

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2009**

Mayor Grossmann called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Mason Police Honor Guard led the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Christine Shimrock, Don Prince, Tony Bradburn, David Nichols, Pete Beck and Tom Grossmann.

INVOCATION

Pastor Mark Roser opened the meeting with a prayer.

SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL GILB

Law Director, Ken Schneider, presented the oath of office to Michael Gilb. Councilmember Gilb introduced his family members and stated as a former State Representative he is looking forward to assisting Mason with future progress.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 Council meeting was made by Vice Mayor Beck, seconded by Councilmember Nichols. Councilmember Shimrock noted she was not in attendance at that meeting and the minutes should be corrected to reflect her absence. Councilmember Bradburn moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 ABSTAIN (Shimrock, Gilb)

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, Special Council meeting was made by Councilmember Shimrock, seconded by Councilmember Nichols. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Gilb)

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2009 Special Council meeting was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Gilb)

PRESENTATION BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE SHANNON JONES

State Representative Shannon Jones representing the 67th House District addressed Council and provided information on the current state budget. She stated there is a shortfall of 7 billion dollars and the state must balance the budget. She said the bottom line is the State is going to the Federal Government for funding to balance the budget by

using the funds made available from the stimulus bill. She reported this is not solving the 5.4 million shortfall but just delaying it. She said two years from now, the State would have the same problem. She warned local governments that budget cuts were coming in the next biennial budget. Councilmember Prince commented he is aware businesses are leaving the state for a better business climate.

PRESENTATION BY MASON PARK FOUNDATION

Rachael Kopfler provided an update on the activities of the Park Foundation. She said they received a 501c3 status in 2007. She announced the various fund raising events they have planned and also stated they are working with a professional grant writer to secure additional funding.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Meredith Raffel, Executive Director of the Mason Area Arts Council, addressed Council and thanked them for the \$8,000 contribution voted on at the last meeting. She reported on the 2009 planned events and said the Arts Council is looking for a location. She said they are looking for a generous donation of unused space from which they can work. She noted they are considering moving the Mason Art Festival to the downtown area in 2010 and asked Council to provide feedback to her on this idea.

ORDINANCE 2009-11 ACCEPTING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR HICKORY WOODS SUBDIVISION SECTION 3B AND RELEASING THE PERFORMANCE BOND

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 for adoption after the first meeting was made by Vice Mayor Beck, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Richard Fair reported to Council, the purpose of this legislation is to accept the public improvements of Hickory Woods Subdivision Section 3B. He said it is located south of Parkside Subdivision and east of the Mason Early Childhood Center. Streets to be accepted include Winterberry Ct., Brackenview Ct., Firwood Ct. and part of Terrace Dr. The Public Utilities, Public Works, Engineering Department and Greater Cincinnati Water Works have inspected the public improvements. Richard noted the utilities and other improvements will become the City's responsibility upon acceptance. The developer is providing a performance bond, in the amount of \$30,500, for the installation of sidewalks and street trees on the undeveloped building lots. He reported staff recommends accepting the public improvements, contingent on the submission of a one-year maintenance bond and performance bond.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-11 was made by Councilmember Shimrock, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Terry Schulte, Clerk of Council and Legislative Liaison addressed Council and explained the NEC Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the Legislative Event again this year. She explained the City has participated in this event in the past by donating her services and funds not to exceed \$1500. She noted every member of the General Assembly is invited and the City receives much exposure with the state decision makers through this participation. Councilmember Gilb commented he had participated in this event when serving in the House of Representatives and recommended the City continue its participation. Vice Mayor Beck moved to again participate this year with a not to exceed amount of \$1500. Councilmember Nichols seconded the motion. VOTE: ALL YEAS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Hansen reported on the following items:

- ▶ City offices will be closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of President's Day.
- ▶ There will be a meeting of the Warren County Municipal League on Wednesday, February 18 at The Golden Lamb in Lebanon. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45 and meeting immediately following. The featured speaker will be Duke Energy President Julie Janson. Reservations are required by February 16 through Terry Schulte.
- ▶ The next DARE graduation is Wednesday, February 18 at 7 p.m. at the Mason High School Auditorium. Mayor Grossmann will speak at the meeting and all Council Members are invited to attend.

February 11 Hoxworth Blood Drive
Mobile unit located in the parking lot of Municipal Center
9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

February 13 Heart Health Recipe Ideas and Sampling
Presented by Julie Shapero, R.D.
Bridge Lounge - 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Glass Rooms – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

February 14 Fitness Special Events
Sweetheart Ride – 8:10 a.m. to 9:25 a.m.
Sweetheart ZUMBA – 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

February 20 Heart Center Yoga
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

- ▶ He thanked the City staff for their efforts during the snow removal period. He stated over a 50-hour period, road crews drove 9000 miles. He reported the City currently has 1500 tons of salt and has ordered another 1500 tons.

► Safety Director Ron Ferrell has received an appointment as Executive Director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. He begins his new position on February 23, 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice Mayor Beck reported the Finance Committee would be meeting on Thursday at 4:00 to review the City's investment practices.

Councilmember Bradburn reported the Safety Committee met to discuss the design of Station #51. He reported another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Bradburn complimented the City's road crew for the excellent job they did with the snowfall. He said he knew when he had reached the City's corporation line because roads were in much better condition.

Councilmember Shimrock complimented the staff at the Community Center for the swift handling of a potentially fatal situation. She said their quick action saved a life.

Mayor Grossmann stated he had called Victor Kidd and he was enjoying his assignment in Hawaii. He also noted it was Tony Bradburn's birthday.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Aaron Brodie of 6357 Timber Court addressed Council and stated he is present for a high school government class requirement. He thanked Council for serving the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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


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

ADJOURN

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

TIME: 8:40 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor