

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2003**

Mayor McCurley called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Members of Boy Scout Troop 750 led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

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 approve the minutes of the March 10, 2003 Council meeting was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Mayor McCurley asked for a moment of silence for those serving their country.

RECOGNITION OF PAM EICKENHORST ON THE UNITED WAY COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Pottebaum addressed Council and praised the City of Mason for being the top supporter of the Warren County United Way by providing the largest contribution of any governmental entity in the county. Mayor McCurley recognized Pam Eickenhorst, of this years campaign, for her efforts in organizing the City employees. The City received a Bronze Award for recognition of their level of giving.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Judy Leisure of 4438 Hanover Drive addressed Council and requested a spring pick-up of leaves. She reported due to the weather we've had this year, the leaves were not all disposed of in the fall. She said she understands it has now been cut from the budget but still needs to be done. Terry Sower addressed Council and stated she also lives on Hanover and she said the leaves are in the street and will go into the sewer if they are not picked-up. She said she understands the street sweeper is broken. She also stated due to the roadwork, Hanover Drive is a mess and the leaves are adding to it. Mr. Vaughn Bear of 309 Cox Street said he has just moved into Mason and the house he now occupies has many leaves that need to be picked up. Scot Lahrmer reported the City tried this program in the past but Council discontinued it five or six years ago. Councilmember Grossmann asked why the service was discontinued. Scot replied it was determined not many residents were using the service. Councilmember Grossmann asked Scot to explain the other options residents have regarding yard waste. Scot explained the program that requires residents to purchase bags for yard waste and Rumpke picks them up. Councilmember Grossmann asked for details on the cost of providing this service for our residents. Scot replied he did not have numbers for providing this specific service but if

Council desired to implement this again it could be done. Vice Mayor Fox stated the City must be concerned about the future and are we offering this service every year or are we offering it just this year and will reevaluate it in the future. He also stated one week may not be sufficient to cover the City. Councilmember Grossmann stated he would be in favor of implementing this if the costs are not excessive. Councilmember Beck agreed with Councilmember Grossmann. Councilmember Pelfrey stated she agreed to do it this year and review it next year. Councilmember Staten agreed with Councilmember Pelfrey. All of Council agreed to implement it for this year.

Perry Schwartz of 6309 Tartan Fields Lane addressed Council and asked the status of the sewer rate study. He stated he is in favor of implementing a charge that does not include the sewer charge for outside water usage. Mr. Borgatti of 4139 Old Manchester Court addressed Council and expressed the same desire as Mr. Schwartz. Mr. John Wolf of 4075 St Andrews Court repeated his desire to see the sewer charges changed. He stated the City of Cincinnati has worked out a formula that used the three-winter months sewer usage as the basis for the summer charge. Mr. Frederick King of 4203 Maxwell Drive addressed Council and stated the same interest as the previous residents. He stated he moved here from Butler County and the City's rates exceed their rates and they are known for having high water rates. He was surprised to see this situation in the City of Mason. Vice Mayor Fox responded the Utility Committee was reviewing seven options. He stated once the Committee has made a final decision they would recommend the change to Council. He indicated it would probably happen within a month. Councilmember Grossmann stated he has heard from hundreds of residents on this matter and his concern is fairness.

ORDINANCE 2003-28 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF \$15,000 TO THE MASON HERITAGE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THE 2003 HERITAGE FESTIVAL

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

Scot Lahrmer explained to Council a request has been received from the Heritage Festival Committee for funding as a sponsor of the festival. He said, in the past the City has contributed \$15,000. The City also provides a variety of other services through Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Police Departments

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 2003-28 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2003-29 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LJB ENGINEERS FOR THE DESIGN ENGINEERING AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION SERVICES NECESSARY FOR THE WIDENING OF SOCIALVILLE-FOSTERS ROAD FROM MASON-MONTGOMERY ROAD TO THE EAST CORPORATION LINE

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

Richard Fair explained to Council this legislation is necessary to provide for the engineering and acquisition services for the improvements to Socialville-Fosters Road. He said the City's portion of this job contains 2,770 linear feet while the County will widen the remaining 4000 linear feet between the corporate boundary and I-71. He continued by stating LJB has been selected to provide the services as they are performing the work for the County and they completed the preliminary engineering work in 1998 for this project. The cost of the contract is \$161,154.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2003-29 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2003-30 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO FILE AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING FUNDS THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

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 this legislation allows the City to apply for funding to install approximately 3,750 foot long multi-use trail along the Muddy Creek connecting the Mason-Montgomery Road bike path to Pine Hill Lakes Park. Councilmember Pelfrey stated a concern about the safety of residents using a bike trail on Kings Mill Road in the vicinity of the "s" curve. Richard Fair stated they plan a five-foot distance will exist from the curb to the path and railing will be in place on the bridge.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2003-30 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2003-31 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH 32 FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2003 FORD F-150 HALF-TON PICK-UP TRUCKS

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council the need to replace an existing vehicle in the Parks and Recreation Department and the need to purchase a second vehicle that can be used for multiple duties. The total cost for both vehicles through the State Bid pricing is \$36,743.

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 2003-31 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A joint meeting with the Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for Monday March 31, 2003 and will be held at Community Concepts. The meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.

The Chamber is holding the annual auction on Wednesday May 7, 2003. In the past the City has donated a family fishing pass and swimming pass. A motion to make the same donation this year was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

The Farmers Market will open on Saturday June 14 and continue until August 30, 2003. It will be located in the parking lot of the Mason Middle School.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Beck reported on the activities of the Veteran's Memorial Committee. He stated a \$6,000 donation has been received from Dugan and Meyer and Harriet Cobb has presented a \$6,000 check in memory of the founders of the Mason Senior Citizens Club. He reported the Committee is close to \$235,000 including pledges. He said the site preparation has begun this month. He also reported the City has received notification the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall will be in Mason from October 9 though the 12, 2003.

Councilmember Staten reported the Public Works Committee has reviewed the 2003 Road Resurfacing Plan and recommends adoption by Council. Councilmember Staten moved to adopt the plan, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

COUNCIL OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Kidd suggested a way to motivate business in the downtown area for the revitalization of downtown is for 1000 families to commit to spending \$100 per month at the businesses in the downtown area. He said he challenged the citizens to participate at this level and the type of businesses we would like to see in the downtown area would be interested in locating there.

Mayor McCurley asked Councilmember Kidd to explain about the award he has just won. Councilmember Kidd explained it was the Businessman of the Year Award in the State of Ohio presented by the Business Advisory Council.

Councilmember Pelfrey asked about the status of the Downtown Mason Revitalization. Mayor McCurley asked about the status of the contract with LSR Consultants. Scot replied the amount Council awarded to the fund to pay for the consultant has been depleted by the end of this month. Mayor McCurley said the Downtown Committee has requested the contract be continued for one month. Councilmember Pelfrey moved to continue the contract for one month. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Mayor McCurley said he attended the Opening Ceremony of the Warren County Bicentennial Celebration today. He displayed the flag that was presented to the City of Mason by the County Commissioners for the Flags of Government.

Mayor McCurley asked a proclamation be prepared to present to the Commander of the USS Mason at the Commissioning ceremony.

Mayor McCurley congratulated Dave Moushey for being chosen as Citizen of the Year by the Mason Landen Kings Chamber of Commerce.

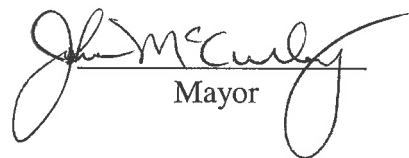
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS None

ADJOURN

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

TIME: 8:35 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor