

**City Of Mason
Council Meeting
January 28, 2002**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor McCurley at 7:07 p.m.

Mayor McCurley stated the agenda reflects a prayer at this time however, he clarified a prayer will be given at the first meeting of the month if a Chaplain is available.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Jim Fox, Dick Staten, Victor Kidd, Tom Grossmann, Peter Beck, Charlene Pelfrey and John McCurley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to amend the minutes to reflect a Chaplain attending the first meeting of the month and offering a prayer as stated by Mayor McCurley on January 14 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

None

ORDINANCE 2002-19 APPROVAL OF THE PLAT OF EASEMENTS FOR WATER, UTILITY AND INGRESS/EGRESS AT THE HILLSIDE TERRACE CONDOMINIUMS ON DONNA JEAN BOULEVARD

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck)

Richard Fair explained to Council the developer is requesting approval of an easement plat for the first phase of Hillside Terrace Condominiums. He stated approval of this plat will give the City an easement to maintain the water main extension that was installed with the project. He said Planning Commission recommends approval with the following contingencies: show all existing easements on the plat, revise the water main easement to 20 feet, add the easement restrictions to the plat and submit an as built drawing for the project.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck)

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-19 with compliance of the four contingencies was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck)

ORDINANCE 2002-20 ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ON THE WEST SIDE OF U.S. ROUTE 42, CONTAINING A TOTAL OF 0.11 ACRES

A motion to read by title only was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck)

Richard Fair explained to Council the purpose of this legislation is to approve the dedication plat for US 42 in front of Al's Heating as recommended by Planning Commission. He stated the plat is consistent with the 2001 Thoroughfare Plan and brings the site into compliance with that plan. The plan increases the right-of-way by 0.11 acres.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck)

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-20 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck)

ORDINANCE 2002-21 ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ON THE EAST SIDE OF U.S. ROUTE 42, CONTAINING A TOTAL OF 0.617 ACRES

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Richard Fair explained to Council the owner of Wall 2 Wall Soccer is requesting approval of a dedication plat for the dedication of right-of-way along Reading Road/ US 42. He stated the plan is consistent with the 2001 Thoroughfare Plan and with this approval brings the site into compliance.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-21 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2002-22 CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER IN THE CITY OF MASON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION

A motion to read by title only was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Eric Hansen explained to Council Ordinance 2002-22 creates the position of Police Officer and Ordinance 2002-23 creates the position of Secretary in the Police Department. He added the Police Department averages five calls per hour with each call taking approximately 20 minutes. The addition of another Officer will help alleviate the restraints the department is currently realizing. He also stated the Police Department is currently the only department with no secretarial position. In the past these duties have been done by the Clerks but now the department is less one clerk as the duties have been reassigned to handle payroll and purchasing for the Fire and Police Departments. Eric said both of these positions have been approved in the 2002 Budget. Mayor McCurley asked if the economic climate conditions have impacted the City's budget to the extent this should be reviewed further. Scot Lahrmer stated that is not the case.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-22 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2002-23 CREATING THE POSITION OF SECRETARY IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION

A motion to read by title only was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-23 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2002-24 CREATING THE ADDITIONAL POSITION OF ENGINEER TECHNICIAN IN THE ENGINEERING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION

A motion to read by title only was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Eric Hansen stated the purpose of this legislation is to create the position of Engineer Technician to replace a contractual arrangement with Max Chesney. His job was to inspect and review subdivision and commercial construction activities and to monitor and inspect sediment and erosion control facilities. Max Chesney is retiring and in his absence it will be difficult to replace him with contract employees and the cost will likely be \$45 per hour. By hiring a full time Engineer Technician, the City will be meeting the demands in the most efficient and cost effective manner. This position was included in the 2002 Budget and was recommended by the Finance Committee of Council.

Councilmember Staten stated the City should look at hiring retired engineers to handle any additional workload.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-24 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2002-25 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE UP TO \$11,900 TO CINCINNATI METRO TO CONTINUE THE 71/72 REVERSE COMMUTE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FROM THE CITY OF CINCINNATI TO THE CITY OF MASON

A motion to read by title only was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Paige Bryan addressed Council and stated Ordinance 2002-25 deals with Cincinnati Metro's reverse commute service and Ordinance 2002-26 deals with the rush hour commute service. She explained Warren County has stated this year they will pay \$50,000 to continue this service but have asked the City of Mason, Lebanon and Deerfield Township to contribute the remaining \$52,300. She stated this service is a benefit to our residents and businesses as it provides transportation for potential employees to our area. The Economic Development is recommending the City contribute \$11,900 for the reverse commute effort and \$13,100 for the rush hour commute service. She added the alternative is the program will disappear as Metro has indicated it will not be continued. Mayor McCurley stated more advertising needs to be done for this effort. Paige Bryan responded they will be working with the Metro on this matter. She also stated the Job Bus Survey is at the printers and will be mailed soon. She added the City includes the schedule in the quarterly "Business Briefs". Councilmember Staten suggested "Mason Matters" include the schedule. Councilmember Beck said brochures use to be available in the lobby and at the Chamber office. He also stated Metro has statistics on the number of individuals using this service and we should request this information.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-25 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Councilmember Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2002-26 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE UP TO \$13,100 TO CINCINNATI METRO TO CONTINUE THE METRO 71/72 RUSH HOUR COMMUTE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FROM WARREN COUNTY TO THE CITY OF CINCINNATI

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-26 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2002-27 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PLATTENBURG & ASSOCIATES INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE AUDITS FOR YEARS 2001-2005

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Scot Lahrmer stated the City annually is required to undergo an audit of its financial records in accordance with the issuance of general-purpose financial statements, as required by the State of Ohio Auditor's Office. He added four firms were evaluated in this process with the firm of Plattenburg & Associates Inc. being selected. The total cost for this five-year service is \$153,300. This selection has been approved by the State Auditor's Office. Councilmember Beck stated the Finance Department has done a great job however; he stated this reflects a 24% increase.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-27 was made by vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Scot Lahrmer stated a worksession will be held for Council on Monday February 4, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mason Christian Village.

Scot Lahrmer stated the City has been requested to donate funds to fight Senate Bill 5, which passed the last General Assembly. This bill deals with the change in annexation laws which will impact the ability with which a property owner may annex his property into the City of Mason. He stated other cities have participated in this effort and the City of Mason has been requested to donate \$20,000. A general discussion followed among Councilmembers. Councilmember Kidd stated he is in support of leveling the playing fields on both sides of the issue. Councilmember Pelfrey stated this is an important issue and it should be decided by the voters. Mayor McCurley stated townships are not cities and should not have the same powers. They were formed to represent rural areas and the County pays for many services they provide. Councilmember Grossmann asked Law

Director, Ken Schneider, specifics about the pending legislation. He responded the impact on the area around the annexing property will be considered when the annexation is reviewed by the County Commissioners. Current law dictates the only property considered is the one requesting annexation. Councilmember Grossmann stated he felt \$20,000 is too much to donate. He stated essentially we are paying for the signatures needed on the petitions. Councilmember Fox stated he would not support \$20,000 but would support a lesser amount.

A motion to add Ordinance 2002-28 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Councilmember Beck.

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A discussion among Council took place to consider the amount of the donation. It was decided based on contributions of other cities of like population to donate \$10,000.

A motion to amend the Ordinance to read a contribution of \$10,000 instead of \$20,000 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (Beck)

Councilmember Pelfrey stated a response should accompany our donation that we feel this effort should be supported with more cities across the state.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-28 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Councilmember Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Pelfrey reported on the Education Committee of the Veteran's Memorial Committee. She stated she has been working with the schools to secure historical information for this project. She relayed information regarding two veterans that never met each other but lived just a few miles from each other. She stated it may be possible to have them attend the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial scheduled for November 8, 2002. She also reported Chief John McGriff of the missile destroyer USS Mason contacted her by chance and as a result, an opportunity may present itself for the City to become an official sponsor for this ship. It is due to be commissioned in April 2003 in Fort Lauderdale Florida. She stated Chief McGriff may also attend the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial.

Councilmember Beck reported a meeting will be held on Thursday at the American Legion for the Executive Committee of the Veteran's Memorial. He said Bayer and Becker Engineers have made the first contribution for this effort with a \$6,000 donation.

Councilmember Grossmann reported the Economic Development Committee met and discussed new business and retention of existing business. He said the Metro issue was discussed and the Post Office matter. He stated a problem exists for some companies that they have a Lebanon mailing address. The matter is being reviewed

Councilmember Pelfrey reported a Safety Committee meeting will be held on February 4, 2002 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Council worksession.

COUNCIL OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Pelfrey asked if any plans have been made for the use of the current City Building once it is vacated. The response was no plan exists as of now. She suggested a family restaurant would be a good idea

Councilmember Beck stated the residents on Cloverwood have requested a stop sign at a Cloverwood and Acoma. He also stated the personnel changes the court has requested should be reviewed by the Finance and Personnel. He added he would like the City move to a two-year budgeting process.

Councilmember Pelfrey asked about the status of the guardrail on Mason Road. Richard Fair responded a request has been made to the County Engineer. No response has been received.

Mayor McCurley stated additional viewings of the State of the City address will be aired on ICRC as follows: Wednesday 1/30/02 at 8:00 p.m. channel 24
Saturday 2/2/02 at 12:00 p.m. channel 4
Sunday 2/3/02 at 8:00 p.m. channel 4
Monday 2/4/02 at 12:00 p.m. channel 4

Mayor McCurley reported there is information available from the Department of Aging that can be obtained by calling 1-866-243-5678.

Mayor McCurley stated ball fields are always at a premium in the City to accommodate all of the youth teams. He requested any church that has a facility they can share for this purpose, please contact the City. He also stated in the new Municipal Center, there will be a plaque with all former City Councilmembers names displayed. He also reported Scot Lahrmer, Barbara Wilkins Reed, Greg Horwedel and he had met to discuss common areas of concern.

Mayor McCurley stated federal tax relief has been made available to victims of flooding. He has been asked if the City could also do something along those same lines.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Richard Cox of 657 Reading Road addressed Council and stated he has concerns about four lanes of traffic in front of his business. He feels it will be hard to get out of his

business onto RT 42. Mayor McCurley stated the City's concerns are handling the volume of traffic and he added, businesses benefit from the road improvements. Scot Lahrmer stated a grant is pending on this project. He said once an engineering firm is on board, some of the questions can be answered. Councilmember Pelfrey asked why are we widening to four lanes just to St. Susanna's. She said another bottleneck will be created there. Richard Cox stated the City must decide if they want a business district or do they want to move traffic through. He said four lanes will kill business.

Councilmember Beck stated he would like to add an executive session to the agenda for the purpose of discussing land acquisition.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

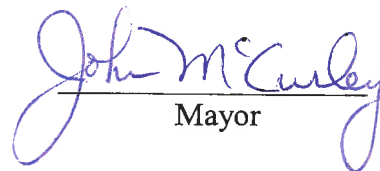
A motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition was made by Councilmember Beck, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to reconvene into regular session was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS


Clerk of Council


Mayor