



RECORD OF PROCEEDING

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD AT 7601 MANCHESTER ROAD

MARCH 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Knapper presiding.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Mayor Knapper acknowledged that this meeting is being held on traditional lands of the Kickapoo, Osage, Miami, Iroquois and Great Sioux Nation people.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

ON ROLL CALL, the following members were **PRESENT**: Mayor Knapper, Councilmember Coriell (virtual), Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Homa, Councilmember Faulkingham and Councilmember Page.

MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER: Councilmember Faulkingham motioned to excuse Councilmember Mattox, seconded by Councilmember Homa, which motion received the approval of the Council.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA: Councilmember Faulkingham motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Homa, which motion received the approval of the Council.

PUBLIC FORUM TO HEAR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS REGARDING A PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI: Resident Doug Houser apologize for an error in a recent blog and asked if the demolition of the Immaculate Conception Church site (ICS) would go before the Historic Preservation Board because he wanted to keep the church standing. Mayor Knapper stated it would.

Ray Crader expressed concerns that architecturally the ICS project does not respect or interact with the surrounding neighborhood, ignores historic preservation and does not consider environmental impacts.

Patty Nouraie asked to delay item 15 on the agenda. She said public input and outreach was not provided and is needed. She added approving this agenda item would disregard a vibrant artist community and many of the community events and social services ICS currently provides.

Mary Killian inquired if other locations were considered for the senior housing and made suggestions for community service improvements within the existing ICS site.

Justin Lorenz stated he works for L'Arche and was concerned that he was not contacted about the potential ICS development and to see the site plan included property owned by L'Arche as part of their proposal.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: Councilmember Faulkingham motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Homa, which motion received the approval of the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilmember Garcia mentioned the upcoming Roller Boogie event at the hockey rink.

PUBLIC FORUM: Beth Newman expressed concern regarding misinformation harming the community and encouraged residents to speak directly to the Mayor and Council with questions.

Karen Wood expressed disappointment with the second public forum being removed from city council agendas, was wondering why this happened and would like it to be reinstated.

Ann Louis Schmidt spoke in favor of agenda item 17.

Brad Jackson discussed social media misinformation and said it was an organized smear campaign against the Mayor and was concerned racism was behind this effort.

Tanya Oliphant outlined numerous Mayor Knapper accomplishments and stated her administration has passed 27 pieces of legislation vs. 8 from the prior administration.

Heidi Schoen thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts and said she looks forward to a second term for Mayor Knapper.

Gina LaRose expressed gratitude to the Mayor and Council for their work. Gina LaRose echoed prior misinformation and racism concerns and questioned the motives of local journalists expressing concern that they were interested in obtaining clicks for articles written.

Jeanne Jones stated that her husband who is black, was initially concerned with moving to Maplewood due to a racist past and is worried Maplewood is heading back in this direction. She thanked the Mayor and Council for trying to combat this.

Leslie Keuss said supporters of Mayor Knapper's opponent are actively smearing the city and trying to hurt Maplewood. She said white supremacy runs deep within Maplewood's Special Business District and the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce. She said the City should not support the Chamber of Commerce.

Marie Long said she was upset the Mayor liked a social media post by a Maplewood board member that criticized many in the community. She said any disagreement with the Mayor is not due to the color of her skin and is upset that people are being called white supremacists for disagreeing.

Sam Knapper spoke about the former City Manager's separation agreement and mentioned city officials cannot speak about the agreement. Sam Knapper said the Mayor received racist and threatening texts over the summer and the former City Manager would not let her speak to the Police Chief. He indicated there is implicit racial bias by many when they do not question the former City Manager's character or professionalism but do question the Mayor's character or professionalism.

Michelle Barron, owner of the Book House, questioned support for Barry Greenberg and mentioned there were outside forces, perhaps bots, spurring much of the criticism of the current administration.

Catlin Freshour thanked the Mayor and Council for all that they do for the city.

Mary Killian asked for more information about the community growth fund.

Colleen Cunningham, Chair of the Community Growth Fund, provided a background of the fund's efforts to date.

Sandi Phillips thanked the council for Item 17 and provided a background on all who worked for this to come to fruition.

C. Wiley said Maplewood used to be a welcoming community but was concerned if it still is and referenced a quote from Barry Greenberg regarding world problems and wants a leader that cares about all.

Patty Nourai discussed how long she lived in Maplewood and said it was a disservice to bring race into the comments this evening. She said the Mayor was dynamic but people do not like when stuff is pushed on them and when friends are hired.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION: Councilmembers Garcia, Page and Homa thanked those that participated in the public forums. Councilmember Garcia mentioned the St. Louis Archdiocese owns the ICS site. Councilmember Homa asked City Attorney Jackie Graves to read a statement regarding the former City Manager's separation agreement which she did.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Knapper said the city will work with developers who take resident's concerns into consideration. She mentioned a Maplewood business owner who is being harassed due to ethnicity and religion and said she would give her a key to the city. She added that the individual stealing flags will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law due in part to the legislation this council passed. In reference to the former City Manager's settlement agreement, Mayor Knapper asked the City Attorney if a person deemed is a claimant, does that mean their claims are true? The City Attorney said that does not mean the claims were found to be true.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: City Manager Withycombe referenced the Roller Boogie, Coffee Crawl, and Walking Wednesday events.

R24-6, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE MULTIFAMILY HOUSING IN THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI BY RCH DEVELOPMENT was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, to approve this resolution, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa and Page. Nays, none.

R24-7, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE BID AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH HENDEL LAWCARE, INC. FOR GRASS CUTTING SERVICES FOR THE ITEMS ON BID LIST #1 (CITY PARKS, CITY HALL, AQUATIC CENTER, ETC.) AND BID LIST #2 (ALLEYS, MEDIANS, DEAD ENDS, ETC.) FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 2024 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2024 was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Homa, duly seconded by Councilmember Coriell, to

approve this resolution, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Garcia, Homa and Page. Nays, none.

BILL 6245, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING THE MAPLEWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 56 ZONING, SECTION 56-73 – USE REGULATIONS, SUBSECTIONS (A) LOT SIZE STANDARDS, (B) FRONT YARD SETBACK, (E) HEIGHT AND BULK STANDARDS, (G) PARKING, AND SECTION 56-1061 NON-CONFORMING LOTS OF RECORD (A) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, SUBSECTION (1), TO BRING LOT SIZE AND SETBACK STANDARDS INTO ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING AVERAGES AND TO PRESERVE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6245 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

Bill 6246 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER 12, SECTION 12-117 – ADOPTION OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, SECTION 302.4 WEEDS, AND CHAPTER 54, SECTION 54-56 – CUTTING REQUIRED, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO THE GROWTH OF GRASS OR WEEDS TO PROMOTE “NO MOW APRIL” FROM APRIL 1-30, 2024 IN SUPPORT OF POLLINATORS AND WILDLIFE HABIAT was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6246 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

BILL 6247 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, RATIFYING RESOLUTION R24-2 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI WITH THE CITIES OF BRENTWOOD, CLAYTON, AND RICHMOND HEIGHTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF JOINING THE CENTRAL CORE FIRE TRAINING CENTER COMMISSION was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6247 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

MOTION TO HOLD A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(13)RSMO. AND/OR EMPLOYEE MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(3)RSMO. AND/OR DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT UNDER SECTION 610.021(12)RSMO: A motion to go into closed session was made by Councilmember Faulkingham seconded by councilmember Homa, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, and Page. Nays, none.

The council reconvened the council meeting, no vote or actions were taken.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved this 26th day of March, 2024

Nikyln Knapper, Mayor

Attest:

Anthony Traxler, Deputy City Clerk