

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
MARCH 3, 2003**

Mayor McCurley called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

DOWNTOWN

Mayor McCurley turned the meeting over to Jack Flaherty representing the Downtown Mason Association. He explained how this organization is the result of a merger between the Downtown Mason Revitalization Committee and the Mason Core Group. He asked the Council to adopt the plan and stated it does not mean it has to be implemented exactly as it appears. He stated it provides a footprint for the future of what we want downtown to look like. He also stated the group strongly urges Council to hire a Downtown Coordinator with the idea they will be in place for five years. Dick Yost, Russ Hutchins and Bob Sloan also addressed Council and discussed redefining the downtown area to include the area from Tylersville Road to Kings Mills Road. They discussed removing all non-local truck traffic off of US 42 and not allowing the through traffic to speed through town and be unable to stop at the businesses. They desired pedestrian friendly streets. They described some of the duties the Downtown Coordinator could accomplish and mentioned they could become the City liaison to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor McCurley stated when the City adopts a plan it is for the most part set in stone. He cited the City's Comprehensive Plan as an example of this. He said Council could look at adopting the "concept" of the plan. He also said Council believes we need a traffic solution first. Richard Fair stated the State of Ohio has control over US 42 and the City would have to receive permission from the State to direct traffic to an alternate route.

A general discussion took place among Councilmembers and those present. Future goals were discussed with regard to available grants. Mayor McCurley stated it is time to take the development of downtown to the next level and Council has some ideas for solutions to the traffic problems, which need to be addressed first. Councilmember Staten stated the right people are at the table because they have a vested interest.

ORDINANCE 2003-25 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2003-15 ESTABLISHING THE POSITIONS AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE MASON MUNICIPAL COURT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Councilmember Staten said he objected to this item being discussed tonight, as the meeting isn't televised. He said this decision could have an economic impact on the City and should be discussed in a regular Council meeting. Councilmember Grossmann explained the Court Liaison Committee has met with the Judge and has approved these changes. He explained the costs for the changes are coming from the Court funds. He added due to a lack of communication with Administration, it did not appear on the agenda at the Council meeting on February 24, 2003. He explained the Judge was expecting it to be approved that night. The Judge insisted it be placed before Council at this worksession. He stated to Councilmember Grossmann he has the option of requiring the City to pay for these changes out of the general revenue but will pay for it out of court funds if passed tonight. Councilmember Grossmann stated by law the City cannot stop this request unless it is deemed unreasonable. Mayor McCurley stated as long as he has been involved with the City he does not remember legislation being passed at a Council worksession.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS (Beck, Staten, Fox) Motion failed. This will come before Council at the next regular Council meeting.

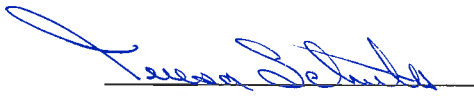
USS MASON

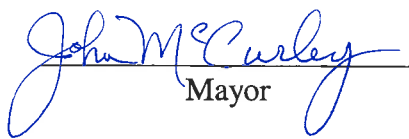
A brief discussion took place among Council to determine if anyone was attending the commissioning of the USS Mason. Invitations have been sent to members of City Council and staff. It was decided the City should be represented at this event and it would be appropriate for the Mayor to be the attending official.

ADJOURN

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

TIME: 8:20 P.M.


Clerk of Council


Mayor