

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2003**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor McCurley at 7:07 p.m. Those in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2003 Council meeting was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Staten. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RECOGNITION OF DENISE GROSS, FOUNDER OF LITTLE MISS HERITAGE**

Denise Gross explained how this contest was created and introduced the first Miss Heritage to be crowned.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Rick Inskeep of Butler Warren Road addressed Council and asked about the problems the City was experiencing with the indoor pool at the Community Center. He specifically asked about the water, where it was drained and did the City have to pay for refilling the pool. Scot Lahrmer replied he did not have those figures with him and Mayor McCurley suggested Mr. Inskeep call Scot for the information.

**RESOLUTION 2003-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO FILE A DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (DARE) GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL, JIM PETRO, TO CONTINUE A DARE PROGRAM**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council in the fall of 1994, the City of Mason, along with the Mason City Schools, implemented a DARE program. Since that time, over 4,750 students have successfully completed the DARE program. Surveys have shown the program to be very popular among students as well as their parents. He stated this legislation authorizes the City to continue to request the grants that have provided the program for our residents.

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

Councilmember Pelfrey stated she is in support of the program but would be interested in seeing a comparison between schools offering the program and those not offering it.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2003-14 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RESOLUTION 2003-15 DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR ACTIVE AND INTERIM DEPOSITS**

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

Scot Lahrmer stated this legislation authorizes a depository agreement for active and interim funds with various institutions. Scot explained to Council all proposals received by the City were examined to ensure they qualified as a designated depository under Chapter 135 of the Ohio Revised Code. They were reviewed for completeness and that all necessary attachments were included. Evaluation of financial strength and capacity was based on information contained in their annual financial reports that were required to be included as part of the proposal. The availability of required and optional services was examined and after all of these areas were examined, the proposals were ranked based upon least cost to the City. He said Fifth Third Bank's proposal was deemed most advantageous for the City of Mason.

Scot also stated adoption of Resolution 2003-15 will designate Fifth Third Bank as the City's depository for all active and interim deposits. Fifth Third Bank has been the City's primary depository for over 37 years, and the City is excited about continuing this relationship for the next five years. Furthermore, he added, in our efforts to maintain a relationship with all financial institutions, the legislation includes those institutions that participated in the process, for the City's active and interim deposits. The depository agreements entered into would be for an initial one-year term and contain an automatic renewal clause, which may be used up to four consecutive years. The agreements may be canceled at the end of the one-year term or annual renewal upon 60 days written notice by either party.

Scot stated Fifth Third Bank is able to provide the services necessary to meet Mason's banking needs at an estimated cost of \$685 per month. This amount is based upon historical information related to the City's average number of transactions processed per month.

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 Resolution 2003-15 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2003-95 ACCEPTING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR LAUREL COURT AND RELEASING THE PERFORMANCE BOND**

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 the Laurel Court subdivision is located off of Mason-Montgomery Road and includes Laurel Wood Court. He stated the public improvements for this subdivision were completed by the City as part of the agreement for the purchase of the Mink property adjacent to the subdivision. The Public Utilities, Public Works and Engineering Departments have inspected the public improvements. The utilities and other public improvements will become the City's responsibility upon acceptance. Richard added staff recommends acceptance of the public improvements and waiving the one-year maintenance bond.

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 2003-95 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2003-96 ACCEPTING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR OAKS OF CROOKED TREE, SECTION 5A AND RELEASING THE PERFORMANCE BOND**

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 Section 5, Block A of the Oaks of Crooked Tree subdivision includes Springside Drive and a section of Crestwood Drive between lots 121 and 128. He stated the Public Utilities, Public Works and Engineering Departments have inspected the public improvements. The utilities and other public improvements will become the City's responsibility upon acceptance. Richard said staff recommends acceptance of the public improvements, contingent on the submission of a one-year maintenance bond.

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 2003-96 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2003-97 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH INDEPENDENCE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF THIRTEEN MOBILE DATA COMPUTERS, INCLUDING INSTALLATION AND SOFTWARE, FOR POLICE CARS**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council the purpose of this legislation is to purchase 13 mobile data computers for police cars as part of COPS MORE grant. He stated this request came to Council in 1998 but it wasn't until 1999 that the City was successful in receiving the grant of \$76,152. The grant funds 75% of the costs leaving the City's portion at \$25,384 including installation, software and a civilian position. The City had agreed to wait until the Warren County Communications Center had completed updating their equipment and software. This is still not completed and the City has been notified the grant dollars will be in jeopardy if not utilized. With the purchase of the computers, the City can better utilize the time of the officers by completing paper work in the vehicle instead of pulling them off the road to complete the work. Two bids were received for this project with the best and lowest bid coming from Independence Communications for \$73,320. The amount applied to this contract from the grant is \$52,500.

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 2003-97 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2003-98 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BLACK & VEATCH FOR PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL STUDY OF THE MASON WASTEWATER UTILITY**

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

Scot Lahrmer explained to Council the purpose of this legislation is to obtain an independent, expert review of the adequacy of the utility's revenues to meet revenue requirements now and 5 years into the future.

He stated design of the new water reclamation plant is 100% completed. Having carefully progressed through the design phase, the City is preparing to move to the construction phase of this project. Scot said once a construction manager is selected, contracts will be let and construction is expected to begin by early January 2004. He added the engineer's estimate for this new facility is \$30-\$32 million and the City expects to finance approximately 90% of the project through the issuance of 20-year mortgage

revenue bonds. He also stated a comprehensive financial study will be necessary as part of the City's issuance of debt which is why Ordinance 2003-98 is necessary.

On July 31, three firms submitted proposals: The following criteria were used to evaluate each proposal:

- Qualifications of key personnel
- Similar project history
- Demonstration of a thorough understanding of the project
- Cost of services

Scot stated based upon the criteria, the proposal from Black & Veatch for \$24,980 was determined the most advantageous and economical for the City. He added their services are familiar to us most recently when they were asked to analyze the effect of the summer sewer cap, which was implemented in June. Completion of the rate study is scheduled for September 1. The final product will be a report, which summarizes the study approach, assumptions, findings and recommendations for wastewater utility rates for the next 5 years in order to support operations, maintenance, capital improvements and debt service of the system. Scot closed by stating this study is necessary in order to move forward with awarding a contract for the water reclamation plant.

Councilmember Grossmann asked for clarification on the figures that will be used to determine the costs resulting from the study. Scot Lahrmer responded it will be based on historical and current data.

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: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2003-98 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

### **ORDINANCE 2003-99 ADOPTING THE 2003 REVISED SIGN CODE OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO**

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

Scot Lahrmer stated a public hearing will be held on this legislation at the September 8, 2003 meeting.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Heritage Festival is scheduled for Saturday August 23, 2003. The parade begins at 10:00 and will be going the opposite direction from years past.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice Mayor Fox stated the Park Board will be rescheduling the concert that was rained out for Blue Stone Ivory.

Councilmember Beck gave a brief update on the fundraising and construction for the Veteran's Memorial. He stated the Vietnam Wall Memorial will be in Mason on October 8<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. He also stated the Veteran's Committee will have a booth at the Heritage Festival and will be selling items to continue the fund raising effort.

Councilmember Pelfrey reported the Community Press has chosen the City's Veteran's Memorial project as the topic for their next insert.

### **COUNCIL OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Pelfrey asked the Mayor for an update of the speaker for the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial. She also stated they will need help from Jennifer Trepal for this event. She discussed details with Council for the Heritage Day parade. Councilmember Pelfrey requested a Downtown Manager be hired to facilitate the downtown revitalization effort. She said the City will receive no state funds if we do not adopt the plan and hire a manager. She also mentioned five requirements necessary to proceed with the project. Councilmember Grossmann asked for a status from the committee from Council working on this matter. Mayor McCurley responded the Committee has been meeting and have reached some agreements on signs and improving and extending the roadways. He added the next step is to discuss a downtown manager and it will require action from Council. He added the next meeting is on Thursday. Councilmember Pelfrey stated the plans for the old city building need to be discussed.

Councilmember Beck asked about the hours of operation for the indoor swimming pool at the Community Center. He stated it is closing sooner than advertised. Vice Mayor Fox replied the City is new at this venture and there were issues such as finding suitable staff levels of use that have determined it is practical to close earlier. He added the City is coordinating manpower between three pools. Councilmember Beck asked if the Schools were running the café. Vice Mayor Fox responded they have elected to discontinue this operation.

Councilmember Beck also asked about the island in the intersection of US RT 42 and Mason-Montgomery Road. He said it is a hazard and asked why it was built that way. Richard Fair explained there were several reasons for the placement of the island and it has been reviewed. Councilmember Beck also stated he has met twice with the court on financial matters and will continue to do so and keep Council informed.

Mayor McCurley stated the Employee Picnic was a great family event. He also mentioned the Warren County Bicentennial Celebration was very nice and asked residents to be tolerant of the increased traffic due to the tennis tournament.

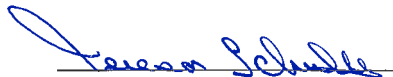
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**


A motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

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

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS  
TIME: 8:45 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor