

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2009**

Vice Mayor Beck called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Those present recited the pledge of allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop #43.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2009 Council meeting was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Nichols. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RECOGNITION OF KEVIN JONES ON HIS SERVICE TO PLANNING COMMISSION**

Vice Mayor Beck identified the contribution Kevin Jones has made to the City of Mason while serving on the Planning Commission. He presented him with a plaque recognizing his years of service.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Chris Simpson of 209 Lakeview Drive in Mason addressed Council and stated she is the owner of the Comet Pizza restaurant on SR 42. She stated the work on SR 42 in front of her business has made it difficult for customers to enter. She said she would prefer it began after 12:00p.m. She also said she has received no information on this project. Richard Fair apologized for the lack of information. He said emails and letters were sent to the businesses from Kings Mills Road north. He explained it is really three projects. The storm sewer, water line and new asphalt. He added this involves three different entities, the City, the Cincinnati Water Works and ODOT. Richard said the City places a restriction of working from 9-4:00 p.m. He said working at night has resulted in the residents complaining. He also stated the job will be done by July 31, 2009. She said her main concern is the lunch business. She asked if sidewalks will be included in this project. Richard responded not this year probably next year.

Kostas Frantris of the Mason Grille addressed Council and said his business is slow and summer is usually busier. He said he did not believe they could survive 4 months and may have to close. Richard stated there will always be one lane of traffic open. Richard Fair will contact them both with more information.

Rich Cox of Al's Heating on Reading Road addressed Council and said he has been experiencing low water pressure. He said he has had Cincinnati Water Works (CWW) come out 3 times in the last 2 months and it has not been resolved. He said it started approximately two years ago and has gotten worse. He reported they are down to 16 pounds of pressure and cannot use the showers in his building.

He also said CWW reported there is nothing blocking the line. He has removed the pressure regulator but that has made no difference. Richard Fair said this is the first he has heard of this and will look into it. Councilmember Bradburn stated the Fire Department would also look into this matter. Rich said he would like to state the Downtown Committee might have dropped the ball on informing the businesses of the work on SR 42.

**ORDINANCE 2009-24 AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MASON TO AMEND SECTION 351.15 REGARDING PARKING RESTRICTIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council, at the October 23, 2006 meeting Council approved Ordinance 2006-139 to revise a dated municipal parking lot ordinance to allow signage to be posted in the Municipal lot that would discourage abuse of parking and provide parking lot restrictions not currently included in the ordinance. The revisions have been effective in controlling student parking in the Municipal Center parking lot, allowing for customer and visitor parking to the Center as well as preserving access for Veteran's memorial visitors and safety services.

Eric stated on Friday, March 6, site work began for the Community Center/Tri-Health partnership. Equipment has been deployed in the area to begin the site work and the north end of the Community Center parking lot was set aside for contractor equipment and materials. The work will continue to create inconveniences for Community Center patrons as well as parking issues for visitors to the Community Center and Municipal Center and employees. He said as the site work continues most of the current Community Center parking lot will be eliminated during construction. Eric reported the following items have been implemented or are being considered to assist with parking in the area:

- Employees have been asked to move to the parking lots at the north end of the Municipal Center to "free up" spaces closest to the Community and Municipal Centers for members and visitors. Employees were asked to begin parking in these areas this past week.
- Signs posted in the Municipal Center and Community Center lots indicate no student parking from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Signs were posted this past week.
- Signs were posted last week in the Municipal Center lot indicating Community Center parking is encouraged.
- Initiating fifteen-minute parking along the drive located on the east side of the Municipal Center.
- In cooperation with Mason Schools, four additional handicapped spots will be designated next to the building near the leisure pool. This should occur the week of March 23.
- Three parking spaces in the Community Center parking lot next to the main entrance will be designated for BRIDGE members. Currently, there are six spaces designated for BRIDGE members. This should also occur the week of March 23.

He further explained an amendment to the current ordinance is necessary to provide staff with the flexibility to accommodate current parking changes, adjust to changing parking conditions as the site work and construction of the facility begins and provide an enforcement mechanism. In addition, the

modifications will allow the City to meet future parking needs and obligations as part of the Tri-Health partnership when new expanded parking and facility are completed. He reported the Safety Committee has reviewed this legislation and is recommending adoption. An emergency clause has been included to ensure parking issues can be immediately addressed.

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

Vice Mayor Beck asked how this would be enforced. Eric Hansen said in the past signs have been posted and the City has worked closely with the School Resource Officer. He added the City will be able to site and tow vehicles parked in violation.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-24 was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Nichols. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2009-25 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH INTERNATIONAL TRUCK & ENGINE CORP. FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2009 INTERNATIONAL CLASS 8 DUMP TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,755.00**

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

Jennifer Heft explained to Council, the next two ordinances 2009-25 and 26 both deal with purchase of vehicles for the Public Works Department. She stated as part of the 2009 Budget process, David Riggs, Public Works Director provided the Equipment and Finance Committees an extensive overview of the City's fleet, including age and history of repair costs. The Equipment Committee also discussed the replacement cycle for fleet vehicles. The cost needed to keep older vehicles in operational condition has been exceeding the cost of replacing these vehicles with newer models. Jennifer reported the Finance and Equipment Committee recommended including \$165,000 in the 2009 Budget for replacement of these vehicles. The 2009 International 7400 dump truck will be purchased as part of the State Purchasing Program. The F-550 Dump Truck will be purchased from 32 Ford at a cost, less than the State Purchasing program, however, \$2,615 more than what was included in the 2009 Budget. She said the original bid for this vehicle was \$75,670. Staff has worked to reduce the cost for this vehicle, yet maintain its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the department, this includes moving from a 4-wheel drive vehicle to a 2-wheel drive vehicle, stainless steel to a standard steel dump bed, reducing the size of the engine and reducing DOT lighting options.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-25 was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Nichols. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2009-26 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH 32 FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2009 FORD F-350 DUMP TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,670.00**

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

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

Councilmember Nichols asked how many bids were received. Jennifer responded one plus the state bid price.

Councilmember Bradburn moved to amend the ordinance to include the cost of the four-wheel drive feature, stainless steel bed and the larger engine size. Councilmember Nichols seconded the motion. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-26, as amended, was made by Councilmember Shimrock, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Bradburn)

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Eric Hansen reported on the following items:

- ▶ Fujitec is hosting a VIP Open House on Thursday, April 2 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at their new Mason location at 7258 Innovation Way. City Council has been invited and is encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Joan by March 26.
- ▶ Come Run, Walk or Roll on Saturday, April 4 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Corwin Nixon Park. This is a professionally run 5K race for athletes plus a one-mile family walk-N-roll for people of all abilities. Proceeds to benefit the building of Common Ground, Mason's all-inclusive playground. Individuals interested can learn more about this event by visiting the Park Foundation's website at [masonparksfoundation.org](http://masonparksfoundation.org).
- ▶ The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4 beginning at 12 noon at Heritage Oak Park. The event is free to the public and the Easter Bunny will greet the children. A special area will be set-aside for tiny tots. Visitors are asked to bring their own bag or basket for the egg hunt.
- ▶ City offices will be closed on Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday.
- ▶ The April 2009 issue of Mason Matters will be delivered in the Pulse-Journal on Thursday, April 16.
- ▶ The City of Mason's 5th annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception will be held on Thursday, April 23 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Mason Municipal Center Atrium. We will honor those volunteers who have given 50 hours or more of service to the city. Light hors d'oeuvres and punch will be served, with the recognition program beginning at 6:00 p.m.

► Mason Employees exceeding the need:

The Municipal Center Post Office branch held a grand opening today, Monday, March 23. The office handles most of the services provided by the Mason Post Office except for Registered Mail, C.O.D.'s, post office boxes, passports, or money orders. The Municipal Center Post Office hours and holidays will be the same as the City's regular hours and holidays. There is also a new Municipal Center Post Office drop box, located in the drive on the east side of the Municipal Center. The Post Office adds another convenient feature to our "One Stop Shop" Customer Service Counter. Kendra Taylor, Secretary for the Building Department and Larry Rudd, Facilities Manager spent a considerable amount of time working with Post Office officials, training employees and setting up the office to locate the Postal Unit at the Municipal Center.

Shawn Ford, Public Works Maintenance Worker and Certified Arborist has taken a proactive approach to meet with several homeowners associations about the care and maintenance of trees, best types of tree to plant in various conditions and the responsibility for right-of-way trees. Mike Panno, Public Utilities Maintenance Worker, while driving by noticed soap and suds flowing through a vent pipe at a local business and contacted Bob Beyer, Public Utilities Plant Operator and Kathy Dorman, Storm Water Engineer who contacted and have been working with Speedway officials to get the problem corrected.

► LIVE WELL IN MASON ACTIVITIES

March – National Nutrition Month

24 Improving Athletic Performance without Injury

6:00 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.

Dawn Weatherwax-Fall, a Registered/Licensed Dietitian with a specialty in Sports Nutrition and Founder of Sports Nutrition 2Go, will discuss safe and effective ways of improving athletic performance. Joining Ms. Fall, Sheila Lee of TriHealth and owner of Life Without Limits LLC. Ms. Lee uses Muscle Activation Techniques (MAT), a hands-on technique that identifies and corrects muscular imbalances, to treat patients.

31 Lifeline Education

9:00 a.m. - BRIDGE

Kim Tither-Margroum, the manager of TriHealth Lifeline, Cincinnati's only locally answered personal emergency response system, will discuss the benefits of this life savings system.

“Eat Right” for National Nutrition Month

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Join Registered Dietitian Miriam Jackobs at the Mason Community Center every Tuesday and Thursday in March as she teaches us to make informed food choices while developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

#### April Preview – Go Green for Your Health

- 1 Wellness Wednesday  
Don't Be Foolish With Your Health  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Presentation on outdoor allergies – by Dr. Jeffrey Raub
  
- Managing Food Allergies  
7:00 p.m.  
Presentation by Dr. Thomas Fischer

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Bradburn reported the Safety Committee met tonight and discussed the design of the new firehouse. He said they will be working with the township on this.

Councilmember Shimrock reported the Downtown Committee met to discuss the railroad proposal. She reported they have only had preliminary discussions.

Councilmember Bradburn reported Public Works met and a change in the replacement of sidewalks was decided. He said they would be replaced where they are in the worst condition. He said he anticipated this will result in half of the budgeted amount being spent in commercial areas and half in residential areas.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Bradburn stated Cedar Fair has sent a letter to the City stating their concern over the extension of the school year and the impact it will have on their industry when trying to hire summer help. Councilmember Bradburn suggested the City send a letter to our state legislators also stating those concerns as it impacts an industry that has a large portion of the city and county economic climate. Vice Mayor Beck referred the matter to the Economic Development Committee to review and report back to Council.

Councilmember Bradburn reported on his attendance at the National League of Cities Conference in Washington D.C. He said various topics concerning urban renewal were discussed. He also said he had the opportunity to view the National Command Center.

Councilmember Shimrock stated that Denise Callahan had captured the essence of the point she was making with her quote in the *Pulse Journal*. She also said the discrepancies in the police reports from the last meeting were clarified and Ken Murawski was correct in his presentation. She stated she has been receiving comments from residents regarding brush pickup. Eric Hansen stated he was still working on this. He said if it is a small amount, Rumpke will pick it up.

Vice Mayor Beck stated the Committee Assignments have been made and if any Councilmember has a concern they should contact the Mayor on the matter. He announced there is an opening on Planning Commission and anyone interested can contact the City Manager. He also reported on the grand opening of Blue Ash Chili.

Vice Mayor Beck reported the City has reviewed the employment practices of the Brickman Group and it is evident they do a thorough job with complying with federal regulations.

Councilmember Bradburn reported he attended an OKI meeting and the City is on the list to receive funds from the stimulus package. He said the County Engineer, Neil Tunison, and Dave Young, the County Commissioner, worked collaboratively to make this happen.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Rich Cox from Al's Heating on Reading Road addressed Council and thanked them for their prompt response to the water pressure problem he mentioned earlier in the meeting. He said Chief Moore has already sent someone to check on it.

Chris Simpson addressed Council and said they need more parking downtown. She asked Council to keep that in mind. Vice Mayor Beck said Eric Hansen and Richard Fair will look into it.


**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Nichols.

VOTE: ALL YEAS

TIME: 8:15 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Vice Mayor