

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 26, 2010**

Mayor Prince called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Chaplin Rick Huff opened the meeting with prayer. Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Michael Gilb, Rich Cox, Tony Bradburn, Charlene Pelfrey, David Nichols, and Don Prince. Christine Shimrock was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2010 Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

RESOLUTION 2010-10 PROCLAIMING JULY 26-30, 2010 AS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 201

Jeff Forbes read the proclamation. Eric Hansen explained that annually the City takes the opportunity to recognize contributions small businesses make to the community. This year the City of Mason and the Northeast Cincinnati Chamber are partnering together to recognize four Mason businesses that highlight the strength of our local business network.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2010-10 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RECOGNITION OF SMALL BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS:
PIERCE'S LAWCARE & LANDSCAPING/PIERCE'S RENTS; AFIDENCE;
MIM'S ON MAIN; QUATMAN CAFÉ**

Mayor Prince welcomed the business owners and introduced John Harris, president of the Northeast Cincinnati Chamber. John Harris spoke on the importance and impact that small businesses have on our country. Mayor Prince then explained that the award categories are: Family, Professional/Service, Retail, and Emerging Small Business. Vice Mayor Nichols along with Councilmember Pelfrey then joined the Mayor as the business winner in each category was introduced and awarded a plaque.

Pierce's Lawncare & Landscaping/Pierce's Rents was recognized as the winner in the Family owned Business category. Accepting the award was Scott & Sandy Pierce, Frank & Judy Kudlac, Brian Pierce, Courtney Pierce, Frank Kudlac, Bryan Kudlac, Patrick Dowrey, Ryan Quatkemeyer, and Kevin Connor.

Mim's off Main was recognized as the winner in the Retail Business category. Owner Mim Kelly accepted the award on behalf of her business and staff.

Afidence, Inc. was recognized as the winner in the Professional Business category. Owners Bryan and Barbara Hogan accepted the award.

Quatman Café was recognized as the winner in the Emerging Small Business category. Owners Matt and Angie Imm accepted the award.

PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF MASON HEAD BASEBALL COACH KEN GRAY

Mayor Prince asked Mason's Head Baseball Coach, Ken Gray, to come forward. The Mayor then presented and read the Proclamation. Ken Gray has reached his 700th career win and has been coaching Mason Baseball since 1973. Coach Gray then expressed his gratitude to the City, his family, fellow coaches, players, and friends present. He introduced his mother and thanked her for introducing him to the great game of baseball.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Kathy Kennedy of 5705 Running Fox Lane presented a comparison of data from the Library website and the Library's financial statements. She pointed out a transfer in 1999 of funds from the general (unrestricted) fund into the building (restricted) fund. She requested the Mayor consider a change in the Library Board. Councilmember Bradburn asked if she has approached the Library Board with her concerns. He stated that the City has no authority over the Library Board's budget and encouraged her to pursue meeting with the Library Board.

ORDINANCE 2010-89 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2006-20 ESTABLISHING THE POSITIONS AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE MASON MUNICIPAL COURT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Eric Hansen explained that individual pay rates for Court employees are set by Municipal Court; however, since the City is responsible for providing the payroll for Municipal Court, Council authorization of pay rates is necessary for City staff to make the necessary payments. He stated the last time Council was asked by Municipal Court to modify the ordinance that authorizes positions and pay rates was in 2006. Modifications include renaming and reclassification of positions, the elimination of three positions and the addition of one position. The Ordinance also sets a maximum total amount to be paid out of the General Fund and Court Special Funds. This effectively makes some changes to individual compensation ceilings by position and overall compensation expenses by Funding type, providing the most flexibility to Municipal Court. Eric added that while the City is responsible for most expenses of Mason Municipal Court, over the last several years Court expenses have remained relatively stable and revenues have grown-decreasing the General Funds necessary. Not all positions will be filled but Municipal Court has indicated that these modifications will provide enough flexibility for Court to meet anticipated personnel needs.

Councilmember Gilb stated that the Court Liaison Committee had met with Municipal Court Staff and is recommending Ordinance 2010 – 89 for adoption. Eric pointed out a revision in the exhibit attached to this ordinance. The Chief Magistrate position will not include “plus benefits” and therefore will be removed from the exhibit.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-89 was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2010-90 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT AN EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE/RETENTION PROGRAM FOR PART-TIME AND SEASONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MASON COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Eric Hansen stated that three years ago Council authorized Ordinance 2007 – 159, which established an incentive plan for part-time recreation employees. With the increased competition in the job market; specifically for recreation employees (lifeguards in particular); there continues to be an increasing concern that the Community Center was not positioned to recruit part-time, seasonal employees and instructors to maintain service levels. Eric explained that this recruitment/retention program is designed to offer additional incentives and benefits to part-time employees and instructors who are willing to work additional hours to assist with filling vacant shifts. This will ensure there is staff to adequately address the operational needs and provide more consistent coverage for the department. This plan is based on the plan that Council adopted earlier this year for the Fire Department. It rewards employees that commit to a schedule and work a progressively higher numbers of hours each week. Also similar to part-time Fire employees, Community Center employees will be eligible for individual memberships to the Center. If successful, the costs of the program will be offset by reduced turn-over, administrative tracking, consistent staff coverage, and will ensure that revenue generating programs are fully staffed. He reported the Community Center Committee has had an opportunity to review the program and is recommending Ordinance 2010 - 90 for adoption.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-90 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2010-91 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH BETHESDA HOSPITAL, INC.

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

Eric Hansen said that in 2008, Council authorized a lease agreement with TriHealth that insured the capital costs associated with the construction of the facilities would be covered by their lease payments. What that ordinance anticipated was an operating agreement that would handle the shared operating costs. Eric further explained that the construction of the approximate 32,000 ft² space is nearing completion. With over 42 Doctors representing 22 disciplines this facility will create convenient access to primary care physicians and specialists, diagnostic testing services, an in-house pharmacy, and will support medical wellness programming. In addition there will be the inclusion of rehabilitation and physical therapy services as well as a post-rehabilitation program available for anyone following acute

therapy. The addition of a Warm-Water Pool was designed and built in conjunction with the Mason Community Center to allow specialized aquatic fitness programs and treatment for those patients in acute physical therapy and post-rehab programs. Eric stated that furthermore, utilization of existing space is being expanded to enhance services and amenities available through the Community Center, creating a one-of-a kind public/private partnership in the country.

The lease agreement adopted in 2008 anticipated a separate operating agreement. While the original lease ensured that Tri-Health's payments provided the capital necessary to construct the project, the operating agreement ensures that annual operating costs are shared. The agreement does this in three ways:

Premise Expenses – expenses directly attributed to the area leased by Tri-Health (utilities, custodial, waste removal, etc.) are measured separately and paid directly by Tri-Health or reimbursed to the City monthly.

Shared Expenses – Tri-Health provides an opportunity for the City to share expenses that otherwise would have been the City's responsibility. Costs associated with areas such as the shared parking lot and interior common areas are shared based on percentages of area. In this way both parties benefit by spreading these costs over multiple partners. For the first 5 years of the agreement the amount TriHealth reimburses will be based on City estimates of shared expenses and fixed at \$33,808 per year. Future years will be calculated based on actual cost history.

Fitness Expense – an additional benefit to the City is that Tri-Health will compensate the City for each Rehab/Therapy patient that uses the shared fitness floor. The first 5 years, this rate is set at \$5 per visit. Future years' rate will be limited at 50% of the daily admission fee. In addition, the ordinance authorizes a referral program utilizing some of the proceeds of these fees to help further the ultimate goal of encouraging additional Community Center memberships from these patients.

Eric concluded by saying that together with the original lease, this operating agreement provides that Tri-Health pay all direct capital and operating costs associated with their area, that other operating costs of the City are reduced by sharing with Tri-Health, and that additional revenues and memberships are generated to the financial benefit of the Community Center and City of Mason. The Community Center Committee has been meeting regularly on a number of items including the review of the Operating Lease and is now prepared to recommend Ordinance 2010 – 91 for adoption.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-91 was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Vice Mayor Nichols. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Mayor Prince asked for the guests from TriHealth to please come forward and then introduced Steve Mombach, Jacqui Bastian, and Kathleen Mueller. He presented them with a plant as housewarming gift and Eric presented the ceremonial key for the move to their new facility on August 23. Steve Mombach expressed his appreciation to the City for having the insight and desire to bring wellness to the community. The convenience of having so many physicians and specialties, along with supporting resources such as a pharmacy, rehab and post rehab all under one roof is such an asset to the residents.

ORDINANCE 2010-92 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THIRTY-TWO FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE FORD CREW CAB PICKUP FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$26,279.50.

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

Eric Hansen explained that fire equipment is the subject matter for both Ordinance 2010-92 and 2010-93. The Fire Department has two vehicles, a 1997 Explorer and 1997 Crown Victoria, which are in need of replacement. These vehicles became part of the City's fleet when the Joint Fire Department was dissolved and the City began operations of a Fire Department. The 1997 Explorer has over 92,900 miles, extensive rust, which cannot be reasonably repaired, and over \$10,943 in repairs and maintenance costs. The Crown Victoria has over 81,000 miles and \$4,449 in repair and maintenance costs. Both pieces of equipment were reviewed by the Equipment and Finance Committees and recommended for inclusion in the 2010 Budget. A total of \$75,000 was included for these purchases. The purchase of the proposed new vehicles will allow the Department to operate with station vehicles that will respond to EMS calls when another Paramedic, from the fire crew, is required on the call. Eric added that operating in this capacity will reduce the mileage, wear and tear on the fire apparatus and allow the fire apparatus to stay in service for the next call. From previous experience the cost of running a fire apparatus can be up to twelve times the cost of a light fleet vehicle. Current vehicles are not appropriate for emergency response in their present condition and it would not be cost effective to repair them to provide reliable service. In addition, the pickup truck will be outfitted to handle incident command duties.

Eric stated that the Safety Committee has reviewed these requests and is recommending Ordinances 2010 - 92 and 2010 - 93 for adoption. He also explained that a total of \$75,000 was included in the 2010 budget for the purchase of these vehicles. The actual purchase price for both vehicles is just over \$52,000. The pickup truck will be purchased as part of the State Purchasing Program. However, the Ford Explorer was not available as part of the State Purchasing program or the Federal GAS program and therefore was competitively bid.

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

Councilmember Cox asked when the major fire equipment is scheduled for replacement. Councilmember Bradburn summarized that the replacement schedule over the next five years is expected to average about \$250,000 per year.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-92 was made by Vice Mayor Nichols, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Councilmember Bradburn)

ORDINANCE 2010-93 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THIRTY-TWO FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE FORD EXPLORER FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$24,928

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-93 was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Vice Mayor Nichols. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Councilmember Bradburn)

ORDINANCE 2010-94 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PS GROUP, CINCINNATI, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$77,018.00 FOR THE FIRE STATION 51 FURNITURE PACKAGE

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

Richard Fair addressed the Council and explained that Ordinance 2010 – 94 will award a contract to the lowest and best bidder for the Fire Station #51 Furniture Package. Included in the furniture package are items such as beds, mattresses, box springs, shelves, reception area desk, chairs and tables necessary for daily operation of the fire station and training room. Approximately half of the cost is for furnishing the new community room located at the station. Existing furniture from Fire Administration offices and current Station 51 will be relocated to the new station. Richard stated that there were a total of four bidders, two were incomplete, and the lowest bidder did not provide pricing for base bid items and also substituted items that were not of equal or better quality. The PS Group, Cincinnati, Inc. submitted a complete bid and is being recommended as the lowest and best bidder. The 2010 Budget included \$88,000 for Fire Station 51 furniture.

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

Councilmember Bradburn clarified with Richard that the Community Room in the new Fire Station 51 also serves as the backup EOC (Emergency Operations Center). Councilmember Bradburn inquired as to how much of the furniture to be purchased for the Community Room is actually serving the EOC portion of that room. Richard stated that half of the furniture is intended to be used as part of the EOC and includes 80 folding chairs and tables. Eric added that most of the furniture is multi-purpose.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-94 was made by Vice Mayor Nichols, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2010-95 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CHANGE ORDER TO THE EXISTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MASON AND KZF, INC., FOR THE DESIGN ENGINEERING AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION SERVICES NECESSARY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF US-42 FROM BUTLER-WARREN ROAD TO TYLERSVILLE ROAD

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

Richard Fair described the next three ordinances because they all deal with US-42. Richard began by explaining that Ordinance 2010 – 95 is a change order for engineering design in

completion of the stage 3 plans for US-42. The plans include right of way appraisal, acquisition, traffic control, lighting, maintenance of traffic and quantities for the project. In order to reduce the cost of utility relocation, staff and KZF worked with Duke Energy to limit the number of poles being relocated for the project. These changes will require some sidewalks to be redesigned around the existing electric poles and a reduction of lawn area in some locations. In addition, as negotiations have taken place for the right-of-way and easements required, KZF has made the necessary design changes to the plans and quantities for the project. Richard stated that in order to make these changes to the drawings, we need to provide a change order to KZF.

Richard continued to explain that Ordinance 2010 - 96 authorizes the Finance Director to pay Duke Energy an amount not to exceed \$830,048 for the estimated cost of relocation of electrical facilities on US-42 and past completed projects. This past year ODOT determined that the City was responsible to pay Duke Energy 90% of the \$1,062,189 estimated relocation cost of their electric poles on US-42. The City's share was estimated to be \$955,970. Staff and Wood & Lamping reviewed the matter with ODOT's Central Office as well as ODOT's Assistant Chief Legal Council and it was determined that Duke is eligible for reimbursement because of the LPA agreement required for the funding. Richard explained that basically the LPA agreement accepts grant money from ODOT and this agreement states that the City is responsible for all right-of-way costs required when widening a road. Duke Energy has recalculated the estimated utility relocation costs to be approximately \$640,000, with \$600,000 paid through grant funds.

Richard then stated that Ordinance 2010 - 97 authorizes an agreement with the railroad to build a bike path crossing and extend the railroad crossing on the southwest corner of the project. As on the Mason Road Improvement, I & O will perform this work with their certified contractors. The City will need to pay Indiana & Ohio Railway the City's share of an estimated \$48,102 for this work

Finally, Richard presented lighting modification which is related to this project, but is not part of the above ordinance items. Also included in the US-42 project is street lighting, a sidewalk along the west side and a bike path on the east side. The project requires additional lighting, whether it is City standard design lights (similar to lights on Mason-Montgomery and Tylersville) or the expansion of the existing Duke Energy lighting. The Finance Committee recommends modifying the project to eliminate the City standard lighting and adding additional cobra head style Duke Energy lights to the overhead poles. Basically the City's share of the new standard Mason lights is about \$298,000 compared to a \$16,000 cost for the Duke Energy Cobra style lights. The cost to operate and maintain the lights is basically the same. A motion is in order to remove the decorative lighting from the project.

Richard then reported on the right-of-way acquisition status of this project. It is estimated that about 12 property owners out of the original 72 may take appropriation action by City Council. ODOT wants the City to have the right-of-way resolved by December 2010 so that they can move forward with bidding and construction in 2011. Staff continues to work with the property owners and have signed easements on 40 parcels.

The Finance Committee has discussed the US-42 project on a number of occasions, including most recently on July 19, and is recommending Ordinances 2010 - 95, 2010 - 96 and 2010 - 97 for approval to move this project forward.

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 Cox expressed his opposition to taking the new standard city lights out of the project. He felt that the project needs to be done the right way, and that should include the decorative lighting. Councilmember Gilb explained that, as a member of the Finance Committee, they looked at not only the cost to the City, but the entire cost of almost \$1,000,000 to install these street lights. Certainly taxpayers somewhere are paying that million dollars and the Finance Committee felt that in the best interest of saving taxpayer dollars and in light of these economic conditions it was appropriate to not move forward with putting that cost into this project. Councilmember Bradburn, also a member of the Finance Committee, added that the project with the cobra lighting will be brighter than it presently is with the addition of 20 more lights. Councilmember Pelfrey suggested that perhaps the project could be modified to install the decorative lighting at the intersection of US-42 and Tylersville and along US-42 up to the Snider Road intersection. She feels that the intersection at Tylersville Road is a key intersection into the City of Mason. Richard Fair stated that it would be possible to leave the decorative lighting in these areas since they are already in the drawings and plans. Council discussion ensued regarding the cost of installing a reduced number of decorative lights from the original project. There would still be the cost of installing the utilities underground and right now (with over 100 decorative lights in the plans) each light costs about \$3000 (City costs). Therefore, if fewer than the original 108 lights are installed, the cost per light would be more than \$3000. They are installed about every 150 feet. Vice Mayor Nichols agreed that the City does have a common theme with the decorative lighting but there is an expense attached to that theme. With the debt, the spending, and the economy the Finance Committee is drawing the line on spending. The decorative lighting can be installed at a later date when our debt is paid down and the revenue stream is more stable. He went on to explain that the Finance Committee agrees that the theme should be continued but just not at this time.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-95 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2010-96 AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT TO DUKE ENERGY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$830,048.50 FOR UTILITY RELOCATION WORK

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, 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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-96 was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2010-97 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO AND THE INDIANA & OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY FOR RAILROAD CROSSING EXTENSION WORK FOR THE WIDENING OF US-42 (READING ROAD)

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-97 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Councilmember Gilb made a motion to remove the decorative street lighting from the project and install the standard Duke lighting. Tony Bradburn seconded that motion. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 NO (Councilmember Cox)

ORDINANCE 2010-98 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH SCOTT AND SONIA KELLEY

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

Richard Fair addressed City Council and stated that Scott and Sonia Kelley, owners of property located at 4931 Cox-Smith Road, would like to enter into a pre-annexation agreement with the City. The property is contiguous to the City of Mason and the property owners are requesting to tap into the City of Mason's sewer system prior to annexation. The owner will pay for utility consumption and use at the rate of 150% of standard rates until such time as the property is annexed. They plan on utilizing a well at this time and may tie into the waterline if it is extended up Cox-Smith Road in the future.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-98 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Hansen reported on the following items:

▶ The Red, Rhythm, and Boom event was a modified version of previous events with a smaller crowd. The City received many compliments on the event. In order to reduce costs, local entertainment was contracted and many volunteers were utilized. Local Churches provided volunteers in the Kids Zone, Boy Scouts assisted in the clean-up, and city employees volunteered to flex over 450 hours of their time without overtime pay. The entire event cost was about \$150,000 which is \$250,000 less than last year's event.

▶ Picnic on the Plaza is scheduled for Friday, July 30 with food provided by the CourseView Restaurant of the Golf Center at Kings Island.

▶ The Mason Road intersection is now functioning as a Roundabout, but is still under construction.

▶ The City of Mason once again hosts the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters Tennis Series from August 7 – August 22 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center. The Western & Southern Women’s Open will be held from August 7 – 15, and the Men’s event runs from August 14 – 22. The City of Mason is proud to partner with Tennis for Charity in hosting these prestigious sporting events.

▶ The Mason Arts Festival will be held at the Municipal Center on Sunday, September 19. The Arts Council has requested use of the mobile stage for the event this year, along with items and labor (for set-up and tear-down) similar to last year’s requirements. The total estimated cost to the City of Mason would be \$3800.

Councilmember Pelfrey made a motion for the City of Mason to fulfill the Arts Council requests for the Mason Arts Festival, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS

▶ Eric Hansen then presented to Council a Liquor Permit for a transfer in location for Cucina Pitrelli. The transfer is from 312 Reading Road to 404 Second Avenue. City Council has the option to request a public hearing or may elect to not request a hearing.

Councilmember Bradburn made a motion to not request a hearing, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

▶ The Warren County Small Business Summit is being held at the Warren County Administration Building on Thursday, August 26 at 10:00 a.m. Please let Terry know if you plan on attending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Bradburn, of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee is recommending the postponement of two capital improvement projects. The first project is the Bethany Road widening from SR741 to the Mason Sports Park. The second project is the Muddy Creek Bike Path. The committee further believes that for the financial health of the City, the focus should be on the Western Row Interchange. Economic Development has noticed the lack of Class A office space which is imperative for the City’s future growth.

Councilmember Bradburn made a motion that the City not go forward on the Bethany Road widening project and the Muddy Creek Bike Path Phase 2 project, seconded by Vice Mayor Nichols. VOTE: ALL YEAS

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Cox and Councilmember Pelfrey both wanted to thank City Staff and the Red, Rhythm, and Boom Committee for providing the citizens with such a family friendly and patriotic event. Also the cost savings of \$250,000 from last year’s event is commendable. They also volunteered to begin looking for entertainment for next year’s event.

Councilmember Bradburn reported that he, along with Joe Reigelsperger and Eric Hansen, met with Ray Warrick regarding the city comparisons that Ray presented to Council at last month’s meeting. Councilmember Bradburn presented printed information to Ray regarding this meeting.

Mayor Prince asked for Council's affirmation of his appointment of Scott Pierce to the Planning Commission vacancy, replacing Bill Simmons. Councilmember Gilb moved to affirm this appointment, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS

Mayor Prince appointed Mike Gilb (Chairperson), David Nichols, and Rich Cox to the Golf Center Committee. This committee will act as a conduit between the City and the Golf Center Management Company. They will not be working directly on contract issues. Councilmember Pelfrey moved to affirm these appointments, seconded by Councilmember Gilb.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Rick Inskip, of Butler Warren Road, expressed his frustration with the change from decorative lighting in the US-42 project and with the limitations that visitors have concerning input and dialog within City Council Meetings. Mayor Prince explained that the choice to take the decorative lighting out of the project was not a function of where it is in the City but rather a function of the financial pressures the City is experiencing at this time. The Mayor further explained that the order of the Council Meetings has been the same for as long as he can remember and that the Recognition of Visitors is available at both the beginning and end of each meeting, with no time constraint on each visitor's comments.

Ray Warrick of 7272 White Oak thanked the Finance Committee for providing him with additional information concerning the City's debt and revenue. He also wanted to commend the City Council for voting to remove the decorative lighting from the US-42 project and refusing the grant money from the State.

ADJOURN

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

TIME: 9:50 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor