

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

Maple Height Senior Center

December 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 and Trojanski. Councilwoman Agee was absent and excused. Also present were 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. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said that Councilman Trojanski would have the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance for tonight's meeting. He also said there were minutes for Council to approve and one (1) Council Committee Report.

Moving to the legislation on tonight's meeting Agenda, Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2023-105** that would add a new Section to the City's Zoning Code providing for Trucking and Hauling as a Principally Permitted Use in the Central Business District (CBD) Zoning District would be withdrawn.

Councilwoman Anderson asked why was this legislation being withdrawn.

Mr. Jackson asked Law Director Consolo if he could respond to Ms. Anderson's question.

In response, Mr. Consolo said this legislation was being withdrawn since it had been determined that more procedures needed to be followed as required under the City's Zoning Code. Mr. Consolo said Zoning Code changes needed to be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission first for review and then recommendation to Council. He said Council may remember that this was the procedure that was done when the County Planning Council proposed zoning text and zoning map amendments back in 2022.

Councilman Tatum asked Mr. Consolo to explain the procedure.

Mr. Consolo said the City Charter and Zoning Code were specific regarding Zoning Code amendments and required that the proposed amendments needed to go to the Planning and Zoning Commission first for review and for recommendation to Council. He said the PZC recommendation then would come before Council as legislation. Mr. Consolo said there was a way under the Zoning Code to waive this requirement, but that would require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote or 6 members of Council which would not be possible for this legislation.

Councilman Shenett said the process for Planning and Zoning changes had always been in the Charter and Zoning Code.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or comments regarding this Ordinance. There were no other questions or comments.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2023-107** providing for Amendment of the Annual Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023 and **Ordinance No. 2023-108** regarding the 2024 Budget would both be on Second Reading tonight.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions or comments on **Resolution No. 2023-110** authorizing the MCIP agreement with the NEORS D for the Southwestern Sanitary Sewer District #2 Improvements Project. He said City Engineer Hren discussed his legislation with Council at Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

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

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-111** authorizing the MCIP agreement with the NEORS D for the Southwest Sewer District Sewer Repairs Phase 2 Project had also been discussed at Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. He asked if there were any questions on **Resolution No. 2023-111**.

Mr. Shenett said he did not have any questions on 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. Tatum asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on **Resolution No. 2023-111** at tonight's meeting.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2023-112** authorizing Change Order No.1 for Specialized Construction, Inc. decreasing the contract by \$166,395.39 for the 2022 Roadway Repair Program, Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There were no questions from Council. Mr. Jackson said since this was such a large decrease in the contract costs, **Resolution No. 2023-112** would pass by Unanimous Consent if there were no objections from Council. There were no objections.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-113** authorizing Change Order No.1 for Set In Stone Contracting, LLC increasing the contract by \$18,441.53 for the 2023 Concrete Roadway Repair Program had also been discussed by Mr. Hren at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. He asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There were no questions from Council.

Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on **Resolution No. 2023-113** at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2023-114** amending the Salary Ordinance to Add/Delete Certain Positions in the Finance and Human Services Departments was discussed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting and it was requested by Finance Director Tillman that this

Ordinance be passed on emergency at tonight's meeting. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on **Ordinance No. 2023-114**.

Mr. Shenett said at the Committee of the Whole Meeting he had expressed his concern about this legislation being passed on emergency and wanted time to consider the changes being requested.

Councilwoman Madden said at the Committee of the Whole Meeting it was also discussed if the two (2) positions could be separated. She said the purpose of the two (2) positions was not the same. Ms. Madden said the one in the Finance Department was to replace a position where the employee was retiring, but the other one was for a new position in the Human Services Department. Ms. Madden asked if the two (2) positions could be separated since the Finance Department was losing an employee, and Council would have time to research the other position.

Mr. Jackson said this Ordinance could be placed on First Reading.

Ms. Anderson said Ms. Tillman had requested that Council vote on this legislation tonight so Ms. Tillman would be able to advertise for this position but she understood the position of Council and that the legislation concerned the two (2) positions.

Mr. Shenett said two (2) things were being asked for in this one piece of legislation and asked if there could be two (2) different pieces of legislation or if this legislation could be amended.

In response, Mr. Consolo said there may not be enough votes to pass this Ordinance on emergency so it would be on First Reading. He said the Ordinance as drafted concerned one (1) subject matter (amending the salary ordinance), but the amendment involved two (2) different positions. He said Council could pass the first section of the legislation regarding the Finance Department and hold the second section regarding the Human Services Department. Mr. Consolo said procedurally it was possible to amend the legislation on the floor so Council could vote on the first section at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Anderson asked if Council could vote on the first section and hold off voting on the second section would Council need to pass another ordinance to include this second section,

Ms. Jones asked if Council would be able to hear from the Human Services Director regarding the importance of the newly created position being proposed.

In response, Mrs. Vopat said with this change being requested the Human Services Department was removing the Human Services Coordinator position and adding a new position since there was no one presently in a Recreation Department position. Mrs. Vopat said the new position would be involved in other programs for youth and other members of the community not presently served by the Human Services Department. She said the Assistant Director for the Human Services Department would still focus on the City's seniors and disabled and the new position would focus on the youth and family engagement in an effort to serve the other parts of the community in a more equitable manner.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2023-115** authorizing the contract with Senior Transportation Connection (STC) to conduct the day-to-day call center and scheduling operations of the City's Senior transit operations for 2024, Mr. Jackson said this was a yearly contract and that this year the cost would be \$1,350.00 per month. He asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There were no questions from Council. 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 from Council.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-116** accepting the proposal of Precision Pump, Inc. for the installation of an above ground storage tank system at the Service Department had been discussed with Service Director Ciresi at the Committee of the Whole Meeting and asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There were no questions from Council. Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on **Resolution No. 2023-116** at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-117** accepting the quote from Henderson Products, Inc. for upfitting the City's Freightliner 108SD truck with snow and ice control equipment package in the amount of \$121,204.00 was also discussed with the Service Director at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Jackson said Mr. Ciresi had requested that Council pass this legislation on emergency tonight to allow the City to lock in the price of the quote.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There were no questions from Council. 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 from Council.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2023-118** regarding the issue of an income tax levy to increase the City income tax rate from 2.50% to 3.00% for ten (10) years to pay salaries in the Service Department and Police and Fire would be on First Reading.

Mr. Jackson said there was also a motion on the Agenda for tonight's meeting to move the official swearing in ceremony from the Senior Center to the Maple Heights High School.

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

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 6:53 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden and Trojanski. Councilwoman Agee was absent and excused. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Police Chief Todd Hansen, Fire Chief Dan Sypen, 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 Richard Trojanski 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: Mr. Trojanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of November 15, 2023.

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

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

From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

Notice regarding an application for the issuance of a new class "C" liquor permit (Permit No. 2631275-8910) from FAMILY DOLLAR STORES OF OHIO LLC DBA FAMILY DOLLAR #32866 located at 5418 ½ Northfield Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There was one (1) Council Committee Reports for tonight's meeting.

Housing and Economic Development Committee

Ms. Jones, Chairwoman of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, presented the following Committee Report attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Fire Chief Dan Sypen reported that the total Fire Department calls YTD at the end of November were 5,475 and that total calls for the month of November were 468, including 330 EMS calls and 138 fire calls. The Fire Chief said patients transported to the hospitals by the Fire Department were 278 which was a transport rate of 84%. He also reported that Fire Department personnel participated in 15 training sessions for both Fire and EMS during the month of November that accounted for 176 man-hours of training for November.

The Fire Chief announced that one of the Fire Department's personnel resigned his position effective the end of this week to be moving out of town because of family concerns. He said this resignation brought the Fire Department one (1) spot below its budgeted staff. Fire Chief Sypen said the Fire Department was processing three (3) candidates for potential hire, including one (1) to fill the recently vacated spot and two (2) that will fulfill the Department's SAFER grant positions.

Fire Chief Sypen concluded his report by wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Law Department – Law Director Mr. Frank Consolo said he had just a couple of comments. Mr. Consolo said first, the City’s process to allow individuals to pay traffic tickets online has been slowed due to changes in the reporting vendors and software in the Police Department. He commended Ex. Lt. Brian Kevern Police Chief Todd Hansen for their work with Chagrin Valley Dispatch to complete this change-over. Mr. Consolo said this work was outside our expertise so the Law Department was relying on Chagrin Valley Dispatch.

Mr. Consolo said his second comment concerned the process for presenting legislation, both resolutions and ordinances, to Council. He said most of the legislation was written by the Law Director, but he relied heavily on the Department Directors and Chiefs for the information to do the work of drafting the legislation. Mr. Consolo said as an example, the legislation on tonight’s agenda regarding the above-ground storage tank for the Service Department, both Service Director Ciresi and City Engineer Hren worked with an engineer who was qualified to work in this area. He said a lot of work went into researching the information that eventually was given to the Law Department to draft the legislation. Mr. Consolo said Resolution No. 2023-117 regarding the upfitting for the City’s truck to make it a snowplow also took a lot of work by Mr. Ciresi and Assistant Service Director Koudela to get all the information, to find the lowest price under a purchasing cooperative. He said there were many moving parts that went into legislation and that it took time and effort by many people including the Clerk of Council to complete the process.

Police Department – Police Chief Todd Hansen said there had been a second Civil Service Commission Meeting for the purpose of approving a second candidate list of twenty (20) names to fill a number of open positions in the Police Department. The Police Chief said the Police Department had exhausted the first candidate list created with the national testing network. He thanked the Civil Service Commission and the Mayor for their assistance in this matter.

The Police Chief reported that the Police Department calls for service during the month of November had been reduced but the Police Department had responded to a number of serious calls. He said call volume could be an issue and that lower call volume allowed Officers to be on patrol and issue more tickets for parking violations, etc.

Police Chief Hansen thanked the Bedford FOE for the organization’s recent donation to the Police Department. He said the Bedford FOE have been great friends to both the Bedford and Maple Heights Police Departments.

The Police Chief said the Police Department was involved in a couple of events. He said Officers participated in the University Hospital Health Systems/Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital Mocktail Event where the MHPD won the “Crowd Pleaser Award” again. He said the MHPD will also be participating in the annual “Shop With a Cop” event to be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023. He said tickets for this event were on sale at the Police Department and were \$1.00 each or six (6) tickets for \$5.00.

Police Chief Hansen said the Police Department was still working with Chagrin Valley Dispatch which handled the City’s dispatch services and also its IT system and Motorola to complete the change-over to a new system. He said with the switch to a Motorola CAD system, the Police

Department went from a tier 3 software system to a tier 1 system and that there have been a number of problems with the changes in the system. The Police Chief said another problem during the change-over was that the Police Department was not able to post call sheets on the website, but will be posting the police information again as soon as the new system was operational.

Police Chief Hansen concluded his report by announcing that the Police Department swore in two (2) new Officers today at 5:00 p.m. He said the first new hire was from the Police Academy and that the second new Officer was a lateral transfer from the Boston Heights Police Department. Police Chief Hansen said this new Officer will be starting tomorrow and that these hires brought the MHPD up to thirty (30) officers, but that the Department was still hiring officers.

Human Services Department – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat said the Holiday Lighting Ceremony was held at City Hall on November 26, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and was very well-attended. She said it was enjoyed by all who attended.

Mrs. Vopat reported that during the month of November, the Senior Transit Services provided 860 rides for seniors and/or disabled residents and that it provided 800 more rides this year as compared to last year. Mrs. Vopat also reported that for the month of November the Maple Heights Food Pantry served 1,684 individuals.

Mrs. Vopat announced that residents in need of help with their utilities can come on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon to the HEAP office that was located on site at the Senior Center. She said appointments were not needed and that walk-ins were permitted.

Mrs. Vopat concluded her report by wishing everyone on behalf of the Human Services Department a Happy Holiday Season and wished everyone Peace, Joy and Love.

Finance Department – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman said the Finance Department was working to finalize the month of December and fiscal year 2023. She reported that for the month ending November 30, 2023 the unexpended balance in the General Fund was \$7,499,650.50 and that the unexpended balance for All Funds was \$19,218,712.09.

Ms. Tillman said the Finance Department was still working on finalizing 2023 and working on the budget for 2024. Ms. Tillman said the Directors were working to close out their budgets.

Ms. Tillman said there would be a Council Finance Committee Meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023 to finalize the 2023 appropriations and to prepare the 2024 budget.

Service Department – Service Director Mr. Tony Ciresi said he wanted to explain to residents the leaf collection process and said the Service Department had completed the westside of the City on Friday. He said the westside is the part of the City between both bridges and then there is the part of City north of Libby Road and the part South of Libby Road. Mr. Ciresi said the Service Department will be working on the final rounds of leaf collection and will be doing three (3) sweeps within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Ciresi said during the snow plowing season, the Service Department concentrated on the main roads first so that Police and Fire have access throughout the City. He said after the mains are completed, then the secondary streets and side streets were plowed and then the cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets. Mr. Ciresi said it usually took six (6) hours to complete one side of the City.

With regards to the streetlight inventory, Mr. Ciresi said if a resident saw a streetlight in need of repair it may get repaired faster if the resident called The Illuminating Company directly to report it. Mr. Ciresi said he was working with the Mayor and The Illuminating Company regarding the lights on the bridge which was caused by an electrical problem on the bridge.

Mr. Ciresi concluded his report by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Planning and Development Director -- Planning and Development Director Mr. Joe Duffy presented the following report to Council which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Started at 7:36 p.m.

Ms. Diane Giersz of 19244 Stafford Street, Maple heights, Ohio said she had a problem trying to find information on how to dispose of gasoline so she took it to the Maple Heights Service Garage but could not see where to dispose of it. She suggested that the City post a sign where these items can be disposed at the service garage. Ms. Giersz said there needed to be better communication with the residents and that the City's multiple websites/social media were confusing.

Ms. Giersz suggested that residents put their front porch lights at night to improve safety in the City, on especially to help children who walk to school.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the City had only one (1) website and had hired a Communications Coordinator who handled all of the City's social media. The Mayor said The Neighborhood News included information about the City's meetings. She said it was difficult for the City to produce and distribute a newsletter, but all of the Departments had its own Facebook page. The Mayor said the Administration will continue to work with the Council members to get information out to the residents through their newsletters. She said the City also worked with the schools to distribute information about youth/student activities.

Mr. Tony Szymkowski residing at 14629 Pease Road, Maple Heights, Ohio said he was a lifelong resident of the City and that the City needed to improve its website to make it more user-friendly. He said the City needed to improve communications with the residents.

Mr. Gerald Arnold residing at 20709 Bowling Green Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio asked how much additional funding would the increased income tax levy to 3.00% as proposed in **Resolution No. 2023-118** generate. He asked if some of this additional funding could be used for

road improvements throughout the City. Mr. Arnold also asked how was this levy different from the Police and Fire levies that were for salaries in those departments.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the need for the income tax levy was brought to her attention by the Finance Department and Law Department with the beginning of the negotiations with the labor unions that represent some City employees. The Mayor said one issue for the City Police and Fire Departments was recruitment and retention and that the City had one of the lowest salaries for those departments. Mayor Blackwell said the City was looking at double digit pay raises being proposed by the unions and then there were non-bargaining employees to be considered. She said the levy increase was in anticipation of these salary increases.

In regards to the additional revenue generated by the levy, Mayor Blackwell said an income tax increase to 2.75% would generate \$1,000,000.00 and an increase to 3.00% would generate over \$2,000,000.00. The Mayor said the City had money for infrastructure work and that the employees were the City's biggest asset. She said the City needed to choose people over roads and that the roads will be repaired incrementally. Mayor Blackwell said it was a hard decision to bring this levy before the voters.

Citizens Comments closed at 7:45 p.m.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-105

AN ORDINANCE ADDING NEW SECTION 1282.02(O) TO THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS PROVIDING FOR TRUCKING AND HAULING AS A PRINCIPALLY PERMITTED USE IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) ZONING DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was withdrawn.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-107

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-108

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was on Second Reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-110

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMBER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM (MCIP) AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT (NEORS) FOR THE SOUTHWESTERN SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT #2 IMPROVEMENTS 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.

Mayor Blackwell said that City Engineer Hren had provided a map of the Southwest Sewer District that showed the various infrastructure improvements to be made to this area under this legislation and held up the map for the residents to be able to see it.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any other 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: Trojanski: Yes. Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-111

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMBER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM (MCIP) AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT (NEORS) FOR THE SOUTHWEST SEWER DISTRICT SEWER REPAIRS PHASE 2 PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, 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: Trojanski: Yes. Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-112

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR SPECIALIZED CONSTRUCTION, INC., DECREASING THE CONTRACT BY \$166,395.39 FOR THE 2022 ROADWAY REPAIR PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution was Passed by the Unanimous Consent of Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-113

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR SET IN STONE CONTRACTING, LLC., INCREASING THE CONTRACT BY \$18,441.53, FOR THE 2023 CONCRETE ROADWAY REPAIR PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Trojanski 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: Trojanski: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-114

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-121 (“SALARY ORDINANCE”) TO ADD/DELETE CERTAIN JOB POSITIONS IN THE FINANCE AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS AND FIXING THE SALARY FOR THESE POSITIONS, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 6, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mayor Blackwell said this Ordinance was deleting two (2) positions and adding new positions in the Finance Department and the Human Services Department. She said the new position in the Human Services Department would be for an individual to handle youth engagement. The Mayor said under the State’s Capital Budget Improvements Program the City would be seeking funding for recreational activities in the City, including the use of the pool.

Mr. Shenett said he was aware that the Finance Director had asked that the position in her department be passed on emergency out of necessity that she needed to be able to advertise the position and hire someone due to a retirement in the Finance Department. He asked it would be possible for Council to delay approval of the other position to give Council more time to consider it.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said the application to the Capital Budget Program was due December 16, 2023 and that the City would need to hire a person for this new Human Services position as soon as possible.

Mr. Shenett reiterated that Council needed to be able to do its due diligence to research this new job position being created.

Ms. Madden said she would prefer more clarification regarding the job description for the new position being created in the Human Services Department and asked if the two (2) positions could be considered separately. Ms. Madden said she was not disregarding the new Human Services position but felt comfortable moving forward on the position for the Finance Department.

Mayor Blackwell said Council was given the job descriptions at Monday’s Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Mr. Shenett said he stated at that time that he was not prepared to vote on this legislation to pass it on emergency. Mr. Shenett said he stated in caucus that he had not intent for this legislation to fail but asked if there could a separation to vote on the Finance Department position on emergency and keep the other position on first reading.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other comments on **Ordinance No. 2023-114**.

Ms. Jones said for the benefit of the public at the meeting, this Ordinance was deleting two (2) or three (3) positions and replacing them with other positions in the two (2) departments and that was what Council would be voting on in this legislation.

Mr. Trojanski said this Ordinance was being responsive and addressing needs of the community. He said the Finance Department has had job specific positions that now require employees who were cross-trained and had a variety of job skills. Mr. Trojanski said the new Human Services Program Manager position would allow the City to be responsive to the youth of the community and offer services to families. He said Council had received copies of the job descriptions and that this was important legislation.

Mr. Jackson asked the Mayor and Law Director about amending **Ordinance No. 2023-114** on the floor to remove the Human Services position at this time to which Mayor Blackwell responded in the negative. The Mayor said she was not agreeable to that amendment.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions of discussion. There being no other 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: Trojanski: Yes. Shenett: No; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: No. The motion to suspend the rules requiring five (5) affirmative votes failed by the vote of six (6) four (4) ayes to two (2) nays.

This Ordinance was on First Reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-115

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SENIOR TRANSPORTATION CONNECTION (STC) TO CONDUCT THE DAY-TO-DAY CALL CENTER AND SCHEDULING OPERATIONS OF THE CITY'S SENIOR TRANSIT OPERATIONS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$1,350.00) PER MONTH, 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: Trojanski: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-116

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE BY PRECISION PUMP, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$267,805.75 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANK SYSTEM AT THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Trojanski 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: Trojanski: Yes. Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-117

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT QUOTE NO. 171820 BY HENDERSON PRODUCTS, INC. FOR UPFITTING THE CITY'S FREIGHTLINER 108SD TRUCK WITH SNOW AND ICE CONTROL EQUIPMENT PACKAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$121,204.00, THROUGH NATIONAL PURCHASING PARTNERS GOVERNMENT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM, 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: Trojanski: Yes. Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; : Anderson: Yes; Madden: 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-118

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VII, SECTION 20 OF THE CITY CHARTER AND CHAPTER 718 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, THE QUESTION OF AMENDING SECTIONS 891.012(b) AND 891.013 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCREASE OF THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX RATE FROM THE CURRENT RATE OF 2.50% TO A RATE OF 3.00% FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS COMMENCING JULY 1, 2024 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND WAGES OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE, AND FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE DIVISIONS OF POLICE AND FIRE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Resolution was on First Reading.

MOTION:

May I have a Motion to waive the requirements of Charter Article VII, Section 3 to Move the Official Swearing in of the Newly Elected City Officials on January 3, 2024 from the Maple Heights Senior Center, the Usual Place of Holding Council Meetings, to the Maple Heights High School starting at 7:00 p.m.

So moved by Mr. Trojanski and seconded by Ms. Anderson.

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

EXPENDITURES OVER \$25,000.00:

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

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell said she wanted to congratulate Mr. Terry Murphy, the owner of Fresh Lyfe for being part of the Small Business Speaker Series held at the Cuyahoga County Public Library. The Mayor said Mr. Murphy has been very successful and that his business had exceeded \$1 million dollars in sales. She said Mr. Murphy was looking for a second location here in Maple Heights.

Mayor Blackwell congratulated the Police Department for winning the “Crowd Pleaser Award” for the second year in a row at the Mocktail Event held by University Health Systems and Rainbow Babies and Childrens Hospital.

Mayor Blackwell said she was proud to swear in two (2) new Police Officers today. She said the swearing in today was a celebration and that the new Officers wanted to be here in Maple Heights.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Richard Trojanski, District 6 announced that there would be a Coat Giveaway on Saturday, December 16, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library. He said donations of new or gently-used coats were being taken at Castle High School, Warrensville Center Road, from December 5th to the 10th. Mr. Trojanski said donations can be dropped off at the school Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Trojanski also announced that there will be a Finance Committee Meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mr. Trojanski thanked everyone for attending tonight’s meeting.

Councilman Stafford Shenett, District 1 thanked the Police Department for assisting and mediating a residents’ dispute in District 1 and also for assisting with a nuisance issue in his District. Mr. Shenett said the Police promptly responded to a call regarding a vehicle that had been parked on the street overnight that had flat tires. He said the vehicle parked on the street posed a problem for Waste Management on trash collection day.

Mr. Shenett said he concurred with the Mayor that the Administration and Council have professional courtesy and that even if with disagreements they ultimately come together for the benefit of the City.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by wishing everyone and their families a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 said she wanted to commend Planning and Development Director Duffy and Housing Administrator Thomas for their assistance with some housing issues in District 2.

Ms. Jones concluded her report by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and said there were some Christmas treats on the back table for everyone to enjoy.

Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3 thanked the Service Department for their help in his District.

Mr. Tatum announced that 2nd Annual Senior Winter Wonderland Christmas Party will be taking place on December 22, 2023 at the Senior Center and that all reservations had been taken.

Mr. Tatum said the 2nd Annual District 3 Toy Giveaway at a Maple Heights day care will be taking place and asked for volunteers to help wrap the presents.

Mr. Tatum said he did not think there should be any disagreements with hiring someone to help with youth engagement. Mr. Tatum said he hoped that next year everyone could work together to take care of the business of the City.

Mr. Tatum concluded his report by wishing everyone a Blessed Holiday.

Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4 announced that the Community Life and Education Committee will be sponsoring Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library, Second Floor, Children's Library Room.

Ms. Anderson also announced the calendar for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for conferences with clients and to assist individuals with legal issues.

Ms. Anderson said with the bad snow there was a problem with cars being parked on the streets and reminded residents that it was important during snow storms to not park cars on the streets since it prevented the snow plows from plowing the streets.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 said that the guardrail on South Boulevard had been damaged due to a couple of recent accidents. She said this problem was being addressed and that City Engineer Ed Hren was looking to see what can be done in this area to prevent repeat accidents.

Ms. Madden said some residents on Thomas Street have been concerned about the gas line replacement work being done on their street by Dominion East Ohio Gas Company. She said residents wanted to be sure that the tree lawns and lawns would be repaired. Ms. Madden said a complaint had been turned over to Mr. Hren's office and that a letter had been sent to Dominion East Ohio. She said the City was waiting to hear back from the company.

Ms. Madden said with regards to the work of Council, it was not always the best to say "yes" right away. She said Council needed to look at issues and should be entitled to ask questions and receive the information to make our decisions. Ms. Madden said that was how the City was able to get out of fiscal emergency. Ms. Madden said Council members needed to look out for their districts and our City.

Ms. Madden wished everyone a wonderful and Safe Holiday Season.

Council President Ron Jackson said that what might help discussions on legislation would be if Council e-mail questions or concerns before coming to the caucus meeting and that if necessary, a special meeting can be also be called.

Mr. Jackson said it was exciting to see two (2) new Police Officers being sworn in today. He said some people had a negative outlook on police, but if so they should join a Police Department and see what it is really like for Officers.

Mr. Jackson concluded his report by wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season and asked everyone to try to be nice to each other, especially during this time.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Dated: December 20, 2023

ATTEST:

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