

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

Maple Height Senior Center

April 3, 2024

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Anderson, Madden and Agee. Councilman Tatum arrived at 6:33 p.m. Councilwoman Stafford Marbury arrived at 6:36 p.m. Also present were Assistant Law Director John Thomas on behalf of Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Dan Syphen, Police Ex. Lt. Brian Kevern on behalf of Police Chief Todd Hansen, 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 arrived at 6:48 p.m. City Engineer Ed Hren was absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said Councilwoman Agee would have the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance for tonight's meeting. He also said if there were no objections, the Addendum will be added to the Agenda for tonight's meeting and there was one (1) set of minutes for the March 20, 2024 Council Meeting to approve.

Moving to the legislation on tonight's meeting Agenda, Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2024-26** would authorize an Agreement with Famous Enterprises, Inc. for a Job Creation and Retention Program Grant and asked Planning and Development Director Duffy to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mr. Duffy said Famous Enterprises was a family-owned business that started several decades ago and was interested in the property located at 5700 Lee Road South which was the former GOJO building. He said **Resolution No. 2024-26** would authorize the City to enter into a Job Creation and Retention Grant Agreement offering a 25% rebate of the income taxes paid by Famous Enterprises to the City for a five (5) year term.

Mr. Duffy said the City was excited about this agreement that will bring eighty-three (83) jobs to the City with a projected growth in employment of 5% or approximately four (4) new employees per year thereafter. He said in the first year it was projected the City will receive \$4.2 million dollars in new payroll. Mr. Duffy said the Company will have a manufacturing facility in the City specializing in the production of toilets, sinks and the plumping/pipes for these fixtures and also planned to build out an educational training center to facilitate the hiring of City residents.

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

Councilwoman Agee asked Mr. Duffy when did GOJO leave Maple Heights.

In response, Mr. Duffy said the company gave the City notice that they were leaving in September 2023 since the estimated increase in production of their sanitizer products had not materialized. He said GOJO had not moved forward with their contract with the City.

Councilman Shenett thanked Mr. Duffy for the information regarding this legislation and asked if the expected income was a minimum amount of payroll.

In response, Mr. Duffy said he had forwarded to Council an e-mail in which he shared a table of employee payroll amounts and said the terms of the contract required at least \$100,000.00 minimum payroll income tax to the City.

Mr. Jackson asked what was the timeframe for this contract.

Mr. Duffy said the contract would take affect in 2025. He said the Company wanted to take time to move their business and build out the new facility. Mr. Duffy said the terms were for a five (5) year contract starting in 2025.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Duffy if he was recommending that this Resolution be passed on emergency, to which Mr. Duffy responded in the affirmative. Mr. Duffy said the Administration was respectfully requesting passage on emergency.

Mr. Shenett said GOJO had created a pipeline/agency to assist Maple Heights residents with employment opportunities and asked if Famous Enterprises would be looking at something like this also, to which Mr. Duffy responded in the affirmative. Mr. Duffy said the Company had suggested that it would be interested in some type of program, but no specific program had been discussed. He said the Company was encouraged by the City to do this.

Councilwoman Jones asked who was the owner of the building at this location and will the owner be providing exterior maintenance.

Mr. Duffy said the building transferred from GOJO to a private equity fund based in Mayfield Heights that has been marketing the building. He said whenever necessary the City will hold them to the Maple Heights Building Code.

Ms. Jones said she was checking because the back of the building backed up to condos and the grass there will need to be maintained.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions on this legislation. There being no other questions or comments, 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.

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

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2024-27** would authorize a Forgivable Loan through the MH-SBA Small Business Performance Grant Program to AB Simmons Incorporated and asked Mr. Duffy to discuss this legislation also.

In response, Mr. Duffy said the Applicants, Mr. and Mrs. Simmons, had appeared before the Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit for a new enterprise at the vacant Payless Shoe Source location in Southgate. He said

they planned to open a laundromat from the national chain of WaveMax. Mr. Duffy said this loan request would allow the Company to purchase inventory and make interior and exterior enhancements to the property.

Mr. Duffy said **Ordinance No. 2024-27** paralleled the Maple Heights Hardware legislation passed by Council in 2023. He said because of the amount of the personal investment by the applicants they will be eligible for the full \$50,000.00 grant award. Mr. Duffy said 25% of the grant amount or \$12,5000.00 would be City funds and the remaining 75% or \$37,500.00 would be County funds.

At this time Mr. Duffy introduced Bryan and Angela Simmons to Council.

Ms. Simmons thanked Council for inviting them to attend tonight's meeting and said she had wanted to start a laundromat so she and her husband joined the WaveMax franchise.

Mr. Simmons said their project was under construction and will take approximately six (6) weeks so their target opening date will be June 7, 2024. He said the laundromat will have twenty-eight (28) washers and dryers that will be eco-friendly and a sanitation system that will kill viruses such as SARS and COVID. Mr. Simmons said patrons should be able to get in and out in under an hour.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions regarding **Ordinance No. 2024-27**.

Mr. Shenett said he did not have a question but did request to Co-Sponsor this legislation. Mr. Shenett said he was very excited about this project. He said this grant process seemed smooth compared to others that had difficulties being able to finance their businesses.

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

Councilwoman Stafford Marbury asked to Co-Sponsor this legislation and said this was a good thing for the City.

Ms. Agee said she would also like to Co-Sponsor this legislation. Ms. Agee said she had talked with Southgate Management and residents of District 7 and everyone was 175% in support of this business. Ms. Agee thanked Mr. Duffy for his work on this project.

Councilwoman Anderson said she would also like to Co-Sponsor this legislation and said it was a good thing to see a new business come to the City.

Ms. Jones asked what would be the hours of operation for the laundromat to which Mr. Simmons responded that the laundromat would be opened every day from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., with 9:00 p.m. being the last wash. Ms. Simmons said they would also be offering a drop-off service where customers will be able to drop-off laundry and they will wash, dry and fold it for them.

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

Councilman Tatum congratulated the Simmons on their business and said he was excited that it was coming to Maple Heights. Mr. Tatum said it would be an asset to the City and asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor.

Councilwoman Madden said it was good to meet the Simmons at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting and said the drop-off service would be wonderful. Ms. Madden said she would also like to Co-Sponsor this legislation.

Mr. Shenett asked if the laundromat would be opened 24-hours, to which Ms. Simmons responded in the negative. Ms. Simmons said she was not sure about laundromats providing 24-hour service, but because they were a franchise of WaveMax they needed to follow franchise rules with regards to their hours of operation.

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.

Moving to **Resolution No. 2024-28** approving the 2024 Exterior Home Repair Grant Program and authorizing funding to eligible applicants, Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Duffy to discuss this legislation also.

Before discussing **Resolution No. 2024-28**, Mr. Duffy requested to return to **Resolution No. 2024-26** since a company representative from Famous Enterprises was present at the Caucus Meeting. Mr. Duffy introduced Ms. Melissa Ferchill of MCM Company Inc. on behalf of Famous Enterprises, Inc.

Ms. Ferchill apologized for her delay in getting to the meeting and thanked everyone for inviting her to attend on behalf of Famous Enterprises. Ms. Ferchill said the Company was very excited about the project, noting that it would be a \$64 million dollar investment, including \$30 million dollars of inventory, \$18 million dollars in acquisitions and \$12 million dollars invested in the build-out. She said there were approximately eighty (80) employees at Famous Enterprises with a projected increase in employment over the first five (5) years.

Ms. Ferchill said the project will be the first fully automated distribution facility for the company and will cover 320,000 sq. ft. She said there will also be a training and learning center on premises with the goal of not only training employees, but also trades such as HVAC and plumbing who used their products. Mr. Ferchill said this was a totally newly imagined company to be a hub within Ohio and the surrounding states.

Ms. Ferchill said there will be great employment opportunities with the company and that the skill sets the company was looking for were in this area. She said Maple Heights also was an excellent location with its proximity to the freeways.

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

Ms. Jones welcomed Ms. Ferchill to Maple Heights and asked where had the Company first started.

In response, Ms. Ferchill said the Company was built in the early 1900's and was headquartered in Ohio with facilities throughout the State. Ms. Ferchill said the amount of support from Mayor Blackwell and Mr. Duffy and the help from Cuyahoga County was wonderful. She said the Company was close to completing its financing.

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

Mr. Shenett said he was excited about the business bringing work to the City. He said the training facility will be an opportunity for growth for the employees and others.

Ms. Ferchill said the training center was a two-fold response by the Company. She said there would be the need for skilled employees and the people who were the Company's customers should be skilled in the use of the products. She said the Company felt it had an obligation to train these end-users and to build that pipeline. Ms. Ferchill said Mr. Peter Bastulli, CEO of Famous Enterprises was extremely passionate about this. She said when this new facility opens the innovation and automation will be new to the Company's operation.

Mr. Jackson thanked Ms. Ferchill for attending tonight's meeting on behalf of Famous Enterprises.

Returning to **Resolution No. 2024-28**, Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Duffy to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mr. Duffy said this Resolution concerned the Exterior Home Repair Grant Program for this year and would approve the City's match of funding to be added with the County grant funds for this program. Mr. Duffy said the City was waiting for the information from the County with regards to the approval of their portion of the funding.

Mr. Duffy said Housing Administrator Thomas was also present at tonight's Caucus Meeting to discuss this grant program and to answer any questions Council may have regarding it. He said Ms. Thomas submitted the 2024 CDSG grant application for this program. Mr. Duffy said the legislation before the County Council to award this funding already had its First Reading and the Second Reading was scheduled for their April 11, 2024 Meeting.

Ms. Thomas said the 2023 Exterior Home Repair Grant Program funded over forty (40) repair projects under its total budget of \$100,000.00 which was funded equally with \$50,000.00 from the County and \$50,000.00 from the City. She said in addition \$40,000.00 was reinvested in the properties by the property owners. Ms. Thomas said this was a very popular program and that she had a list of forty (40) applicants waiting to be selected. Ms. Thomas respectfully requested that Council approve this legislation to continue the Exterior Home Repair Grant Program for 2024.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on **Resolution No. 2024-28**.

Mr. Shenett asked if the list was of 2023 applicants that had been carried over to this year, to which Ms. Thomas responded in the affirmative. Ms. Thomas said she had received calls last year after all of the program funds had been allocated, so she started a wait list.

Mr. Shenett asked if the amount will be the same as the \$2,500.00 cap last year, to which Mr. Duffy responded in the affirmative. Mr. Duffy said last year between the \$100,000.00 from the County and the City and the homeowners' investment, a total of approximately \$140,000.00 was invested in properties throughout the City.

Ms. Stafford Marbury asked if the residents not selected in 2023 had submitted applications and if so will they need to resubmit an application for this year's program.

In response, Ms. Thomas said since HUD changed the income guidelines yearly the City was required to take new applications.

Ms. Madden asked with regards to the applications, once the program was approved when would the City start accepting applications.

Ms. Thomas said the City would not be able to give out any applications until the funding for the program was approved by the County. She said residents could however begin to obtain estimates for their repair projects.

Mr. Duffy concurred with Ms. Thomas and said it would be helpful if applicants started looking for estimates.

Mayor Blackwell asked Ms. Thomas to describe what types of projects were funded in 2023.

Ms. Thomas said many of the applicants were elderly residents and the scope of projects included window replacement, driveways, exterior painting, front steps, exterior drains, garage and house roofs and garage repairs. Ms. Thomas said the ultimate goal of the program was to increase the value of the property for the owner. She said with the increasing cost of building repairs this program allowed the City to give assistance to residents.

Ms. Anderson said so even if the City had a wait list, the residents will need to fill out an application, to which Ms. Thomas responded in the affirmative. Ms. Thomas said after she has received applications with all of the required documents, the grants will be awarded on a "first come, first serve" basis. Ms. Thomas said she cannot pick and choose the applications to be funded.

Ms. Thomas said residents on the wait list will receive an application that she will personally send out and the application will also be available online and will be given to Council to share with their residents.

Mr. Shenett said last year there had been contractor list issues and asked if this had been resolved.

Mr. Duffy said the City cannot recommend any specific contractors and cannot recommend one contractor over another, but the Building Department will share the list of registered contractors. He said residents were often afraid of getting scammed by a contractor.

Ms. Thomas said the Building Department will provide the full list of contractors regardless of the size of the project. She said residents could also call the Building Department to inquire if there have been any complaints about a contractor or to request the contractor's bond/insurance information. Ms. Thomas said the program required three (3) bids for any project, no matter the size or cost.

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. 2024-29** would authorize a One (1) Year Contract with Quality Control Inspection, Inc. (QCI) for Inspection Services for Construction Projects in the City of Maple Heights. Mr. Jackson said this contract had been discussed at a recent Finance Committee Meeting and asked if there were any questions on this legislation. There being no questions or comments, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Ordinance No. 2024-30** would authorize a Professional Services Municipal Engineering Consulting Contract with Engineer Edward J. Hren, P.E., Assistant Engineer James T. Shea, P.E. and their Engineering Firm, Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd., Effective January 1, 2024 and asked if there were any follow-up questions regarding this legislation. Mr. Jackson said this legislation had been discussed by City Engineer Ed Hren at Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. There being no questions or comments, 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. 2024-31** authorizing a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Agreement for the Construction of Wastewater Facilities, Designating a Dedicated Repayment Source for the Loan and authorizing the Signing of Contracts and Other Documents had also been discussed by Mr. Hren at Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on **Resolution No. 2024-31**. There being no questions or comments, 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 **Resolutions Nos. 2024-32** and **2024-33** had been added to the Agenda for tonight's meeting by Addendum. He said **Resolutions Nos. 2024-32** would authorize a Contract with Sun Valley Landscaping to Plant Trees at Stafford Park as Part of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH)-Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Urban Tree Canopy Restoration Project to Expand the Tree Canopy in Maple Heights. Mr. Jackson said Mr. Hren also discussed this legislation at Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. He asked if there were any questions from Council on **Resolution No. 2024-32**.

There being no questions or comments, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this legislation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2024-33** would authorize a Contract with D.E. Electric, Inc. for the Lee-Libby Pocket Park Site Lighting Improvement Project. He said Mr. Hren also discussed

this legislation at Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. He asked if there were any questions from Council on **Resolution No. 2024-33**.

There being no questions or comments, 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 there were No Expenditures over \$25,000.00 for review at tonight's meeting, only two (2) Disclosures of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00. He asked if there were any questions on the Lists of Expenditures. There were no questions on the List of Expenditures.

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 7:11 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Stafford Marbury and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Assistant Law Director John Thomas on behalf of Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Dan Syphen, Police Ex. Lt. Brian Keven on behalf of Police Chief Todd Hansen, 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.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee 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. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of March 20, 2024.

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Fire Chief Dan Syphen reported that the total Fire Department calls to the end of March 2024 were 1,494 and that total calls through the month of March 2024 were 517.

The Fire Chief announced that Nicholas Foard was sworn in on March 28, 2024. He said Mr. Foard had prior experience with the Liberty Township Fire Department in Trumbull County as well as Willoughby Hills Fire Department. Fire Chief Sypen said Mr. Foard will begin his orientation on April 9th and will be assigned to shift shortly after,

Fire Chief Sypen said the Total Eclipse of 2024 will take place on April 8th and that preparations for the Fire Department has been through the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management. He said the City received the Incident Action Plan from the County EMA that identified the largest issues to be expected due to the eclipse to include traffic on the primary routes after the event and also mobile communications to be affected because of the large number of people utilizing the system, especially at the peak of the event. The Fire Chief said the Fire Department would advise onlookers to be prepared for traffic, especially if traveling near the Downtown Cleveland area due to the eclipse and also the NCAA Women's Final Four Basketball Tournament and the Guardians Home Opener. He also advised everyone to expect interruptions in cell and data services due to the large demand and to ensure protective eyewear will be used while observing the eclipse.

Fire Chief Sypen concluded his report by announcing the passing of retired Firefighter Eugene Fiktus on April 1st. The Fire Chief said FF Fiktus was 90 years old and served the Maple Heights Fire Department for 25 years from 1961 to 1986. He said FF Fiktus was a US Army Veteran who served during the Korean War.

Law Department – Assistant Law Director Mr. John Thomas said there was No Report from the Law Department but said that he and Assistant Prosecutor Marlene Ridenour continued to represent the City of Maple Heights in both Mayor's Court and Garfield Heights Municipal Court cases. Mr. Thomas said Mayor's Court Clerk Dennison advised him that the number of cases was on par with last year.

Police Department – Police Ex. Lt. Brian Kevern reported that for the month of March the Police Department handled approximately 1,335 calls for service and that the total calls for service to date were 6,861 calls. He said during the month of March the Police Department handled 131 criminal calls, responded to 10 accidents, and issued 75 traffic tickets and 216 parking tickets.

Ex. Lt. Kevern said the Police Department will be working with Cuyahoga County during the Solar Eclipse and will have additional Police Officers and Auxiliary on duty for traffic control.

Ex. Lt. Kevern announced that the Police Department has hired a new Animal Control Officer, Colleen Cunat, who started last Monday. He said Ms. Cunat was a 2005 graduate from Maple Heights High School and that she had twelve (12) years of experience. Ex. Lt. Kevern said Ms. Cunat has raised ducks that she had rescued and also has experience with wild animals. Ex. Lt. Kevern said Ms. Cunat was currently in a training program and will be working on her own within the next three (3) weeks.

Ex. Lt. Kevern said last year the Police Department had started a parking detail with Auxiliary Officers that went from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. He said since this program has been so

successful, the Police Department has extended this program to other times and for the enforcement of other violations. Ex. Lt. Kevern said the extended program started on Monday and in four (4) days these Officers have issued 19 parking tickets for cars parked on lawns and 28 tickets for the 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. parking violations.

Human Services Department – Human Services Director Mrs. Linda Vopat thanked everyone who participated in the Easter Fest that was held Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the MH High School Cafetorium. Mrs. Vopat said approximately 400 people attended including 150 children and families. Mrs. Vopat thanked the Service Department, Council President Jackson, Councilwoman Jones who manned the Craft Table with Law Director Consolo and Councilman Tatum who was taking pictures. Mrs. Vopat displayed a sign listing all of the donors and their donations for the Easter Fest.

Mrs. Vopat said Mayor Blackwell, Community Development Coordinator Hansberry and herself attended the Annual Meeting of Pregnant with Possibilities. Mrs. Vopat said Maple Heights was a great location for this agency due to the infant mortality rate in our area. She said Pregnant with Possibilities has adopted a holistic approach to the issue of prenatal care and infant mortality and said the list of services provided by Pregnant with Possibilities was available on the agency's website.

Mrs. Vopat said in 2023 Pregnant with Possibilities served 262 clients, 491 families, distributed 540 toys at the Christmas Holiday, and also offered transportation and housing assistance to reduce these stresses on expectant/new mothers. She said the agency has helped to increase access to healthcare thereby reducing adverse effects to women and their babies.

Mrs. Vopat announced that April 11, 2024 to April 17, 2024 will be Black Maternal Health Week and said there will be a number of events in the City during the week as described in the flyer which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Mrs. Vopat said residents will be able to drop off maternal and baby need items during the week of April 11th to 17th to the Senior Center for delivery to Pregnant with Possibilities.

Mrs. Vopat also announced that there will be a Solar Eclipse Presentation by Meteorologist Bryan Shaw on Monday April 8th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. She said Mr. Shaw will talk about the eclipse from the perspective of a meteorologist.

Mrs. Vopat said over the years it had been difficult for the City to provide programs for the youth in our City. Mrs. Vopat said she was pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Brandon Beck as the new Human Services Program Manager for the City of Maple Heights. She said Mr. Beck was a 2007 graduate of Maple Heights High School and was graduated in 2014 from Cleveland State University with a degree in business. Mrs. Vopat said Mr. Beck had an extensive background in insurance and was dedicated to the City of Maple Heights and wanted to see Maple Heights flourish. She said Mr. Beck had good social and organizational skills and that his avocation was Assistant Football Coach at VASJ High School. Mrs. Vopat announced that Mr. Beck started on Tuesday, April 2nd and will be working to increase youth and family engagement in the City.

At this time Mrs. Vopat introduced Mr. Beck who thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to help the City of Maple Heights.

Finance Department – Finance Director Ms. Tinita Tillman said the Finance Department had no Report for tonight’s meeting since the Finance Department was still working to reconcile the month of March. She said the monthly finance report will be out soon.

Service Department – Service Director Mr. Tony Ciresi said the Service Department was in full swing for spring now and said he wanted to remind everyone that April 20th will be the first Community Shred Day at Stafford Park from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

At this time Mr. Ciresi introduced Mr. Alex Margevicius, Commissioner of Water, Cleveland Water Department and Ms. Brenda Culler, Lead Program Manager, Cleveland Water Department, to discuss the Lead Service Line Replacement Program in the City of Maple Heights.

Mr. Margevicius said the Cleveland Division of Water supplies water to the City of Cleveland and 79 cities. He said it started in 1856 and serves over 440,000 customers. Mr. Margevicius stated the Water Department had a lot of lead pipes in its system and that under the Federal Infrastructure legislation \$15 billion dollars was allocated for the removal/replacement of lead service lines. He said Ohio and the City of Cleveland received its share of this funding so that in August 2023 (Year 1) the City of Cleveland was one of the first cities to begin the Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Mr. Margevicius said under this program the Water Department will replace 4,000 linear feet per year. He said the Federal Infrastructure law proposed as little as 10 years to replace the lead pipes and offered 53% funding as a grant but 47% of the funding will be a loan. Mr. Margevicius said the mandate will likely be paid by ratepayers which will raise affordability issues and uncertainty in the long term. He said the Cleveland Water Department will work to get as much lead pipe replaced as possible.

Ms. Culler said Cleveland Water was one of the safer water systems in the county since Cleveland had stopped using lead pipes in 1953 and treated the pipes with an orthophosphate coating that helped to protect the infrastructure system. As an illustration of this, Ms. Culler showed Council a display of several water lines with and without this coating. Ms. Culler said the Water Department still needed to comply with the Federal law.

Ms. Culler said the Water Department will be working to replace lead pipes in the City of Maple Heights during Year 1, primarily in single-family, two-family, multi-family and small business properties. She said the lead service line replacement will be done in the City of Maple Heights before any sewer line replacement work or road repaving work will be done in the City. Ms. Culler said an example was Rockside Road. She said the selection of cities was based upon the highest concentration of lead service pipes.

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

Mr. Shenett asked if the first two (2) water pipes in the display were not treated, to which Ms. Culler responded in the affirmative and stated that the Cleveland Water Department had lead levels seven (7) times below the permitted Federal level.

Ms. Jones said Rockside Road was in her district and asked if the project to be done on Rockside Road would be done prior to the resurfacing, to which Ms. Culler responded in the affirmative. Ms. Culler said as per the Federal Regulations, the Water Department was trying to perform the lead pipe replacement prior to roadwork being performed to help reduce and prevent any lead exposure should a service line be cut.

Mayor Blackwell said both the Service Department and City Engineer Ed Hren will make sure that this work will be done before Rockside Road was repaved.

Mr. Jackson asked about one state that had not complied with the lead pipe requirements.

In response, Mr. Margevicius said that was Flint, MI that had gotten its water from Detroit, MI but then switched to another plant that did not focus on the lead testing. Mr. Margevicius said public water facilities were required to test/sample the water and 90% must be below the permitted Federal level.

With regards to the project work, Ms. Culler said Cleveland Water had both City-owned lead lines and City-owned copper lines, so residents identified as having lead lines will be sent a Customer Service Replacement Agreement and a letter describing the work to be performed. She said another letter will be sent 2 weeks before the construction work will begin and residents will see the OUPs paint markings also at this time. Ms. Culler said there will also be door-to-door notices regarding the project and notices regarding No Parking on the street. She said if a car was abandoned on the street, the Water Department will contact the Police Department for assistance.

Ms. Jones asked about the QR Code to be used to determine the type of pipe and if it was to be used on the line into the house before the water meter, to which Mr. Margevicius responded in the affirmative. He said a magnet can also be used to determine the type of pipe in a home, stating that if the magnet sticks to the pipe it was copper and if the magnet did not stick, it was a lead pipe. He said if a water line is scraped by a penny and it is the same color as the penny then it was also a copper pipe.

Mr. Margevicius said there was a clear distinction between the water main to the curb stop/curb valve. He said the most percentage of lead would be in the City-owned portion of the water line and the homeowner portion would be less than 10% of the lead. He said galvanized steel pipes may be exposed to lead, so these pipes must be treated as lead pipes per Federal Rules.

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

COMMENTS FROM CITY RESIDENTS: Started at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Johnnie Barnes III residing at 14320 Janice Drive stated that he had a problem with a tree on his property so he contacted the Service Department and someone from Service came to check the tree. He said it was determined that the tree was rotten so it was removed by the Service Department, but the tree stump was still there. He said the Service Department left the tree stump and he was advised that he would have to remove it. Mr. Barnes asked if the tree was the City's why won't the City remove the stump.

In response, Mr. Shenett said he had received Mr. Barnes' e-mail about the tree on his property and had forwarded it to the Service Department that checked the tree and removed it since it was rotten. He said it was his understanding that the City cannot remove the stump.

In response, Mayor Blackwell said she will ask Assistant Law Director Thomas to research the City Ordinances regarding this matter.

Ms. Deva Walker of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Maple Heights Branch, said she wanted to let residents know about a number of services that were available from the Library including Small Business programs, Mental Health Workshops in partnership with Tri-C on the second Saturday of the month and the Mobile Food Pantry which will be starting Tuesday, April 9th through September on the second Tuesday of each month.

Ms. Walker announced that the Library was also offering Dementia Café kits that can be used at home or at the Library and was also offering Adaptive Story Times for people with various disabilities.

Ms. Walker concluded her comments by announcing that the Library had also been passing out Solar Eclipse glasses and that she had some available at tonight's Council Meeting.

Comments by City Residents closed at 8:19 p.m.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-26

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FAMOUS ENTERPRISES INC. FOR A JOB CREATION AND RETENTION PROGRAM GRANT, 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 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: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-27

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE A FORGIVABLE LOAN THROUGH THE MAPLE HEIGHTS-SBA SMALL BUSINESS PERFORMANCE GRANT PROGRAM TO AB SIMMONS INCORPORATED ("THE COMPANY") IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,500.00 FROM THE CITY AND A MATCHING AMOUNT OF \$37,500.00 FROM THE COUNTY, FOR A TOTAL LOAN AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00 TO ALLOW THE COMPANY TO PURCHASE INVENTORY AND MAKE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR ENHANCEMENTS AT 20980 LIBBY ROAD, MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency. 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: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-28

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2024 EXTERIOR HOME REPAIR GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO AWARD FUNDING TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by 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.

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

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

There being no other 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 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: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: 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. 2024-29

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A ONE (1) YEAR CONTRACT WITH QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTION, INC. (QCI) TO PROVIDE INSPECTION SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS DURING 2024 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.

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 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: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-30

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH ENGINEER EDWARD J. HREN, P.E., ASSISTANT ENGINEER JAMES T. SHEA, P.E., AND THEIR ENGINEERING FIRM, CHAGRIN VALLEY

ENGINEERING, LTD., EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

There being no questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules and pass this Ordinance on emergency. 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: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-31

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER FACILITIES, DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN, AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF CONTRACTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELEVANT THERETO, 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.

Ms. Jones said the Southwest Quadrant included James and Summit Avenues and that this will be a \$2.5 million-dollar sewer replacement project. She said various grants will be used for this project with only a \$120,000.00 balance to be paid by the City. Ms. Jones said the funding for this project included money for the repaving of James and Summit Avenues. She said this will be a large project at very nominal cost to the City.

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

There being no other 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 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: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: 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. 2024-32

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SUN VALLEY LANDSCAPING TO PLANT TREES AT STAFFORD PARK, AS PART OF THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (CCBH) - OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR), DIVISION OF FORESTRY, URBAN TREE CANOPY RESTORATION PROJECT TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY 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.

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

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

There being no other 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 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: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: 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. 2024-33

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH D. E. WILLIAMS ELECTRIC, INC. TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE LEE-LIBBY POCKET PARK SITE LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

There being no other 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 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: Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: Yes; Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: 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 were no Expenditures over \$25,000.00 for review at tonight's meeting, only two (2) Disclosures of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00. He asked if there were any questions on the List of Expenditures. There were no questions.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell said the Directors shared a lot of information during their Reports and there was a lot of information available on the table also. She said the City also used social media including the City website, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

The Mayor said information was available about the dates and times for the Information Meetings with County Auditors regarding the increase in property values due to the County reappraisal. Mayor Blackwell said the increase in property values will be double-digit increases.

Mayor Blackwell said a lot of information was presented in the Cleveland Water Department presentation regarding the Lead Pipe Replacement Program. The Mayor said there was also information about money available for help with downpayment assistance to buy a home.

The Mayor said she was excited about the three (3) new employees that have been hired, the new Animal Control Officer Colleen Cumat, the new Human Services Program Manager Brandon Beck who was dedicated to the City and wanted to bring more programs to the youth, and the City's new Firefighter, Nicholas Foard.

Mayor Blackwell concluded her report by stating that the Easter Fest was very successful and said the City raffled off ten (10) bicycles at this event.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 said she wanted to extend her sincere gratitude to all of the participants who attended the District 7 Annual Business Meeting. Ms. Agee said it was

important to have this dialogue with the business owners and said she was grateful for their commitment to the City and for their support.

Ms. Agee announced that the next Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Distribution will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 5345 Warrensville Center Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1 thanked all of the residents and Administrative Staff who attended the Combined District 1 and District 7 Block Watch/ Fellowship Meeting that was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. Mr. Shenett said a lot of topics were discussed at the meeting including the hiring of a new Animal Control Officer and various parking issues in the City. Mr. Shenett said he was excited to be working with Mr. Duffy to attract business to the Dunham Plaza at the old Dollar General location and about the plans for Southgate in District 7. He said they were informed about the tax rebate available to businesses.

Mr. Shenett said they also discussed the Exterior Home Repair Grant Program awaiting Cuyahoga County approval and rental property nuisances including noise issues and trash container problems. He said they plan to work together with the City to reach out and embrace tenants so they will take pride in these properties and the community.

Mr. Shenett said they also discussed the status of the road work in the City and shared information on the grant received for the Southgate Park Boulevard resurfacing project.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by thanking everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 presented the history of the month of April being designated as Fair Housing Month each year. She said that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act was enacted on April 11, 1968 and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson and first amended in 1974, then amended again in 1988 and 2021. Ms. Jones said the purpose of recognizing Fair Housing Month was to raise public awareness and to highlight fair housing.

Ms. Jones said if anyone believes their rights to fair housing have been violated, they should contact Fair Housing Center Rights and Research at 216-361-9240.

Ms. Jones concluded her report by welcoming Colleen, Brandon and the new Firefighter to the City.

Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3 thanked his colleagues for passing the legislation and working together. He also thanked the Mayor for bringing businesses to the City and congratulated the new businesses in the City.

Mr. Tatum concluded his report by thanking everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4 said last evening two (2) young men were trying to get into cars that were parked in the driveways on her street. She said they hit the whole street. Ms. Anderson reminded everyone to please lock their car doors and house doors.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 thanked the residents and members of the Administration who attended her District 5 Community Meeting on March 27th and also thanked Ms. Solomon from Dedicated Seniors for attending. Ms. Madden said Ms. Solomon provided a lot of information for the residents. Ms. Madden said she had also received a lot of important information from the Legal Aid Society that she was able to share with her residents.

Ms. Madden concluded her report by thanking everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Councilwoman Tina Stafford Marbury, District 6 said she had received an e-mail from a resident to be directed to the Police Department. She said the resident in her District was pleased that all of the cars that were parked on her street had been ticketed and was happy to see that something was being done to address this problem.

Ms. Stafford Marbury said as Ms. Anderson reported, that she had received a call from a resident in her District that there was a person looking through the windows of houses when no one was at home. She reminded residents to be careful and to remember to close their blinds when they were away.

Ms. Stafford Marbury said she was glad that the City had a new Animal Control Officer.

Ms. Stafford Marbury said that unlike the resident who complained about the tree stump on his property, she had three (3) residents who had trees cut down by the City and one resident planned to use the tree stump as a decorative item. Ms. Stafford Marbury thanked the Service Department for cutting down these trees.

Ms. Stafford Marbury concluded her report by thanking everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Council President Ron Jackson reminded everyone to be careful next Monday during the solar eclipse, especially if you will be out driving during the time of the eclipse.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Dated: May 1, 2024

ATTEST:

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