

CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
February 4, 2002

The meeting was held at Mason Christian Village and called to order by Mayor McCurley at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following members of Council were present: Vice Mayor Fox, Councilmember Staten, Councilmember Kidd, Councilmember Grossmann, Councilmember Beck, Councilmember Pelfrey and Mayor McCurley.

Scot Lahrmer stated there are three items to discuss tonight if time allows. They are as follows: Downtown Traffic, Status of Downtown Revitalization effort and Extension of Foxfield Drive.

DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC

Ali Saleh of TEC Engineering gave a brief overview of the study his firm has completed regarding options available to improve the downtown traffic situation. Alternate 2B was discussed at length as it resulted in a higher evaluation in a level of service comparison. Larry Tokarsky addressed Council and asked how the different options had been evaluated. A handout was presented to him of the report by TEC Engineering, which included details on the evaluation process. Lee Hamilton stated the City has had no experience reviewing the traffic situation since both Tylersville Road and Mason-Montgomery Road have both been open. He said the problem may already be alleviated. He also stated the current downtown is really a service area not at shopping area. He suggested waiting one summer before a decision is made to see if the situation has improved. Councilmember Staten stated the plan should be chosen now regardless of when it is implemented. He said houses may go on sale and the City may be in a position to buy them to secure the necessary right-of-way. Larry Tokarsky stated it really needs to be decided what we want downtown to be, a retail area or a thoroughfare where people pass through. He added businesses would prefer slower traffic. Councilmember Pelfrey stated residents appear to want a community downtown not a thoroughfare. She added we should move ahead now. Councilmember Grossmann stated a consensus that 2B is best has been inferred. He suggested Church Street also be included, as the local residents would use that route. Vice Mayor Fox stated it is fair to let residents know the City's intentions so they can plan. Scot Lahrmer stated a public meeting must be held to inform the public and those affected. Richard Fair stated the process will be to change the Thoroughfare Plan through Planning Commission and Council.

Larry Tokarsky asked if the City has plans to widen Rt 42 from Fifth Avenue to Second Avenue. Scot Lahrmer stated the City has received a grant for \$400,000 to widen RT 42

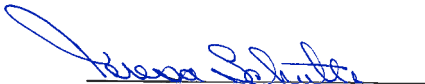
from Tylersville Road to Fifth Avenue. He stated the grant must be used for a four or five lane road. It will not be rewarded for a three-lane road. Larry Tokarsky stated the Downtown Mason Committee should be consulted and work with the City on this plan. A general agreement was reached among the majority of Councilmembers the 2B Plan offered more advantages. Councilmember Beck stated his opposition to this decision. It was also generally agreed upon to review the possibility of Church Street to US 42 becoming a one-way street west bound.

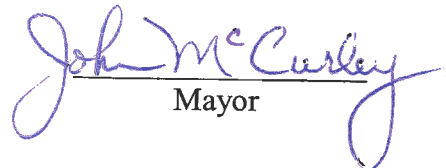
DOWNTOWN MASON COMMITTEE

Scot Lahrmer stated the purpose of this discussion is to determine the City's interest in moving ahead with this effort or deciding if we want to take a look at pursuing another direction. Linda Fitzgerald addressed Council and gave a history of her involvement with the Downtown Mason Committee. She explained the resulting organization, the committees and their goals. She said she has approximately 100 residents involved with this project. Her recommendation at this point is to hire a full time Downtown Manager. One of their duties will be to implement the creation of a Downtown Merchant Association. She stated John Harris with the Chamber has offered to oversee the creation but did not feel he could be in charge of the matter due to the make up of his membership. Linda requested a copy of the study done by TEC Engineering be given to Poggemeyer Design Group so they can complete their contract.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Beck, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS
TIME: 9:15 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor