

**CITY OF MASON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
October 31 2005**

Mayor Beck called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following Councilmembers were present: Victor Kidd, Tony Bradburn, Tom Grossmann, Charlene Pelfrey and Peter Beck. Steve Osborne and John McCurley were absent. Mayor Beck read the following message from Councilmember John McCurley:

“I am requesting that this communication be read to full council at the Special Meeting of Council on Monday, October 31, 2005. I received information on Friday, October 28 that a special meeting of City Council was begin convened as stated above. I informed City Council earlier that I would be out of town for several weeks, I regrettably am unable to return for the special meeting. Based on the information forwarded to me, it would appear that this meeting is being convened for a specific political purpose and not for any business on behalf of the City. Again, I regret that I am not able to attend to participate in any discussion that may be brought up at this meeting.”

Mayor Beck stated Councilmember Osborne was unable to attend because he was out of town.

COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

Mayor Beck stated as noted in Section 3.09 of the City of Mason Charter, three Councilmembers can request a special meeting. He stated this meeting is a result of receiving that request. He asked Councilmember Grossmann if he was prepared to present to Council. Councilmember Grossmann addressed Council and he lives at 6184 Mere Drive, Mason, Ohio. He stated a letter appeared in the Pulse Journal under John McCurley's signature that accuses him of not residing in the City of Mason. He said if that were true, it would require expulsion from Council as dictated by the Charter. This means, he state, that he is accused of perjury and fraud to the residents of Mason. He added he was puzzled by Councilmember McCurley's lack of review on the matter. If he had been asked he could have told him his address is 6184 Mere Drive. He presented evidence to verify that is true. The following documents were presented by Councilmember Grossmann (See attached): records from the Warren County Board of Elections, records from the Warren County Auditor's office on the property he owns and resides in, his 2004 income tax return, an affidavit from his neighbors on Mere Drive John and Barbara Gier, an affidavit from the occupants of the investment property he owns at 9974 McKelvey Road stating he has never spent a night at that address, a letter from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, a copy of his vehicle registration and a copy of

his auto insurance card. All of these documents presented state his residence is 6184 Mere Drive.

Councilmember Grossmann explained he does own investment property in Springfield Township and there is a home on the site which he is currently rehabbing. He said he has work clothes at that home for his convenience and apparently the appearance of his clothes at the house led to speculation that he resides there. Councilmember Grossmann also presented a sample of his mail he receives at Mere Drive and offered to provide copies of his bills for phone, cable TV etc. if anyone requested them.

He added John McCurley was unfair to him. He said John McCurley has been a fine Councilmember for the City of Mason and they have almost always voted the same on most issues. He does not know what led John to print this letter but it is a shame, as it will tarnish his legacy. He added even though he has not apologized, he will forgive him. He asked the City Manager, Scot Lahrmer if Councilmember McCurley asked him to verify where he lived. Scot Lahrmer replied he didn't ask.

Mayor Beck asked Councilmember Grossmann if his City tax forms also showed the address on Mere Drive. Councilmember Grossmann replied yes. Mayor Beck asked if he had a membership at the Community Center that reflected the Mere Drive address. Councilmember Grossmann replied yes. Councilmember Kidd stated he helped Councilmember Grossmann move into his house and has never questioned his residency. He asked if anyone on Council or in attendance at the meeting thought Councilmember Grossmann lived outside of the City. There was no affirmative answer. Councilmember Bradburn stated he does remember when Councilmember Grossmann moved into his home on Mere Drive and he also noted he moved from another home in Mason in Heritage Club. He noted there was no break in his residency. Ken Schneider, Law Director, said he is required statutorily to ask him where does he intend for his residence to be? Councilmember Grossmann replied 6184 Mere Drive. Vice Mayor Pelfrey stated he had provided irrefutable evidence of residency. She said she is sorry this has happened and she stated the residents of Mason do not deserve this.

Vice Mayor Pelfrey moved to pass a motion stating we resolve that Councilmember Grossmann meets all the requirements of the Charter of the City of Mason to serve as a Councilmember. He is a resident and meets all requirements to run for reelection to Mason City Council. Furthermore we condemn any attempt to discredit and damage a fellow Councilmember without any attempt to arrive at the truth. Councilmember Bradburn seconded the motion. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Don Prince of 4573 White Blossom Blvd. addressed Council and suggested a letter signed by all Councilmembers present be sent to the papers. Mayor Beck stated they will receive copies of the motion made by Council. Councilmember Kidd stated this is the reason many don't go into politics. He said two weeks ago it was directed at him when he discovered rumors were being stated that were not true about his family. He said he chose to let others know and it was handled that way but he certainly condemns that type of behavior. Vice Mayor Pelfrey stated while she agrees with Councilmember Kidd and

is not indifferent to his situation, this situation deals with a Councilmember violating the City's charter. Mr. Paul Fey addressed Council and stated this is crazy. He said this is a no brainer. Councilmember Bradburn stated to a large degree, it is incumbent on the press to get the story right. He said they share in some of the blame for this.

Vice Mayor Pelfrey made a motion to adjourn, Councilmember Bradburn seconded the motion. VOTE: ALL YEAS
TIME: 3:43 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor