

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

Maple Height Senior Center

May 15, 2024

MEETING CAUCUS

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Stafford Marbury and Agee. Also present were Police Chief Todd Hansen, City Engineer Ed Hren and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Dan Syphen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Service Director Tony Ciresi and Planning and Development Director Joe Duffy were absent and excused.

Mr. Jackson said Councilman Tatum would have the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance for tonight's meeting. Mr. Jackson said there was one (1) Communication from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control.

Moving to the legislation on tonight's meeting Agenda, Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2024-44** was a proclamation recognizing June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the City of Maple Heights and asked Councilwoman Jones if there was any discussion on this legislation, to which Ms. Jones responded in the negative.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on **Resolution No. 2024-44**. There were no questions.

Mr. Jackson said **Resolution No. 2024-45** concerned the 2024 Pavement Repair Program and asked City Engineer Ed Hren to discuss this legislation.

In response, Mr. Hren said this legislation would authorize him to begin the preparation of plans and specifications and to advertise for bids for the 2024 Pavement Repair Program. He said this was the City's annual roadway resurfacing program and that Service Director Ciresi had discussed the exhibit for this program legislation at the recent Public Works and Safety Committee Meeting and answered any questions on it at that time.

Mr. Hren respectfully requested that Council pass this Resolution on emergency at tonight's meeting so that he will be able to prepare the plans and specifications and put the project out to bid as soon as possible. He said the bids could be opened, reviewed/tabulated and a contract award recommended at the July Council Meeting. Mr. Hren said last year this was done in August or September. He said it was better to bid this type of project earlier in the year rather than later because it would be more competitive for bids and would allow contractors to be able to schedule out their work in advance.

Mr. Hren said he was checking with Mr. Ciresi to see if the component of the Pavement Repair Program regarding the crack sealing could be done-in house by the Service Department. He said it would be cheaper for the City, but would also add another project for Service Department

personnel to perform. Mr. Hren said as an alternate that part of the program could be bid-out as a separate contract if necessary. He said the City was trying to address the maintenance of streets that had already been repaired/resurfaced. Mr. Hren said it was important keep up with crack sealing to get longer life out of the resurfacing work.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions on **Resolution No. 2024-45**.

Ms. Jones asked what would happen if the crack sealing work could not be done in-house.

In response, Mr. Hren said the Exhibit A indicated the streets to be crack sealed and said these were primarily State and County Routes. He said the County had awarded the City \$141,000.00 for material costs to be used for repairs on County roads and that if the City used its own Service Department employees it would be more efficient and cheaper, thereby spreading out the use of these funds.

Mr. Hren said companies that sold the crack sealing materials often provided the use of the equipment for that work for free with the purchase of the materials.

Ms. Jones asked when would Mr. Hren find out if the Service Department would be able to do this work, to which Mr. Hren responded he would probably find out within the next couple of months. Mr. Hren said if the crack sealing work would need to be bid-out, it could get bid-out faster than the pavement repair project since it was a smaller job. He said it could get bid-out faster also because it was a specification-driven only project.

Mr. Jackson said crack sealing was done a couple of different ways and asked what method would be used. He said there was the method where the material got placed in the cracks and then squeezed into it, but that would get pulled up by the plow.

In response, Mr. Hren said there were about four (4) different types of crack sealing methods, including the process to place the sealing material in the cracks and roll over it; using a wand to place the material in the crack and squeeze it in; and the overlay method which used the most material. Mr. Hren said if this work was done in the summer or fall it will actually get beat into the pavement by the snow plows.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions on this legislation. There being no other questions, Mr. Jackson asked Council to vote on this Resolution at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jackson said the last item of legislation on tonight's Agenda was **Ordinance No. 2024-46** Adopting the Alternative Tax Budget Information for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2025 and Submitting the Same to the Budget Commission of Cuyahoga County. He said this Ordinance will be on First Reading at the request of the Finance and Law Departments.

Mr. Jackson said there were no Expenditures over \$25,000.00, only Two (2) 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 6:42 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jackson, Shenett, Jones, Tatum, Anderson, Madden, Stafford Marbury and Agee. Also present were Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Police Chief Todd Hansen and Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella Johnson. Law Director Frank Consolo, Fire Chief Dan Syphen, Human Services Director Linda Vopat, Finance Director Tinita Tillman, Service Director Tony Ciresi, Planning and Development Director Joe Duffy and City Engineer Ed Hren were absent and excused.

Councilman Tim Tatum 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: Ms. Madden made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of May 1, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Shenett: Yes; Ms. Jones: Yes; Mr. Tatum: Yes; Ms. Anderson: Yes; Ms. Madden: Yes; Ms. Stafford Marbury: Yes; Ms. Agee: Yes. The motion passed by the vote of seven (7) 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 a new Class C liquor license (Permit No. 14374152210) from CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL OF COLORADO LLC dba CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL 4695 at 5501 Warrensville Center Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

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

Community Life and Education Committee

Ms. Anderson, Chairwoman of the Community Life and Education Committee, announced that the Community Life and Education Committee was sponsoring a Family Summer Jamboree on Saturday, July 20, 2024, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at Benhoff Park. She said the Committee would love for everyone to attend. Ms. Anderson said it will be a fun, safe family event with food, music and activities for children.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: There were no Department Reports for tonight's meeting due to a change in the meeting format to present Department Reports only the first Council Meeting of the month.

COMMENTS FROM CITY RESIDENTS: Started at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Linda Sekura of 20508 Watson Road, Maple Heights, Ohio reminded everyone that she had a petition for a redistricting issue to be on the November ballot and said if anyone wanted to sign the petition they could see her after the meeting.

Citizens Comments closed at 7:06 p.m.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-44

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 AS “LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH” IN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Ms. Anderson said this legislation was not saying people needed to agree with this lifestyle but just that members of the LGBTQ community wanted to be treated as everyone else and to be treated fairly.

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

Ms. Jones said the reason she introduced this legislation was to show LGBTQ residents that the City recognized the month of June as Pride Month.

Ms. Stafford Marbury asked why was this legislation introduced so late when it was known that this comes around every year.

Ms. Jones said in the past this resolution was introduced, went three readings and was not passed in time. Ms. Jones said she introduced it in mid-May to have time for June to be recognized as Pride month.

Ms. Stafford Marbury said when legislation was introduced at the last minute it was difficult for Council to discuss it with residents and get their input.

Ms. Jones asked if Council Members needed to check with residents for a prostate cancer proclamation. She said this Resolution was just an acknowledgment of the month of June as Pride Month.

Ms. Stafford Marbury said it depended on the type of legislation. She said certain “feel good” resolutions did need residents’ input.

Ms. Jones said she needed to apologize that this legislation will not pass this month.

Mayor Blackwell said this was not just a “feel good” issue or legislation. She said it was important to sell the City. The Mayor said this was a social issue and a business issue. The Mayor said this legislation would show that the City was an inclusive City. She said DEI was not just race but also lifestyle and that she found it disturbing that this Resolution was being questioned. The Mayor said the City was competing with 58 other cities for resources. Mayor Blackwell said this was a business decision concerning how the City was addressing the issue of diversity.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions.

Ms. Stafford Marbury said she meant no offense when she said “feel good” legislation but had heard that term used by others with regards to such proclamations. Ms. Stafford Marbury said council people speak for their residents and that it was not her voice but their voices.

In response to Ms. Stafford Marbury’s comment, Mayor Blackwell said residents voted for elected officials to represent them and not query them with regards to what was best for the City. She said Council passed legislation for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and prostate cancer. The Mayor said we were leaders so we need to lead.

Ms. Agee asked Mayor Blackwell if the Administration will allow the Pride flag to be flown at City Hall

Mayor Blackwell said because of the issue of the Black Lives Matter flag during the George Floyd protests, the City’s position was that only one flag would fly at City Hall. The Mayor said she had no intention of flying any other flags at City Hall.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or discussion on this Resolution. There being no other questions or discussion, Mr. Jackson asked for the vote to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency.

ROLL CALL: On the motion to suspend the rules and pass this Resolution on emergency:
Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: No; Stafford Marbury: No; Agee: No; Shenett: Abstain; Jones: Yes. The motion to suspend the rules requiring five (5) affirmative votes failed by the vote of three (3) ayes to three (3) nays with one (1) abstention.

This Resolution was on First Reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-45

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO BEGIN THE PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR PAVEMENT REPAIRS ON VARIOUS STREETS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Mayor Blackwell asked Council to help her by sharing the list of approved streets with their residents since her Office has been fielding a number of calls regarding street repairs.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other questions or discussion on this Resolution. 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: Tatum: Yes; Anderson: Yes; Madden: Yes; Stafford Marbury: Yes; Agee: Yes; Shenett: Yes; Jones: 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. 2024-46

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET INFORMATION OF THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025; SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE BUDGET COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This Ordinance was on First Reading at the request of the Finance and Law Departments.

EXPENDITURES OVER \$25,000.00:

Mr. Jackson said there were No Expenditures over \$25,000.00, only Two (2) Disclosures of Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00 for review at tonight's meeting. He asked if there were any questions on the List of Expenditures. There were no questions from Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blackwell said one of the expenditures on the List of Expenditures for Guardian Alarm was for an updated alarm system to include fire and smoke detectors in the Service Garage. She said the other expense was for Treetop Products for the purchase of picnic tables for the pavilions at Stafford Park.

The Mayor said the City was working on a total overhaul of Stafford Park. She said the City had received a grant from the Department of Health and the ODNR to purchase and install trees at Stafford Park along the Fitness Trail and Story Book Trail. She said there will also be a new bandstand so the City will have a stage for Music in the Park and other activities.

Mayor Blackwell said last year two (2) new pavilions were installed at Stafford Park along with new trash receptacles. She said the City will be adding more trash receptacles. The Mayor said the roofs on the pavilions also needed to be repaired/replaced and that two (2) have already been repaired with one (1) remaining to be repaired.

Mayor Blackwell announced that this weekend the Maple Height Boys League will be starting the season at Stafford Park at Noon.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Gabor for the information he shared with her regarding the City of Cleveland Senior Day that he had participated in. She said it highlighted the heroes of Cleveland by focusing on the lives of volunteers. Mayor Blackwell said the City of Maple Heights honored seniors and that the City was doing a lot for its senior citizens. She said the Beacon Grove senior living facility opened two (2) months ago and was almost full. The Mayor said the City of Maple Heights Department of Human Services Annual Report has also been completed that highlights the services offered to seniors.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Timothy Tatum, District 3 announced that four (4) new houses will be built in District 3 and three (3) new businesses will be opening up in District 3.

Mr. Tatum said he will be at the Maple Heights Boys League opening this weekend to represent the City.

Mr. Tatum said District 3 will be scheduling a Clean-Up Day in June.

Mr. Tatum said the City was not inclusive and that he had talked with a member of the LGBTQ community in his district. He said LGBTQ members buy houses here, live here, work here but the City was saying they were not welcomed. Mr. Tatum said elected officials cannot choose who to represent.

Mr. Tatum said people need to remember who was in agreement with the City. He said the Administration was bringing new businesses and new homes. Mr. Tatum said everyone needed to participate, to work together to move the City forward. He thanked the Mayor for all she has done and thanked the Police Chief for keeping us safe.

Mr. Tatum concluded his report by wishing everyone a blessed evening.

Councilwoman Dana D. Anderson, District 4 announced that Saturday, June 15th will be the District 4 Clean-Up Day and asked all the residents to please clean up the area by cleaning up around their houses and yards.

Councilwoman Tanglyn Madden, District 5 said she hoped all the Mothers had a Happy Mother's Day.

Ms. Madden said she had received an update on the expansion at Magic Beauty Supply on Libby and Lee Roads and said hopefully the construction work was close to being complete. She said it was unfortunate that there had been a problem with one of the contractors. Ms. Madden said Magic Beauty was working to get the permit from the County for the sewer tie-in.

Ms. Madden concluded her report by wishing everyone a wonderful evening.

Councilwoman Tina Stafford Marbury, District 6 wished all the mothers a belated Happy Mother's Day and said she hoped everyone will have a good summer.

Councilwoman Edwina Agee, District 7 – No report.

Councilman Stafford L. Shenett, District 1 announced that the District 1 Block Watch Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 8th from Noon to 2:00 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours Church on Turney Road.

Mr. Shenett said he shared the same sentiment as his other colleagues regarding Happy Belated Mother's Day. He said even if mothers have passed away, it helped to keep their memories alive.

Mr. Shenett concluded his report by wishing everyone a blessed evening.

Councilwoman Toni Jones, District 2 reminded residents that Monday, May 20th the Neighbors On Duty Meeting will be held at St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Jones said at the May 13, 2024 Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting there was an application from a child day care center located in District 2, I Care Connect Day Care, that was looking to expand their day care to help special needs children with a focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Down Syndrome. She said the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the Conditional Use Permit for this application, subject to the applicant meeting all Building and Fire Codes requirements. Ms. Jones said the day care will be staffed with licensed day care workers and have a recreational therapist and IEP specialist. She said with this program the day care will be able to provide speech therapy, occupational therapy and music therapy.

Ms. Jones also announced that a new home was being constructed at 15800 Northwood Avenue in District 2, She said it will have four (4) bedrooms and three (3) baths and a sale price of \$275,000.00.

Ms. Jones said the completion of the paving on Eastwood, Glenwood and East, West and South Glenn was scheduled for the end of this month. She said the streets to be resurfaced this year included Maplewood Avenue between Glenwood and Eastwood, Steinway Boulevard from Dunham Road to Glenwood; and Maple Park Drive between Dunham Road and West Glenn Drive.

Ms. Jones concluded her report by saying that HUD was responsible for enforcing Fair Housing rights as stated in the federal Civil Rights Act and said that in addition to protection based upon

race, gender, religion and national origin was sexual orientation. She said **Resolution No. 2024-44** would be a way for the City to support Fair Housing Rights.

Council President Ron Jackson announced that the Maple Heights Boys League will be starting this Saturday, May 18th at Stafford Park. Mr. Jackson said when he played baseball as a kid they never had enough baseballs so he'll be donating a couple dozen baseballs again this year to the Maple Heights Boys League. He asked residents to see what they could do to support youth sports and enjoy some of the kids' sporting events during the year. Mr. Jackson said it was important to enjoy kids' sports.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Council President Jackson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Dated: June 5, 2024

ATTEST:

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