

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

Michael Gilb was sworn in as Councilmember to fill the remainder of Peter Beck's term.

Mayor Grossmann called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Pastor J.D.Children opened the meeting with prayer. Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

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

Mayor Grossmann introduced and welcomed the newly elected Councilmembers, Charlene Pelfrey and Rich Cox. He stated they will be sworn in on the December 1, 2009 meeting. Eric Hansen stated that meeting will begin at 5:30 reception with the meeting taking place at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS (4)

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2009 Special Meeting was made by Mayor Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS (4)

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2009 Special Meeting was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Prince. VOTE: 3 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Gilb). Lack of quorum will result in minutes being re-submitted at the next meeting.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Kelsey McNally of Farmridge Way addressed Council and stated he was with the high school government class.

Vice Mayor Prince reported he would like to add to the agenda Ordinances 2009-121 and 2009-122.

ORDINANCE 2009-119 ACCEPTING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL PUD – NIXON PARK DRIVE AND RELEASING THE PERFORMANCE BOND

Ken Schneider read the ordinance.

Mayor Grossmann stated this was a first reading and the second reading would take place at the November 23, 2009 Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2009-120 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CINCINNATI USA REGIONAL CHAMBER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (FORMERLY THE REGIONAL MARKETING PARTNERS) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 PER YEAR FOR THREE YEARS

Ken Schneider read the ordinance.

Mayor Grossmann stated this was a first reading and the second reading would take place at the November 23, 2009 Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2009-121 ENACTING CHAPTER 191 OF THE MASON CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING AN ADMISSIONS TAX

Ken Schneider read the ordinance.

Mayor Grossmann stated this was a first reading and the second reading would take place at the November 23, 2009 Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2009-122 ENACTING CHAPTER 193 OF THE MASON CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING A PARKING FACILITY TAX

Ken Schneider read the ordinance.

Mayor Grossmann stated this was a first reading and the second reading would take place at the November 23, 2009 Council meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Hansen reported on the following items:

▶ On Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, services will be held at the Mason Municipal Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Tom Grossmann will open the event, members of the American Legion and VFW will post colors. The Mason Community Band, the Greater Cincinnati Firefighters Pipe and Drums unit, and the Mason Community Players will perform.

▶ The annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Mason Middle School. All proceeds will go to the Mason Kiwanis.

▶ The Warren County Economic Outlook Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, November 24 from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. at the Kings Island Resort and Conference Center on Kings Island Drive. Presenter is Stephen Wilson, Chairman of the Board & CEO of LCNB National Bank. If Council members wish to attend, please notify the City Manager's office and a reservation will be made for you.

▶ The regularly scheduled meeting in December falls on December 14th. Typically, staff and the Finance Committee work to conclude remaining business for the year including the

annual Appropriation Ordinance by the first December meeting. I believe all business can be ready for Council action on December 14th and no additional meetings needed until January.

► City employees are beginning the 13th annual “Hope for the Holidays” program this month. Employees volunteer and sponsor a variety of ways for staff as well as interested community members to help local families in need during the Holidays. A giving tree in the Mason Municipal Center and a wreath at the Community Center provide one way to fill needs. A booth at the Christmas in Mason event will accept donations of food, gifts, as well as financial contributions. A hotline is maintained at 229-8507 for those interested in “adopting” a family for the Holidays or to provide references for assistance.

Donations from employees and the community will be accepted through Tuesday, December 15. Items may be dropped off at the following locations: Mason Municipal Center, Mason Community Center, Mason fire stations, Mason Public Works Department, and the Mason Water Reclamation Plant. Donated gifts are provided to families at a special event hosted by Santa Claus before Christmas. The Hope for the Holidays employee committee members are: Sheri Collins, Marlene Burnell, Mark Heckenmueller, Pattie Connor, Gale Long, Karen Arp, Barb Ostendarp, Ken Spillman, and Robin McKeehan.

► The City has received a request for a liquor permit transfer for Quatman Cafe at 224 W. Main Street. Councilmember Bradburn moved to not require a hearing. Vice Mayor Prince seconded the motion. VOTE: ALL YEAS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Bradburn reported the Finance Committee met tonight and stated they recognized the economic downturn the economy is experiencing and are looking at all departments for savings.

Vice Mayor Prince reported the Festivals of Mason Committee met and appointed Mike Stretch to the board. He stated Mike Hancock resigned due to employment responsibilities. He also reported the Public Works Committee met and the lights on the plaza were discussed. He stated the light source will be changed to LED lights which have a longer life and are more efficient. He noted the number will also be reduced.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Grossmann commented as a result of the election, there will be two new school board members and four new council members. He also noted issue 5 regarding the Mason Charter amendment passed overwhelmingly.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Dave Moushey addressed Council and asked for an explanation on why two ordinances were added to the agenda and did not appear on the published agenda. Mayor Grossmann replied prior to tonight’s meeting, Finance Committee met and discussed this matter. As a result of those discussions, the Vice Mayor added them to the meeting agenda. He stated it is appropriate for any member of Council to do so. He said this gives anyone interested in this matter, two weeks notice before it can be voted on by Council. Dave Moushey asked what

impact on price the tax would have and if the income tax credit passed last year had any impact on this decision. Mayor Grossmann stated we are discussing a 3% admissions tax and a 5% parking tax. He stated this will not be reflected in the price of the tickets but added afterwards like a sales tax. He stated the full credit on the income tax was voted in by the residents. He stated that was because most saw it as double taxation to pay both where you work and where you live. Dave Moushey asked if the residents will have a vote on this tax. Mayor Grossmann said that could happen but Council can also decide. Mayor Grossmann reported he will not be voting on this issue as it is a conflict of interest with his law firm.

Perry Schwartz addressed Council and asked how much income will be raised with the admissions tax. Councilmember Bradburn replied approximately \$2 million. Perry also asked about the procedure of suspending the rule and allowing for adoption after the first reading. Mayor Grossmann replied Council suspends the rule when timing is an issue such as remaining in compliance with contractual language. Mayor Grossmann stated the admissions tax has been discussed since the 1990's. Most recently it has been discussed for the last 3-4 years. Perry suggested a brief history be given when discussing this matter at the next meeting prior to a vote being taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL/LAND ACQUISITION

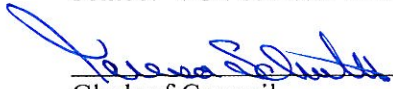
A motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

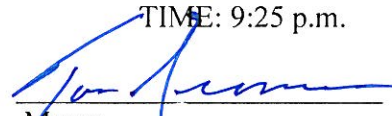
A motion to reconvene into regular session was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ADJOURN

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

TIME: 9:25 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor