

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Fr. Harry Meyer opened the meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Victor Kidd, Barbara Spaeth, Rich Cox, Tom Grossmann, Charlene Pelfrey, Don Prince, and David Nichols.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the January 23, 2012 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

INTRODUCTION OF MASON'S POLICE DEPARTMENT NEW K9-UNIT – MAJOR

Chief Ferrell introduced Sergeant Matt Hayes, supervisor of the K9 Unit, and the newest Police Officer, Major. Sergeant Hayes stated that Major and his handler, Officer Mike Bishop, just completed 8 weeks of training to become a certified canine team and are now working midnight shift in the City of Mason. Sergeant Hayes introduced Ms. Julie Franklin and Mr. Randy Potts of P&G and thanked them for their financial support of the City of Mason K9 program. Proctor and Gamble, via their Iams Division, has generously committed to provide food for life for all retired, current, and future Mason K-9s. Mayor Nichols thanked Ms. Franklin and Mr. Potts and presented them with plaques and a framed print in appreciation for their support.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO PAT SHRODER, OWNER OF MASON BOWL

Eric Hansen expressed the City's gratitude for Pat Shroder and Mason Bowl's support of the employee United Way campaign. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Pat Shroder donating the use of Mason Bowl at no charge for the City Bowl-A-Thon. This event is the largest revenue generator of the campaign. Chief Ferrell stated that Mrs. Shroder has been a business owner for 51 years and that in ten years the City has raised \$22,000 with these events thanks to her generosity. Mayor Nichols read and presented the Proclamation plaque to Pat Shroder. He presented a framed print and box of cookies in appreciation of her support.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Perry Schwartz of 6309 Tarton Fields Lane stated that Time Warner Cable is no longer broadcasting Council Meetings or School Board Meetings. Eric Hansen responded that there are two types of broadcasts and explained that scheduled broadcasts are still on cable but that Time Warner Cable's "on-demand" feature is not functioning at this time.

Scott Krueckeberg of 6174 Cloverwood Drive and the Fairways of Pine Run HOA board stated that the volume and speed of traffic travelling on Fairway Drive continues to be a concern. Traffic studies estimate 4000-5000 cars per day on this road with an average speed of 32-34 mph (25 mph speed limit). They estimate that 50-60% of drivers use this route as a cut-thru between Kings Mills and Tylersville Roads. He suggested that posting "No Thru Traffic" signs and patrols to enforce this would help reduce the volume of traffic. Scott stated that City staff has been responsive to their concerns and that efforts so far have improved the situation.

RESOLUTION 2012-2 RECOMMENDING AND REQUESTING THAT THE PORTION OF UNITED STATES ROUTE 42 IN WARREN COUNTY BE DESIGNATED AS THE WARREN COUNTY VETERANS HIGHWAY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Eric Hansen explained that the Veterans Committee of City Council has discussed their desire to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans by designating US-42 as "Warren County Veterans Highway". The formal process to name a state or federal route within a community is by action of the State of Ohio Legislature. Therefore, this resolution requests State Representative Peter Beck introduce legislation to name US-42 as the Warren County Veterans Highway. Additionally, Resolution 2012-2 requests and recommends that the Council of the City of Lebanon and Warren County Commissioners make similar petitions to approach state legislators further designating the entire portion of US-42 in Warren County as the "Warren County Veterans Highway." A further ambition is to initiate interest in the entire length of 42 in Ohio being designated as a Veterans Highway. The Veterans Committee discussed this process and is unanimously recommending initiating this process by Council action via adoption of Resolution 2012-2.

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

Vice Mayor Kidd raised questions concerning renaming this section of US-42 "Warren County" Veterans Highway and then requesting the entire length of the highway through the state of Ohio also be designated as such. He also wondered if choosing a different road within Warren County that does not already have multiple names would be less confusing. Councilmember Prince responded that US-42 was chosen because it crosses the entire state of Ohio from one corner to another.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2012-2 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2012-9 APPROVAL OF THE REPLAT FOR LOT 15 IN FALLING BROOK PHASE A

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

Richard Fair addressed Council and stated that this Ordinance requests approval of a replat of Falling Brook Phase A located on the south side of Sports Center Complex Drive. It is being developed as landminiums that requires each unit to be recorded concurrently with the buildings construction. This replat provides the individual building lots 120, 121, 122 for lot 15. Planning Commission and staff recommended approval of the replat in 2007.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-9 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2012-10 AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION OF \$22,016 TO THE WARREN COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

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

Eric Hansen stated that the City of Mason has participated in the Warren County Drug Task Force since its inception. He explained that local agencies contribute to the Task Force and collectively match State and Federal grants. In 2000, the Drug Task Force advisory board asked all municipalities to consider an increase in their membership fees based upon one dollar for each resident in the respective jurisdictions. Since 2004 the City of Mason has contributed \$22,016 and even though the 2010 census reported an increase in Mason's population, the funding request remains at \$22,016 for this year. The Task Force has worked cases and complaints in the City of Mason. He introduced John Burke, Director of the Warren County Drug Task Force.

John Burke stated that they had 300 cases with 158 felony arrests in 2011 and seized about \$1 million, street value, of drugs. He reported on four types of cases: steroids, bath salts, hydroponic weed, and prescription drugs. In response to Mayor Nichols' question, he stated that heroin continues to be a problem in Warren County but that the methamphetamine problem has been reduced.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-10 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2012-11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING LEASE AGREEMENT WITH STOREFLIX, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Eric Hansen addressed the next two ordinances. He explained that just over a year ago Council approved Ordinance 2010-146 which authorized a lease with StoreFlix, a new start-up technology company in Mason. The lease space is located in Municipal Center offices vacated by Fire Administration when they moved into Station 51. The current Municipal Center Business Suite enables the City to collect lease revenues and expand the City's earning tax base with the job creation of high-growth (or potential high-growth) technology companies in the City. The economic development strategy is to allow start-up companies to remain and expand within the City. He explained that Ordinance 2012-11 continues this arrangement with Storeflex and that Ordinance 2012-12 enters into a lease agreement with a new tenant, mDynamik. mDynamik, LLC is in the Bio Health industry, has a similarly aggressive growth curve, and potential for job creation. eMerge, another BIO Health start-up and CincyTech Portfolio Company, also leases space in the Municipal Center. These three tenants, Storeflex, mDynamik, and eMerge, are projected to bring 20 full time employees to the City by the end of 2013. He said that the Economic Development Committee has reviewed these lease arrangements and is recommending approval of Ordinance 2012-11 and Ordinance 2012-12.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-11 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2012-12 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MDYNAMIK, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-12 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mayor Nichols requested Council's confirmation to appoint Scott Pierce to the Park and Recreation Board. A motion to confirm Scott Pierce's appointment to the Park and Recreation Board was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

▶ A motion to appoint Clerk of Council Nancy Hickey as the “elected official designee” for all council members for public records law training as required by Ohio Revised Code 149.43(E)(1) was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

▶ The next Warren County Municipal League meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Houston Inn Restaurant in Mason. Please call if you plan to attend.

▶ Mason Historical Society in partnership with LaRosa’s Pizzeria will be hosting fund raising events on February 15, March 21, April 14. 20% of the proceeds from sales will go to the Mason Historical Society. Also, on Sunday, February 19 from 2:00 pm. – 4:00 p.m. at the Alverta Green Museum & Gathering Place the Society will host February Fling.

▶ City offices will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of President’s Day.

▶ The city will host its annual United Way Bowl-a-Thon beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 20 at Mason Bowl. The proceeds from the games will be donated to the City’s 2012 United Way Campaign. Council members are welcome to attend.

▶ Activity at the Community Center is significant, some of the highlights already for 2012 include:

- Over 200 memberships to the Center were sold in January.
- The Kids Korner experienced record participation in January with over 3,652 visits.
- In February, the Center will launch the new Mason Swim Academy. There are over 800 participants currently registered for this program.
- Postal Unit reported a 267% increase in profits for January 2012 over January 2011.
- Group Fitness Classes have been extremely successful for the beginning of 2012.
- The Youth Basketball program, which is a partnership between the City and the Mason Youth Basketball association, is generating new revenue streams for the City.
- On February 18-20 the Mason Manta Rays swim team will host the USA Swimming Regional Championships. The team has secured sponsorships and hosting the meet will generate significant revenues to the Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Pelfrey reported that the Safety Committee met and reviewed the financials of the Fire Department. They have scheduled a Council Work Session for Monday, February 27, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilmember Spaeth reported that the Park and Recreation Board met and she would like to recognize Ginny Sundin as she serves her 35th year on the Board. She reported that Richard Fair discussed concrete repairs to the Lou Eves Municipal (outdoor) Pool and that the pump has been ordered. Richard also stated that the \$500 deposit required for group events in the Parks has been successful in keeping the parks clean and in good repair. Councilmember Spaeth reported

that the next Mason Community Center open house will be a “Spring Fling” on April 14, that there has been an increase in massage and personal training appointments, and that Community Center staff is excited about the new swim lesson format with Swim America.

Councilmember Prince reported that the Veterans Committee would like the City to adopt a 90 day filing deadline to the Board of Elections for City Council candidates. This would require an amendment to the City Charter which would allow the Board of Elections adequate time to prepare ballots to be mailed overseas.

Councilmember Pelfrey suggested that the City pursue adding a mail drop box and machine to purchase stamps when the Post Office is closed at the Community Center.

Mayor Nichols reported that the Economic Development Committee is working on new considerations to keep growing the business community in Mason.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A motion to move to one scheduled regular Council Meeting per month, this meeting falling on the 2nd Monday of the month, with the second meeting of the month, falling on the 4th Monday of the month, being reserved as a back-up meeting date, beginning in March of 2012 was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey.

Vice Mayor Kidd stated that he conducted an informal survey of customers at his business and concluded that Mason residents would not object to a reduced regular Council meeting schedule. Councilmember Grossmann raised the question as to Council meeting schedules of other communities similar to Mason and suggested that any decision be delayed until this data is obtained. A general Council discussion included meeting notice procedures, prioritizing agenda items, making this change on a trial basis, and the advantages/disadvantages of a meeting schedule change. After considerable discussion Vice Mayor Kidd withdrew the motion.

Mayor Nichols thanked Ginny Sundin for her 35 years of service on Park Board without missing a meeting. Ginny responded that it has been her pleasure.

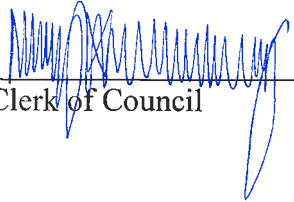
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Ginny Sundin of 108 E. North Street stated that she looks out for the parks by driving by almost every day.

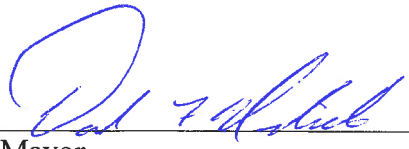
Perry Schwartz of 6309 Tarton Fields Lane had questions regarding the methods used to notify the public of committee meetings. He also stated that in order to email or print out any portion of the City Budget from the City website you are required to register with issuu.com. He questions the suitability of this service for City business.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Cox.
VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:10 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor