight's meeting Agenda, Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-69** certifying the Special Assessment for the Boarding Up of Houses and Other Unsafe Structures was on Third Reading at tonight's meeting and asked if there were any additional questions on this legislation. There being no questions on **Resolution No. 2023-69**, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this Resolution at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-70** was the Special Assessment for Garbage and Rubbish Collection and Disposal was also on Third Reading and asked if there were any additional questions on this legislation. There being no additional questions or discussion on **Resolution No. 2023-70**, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this Resolution at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-71** certifying the Special Assessment for Weed and Grass Control was also on Third Reading tonight and asked if there were any additional questions on this legislation. There being no additional questions on **Resolution No. 2023-71**, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this Resolution tonight.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2023-76** authorizing the Mayor to enter into Amendment Two to the Professional Services Agreement with SafeBuilt Ohio, LLC, to provide consulting services for the City's Building and Zoning Codes, Mr. Jackson asked Planning and Development Director Duffy to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mr. Duffy provided Council with copies of the original contract with SafeBuilt for comparison of the fee structure provided in Amendment Two to be authorized in **Resolution No. 2023-76**. Mr. Duffy said the reference to a 'reduced rate' referred to a prior contract amendment that was signed last year because of the City's first Home Exterior Repair Grant Program. He said at that time the City asked SafeBuilt to waive its fees for those grant applications. He said SafeBuilt processed these applications by reducing their fees by half for these residents. Mr. Duffy said that was what was being referred to as the "reduced fees."

Mr. Duffy said the new Amendment proposed to increase SafeBuilt's hourly rate, specifically for Plan Review fees. He said SafeBuilt was increasing their fees with all the cities they serve based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Mr. Duffy said the City needed these services though to be able to meet the requirements to have a State Certified Building Department under the Ohio Board of Building Standards. He said the City did not engage SafeBuilt for some of the services listed in the fee schedule, for example, Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Duffy said the City employed their own Code Enforcement Officers.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions regarding **Resolution No. 2023-76**. He asked Mr. Duffy when would this Amendment go into effect if approved by Council.

In response, Mr. Duffy said by its terms it would go into effect the first day of the month after the Amendment was approved so it would be October 1, 2023.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Duffy if the Administration was requesting that this legislation be passed on emergency to which Mr. Duffy responded in the affirmative. Mr. Duffy said he would respectfully request that Council pass this Resolution on emergency.

Councilwoman Agee said since Council just received the fee schedule information tonight, she would request that this Resolution stay on Second Reading.

Councilwoman Jones asked Mr. Duffy if it was correct that the City was not passing this cost increase onto the residents, to which Mr. Duffy responded in the affirmative. He said this Amendment would not impact the City's internal fee schedule.

Mr. Jackson asked if Council was prepared to vote on this Resolution at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Shenett said he concurred with Ms. Agee and said he would like to have time before the next meeting to look over and compare the fee schedules. Mr. Shenett said the Amendment would not go into effect until October.

Ms. Jones said if Safebuilt was increasing their fees in all the municipalities they served then the City would fall in line with other inner ring cities. She asked if SafeBuilt provided a similar scope of services to these other cities in Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-76** would remain on Second Reading.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or comments regarding **Resolution No. 2023-82** accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission. Mr. Jackson said this legislation was on First Reading but it needed to be sent to the County by September 30, 2023. He asked Finance Director Tillman to discuss this Resolution.

In response, Ms. Tillman said the Finance Department would respectfully request that this legislation be passed on emergency at tonight's meeting. Ms. Tillman said **Resolution No. 2023-82** was financial legislation that was passed every year. She said this Resolution could be

left on First Reading at tonight's meeting but it would need to be passed on emergency at the second meeting of September.

Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections from Council, he would request that this Resolution be voted on at tonight's meeting. There were no objections from Council.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on **Resolution No. 2023-83** permitting an exception to the employee vacation schedule and authorizing the Mayor to increase the vacation time for Service Director Ciresi from two (2) weeks to four (4) weeks effective January 1, 2024.

Ms. Agee said she had a couple of questions for the Mayor regarding this legislation.

Ms. Jones asked if Law Director Consolo could answer questions on **Resolution No. 2023-83**. She asked if Council would amend the vacation schedule under this legislation how would that affect other employees in similar situations. Ms. Jones asked if they could argue that Council was creating a precedent with this Resolution. Ms. Jones also asked if this legislation would also pertain to union employees such as lateral transfers to the Police and Fire Departments. She asked how would **Resolution No. 2023-83** affect that situation.

In response, Mr. Consolo said this legislation was not precedent-setting and that it only affected Mr. Ciresi. He said the employee vacation schedule would remain the same. Mr. Consolo said **Resolution No. 2023-83** would not impact other employees including union employees and lateral transfers.

Ms. Jones asked if this Resolution was fair, to which Mr. Consolo responded that he could only address the legal issues involved with the legislation.

Councilman Shenett thanked Mr. Consolo for his legal explanation of **Resolution No. 2023-83** and said that this was a unique situation regarding Mr. Ciresi. Mr. Shenett said with regards to the issue of fairness, the City was dealing with an individual who had been a City-employee for 26 years prior to the time of leaving the City and then returning to the City.

Mr. Consolo said Council could address the issue of fairness by considering legislation to give Directors a minimum amount of vacation time.

Ms. Jones and Mr. Shenett requested that **Resolution No. 2023-83** be on First Reading at tonight's meeting to give Council time to consider it.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-83** will be on First Reading.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2023-84** authorizing application to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for a potential grant for the funding of capital infrastructure improvement projects, Mr. Jackson said this legislation had been discussed by City Engineer at yesterday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Jackson said at that meeting Mr. Hren had requested that this Resolution be voted on at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions on **Resolution No. 2023-84**. There being no other questions, Mr. Jackson said if there were no objections from Council, he would request that this legislation be voted on at tonight's meeting. There were no objections from Council.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-85** authorizing the contract for the Stafford Park Phase II Shelter/Bandstand Installation Project was also discussed by Mr. Hren at yesterday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Jackson said it was respectfully requested by Mr. Hren that this legislation be passed on emergency at tonight's meeting so the project could get scheduled for installation. He asked if there were any questions. There were no questions from Council.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-86** declaring September Infant Mortality Month was added to the Agenda by Addendum and asked if there were any questions on this legislation.

Ms. Agee asked if there were any statistics to support this legislation.

In response, Councilwoman Anderson said that information regarding infant mortality was available from the Center for Community Solutions and Pregnant with Possibilities, a non-profit agency in the City. Ms. Anderson said in Ohio the rate of infant mortality was 6.7 per 1,000 live births and that black infants were 2.7 more times likely to die before their first birthday. She said the factors that contributed to this higher rate were increased neonatal mortality, premature-related conditions, congenital conditions and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Ms. Anderson said Maple Heights had the third highest rate for infant mortality in the County.

Ms. Agee thanked Ms. Anderson for this information.

Mr. Trojanski said the issue of infant mortality was a very important issue for our community and asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this Resolution.

Councilman Tatum said any black baby dying was a travesty and also asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation. Mr. Tatum said Pregnant with Possibilities was a wonderful organization and that the Toxic in the Park event was a very informative meeting regarding the issue of infant mortality.

Ms. Agee said she was familiar with the work of Pregnant with Possibilities and that the community should be concerned about all children.

Mr. Shenett said Ms. Anderson provided statistics and the numbers regarding minority babies. He said what Council would be voting on with this legislation is the fact that the death of all babies was serious for a community.

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

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any further discussion on this legislation. There being no additional discussion, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on **Resolution No. 2023-86** at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said there was one (1) Expenditure over \$25,000.00 for review and asked Ms. Tillman to discuss this expenditure.

In response, Ms. Tillman said this expenditure was for the Service Department and the use of a temp agency during the year to meet staffing needs. She said the current expenditure was for \$5,000.00 but the full payment to the staffing company will be \$30,000.00. Ms. Tillman said she was seeking Council approval now for the expenditure for purposes of transparency.

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

There being no other questions or comments, the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

### **REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Trojanski and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Fire Chief Dan Syphen, 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. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

Councilman Stafford Shenett 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:** Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trojanski, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of July 5, 2023.

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 were no Council Committee Reports for tonight's meeting.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Dan Syphen reported that the total Fire Department calls YTD at the end of August were 3,937 and that total calls for the month of August were 529, including 374 EMS calls and 154 fire calls. The Fire Chief said patients transported to the hospitals by the Fire Department were 304 which was a transport rate of 81%. He also reported that Fire Department personnel participated in 20 training sessions for both Fire and EMS during the month of August and that accounted for 204 man-hours of training for August.

Fire Chief Sypen announced that the MHFD was awarded a FEMA SAFER Grant that will provide full wages and benefits for two (2) additional firefighters for 36-months. He said the Fire Department currently had some lateral transfer resumes and would have an entry level testing process ready very shortly.

The Fire Chief said the MHFD had been out in the Community attending Music in the Park, Back to School event for the School District and at the showing of the movie Toxic, about the issue of black infant mortality. He said the Fire Department will be working with Community Development Manager Hansberry to develop ways for the MHFD to be a community resource to combat black infant mortality.

Fire Chief Sypen concluded his report by announcing that September was National Preparedness Month. He said the purpose of this month was to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The Fire Chief said Ready.gov was a great resource for planning and that ReadyNotify was a service from Cuyahoga County EMA that allowed subscribers to receive alerts regarding local emergencies via telephone call, text or e-mail. He said there was a link to ReadyNotify that could be accessed from the Fire Department page of the City website.

**Law Department** – Law Director Mr. Frank Consolo said the Law Department was still fielding requests for neighborhood mediations and that Council members should contact his office to schedule mediations.

Mr. Consolo said the City was beginning preparations to start negotiations regarding the collective bargaining agreements. He said the contracts will be up at the end of this year so he will be working with the Mayor and the Finance Department regarding these negotiations.

Mr. Consolo said one continuing problem for the Service Department, the Police Department and also the Law Department has been the vicious dog issue. He said this was a very serious issue. Mr. Consolo said he had prepared a notice template and order for use by the Animal Warden to enforce Chap. 618 of the MH Codified Ordinances regarding this issue. Mr. Consolo said it was not fair that residents could not go for walks or be in their yards because of vicious dogs. He asked Council to notify him if they had a vicious dog in their districts.

Mr. Shenetta asked Mr. Consolo if the City had worked with the APL.

In response, Mr. Consolo said the City had reached out to the APL regarding prior issues but the organization was not that helpful. He said the APL did not have the space. Mr. Consolo said the City has looked to other communities for assistance but it was hard to find other agencies to help.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Todd Hansen reported that the Police Department has responded to approximately 90 calls a day during the month of August with some days being over 100 calls for service. The Police Chief said in response to the concern for safety on the streets the Police Department has started a Neighborhood Impact Unit that included overtime patrols. He said there were 14 8-hour shifts by this patrol that resulted in the following extra results: 100 additional citations were issued, 16 cars were towed, 14 misdemeanor arrests, 16

felony arrests, 2 guns were taken off the streets, there were drug seizures and approximately \$10,000.00 in cash was confiscated.

Police Chief Hansen said he had a quick update on the Labor Day shooting that occurred at Stafford Park where a number of church groups were together. He said the shooting was a targeted crime and that apparently the victims and perpetrator had problems for a long time. The Police Chief said the MHPD received a lot of cooperation from residents in the area that allowed the Police Department to apprehend the suspect. Police Chief Hansen said the Police also received dispatch assistance from other cities that responded quickly to the scene. Chief Hansen thanked the residents for their involvement and cooperation. He reported that the suspect was arraigned on two (2) counts of murder and attempted murder. The Police Chief said these were initial charges only and that other charges would probably be added.

Police Chief Hansen said he wanted to let residents know that the County had a front-line service to assist individuals who witness any trauma or violent traumatic event. He said the County also had a program for children who witness violence. He said these were anonymous programs, free to participants.

**Human Services Department** – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat thanked Police Chief Hansen for how the Police Department responded to the incident at Stafford Park and how he handled the situation.

Mrs. Vopat reported that for the month of August the Maple Heights Food pantry served 903 residents compared to 642 residents for the month of July for an increase of 261 families. She said clients received 3 days' worth of food for each family member. Mrs. Vopat said the Mobile Farmers' Market served 173 families and distributed 250 pounds of produce during this time. Mrs. Vopat reported that during the month of August the Maple Heights Senior Center served 744 congregate meals and provided 1,049 home delivered meals. She said in the area of transportation the Senior Center provided 553 trips in August and registered 26 new clients. Mrs. Vopat also reported that the Department of Human Services assisted 19 other families with issues concerning utilities, foreclosures, etc.

Mrs. Vopat announced that the City-Wide Garage Sale was beginning tomorrow, Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. She said the maps showing all the garage sale locations would be available tomorrow morning at the Senior Center and City-wide.

Mrs. Vopat said the Department of Human Services recently completed the WRAAA Annual Audit and that the Department received a clean audit with no findings. Mrs. Vopat said she wanted to thank her assistant and the Finance Department for their work to receive a good audit.

Mrs. Vopat concluded her report by inviting everyone to the City's Fall Festival that will be held on October 6, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and October 7, 2023 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. She said this event will be held in conjunction with the Police Department and the Faith in Blue organization.

**Finance Department** – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tilman made the following announcements:

- The Finance Department was working to close the month of August, 2023;
- The Finance Department’s new software system has 100% participation with all departments using the online programs. Ms. Tillman said the new system was very fast and said as an example, payroll which usually took 3 ½ days was now able to be completed in one day;
- The City’s Moody Bond Rating was increased from B AAA3 to B AAA2;
- The Auditor of State had taken over the audit work for the City but has now requested that the City engage a new IPA firm;
- The Finance Department received another Auditor of State Award for 2022.

**Service Department** – Service Director Mr. Tony Ciresi said the record storms that hit the City during the month of August did not require the Service Department to work overtime. He said the new sewer work has been paying off with a reduction in the number of calls due to flooding.

Mr. Ciresi announced that trash pick up this week would be delayed one day due to the legal holiday for Labor Day. He also asked residents to fill their trash containers as much as possible. Mr. Ciresi reminded residents that the City did not accept old tires and advised residents to take them to tire stores for disposal. He said florescent light bulbs could be recycled at Lowe’s. Mr. Ciresi said the City Service Garage collected hazardous household chemicals throughout the year.

Mr. Ciresi concluded his report by announcing that the second Community Shred Day will be held this Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to Noon on the west side of Maple Heights at St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church on Maple Park Drive.

**Planning and Development Director** -- Planning and Development Director Mr. Joe Duffy said the Housing Department in partnership with Third Federal Savings and Loan would be hosting a Home Buyers Workshop on September 14, 2023 at the Maple Heights Library. He said registration for the workshop was required and was being handled through Third Federal.

Mr. Duffy also announced that the City has received funding from NOPEC to participate in a Lawn Mower Exchange Program. He said interested residents can apply online at the City’s website.

At this time Mr. Duffy introduced Ms. Thomas, Housing Administrator for the City, to provide an update from the City’s Housing Department.

Ms. Thomas reported that for the month of July, the new home at 14024 Rockside Road was sold for \$251,000.00 and that the City’s housing market continued to be strong. She said the median sale price had increased \$4,000.00 from \$119,000.00 to \$123,000.00 Ms. Thomas said the median list price was approximately \$125,000.00.

Ms. Thomas also reported that there were 253 applications for owner-occupancy licenses for the month of July compared to 209 for property owners.



With regards to the Home Exterior Repair Grant Program, Ms. Thomas said the City received 80 applications and awarded 45 project grants that included work for exterior painting, windows, doors, deck repairs, steps and tuck pointing. She said approximately \$40,000.00 was invested in these properties. Ms. Thomas said the City was looking for additional funding for this program.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** Started at 7:32 p.m.

Ms. Sandy Mannno residing at 14917 Summit Avenue said she thought the City's Animal Warden did fabulous work but that he needed proper protection. Ms. Mannno said he was respectful and worked hard to help the residents. Ms. Mannno said she had worked as the City's Animal Warden and that it was important to educate people about the proper way to care for animals.

Ms. Audrey Brandon of 14287 Rochelle Drive said she saw the Facebook posts that referred to the Senior Center as a nursing home and that referring to the Senior Center as a nursing home undermined the reputation of the Senior Center. She said the Senior Center was an important resource for the health and welfare of senior citizens.

Ms. Phyllis Dumas residing at 14707 Corridon Avenue said she wanted to announce that the services for Mr. Woody, father of previous District 4 Councilman Woody, will be held on September 16, 2023 at Infinity Baptist Church on E. 175<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Ms. Diane Giersz of 19244 Stafford Avenue said she had met the Animal Warden today to deal with a nuisance raccoon and was told that the City used a gas chamber for these animals. She asked if the City could change to the use of lethal injection which was safer for humans, the animals and the environment. Ms. Giersz said she also found out that the Animal Warden reported to the Service Department instead of the Police Department. She said she thought the Animal Warden should be under the Police Department.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said it was discussed at a Directors' Meeting to change the reporting structure of the Animal Warden to the Police Department.

Mr. Mark J. Gabor residing at 5374 Lee Road said he wanted to extend his personal and professional condolences with the recent happening at Stafford Park. Mr. Gabor said the issue of infant mortality discussed in Resolution No. 2023-86 had been a persistent problem in Maple Heights since the 1980's. In reference to Chief Hansen's comment regarding trauma, Mr. Gabor said psychological stress was very real and psycho-social support was indeed very important.

Mr. Mike Dennis of 19508 Libby Road said there was a problem on his street with a big dip and also the street lights in that area were not bright but an orange color. He said the trees needed to be trimmed on his street.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the City had an agreement with First Energy that LED lights were to be installed whenever a streetlight burned out. She said First Energy had reported that the company was about 6 weeks behind in repairs.

Ms. Sharri Thomas residing at 19812 Gardenview Drive reported a wire hanging down on Warrensville Center Road next to the tent that was on the empty lot. Ms. Thomas said words could not describe what happened with the triple homicide at Stafford Park over the Labor Day Holiday. Ms. Thomas said vicarious trauma was real and that her team was available to help people. She said there should be a government/community response. Ms. Thomas said she was asking for a coordinated effort.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the Ohio Association of Baptist Ministers were holding an event at Stafford Park when this incident occurred. She said the City will work with these ministers as they work on programs for their people. The Mayor said the City would make the funeral arrangements public when the information became available.

Ms. Kimberly Brown of Cleveland, Ohio attempted to make a comment but Mr. Jackson said she could not continue as per Council's 220 Rules that permit Citizens' Comments from City residents. Mr. Jackson said Council was considering changes to the 220 Rules regarding this matter.

Citizens Comments closed at 7:59 p.m.

### **LEGISLATION:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-69**

#### **A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER THE SUMS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS WHICH WERE EXPENDED FOR BOARDING UP HOUSES AND OTHER UNSAFE STRUCTURES PURSUANT TO CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 680.06, 1440.27 AND 1440.28, 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. 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; 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. 2023-70**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ASSESSING THE EXPENSE OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL WITHIN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS AND CERTIFYING TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER THE COSTS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS FOR GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTIONS, 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 and pass this Resolution on emergency. 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; 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. 2023-71**

**A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER THE SUMS DUE TO THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS WHICH WERE EXPENDED FOR WEED AND GRASS CONTROL PURSUANT TO CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 660.15 AND 680.05, 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. 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; 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. 2023-76**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AMENDMENT TWO TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SAFE BUILT OHIO, LLC TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY'S BUILDING AND ZONING CODES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Resolution was on Second Reading.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-82**

**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.**

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

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. 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; 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. 2023-83**

**A RESOLUTION PERMITTING AN EXCEPTION TO THE EMPLOYEE VACATION SCHEDULE SET FORTH IN COD. ORD. SECT. 260.05 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO INCREASE THE VACATION TIME FOR SERVICE DIRECTOR CIRESI FROM TWO (2) WEEKS TO FOUR (4) WEEKS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024, WITH FUTURE INCREASES IN WEEKS OF VACATION TIME, NOT COVERED BY THE SCHEDULE SET FORTH IN COD. ORD. SECT. 260.05, BEING SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

This Resolution was on First Reading but Mr. Jackson asked if there was any discussion on this legislation.

Ms. Agee said the Service Director has been spoken very highly of by residents and other people and asked if the vacation time could be increased to 6 weeks since this would not be a precedent. Ms. Agee said in the corporate world he would have been given credit for his previous time.

Mr. Shenett said it was true that Council did not want to set a precedent with this legislation, since this was a unique employee situation for the City and that he concurred with Ms. Agee.

Mayor Blackwell said Mr. Ciresi was one of many awesome employees of the City and that he left for over a year and then returned as Assistant Service Director and then was promoted to Service Director. The Mayor said he had been highly compensated and she did not want to raise him that far over other City employees.

Ms. Agee said all the City directors and employees were great but they did not serve the City for 27 years.

Ms. Jones asked if this Resolution would set a precedent for either union or non-union employees such as lateral transfers. Ms. Jones said she was just looking for what was fair.

Mayor Blackwell said she was not sure what was unique about this situation. She said Mr. Ciresi made the decision to leave the City and made the decision to return as Assistant Service Director with two (2) weeks' vacation.

Ms. Jones said this was a unique situation since there had not been an employee with "x" amount of years who left the City and then came back.

Mayor Blackwell said Mr. Ciresi was aware of the City's vacation schedule. She said the City needed to follow the rules. The Mayor said this legislation would make an exception to this rule.

Mr. Shenett said this discussion was dealing with the different connotative and denotative definitions of "unique" and that the City would not be setting a precedent by this legislation specific to Mr. Ciresi.

Mayor Blackwell said Mr. Ciresi had asked if he could receive additional vacation time and she agreed to the four (4) weeks.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-84**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) FOR A POTENTIAL GRANT FOR THE FUNDING OF CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. 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; 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. 2023-85**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE STAFFORD PARK PHASE II SHELTER/BANDSTAND INSTALLATION 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 and pass this Resolution on emergency. 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; 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. 2023-86**

#### **A RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS INFANT MORTALITY MONTH 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.

Ms. Anderson said in the Caucus Meeting she had discussed the statistics regarding infant mortality in the City of Maple Heights.

Mr. Tatum said any infant mortality was extremely important.

Ms. Agee thanked Ms. Anderson for the information she discussed in the Caucus Meeting.

Mayor Blackwell said this Resolution was incorrect and that it should be Black Infant Mortality Month.

Ms. Agee asked Ms. Anderson if she would be amending this Resolution.

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Anderson if she would be amending this Resolution on the floor to change it to Black Infant Mortality Month to which Ms. Anderson responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to amend **Resolution No. 2023-86** to read **Black Infant Mortality Month** in the caption and body of the Resolution.

ROLL CALL on the motion to amend: 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.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any further discussion. There being no further discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency. 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 further 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; 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. Jackson said there was one (1) Expenditure over \$25,000.00 for review at tonight's meeting, and one (1) Disclosure of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00. He asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the **List of Expenditures over \$25,000.00**. There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the **List of Expenditures over \$25,000.00**.

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** The Mayor said she had No Report for tonight's meeting but that the Administration will follow-up on the various resident inquiries.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilman Stafford Shenett, District 1** announced that he was teaming up with his colleague District 7 Councilwoman Edwina Agee for another Safety Meeting to be held Monday, September 11, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library, Second Floor Meeting Room.

Mr. Shenett thanked the Police Department and other officials who participated in the Hoop It Up- Bridge the Gap Event. He also thanked the Maple Heights School Board for allowing the use of Milkovich Middle School for this event.

Mr. Shenett thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

**Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2** said the District 2 Newsletter will be out later this month and announced that there will be a Housing Committee Meeting tomorrow, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Room 7 to discuss the allocation of funds for the resident address safety initiative.

Ms. Jones thanked her fellow Council Members for voting to pass on emergency **Resolution No. 2023-84** which would allow the City to apply for grants for additional funding to three (3) projects currently scheduled. Ms. Jones said one of the projects would include the resurfacing of James Drive and Summit Avenue. Ms. Jones said the City tried to use other peoples' money for these infrastructure projects.

Ms. Jones concluded her report by reminding residents that trash collection would be delayed one day this week.

**Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3** thanked everyone for attending and said the City was a business and needed to be conducted like a business. He said people needed to make responsible decisions and work with responsible people. Mr. Tatum said the Service Director left but then returned to the City and would need to put in his work to be rewarded.

Mr. Tatum said three of his colleagues sit on council committees but four colleagues do not yet council members get paid the same.

**Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4** thanked Council for passing **Resolution No. 2023-86.**



Ms. Anderson said the 2<sup>nd</sup> Unity in the Community event was a success. She said a lot of resources were made available and she thanked everyone who attended. Ms. Anderson said the event helped build District 4 relationships.

**Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5** said the Labor Day tragedy was very unfortunate and that although she could not imagine the family's pain, she was praying for them.

Ms. Madden said all of Council should be fiscally responsible and that even though a council person is not a committee does not mean they do not serve their residents. Ms. Madden said it was wrong to say council members not on a committee were not legitimate members of Council. She said council members continued to do their work and represent their districts as they were elected by their constituents. Ms. Madden said when she was on a committee, they did a lot for the children and they continued to do things for children. She said recently a situation occurred that tried to hinder the Hoop It Up-Bridge the Gap Event.

In regards to being fiscally responsible, Ms. Madden said legislation was presented to amend the Codified Ordinances to make sure money was being spent for operational purposes, but that legislation was not passed. She asked really how fiscally responsible were her colleagues acting by not passing that legislation.

**Councilman Richard Trojanski, District 6** announced the grand opening of a new business in District 6 at Warrensville Center Road and Raymond Street. He said the day care named Trina's Little Angels was the 12<sup>th</sup> new business to open in District 6 that would help the local economy.

Mr. Trojanski said on September 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a District 6 Community Clean-Up Day and asked volunteers to meet at 10:00 a.m. at Castle High School located on Warrensville Center Road.

Mr. Trojanski announced that there will be a Public Works and Safety Meeting held tomorrow, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Room 7 to discuss the allocation of funds for the resident address safety initiative.

**Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7** said she attended the meeting at the Senior Center and saw the Facebook post. Ms. Agee said people should not believe everything they see on social media. She told people to talk with Council people to check what they heard.

**Council President Ron Jackson** extended his condolences to everyone involved in the shooting and to everyone who was there at the Park.

Mr. Jackson said the clean audit award for the Department of Human Services, the audit award for the Finance Department and the increased bond rating will help sell the City and created a positive standing for the City.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:43p.m.

Dated: September 20, 2023

ATTEST:

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