

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
OCTOBER 30, 2006**

Mayor Pelfrey called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Tony Bradburn, Matt Kline, Todd Wurzbacher, Tom Grossmann, and Charlene Pelfrey.

DOWNTOWN MASON

Mayor Pelfrey opened the meeting by stating the sole purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss on street parking. She stated by mid February the selection of the contractor will be made. She then turned the meeting over to the Chair of the Downtown Committee, Councilmember Matt Kline.

Councilmember Matt Kline stated he hopes to have a healthy discussion on the downtown on street parking. He stated this meeting provides an opportunity to verbalize concerns he feels needs to be clear to everyone. He said the point to consider is when the project is complete is it pedestrian friendly or does it improve traffic flow. He said pedestrian friendly was chosen by DMA as what they wanted. He said the details of construction must be clear. He stated the construction phase would be difficult for some businesses to tolerate. He stated at some times the traffic flow may be completely stopped. It is the City's goal to keep one lane of traffic open at all times but realistically there will be times when it will have to be closed. He explained the road must be crowned properly for the on street parking to be possible. He said the water line installation was the easy part. Councilmember Kline then noted the resulting product would provide nine parking spaces until property owners in the future eliminate curb cuts. He asked if that makes sense.

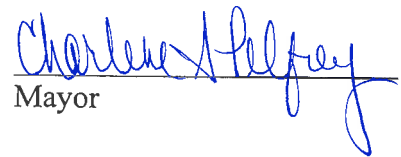
Chet Mastalerz, President of the DMA, clarified DMA did not tell the City what they wanted. It was the "community" that spoke to Council. He said all meetings were open and the public participated. He suggested the traffic problems could be handled with signs redirecting it to alternate routes. He expressed concern over going over issues already discussed. Mr. Cunningham stated it may be only nine spaces now but in the future, over time, as curb cuts can be eliminated; it will turn into a substantial amount. Councilmember Kline stated the lanes will be more narrow than they currently exist today. He said, as cars park on the street, if they aren't close to the curb, there could be a safety problem. Chet stated a change now may mean the grant has to be amended. Paige Rothstein said she does not think that would present a problem even if it has to be amended. Vice Mayor Grossmann said the grant is actually a small amount of the funds spent on this project. He added he has always been concerned about the number of spaces for on street parking aren't enough to help and they create traffic problems. Mr. Cunningham responded on street parking creates a buffer zone for a pedestrian friendly destination. Mayor Pelfrey noted the current traffic rating for this area is a "D" level of service. She added it is

predicted in six years it will be an "F". Richard Fair stated there will be two lanes eleven feet wide and one lane ten feet wide for turning at intersections. A general discussion took place among those present on how to divert traffic from the downtown area. Bethany Road widening was noted as the choice for removing traffic downtown but Vice Mayor Grossmann commented experts are saying that will not attract the traffic from the downtown area. Bill Federle stated he would like to see final plans for parking and traffic flow around the bank. He said what he has seen so far will not work. Francis Gilbert requested to see where the on street parking will exist. She said she must have her curb cut to have access to her property. Sally Nally suggested a partnership be formed between public and private entities to work on deals to provide additional access for parking. Chet suggested a committee of three from DMA, three from the Chamber and one Councilmember work together to come up with solutions for the parking access points. Matt Kline volunteered to serve as the Council representative.

Mayor Pelfrey noted we have not discussed the concerns Chief Ferrell has over on street parking or the concerns the City Engineer, Richard Fair has over this issue. She also noted some businesses are hanging on by a thread and this construction period could be the last straw. She stated November 13, 2006 is the last date a change can be made on this project. Councilmember Kline than stated he would like those in attendance to consider this topic for a future meting: "How will enforcement of parking be accomplished."

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor