

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

Maple Heights City Hall 2nd Floor Council Chambers

January 24, 2024

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Stafford Marbury and Agee. Also present were Law Director Frank Consolo, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Police Chief Todd Hansen and Clerk of Council Leonette Cicirella Johnson.

Mr. Jackson said there was one (1) item of legislation on the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ADDENDUM TO THE PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS WITH THE WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING (WRAAA); 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 Human Services Director Vopat to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mrs. Vopat said in April 2023 the elevator at the Senior Center broke and the City received four (4) estimates for the repair. She said the elevator was over 75 years old and that there was some type of oil leak. Mrs. Vopat said this elevator part was located underground and had been informed by the contractor that it needed to be completely removed. She said the repair was estimated to be \$65,000.00 so the Human Services Department applied for a grant from the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA) and was awarded this funding. Mrs. Vopat said Council had passed the legislation to accept this award last year.

Mrs. Vopat said the repairs had been started but now it was determined by the contractor that the underground part could not be removed without the use of an excavator company which will add and additional cost of \$43,000.00 to this project. She said the City was notified of this problem last week and was able to petition the WRAAA again for this additional funding. Mrs. Vopat said she was notified that the Agency would approve funding for an additional \$43,000.00 which could be received by the City executing an Addendum to the current WRAAA purchase service agreement. She said **Ordinance No. 2024-10** will authorize this addendum and the funding will be used for the elevator repair.

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

Councilwoman Jones asked if there was any warranty with this repair.

In response, Mrs. Vopat said the elevator was sound otherwise if this part would get repaired. Mrs. Vopat said it was important to get the elevator repaired for the number of senior citizens and disabled residents who used the Senior Center. She said the cost of a new elevator would be approximately \$300,000.00, in addition to the cost of everything in the Senior Center building that would need to be brought up to Code.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions.

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

Mr. Jackson thanked Mrs. Vopat for her contact at the WRAAA who helped her secure this funding.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or discussion on **Ordinance No. 2024-10**. There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency. On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency, all voted aye, none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Jackson asked if there was any other 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: Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: Yes; Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) ayes to zero (0) nays. The Ordinance passed on emergency and will become law upon the Mayor's signature.

Moving to the Next item on the Agenda, Mr. Jackson said he talked with Mr. Shenett, President Pro-Temp regarding the Council Committee assignments and said no one will be probably be happy with the Committee assignments.

Mr. Shenett said he would not say no one will be happy and that he and Mr. Jackson had a good discussion. Mr. Shenett said it would be impossible for everyone to get what they all wanted. He said Council Members would need to compromise to work together and would need to respect each other.

Councilwoman Agee asked if Mr. Jackson contacted the Council Members to discuss their committee choices to which Mr. Jackson responded in the affirmative. Mr. Jackson said he had not heard back from a couple of Council Members, Ms. Agee said Mr. Jackson had contacted her while she was at work and said Mr. Jackson should have called Council earlier.

Councilwoman Stafford Marbury said she had not received a phone call or text from Mr. Jackson regarding this matter. Mr. Jackson checked his phone and it was determined that the wrong telephone number was used for Ms. Stafford Marbury.

Mr. Shenett suggested that the Council hold any other discussion until after the assignments have been announced.

Mr. Jackson said he would name the committee assignments in alphabetical order starting with

Community Life and Education Committee: Members Anderson, Tatum and Madden;

Finance Committee: Members Shenett, Jones and Agee;

Housing/Economic Development Committee: Members Jones, Madden and Stafford Marbury;

Public Works and Safety Committee: Members Shenett, Tatum and Anderson

Councilwoman Madden requested to decline the appointment to the Community Life and Education Committee.

In response, Mr. Jackson said when he talked with Ms. Madden Community Life and Education was one of her choices.

Ms. Madden said she was not happy with the committee composition and that she had had some not so pleasant communications. Ms. Madden said she wanted to be on a committee where she would be able to do her best and not where there was resentment or bad attitude put forth.

Mr. Jackson said he appreciated Ms. Madden's response but that if he granted a request for one he would have to do it for everyone.

Mr. Shenett asked if anyone else would be willing to be on the Community Life and Education Committee.

Ms. Jones asked what had changed from the last Committee selection in 2022 and said Council could vocalize what committee they wanted to be on.

Ms. Agee said Committees work for the residents and if a person did not want to be on a particular committee that should be considered.

Mr. Tatum said he did not need anyone speaking for him and that he could work with anyone.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Consolo if he could offer any guidance to which Mr. Consolo responded in the negative. Mr. Consolo said Council was following the new 220 Rule.

Ms. Madden asked if Mr. Jackson wanted her to state her reason to which Mr. Jackson responded in the negative. Ms. Madden said she did not want to be on a committee on which she could not function.

Mr. Shenett thanked Ms. Madden for her honesty and said they were not forcing anyone to be on a particular committee. Mr. Shenett said they were following the new 220 Rule.

Mr. Jackson said once he would deviate for one Council Member that opened it up to everyone.

Mr. Consolo advised Council that they have the ability to add more than three (3) people to a committee.

Mr. Tatum asked if a Council Member declined would they get fined to which Mr. Consolo responded in the negative. He said the only requirement was that members of Council must serve on at least one (1) committee.

Mr. Jackson asked if they could appoint someone else to the open position to which Mr. Consolo responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Jackson asked if anyone else wanted to serve on the Community Life and Education Committee. There were no volunteers.

Mr. Jackson said it would be back to appointing a member then so the assignment list should not be changed.

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

Mr. Consolo said Council would need to make recommendations for the Chair of each Committee to be appointed by the Council President and Council President Pro-Temp.

Ms. Agee nominated Mr. Shenett as Chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Shenett confirmed the appointment of Mr. Shenett as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Tatum nominated Ms. Anderson as Chair of the Community Life and Education Committee. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Shenett confirmed the appointment of Ms. Anderson as Chair of the Community Life and Education Committee.

Ms. Madden nominated Ms. Stafford Marbury as Chair of the Housing/Economic Development Committee. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Shenett confirmed the appointment of Ms. Stafford Marbury as Chair of the Housing/Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Tatum nominated Mr. Shenett as Chair of the Public Works and Safety Committee. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Shenett confirmed the appointment of Mr. Shenett as Chair of the Public Works and Safety Committee.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson thanked the residents who attended this meeting and adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Dated: February 7, 2024

ATTEST:

S/S Leonette Cicirella Johnson

Leonette Cicirella Johnson, Clerk of Council