

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 23, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Rabbi Yosef Kalmanson opened the meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. In response to Mayor Nichols' request, Rabbi Kalmanson explained the significance of Holocaust Week.

ATTENDANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the April 9, 2012 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Pelfrey).

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Michele Blair introduced Dr. Paul Keck, President and CEO of Lindner Center of Hope; Don Wright, Executive Vice President and COO of AssureRx Health; and Jim Burns, President and CEO of AssureRx Health. She stated that both these Mason businesses have been important contributors to the mental health industry. Dr. Keck of Lindner Center of Hope spoke about the importance of mental health diagnosis, access to treatment, and successful outcomes. He stated that in the past four years the Lindner Center of Hope has served 10,000 people with over 100,000 visits and has been awarded \$2 million in research grants. He thanked the City and Council for their support and acknowledged AssureRx for the important innovative scientific technology they provide to the mental health field. Jim Burns thanked the City of Mason and spoke about the rapid growth of AssureRx from a dozen employees to 74 employees in the past year, with a projection of 110-120 employees by the end of 2012. He described AssureRx as a wellness technology company that is helping people and transforming lives. They are glad to be part of the community. Mayor Nichols read and presented proclamation plaques to AssureRx and Lindner Center of Hope.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO KINGS ISLAND CELEBRATING THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Michele Blair introduced Greg Scheid, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Kings Island. She stated that Kings Island is one of the largest and most defining businesses in the City of Mason. Mr. Scheid stated that there are eight individuals that have been with Kings Island for forty years, representing over 300 years of experience. He stated that Kings Island's partnership with the City of Mason has been very good and they look forward to another forty years. Mayor Nichols stated that Kings Island has made Mason a destination by continually reinvesting in the park. Council shared special memories of rides, experiences, and the impact Kings Island has

had in their lives and to the City of Mason. Mayor Nichols presented and read the proclamation. Greg Scheid introduced seven employees who have been Kings Island employees for forty years or more. A framed print of the Eiffel Tower construction and other gifts were presented to the employees of Kings Island.

RECOGNITION OF DENISE WATERMAN OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Ms. Waterman was not in attendance.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

None.

RESOLUTION 2012-10 PROCLAIMING MAY 20-26, 2012, AS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

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

Richard Fair addressed Council and stated that this is an opportunity to show appreciation to the City of Mason staff involved with Public Works operations. The American Public Works Association sets aside a week in May each year to celebrate those services provided by public works departments throughout the country. The theme for this year's event is "Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression." He stated that the Public Works Department is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is responsible for a variety of tasks critical to the safety and quality of life enjoyed by Mason residents. Services provided by the Public Works Department include street maintenance, snow and ice removal, brush chipping, leaf pick-up, street sweeping, mowing public right-of-way, litter control, maintaining guard rails and traffic signs, street light repair, tornado sirens, vehicle maintenance, sidewalk repair, storm sewer maintenance, and work on special projects such as preparing the outdoor pool for its opening. In addition, Public Works employees respond to flooded streets, storm damage such as trees and tree limbs blown down in the right-of-way, malfunctioning traffic signals, and damaged street signs. They also remove trash and other debris from City streets to ensure a clean and safe community. Richard stated that the Public Works Department maintains over 375 lane miles of City roads. The brush and leaf pickup program gathers 3,600 cubic yards of leaves and chip 3,000 cubic yards of brush each year that are recycled as compost and mulch. The City receives numerous compliments related to snow and ice removal operations. The Public Works Department received an award last year for the maintenance of the medians.

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.

Mayor Nichols stated that the Public Works Department does a wonderful job maintaining the City.

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

RESOLUTION 2012-11 PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 20-26, 2012 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

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

Eric Hansen stated that National Emergency Medical Services Week is celebrated nationally May 20-26, 2012. Emergency Medical Services Week is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of emergency medical providers such as hospital emergency personnel, emergency physicians, nurses, educators, and community emergency service providers. Eric stated that the City of Mason Fire Department provides emergency medical services to the residents of Mason. Last year, the City’s emergency medical staff responded to over 2000 emergency medical calls, for an average of more than 5 runs per day. Along with emergency response, other services include: CPR training, blood pressure screening, educational sessions for injury prevention, and promoting safety awareness.

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

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

ORDINANCE 2012-30 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,200,000 OF RENEWAL NOTES BY THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING REAL ESTATE IN THE CITY

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

Eric Hansen explained that this ordinance continues the financing of a 156 acre property the City purchased in 2006 located on the west side of SR 741, north of Binion Way. The City acquired this property to preserve it for future industrial development. It is anticipated that the eventual sale of the land will be a positive return on the City’s current investment as well as further a primary function of generating additional economic development. He explained that this is not issuance of new debt, but is the annual renewal and reissuance of debt where \$300,000 will be paid towards the principal. He stated that the original notes were issued for \$4.5 million with a current balance of \$3.5 million.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-30 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2012-31 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A&A SAFETY, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,404.44, FOR THE STRIPING OF VARIOUS STREETS IN THE CITY

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 the cost of the annual street striping program has decreased from \$100,000 over the years. This decrease can be attributed to the use of improved thermal plastic material, which lasts ten times longer than paint. He stated that A&A Safety submitted the lower of the two bids submitted. A&A Safety, Inc. performed the City’s 2011 street striping contract with no issues.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-31 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2012-32 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT TO WARREN COUNTY FOR UTILITY RELOCATION RELATED TO THE BETHANY ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

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

Richard Fair addressed Council and stated that the Warren County Engineer’s Office (WCEO) is reconstructing Bethany Road between Parkside and Butler-Warren Road. Included in this project is the relocation of two force mains and appurtenances owned by the City and located within the right-of-way. He explained that these force mains include an effluent line to the Heritage Club Golf Course and a discharge line from the Arbor Creek Subdivision lift station. In the course of the relocations, it was discovered that approximately 1,200 feet of additional force mains are in conflict with road construction and must be relocated. Richard stated that Warren County’s contract with Jurgensen provides for this additional work to be done at the unit prices included in the original bid. The Warren County Engineer’s Office has estimated that this additional relocation of pipe and related structures has resulted in costs not to exceed \$60,000 over the originally anticipated amount of \$240,000. He explained that using Jurgensen for this work and utilizing the unit prices in the current contract is more favorable to the City’s interests than negotiating change orders with a third party. The Utility Committee has reviewed and is recommending Ordinance 2012 – 32 for adoption. Funds for the additional amount will be paid from the Sewer Fund.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-32 was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2012-33 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ODB COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) MODEL LCT600 LEAF VACUUM MACHINES

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 the leaf pickup program provides three primary benefits to residents; it reduces the possibility of street flooding due to leaf debris clogging storm sewers and grates, it increases the aesthetics of neighborhoods, and it reduces the volume of material picked up by our waste carrier – reducing resident’s monthly waste removal fees. The program runs from the second week in October through the second full week in December. Richard stated that in 2011 City crews collected over 3,686 cubic yards of leaves. The leaves are taken to nearby mulching and composting facilities eliminating material going to the landfill and helping to keep waste removal rates low. He explained that several years ago, in order to reduce expenses, changes were made to the program that included the elimination of overtime, part time and seasonal staff and implementing a cooperative approach using employees from Public Works, Parks Maintenance and Public Utilities to provide this service for residents. Richard stated that three reliable leaf vacuum machines with one older backup machine on standby are needed to maintain the current program. He explained that currently the department has only one leaf machine operating. The average life expectancy for a leaf machine is 12 years and the three damaged machines exceed this. He stated that staff will attempt to cobble together parts from two of these machines to get a machine that can be used as a back-up machine in 2012. Richard explained that the goal is to purchase two new machines and, with the current 2007 leaf machine, have three reliable machines. These items are not in the budget, however City Council has set aside contingency funds for purchase of equipment such as this. Richard stated that the State’s Cooperative Purchasing program includes a leaf machine that is more costly and not consistent with the City’s current equipment, requiring additional expenses to retro-fit for use with the City’s existing equipment. ODB Company has two leaf machines that are compatible with the City’s equipment and are less costly. The Equipment Committee reviewed the program and the purchase and is recommending Ordinance 2012 – 33 for the replacement of two ODB leaf vacuum machines.

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

During Council discussion, Richard explained the work required to create the back-up leaf machine and stated that currently this equipment is stored outside and exposed to the elements. Councilmember Cox strongly expressed the need for protected storage of this equipment.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-33 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

▶ The Mason Police Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration, will host another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Fire Station 51. Officers will be on hand that day to take back unused or expired medication and arrange for the safe disposal of these items.

▶ Warren County's 16th annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2012, at Hope Church. The event starts at 7:00 a.m. This year's theme is "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord".

▶ Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America, Inc. will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on Friday, May 4. Council members are invited to attend a luncheon and guided tour of the facility beginning at 12:00 p.m.

▶ The Community Center hosted a very successful open house on Saturday, April 14, with over 80 memberships and 64 personal training packages sold. Total daily sales for that day exceeded \$55,000.

▶ The Community Center hosted the third Shop Local Event on Wednesday, April 18. Over 32 area merchants and sales representatives had displays. This has been a very popular event for vendors, members, non-members, and GHA employees.

▶ The Community Center will host an interactive Health Fair on Wednesday, May 9 in honor of Women's Health Month. In partnership with Live Well in Mason and Tri-Health, the event will provide resources, information, and relaxation for women of all ages.

▶ May 28th is Memorial Day. In advance of the traditional parade that begins at 10:00 a.m., there will be an event at the Mason Veterans memorial from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. 2nd District Congressional candidate and Iraqi War Veteran Brad Wenstrup will be speaking and the Master's Men Chorus of Christ Church will perform. City Council members and the public are invited to attend this event which honors our veterans.

▶ Council may wish to consider a modified summer schedule with a single meeting a month for May, June, July, and August as has been done in years past. Eric stated that a single meeting on the second Monday of those summer months would not pose a problem to legislation timeframes. Additionally the regularly scheduled May meeting falls on Memorial Day. If Council wishes to make such a modification to the schedule a motion is in order. A modified summer schedule allows more opportunities for committee meetings and possible work sessions to maintain Council activity.

▶ A motion to modify the Council Meeting schedule to meet once a month from May through August, 2012, was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

▶ The Patriots Fair is scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Mason Municipal Center and surrounding grounds. The American Spirit Education Alliance is requesting City support of this event by providing items such as overtime manpower, access to City facilities, and Police personnel. Total estimated cost for these services is \$3,605. Council decided to wait for the presentation by this group before making a decision to support the event in October.

▶ The Western & Southern Tennis Tournament contracted the University of Cincinnati's Economic Center to conduct an analysis focusing on the economic contributions of the tournament to the Cincinnati region. The study shows that in 2011, the tennis tournament produced a \$62.5 million impact for the economy of Greater Cincinnati through its capital expansion, tournament operations, and the spending by visitors from outside the area. The presentation also highlighted that another benefit of the tournament is that it helps drive economic development and job creation, which could not be calculated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Spaeth said that there is nothing to report from Park Board, since the April 12th Park Board meeting was cancelled.

Councilmember Cox reported that he attended his first OKI (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana Regional Council of Governments) meeting with 128 representatives from around the tri-state. He also attended the Warren County OKI Open House with Richard Fair and asked Richard to report. Richard stated that all projects approved or in the pipeline are listed on a board up to the year 2040. Council discussed the absence of the Western Row/I-71 interchange completion project from this list. Richard explained that the Warren County Engineer is the lead on this project and that analysis studies are in process to determine the preferred alternative for the project. Once ODOT has chosen the preferred alternative, funding can be sought and this project will be put on the board.

Vice Mayor Kidd, Golf Course Committee reported that the Golf Center has benefitted with strong numbers due to the good weather.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Pelfrey expressed the need for an upcoming Work Session to discuss Fire Funding.

Councilmember Cox stated that he and Councilmember Spaeth attended the School of Rock opening on Reading Road. He said that it is a nice facility with a radio station, stage, and multiple classrooms. He encouraged all to stop in for a tour of the facility.

Vice Mayor Kidd reported that he is working with other pastors to address the need for emergency shelters in the area.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Perry Schwartz of 6309 Tarton Fields Lane would like Council to consider scheduling future meetings when financial numbers are available.

Four Mason High School students introduced themselves to Council and shared their impressions of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LITIGATION AND LAND ACQUISITION

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and land acquisition was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:50 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:00 p.m.

ORDINANCE 2012-34 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ASSURERX HEALTH, INC., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

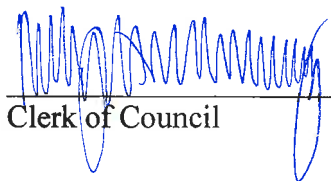
A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.


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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-34 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:03 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor