

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2008**

Mayor Grossmann called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Father Harry Meyer opened the meeting with prayer. Boy Scout Troop 750 led the pledge of allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following members of Council were present: Victor Kidd, Christine Shimrock, Don Prince, Tony Bradburn, Todd Wurzbacher, Pete Beck and Tom Grossmann.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2008 Council meeting was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2008 Worksession was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Kidd)

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** None

**RESOLUTION 2008-14 REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PURPOSES OF EVALUATING AND LEVYING A TAX EXCEEDING THE 10-MILL LIMITATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (2.0 mills) AS AMENDED**

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

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council, the Safety Committee met to discuss the levy and stated the goal the City adopted in 2007, is to meet the national minimum standards of reaching 90% of calls within six minutes of receiving the call. He reported at the special election in August, voters were asked to approve a five-year 5-mill renewal levy and a five-year 2 mill additional levy for Fire and Emergency Services. Voters approved the 5-mil renewal levy, which is really a 3.97 effective millage. This allows the community to secure the Personal Property Tax reimbursement from the State and provides much of the funding needed for current operations of the Fire Department. However, at least .5 mills of the additional levy were to provide the balance of funds needed to keep pace with inflation, changes in State law and maintain current operations. He said the Safety Committee, after a detailed review of the City's fire department finances, determined the best way for the city to proceed was to place two levies on the ballot. One to recoup the

lost revenue and one to provide funds to staff three stations. Eric stated what resulted from that election is the renewal levy passed and the additional levy was defeated. He reported the Safety Committee met to discuss the next course of action and determined with less revenue being collected, it will be necessary to reduce services or cut cost further. He said based on that fact, the Committee is recommending a 2.0 mill levy be placed on the November ballot. This may avoid an interruption of funds. He said if voters approve this, it would allow the City to start to move forward to provide the six-minute response time and maintain current levels of service. Eric said the recommendation is for the ordinance to be amended to state 2.0 mills instead of the 0.50 mills. As a result, Eric stated Resolution 2008-25 is unnecessary and should be defeated; Ordinance 2008-89 should be amended to reflect 2.0 mills and Ordinance 2008-90 should be defeated as it is also no longer necessary.

Councilmember Bradburn, Chair of the Safety Committee, reported the Committee determined after five years without this levy the Fire Department would end up with a negative 2.6 million dollars. He said a 0.50 levy would result in a balance of \$30,000 after five years. Some suggestions the Chief made to reduce costs included deferring capital, reduction in training and equipment and reduction in staff. He said after much consideration, it was determined none of the suggestions would contribute to reaching the goals thus the Committee is recommending one levy for 2.0 mills.

A motion to amend the Resolution 2008-14 from 0.50 mills to 2.00 mills was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Mayor Grossmann reflected on the low number of voters that turned out for the August 5, 2008 election and said the 2.0 mills will cover continuing the current level of service and provide for staffing three stations. Councilmember Prince stated since the levy appeared on the August 5 ballot as a renewal, residents thought that would provide enough funds to continue the current service. He said in reality it would not provide enough funding. He said it was confusing to the voters and therefore he suggested to the committee not to split the mills into two levies but combined them into one. Councilmember Bradburn stated the station on Cedar Village Drive was chosen at that time to be a desirable location for the station without an extensive study being completed. He said this was around the time the Joint Fire District was disbanded and there was a short time period to respond to the situation. Vice Mayor Beck said as a result of the way the City has grown, that is not the most advantageous location for our residents to receive the optimum six-minute response. Mayor Grossmann asked if there is an opportunity to work with the township and not require these changes. Councilmember Prince stated their stations are not in better locations for our residents thus would not help. He also said the township is not willing to work with us on this matter without tying it to unrelated issues. Councilmember Bradburn pointed out the township's goal is not the same as the City's. Eric Hansen stated this does not preclude the City from working with the township in the future. Councilmember Bradburn stated the City has six million dollars set aside for the construction of stations. He said it is estimated they cost approximately two million dollars each. He added it was never intended to use the money generated by the levy for stations. The funds will be used for manpower to man the equipment. He added by

doing a renewal levy instead of a replacement levy we lost one million dollars. He said by doing a renewal levy, we were able to capture \$500,000 of funds, which is a reimbursement from the state for the reduction of the personal property tax. Eric pointed out that reimbursement will end from the state. Eric stated the levy, if it passes, will raise approximately two million dollars per year. Councilmember Bradburn added these funds can only be used on the Fire Department. Councilmember Wurzbacher stated regardless of cooperation with the township, it will not affect the optimum locations needed for our stations. Mayor Grossmann provided background information regarding cooperation with Deerfield Township. He clarified the situation by explaining the township is not willing to cooperate on new stations without tying it to annexation. He said the City is not willing to deviate from the Ohio Revised Code on the topic of annexation.

A motion to adopt as amended Resolution 2008-14 was made by Councilmember Shimrock, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RESOLUTION 2008-15 REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PURPOSES OF EVALUATING AND LEVYING A TAX EXCEEDING THE 10-MILL LIMITATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (1.50 MILLS)**

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

Eric Hansen stated this legislation is no longer necessary.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2008-15 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL NAYS -- ORDINANCE DEFEATED

**ORDINANCE 2008-89 PROPOSING AN ADDITIONAL LEVY FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AS SET OUT IN OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.19 (I) TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS (2.0MILLS) AS AMENDED**

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

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

A motion to amend Ordinance 2008-89 from 0.50 mills to 2.00 mills was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt as amended Ordinance 2008-89 was made by Councilmember Shimrock, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-90 PROPOSING AN ADDITIONAL LEVY FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AS SET OUT IN OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.19 (I) TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS (1.50 MILLS)**

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

Eric Hansen stated this legislation is no longer necessary.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-90 was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL NAYS-- ORDINANCE DEFEATED

**RESOLUTION 2008-16 DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR ACTIVE AND INTERIM DEPOSITS**

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

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

Jennifer Heft explained to Council, the purpose of this legislation is to establish depositories for active and interim funds of the City of Mason. She said on July 23, to ensure compliance with the Uniform Depository Act, Chapter 135 of the Ohio Revised Code, the City requested applications from eligible institutions for active and interim deposits from Advantage Bank, Fifth Third Bank, First Financial Bank, First National Bank, Keybank, LCNB National Bank, National Bank & Trust, National City Bank, PNC Bank, Towne Bank, and Wesbanco. In addition, a legal notice for the request was advertised in the Pulse Journal for two consecutive weeks and a notice was provided to the Northeast Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. The objective of the application process is to ensure the financial institution has met the legal qualifications and to ensure that the institution has the financial strength and capacity to accept additional public funds deposits.

Jennifer stated Fifth Third Bank has been the City's primary depository for over 42 years. In our efforts to maintain a relationship with all financial institutions, to ensure a competitive environment for banking services, and flexibility to adjust banking services in the future, all eligible institutions located within the City were included in the

application process. Those institutions that participated in the process and provided all the necessary information for the City's active and interim deposits have been included on this legislation. After being accepted to receive deposits, each participating institution will provide a comprehensive proposal of services available and cost for providing the related service. Following this submittal, each proposal will be evaluated

Jennifer said the depository agreement 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. Currently, the City has no interim deposits. Jennifer added all interim funds will continue to be invested according to the City of Mason's Investment Policy in eligible securities that are registered in the City's name and in the possession of a third party trustee. She concluded by stating this legislation will designate Advantage Bank, Fifth Third Bank, First Financial Bank, LCNB National Bank, National Bank & Trust, PNC Bank, and Wesbanco to be eligible for the City's depository for active and interim deposits for a period not to exceed five years and will be considered to provide the City of Mason's banking services.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-90 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. Following some questions from Vice Mayor Beck, a motion to table until the first meeting in September was made by Vice Mayor Beck, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-91 APPROVAL OF THE REPLAT FOR LOTS 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132,133 AND 134 IN CARMELLE SUBDIVISION SECTION 3**

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Shimrock, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL YEAS

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

Richard Fair explained to Council, the firm representing Rhein Interests is requesting approval of a replat for lots 127-134 in Carmelle Subdivision Section 3. These lots are located on the north side of Riverside Drive, adjacent to the Muddy Creek. The Zoning Board of Appeals approved a reduction in the front setbacks for these lots because of their location to the sanitary sewer line and the Muddy Creek. These setback modifications will help to minimize the deep foundation builders will need to construct for homes adjacent to the creek. Richard stated the ZBA granted the variances provided that these lots have side entry garages to lessen the visual impact of garages close to the road and that the sewer easement on the rear of the property is increased by 10 feet. This will aid in the future maintenance of the trunk line should a problem occur. He stated Planning Commission recommended approval of the replat.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-91 was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck)

**ORDINANCE 2008-92 APPROVAL OF THE REPLAT FOR LOTS 6,7, 8 AND 9 IN MASON COMMERCE PARK**

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

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

Richard Fair explained to Council, the firm representing Prasco, is requesting approval for a replat of the Mason Commerce Park subdivision, lots 6-9. He said the area is situated at the northwest corner of Commerce Court and Snider Road. The replat includes the consolidation of four lots down to a single 12.7-acre lot (renamed 6A) and the vacation of several internal drainage easements. Richard reported Planning Commission recommended approval of the replat.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-92 was made by Councilmember Shimrock, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-93 ADOPTING A STATEMENT INDICATING SERVICES THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, WILL PROVIDE TO THE 103.606+ ACRE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED FROM DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, OHIO TO THE CITY OF MASON AS PROVIDED BY OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 709.023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

A motion to suspend the rule and allow adoption after the first reading was made by Vice Mayor Beck, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Eric Hansen explained to Council, the next two ordinances deal with an annexation petition that has been filed to bring approximately 103.606 acres of land into the City of Mason. As a result of current annexation law, petitions signed by 100% of the property owners can be expedited with the County Commissioners approving it if the criteria for the 100% annexation have been met satisfactorily. Eric stated as an expedited type 2 annexation, the property remains in the township even after annexation.

Kurt Seiler explained the property requesting annexation includes the former College Football Hall of Fame property located directly north of Wilson Avenue and 5 parcels between I-71 and Kings Island Drive. Also included in the annexation are the I-71/SR 741 Interchange and a portion of Kings Island Drive that abuts the property. No

signature is needed from the State of Ohio for the portion of I-71 being annexed. No portion of Columbia Road, Wilson Avenue or Kings Mills Road is included in the annexation territory. He stated if no objections are filed with the County, it is expected this will come before Council to accept and rezone the property at a September council meeting.

Vice Mayor Beck asked for clarification on why the property owner is annexing into Mason. Eric Hansen responded the property owner has requested this annexation because they would like all of their local property to be within a single jurisdiction for purposes of zoning and permitting. Mayor Grossmann said all property in Mason was previously to be in Deerfield Township. Mason then created its own township and all property within the city boundaries were placed in Mason Township. He explained this type 2 annexation allows the property to remain in Deerfield Township and minimize any loss of property tax revenue to the Township. The effect of this annexation is it changes the governmental body that determines land uses and zoning. Eric stated a type one annexation requires an agreement with the township and allows for the property to be removed from the township. Mayor Grossmann clarified that the water service will continue to come from the county and the City will be providing fire and police protection. Eric further explained, an additional requirement of annexation law is for City Council to adopt an ordinance stating the buffer that will be required by the City for the annexation territory if zoning adopted by the City for the annexed territory permits uses that the City determines are clearly incompatible with the uses permitted on the adjacent land remaining in the township.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-93 was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-94 ESTABLISHING THE BUFFER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 103.606+ ACRE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED FROM DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, OHIO TO THE CITY OF MASON UPON ANNEXATION TO THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

A motion to suspend the rule and allow adoption after the first reading was made by Vice Mayor Beck, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Eric Hansen stated the annexation would most likely come before Council for acceptance in November.

Mayor Grossmann asked if the Township has been informed on this matter. Eric replied he has been in contact with the Township Administrator.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-94 was made by Vice Mayor Beck, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-95 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BRACKNEY, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$713,217.10, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE OLYMPIA DRIVE SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

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

Richard Fair explained to Council in 2007, during routine TV inspection of the sanitary sewers in the area around Olympia Drive, staff found that the sewers had seriously deteriorated sections of pipe, which may cause the obstruction of flow and ultimately may result in the complete failure of the pipe. This area is on Olympia Drive between Western Row Road and Quinn Park. Staff requested proposals from LJB, Stantec, and Environmental Engineering Service (EES) for professional services to design replacement sewers and to prepare plans and specifications so that the City could obtain bids for the necessary construction. As a result, the project was advertised on July 10, 2008. A total of nine bids were received and opened on August 5, 2008 with the lowest bid coming from Brackney, Inc. for \$713,217.10.

Richard said although, this project was not anticipated or included in the 2008 Budget, concerns of imminent failure, lead the City to move forward with the design, so that replacement of the affected sewers could be done on an emergency basis. He noted funds are available in the Sewer Expansion Fund to cover this expense. The Utility Committee has reviewed this project and recommends adoption.

Vice Mayor Beck asked what the balance of the Sewer Fund. Richard Fair replied he would have to get that information and stated the Sewer Expansion Fund is for connections to the system for new construction.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-95 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-96 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LONG TERM SPACE LEASE WITH BETHESDA HOSPITAL, INC. (TRIHEALTH AGREEMENT)**

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



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

Eric Hansen stated the next two ordinances deal with the same project. He said in June 2007 staff, together with the Community Center Committee, began working to develop a proposal for a wellness component at the Community Center. Throughout 2007, Council authorized several pieces of legislation providing the framework for this project to move forward. The most significant was Ordinance 2007-178, which designated TriHealth as the preferred provider and authorized the City Manager to negotiate a long-term space lease with TriHealth. Eric said now, the City, in partnership with TriHealth, is planning to construct an approximate 32,000 square foot addition adjacent to the Mason Community Center for the exclusive use of TriHealth for their health service operations.

Eric stated Ordinance 2008-96 is a key element of this partnership. It authorizes a 20-year lease agreement, with an option to renew up to 3 additional 5-year terms, between the City and TriHealth for medical office and rehabilitation space. The lease payment will be calculated based on final construction costs with a 9% capitalization and an additional \$115,000 annually. The lease is designed to ensure that the construction costs associated with the TriHealth area can be financed within the lease payment with remaining funds available to finance expansions to the Community Center area. The lease anticipates a GMP (guaranteed maximum price) being issued through a construction manager and agreed to by both parties before construction begins. At the conclusion of the lease the City retains ownership of a revenue generating asset as well as expansions to the Community Center. Other issues such as sharing parking, installation of signage, sharing operating costs and other items that are typical to a commercial lease agreement. An operating agreement is also anticipated to provide a flexible working arrangement for shared programming and other services to benefit the community and membership of the Community Center. Steve Mombach addressed Council-representing TriHealth. He explained the asset this partnership brings to the City adding this brings a multi-specialty practice to this area. The rehab facility is also a major plus for this project and will enhance the product the Community Center brings to the area. Councilmember Wurzbacher stated this first class facility is a positive move for the community and the Community Center.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-96 was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2008-97 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MICHAEL SCHUSTER ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,550,700, FOR THE DESIGN AND PREPARATION OF CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE MASON COMMUNITY CENTER, AS PART OF THE PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIHEALTH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

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

Eric Hansen explained, on March 17 Council adopted Ordinance 2008 – 40 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Champlin/Haupt for a not-to-exceed amount of \$42,000 for conceptual design for TriHealth and Community Center Expansion. He said this was a two-part project, with both parts working simultaneously towards completion. First, the architect prepared conceptual drawings for the approximate 32,000 square foot addition to the Community Center for exclusive TriHealth use with a 2,000 square foot warm water pool to be shared with the City. The second part of the project was a conceptual design of the expanded services to the current Community Center that compliments the TriHealth addition and meets the Center's expansion needs. Conceptual plans and final PUD drawings were completed by Champlin/Haupt and presented and approved by Planning Commission at their June 3 meeting.

Eric reported assigning an architect to complete the final design and prepare construction documents for construction is the next step. The City received architectural proposals for final design from MSA/GBBN and Champlin/Haupt. After a thorough review of both proposals and interviews with representatives from each firm, staff is recommending the partnership of MSA/GBBN as the City's architect for the design of a master plan for the Community Center expansion with the approval of Ordinance 2008-97 for a not to exceed cost of \$1,550,700. Eric stated once these ordinances are approved, staff will begin preparation of RFPs for a construction manager. An ordinance should be ready sometime in September for this service. Following this a GMP amount will guide decisions and options for phases of construction.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-97 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 ABSTAINS (Beck and Grossmann)

**ORDINANCE 2008-98 REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2007-108, APPOINTING KENNETH J. SCHNEIDER AS LAW DIRECTOR AND CONTRACTING WITH THE FIRM OF WOOD & LAMPING FOR LEGAL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

A motion to suspend the rule and allow adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Vice Mayor Beck asked how this percentage of increase compares to last year. Ken Schneider stated it is approximately the same. Vice Mayor Beck asked if this is in line with what other communities pay and does Jeff Forbes receive the hourly rate. Ken

Schneider stated this pay rate it is the same as Springdale except there is a six-month time difference and he said Jeff Forbes receives the firm's rate when he is filling in for Ken.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-98 was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

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

Eric Hansen reported on the following items:

- ▶ The next Council meeting will be on September 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ Former Congressman Rob Portman will be the speaker for the Warren County Municipal League meeting on Wednesday, August 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Golden Lamb Restaurant in Lebanon.
- ▶ The 2008 Heritage Festival will return to its origin in Downtown Mason, on Saturday, August 23rd. The City will again host a large booth staffed by employees represented by all departments of the City. Again this year, visitors to the booth can obtain a 2009 City of Mason Calendar. In addition to the calendar, visitors can obtain wristbands with the Mason logo jivet. The wristbands are rubber, similar to the LIVEstrong bracelets made famous by Lance Armstrong. The jivets (popularized by Crocs shoes) will represent each department. In addition, Council will be participating in an outhouse challenge as part of the festivities.
- ▶ Mason residents are invited to attend the Downtown Plaza and Streetscape Construction Dedication on Sunday, August 17. The ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ The AVP Cincinnati Open will be held at the Lindner Family Tennis Center beginning Friday, August 29 and ending on Sunday, August 31. The AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour, which was organized in 1983, features more than 150 of the most prominent American men and women competitors in the sport, AVP is set to stage 18 events throughout the United States in 2008.
- ▶ Labor Day is Monday, September 1 and city offices will be closed. Trash collection will continue as regularly scheduled.
- ▶ The City has received a request for two liquor permits. A transfer of ownership has been received on 5542 S. SR 741 at the Ameristop Food Mart. Councilmember Wurzbacher moved to not require a hearing. Councilmember Bradburn seconded the motion. VOTE: ALL YEAS
- ▶ The second request was for a new permit located at 4200 Aero Drive. Councilmember Bradburn moved to not require a hearing, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS

► The Arts Festival has requested the similar contribution they received last year from the City to assist with the event. The total estimated value is approximately \$1450. Vice Mayor Beck moved to grant this contribution again this year. Councilmember Wurzbacher seconded the motion. VOTE: ALL YEAS Councilmember Shimrock asked for clarification on what group receives financial support from the City. Eric stated it is done by a decision and motion from Council. Vice Mayor Beck also stated it is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Mayor Grossmann stated the Warren County Solid Waste Management District will be collecting used computers and monitors on Saturday, August 30th, 2008 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The collection will be held in the Mason Municipal Center parking lot. The computers and monitors that are collected will be recycled. Eric stated there will be advertising for this service. It is the first time it has been held at the Mason Municipal Center.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Shimrock reported the Downtown Committee will hold the Downtown Dedication Ceremony on Sunday and she thanked all the residents that had input on this project. She encourages all to attend. She also reported the Festivals of Mason will be selecting a family the day of the Heritage Festival to serve as the Honorary Grand Marshall Family.

Vice Mayor Beck reported a meeting on the Comprehensive Plan has occurred with residents and stakeholders. The next meetings are scheduled for September and October and a final presentation will be given to Council in December.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Grossmann stated he has received many comments about the downtown area and many of the comments are negative from those who reside outside the immediate area. He asked if any other Councilmembers have experienced the same. Councilmember Bradburn stated he has also received many of the negative comments and he has responded that the public had several opportunities to interject their opinion throughout the process. He said many public hearings were held. He said the future growth of downtown is up to the stakeholders in the downtown area. He also noted Council was not the driving force behind all the decisions regarding the downtown redevelopment. The Downtown Committee consisted of the residents and business owners and Council. Mayor Grossmann explained the process that occurred to proceed with the downtown redevelopment and added he has received several complaints regarding the style of streetlights. Councilmember Wurzbacher said those lights were a conscious decision by the committee to clearly designate the downtown district. Councilmember Prince stated he has also received complaints on the parking and the lights. He said the lights are too bright and suggested this issue be revisited. Councilmember Kidd stated he has received complaints on the lights as well. He said many people feel the cost of the lighting was not the major expense but it was actually relocating the utilities underground. He noted

the stakeholders downtown need to be the catalyst for new businesses locating downtown. He encouraged residents to support the downtown. A general discussion took place among Council on the design of the plaza including the wall. The general consensus is it was a collaborative project not driven by Council.

Vice Mayor Beck invited all residents to the Heritage Festival. He asked about the traffic signal planned to be removed at US 42 and Second Street. Richard Fair said the signal does not meet the necessary requirements and it will be covered before it is removed to see how residents adapt.

Vice Mayor Beck stated that Duke Energy has notified the City of a rate increase for security purposes and rates will increase for certain business and commercial accounts by 10%. He asked if there is a justification. He said he does not support this increase. He suggested it be referred to the Public Works Committee for further review. Mayor Grossmann agreed and asked the Committee to report back to Council. He said Tim Abbott, with Duke Energy, should be contacted.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Perry Schwartz of 6309 Tartan Fields Lane addressed Council and said he is in favor of the fire levy and suggested Council be very clear with the residents on the future use of the facility on Cedar Village Drive. He said if the intention is to sell the property, then be very clear about that.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and land acquisition was made by Councilmember Bradburn seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS


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

### **ADJOURN**

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

TIME: 10:28 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor