

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Pastor DeArco 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 March 18, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RECOGNITION OF MASON TWISTERS GYMNASTICS – DANA MAIDENBERG

Eric Hansen stated that in three short years the gymnastics team has expanded into an extremely successful program and credits Community Center staff, coaches, gymnasts and their families. He introduced Chrissy Avery, City of Mason Recreation Manager. Chrissy Avery stated that tonight we introduce, present, and recognize Mason Twisters, and all their amazing accomplishments over the past 2½ years under the supervision of Dana Maidenberg. Dana explained that in 2010, Mason Community Center introduced its first competitive Gymnastics team, the Mason Twisters, under the direction of Coach Yonce Daniels. The program started with 9 gymnasts and is currently competing with 30. The gymnasts compete at Levels 3-Optionals and have competed in numerous meets over the past 3 years. She stated that these young ladies train between 2-16 hours a week, depending on their level. The girls are now recognized in every competition they attend because Mason Twisters place in the top 3 in every competition. Dana stated that the goal for next season is to have 60 or more gymnasts on the competitive team. In addition to the team, a feeder program has been developed for young gymnasts' ages 18 months-13 years old. There are currently 172 participants in the preschool through instructional program. She explained that as participants improve their skills and advance through the classes, they are able to participate in Advanced Classes, Hot Shot and prep team, all of which get them ready for the team. These classes are by invitation from City coaches. Dana introduced Head Coach Yonce Daniels and stated that Yonce has trained gymnasts from preschool to the elite level and has coached several gymnasts to State, Regional, and National competitions. She toured with Kurt Thomas, is USAG certified, and was an AAU all-around National Champion in 1981. Dana expressed her appreciation for Yonce's dedication to Mason Twisters Gymnastics. Yonce Daniels thanked the City for the opportunity to develop this feeder and competitive gymnastics program. She stated that this year the team competed in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Illinois, and Georgia. As Yonce introduced the gymnasts and their numerous accomplishments, Mayor Nichols and Vice Mayor Kidd congratulated the girls and gave them gift certificates from Quatman's Café and Meet Me on Main Café.

RECOGNITION OF DENISE WATERMAN OF 2013 PATRIOT FAIR

Denise Waterman, of the American Spirit Education Alliance (ASEA), stated that ASEA is small group of volunteers dedicated to teaching American history. She said that the 3rd Annual Patriot Fair is on September 28, 2013. The 2nd Patriot Fair was 4-5 times larger than the first, and they anticipate this year's fair to be even larger. The theme for this year's event is *Rediscover America's Many Treasures*. There will be a Veteran's Tribute, opportunities to meet many persons of history, and learn about the Bill of Rights. The ASEA is asking for the City's support of this year's event. Eric Hansen explained that ASEA requests City support of the 2013 Patriot Fair with in-kind services estimated at \$2400, which is a reduction from previous years. Mayor Nichols and Vice Mayor Kidd thanked Ms. Waterman and ASEA volunteers for this excellent event and encouraged everyone to attend this year's Patriot Fair.

A motion to support the Patriot Fair with in-kind services as requested was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RECOGNITION OF SARAH BROWN OF MASON LIBRARY

Sarah Brown introduced Miriam Williams, Library Board President, and stated that the 8400 ft² Library expansion will allow for dedicated space for the media collection, study and work rooms, and a classroom. Eric Hansen stated that the Library Board requests fee waivers associated with this construction project and in turn, the City expects the Library to give the City easements for storm and sanitary sewer lines. He explained that in the past, Council has approved fee waivers for certain non-profit entities. The portion of the building permit fees that are assessments from the Ohio Board of Building Standards will not be waived. Estimated total fees to be waived are over \$7400.

A motion to waive fees related to the Library expansion project, contingent on the receipt of storm and sanitary sewer easements to the City was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS - none

RESOLUTION 2013-06 PROCLAIMING APRIL 26, 2013 AS ARBOR DAY

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

Jennifer Heft stated that the City will again be receiving the Tree City USA award at a ceremony and luncheon on Friday, April 19. She said that with Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 26, the City will host a celebration event on Saturday, April 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Mason Community Center. This event is free to the public. She stated that the celebration will begin with a brief ceremony, followed by free tree seedlings provided by the City. Additional activities planned for this event include: Whole Foods Market will provide free samples, recipe cards, and handouts; Rumpke Inc. will provide demonstrations; a tower garden demo by Juice Plus; the Girl Scouts will have handouts on crafts and making bird feeders; and

Mason Community Gardens will feature backyard vegetable gardening and information on the community garden. Natorp and Marvin's Gardens are also scheduled to participate in the event. Jennifer said that participants in the event can also enjoy a fifteen minute earth walk into and around the Merten Natorp Arboretum.

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 2013-6 was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2013-07 PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 5-11, 2013 AS CLEAN WATER WEEK

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

Richard Fair stated that the purpose of Clean Water Week is to inform the public of the benefits of clean water and to demonstrate Mason's concern for the environment. He explained that the Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) is an impressive "green" water plant that converts raw sewage to a safe product that is returned back to the environment as chlorinated water or pellets used to fertilize fields. The plant is a state-of-the-art facility that meets or exceeds current EPA standards that is so well maintained that it won the prestigious 2012 Ohio Water Environment Association Facility Image Award. Richard stated that WRP is a cost effective facility that operates 24 hours, 7 days/week with three operators. The Public Utilities Department, with a crew of four, maintains the plant, 6 lift stations, over 200 miles of sewer lines, and over 3000 manholes. The department does such a good job that stormwater and sewer problems are rare. City Council has provided the tools for the success of this plant. Richard stated that Public Utilities staff also assists with special projects, snow and ice removal, training of pool staff and maintenance of the outdoor and Community Center pools.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2013-7 was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2013-08 PROCLAIMING MAY 12-18, 2013 AS NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL WEEK AND MAY 15 AS PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

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

Jennifer Heft stated that in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date

falls as Police Week. It is a way to salute those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the public they serve. During the week, all Mason Police Officers will wear a black band across their badges in memory of all the law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty and on May 15th flags will be flown at half-staff in honor of Police Memorial Day. Jennifer stated that every year, an average of 145 American police officers are killed in the line of duty in the United States, and an average of over 58,000 officers are assaulted in the performance of their duties. She said that Mason Police Department, led by Chief Ferrell, is one of the most respected departments in the State. Since July of 1997, the Mason Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). In 2012, the Department was reaccredited, meeting over 385 tough standards required for accreditation. She explained that accreditation provides an agency with a framework to formulate written policies and procedures which guide agency actions. The process also provides accountability through a review of agency activities, improves community relations, and helps limit liability and risk exposure. Jennifer stated that beyond accreditation the Mason Police Department's mission statement reads: In partnership with the community policing with honor, integrity, and compassion. In this mission we hold as our core values integrity, honor, compassion, community partnership, dedication and honesty. Jennifer said that this year, the City will conduct a short memorial ceremony on Monday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the atrium of the Municipal Building. The public is invited to attend.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2013-8 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2012-52 AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 5.45 ACRES FROM I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO RESIDENTIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT WITH APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN LOCATED SOUTH AND EAST OF 1224 CASTLE DRIVE (CASTLE PARK RESIDENTIAL)

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

The Public Hearing was continued in progress.

Jeff Woll, the owner of the property, stated that the buyer has had a change in plans and they are working on a different approach. Since this approach will not work for the buyer, he requests that this ordinance be defeated.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:55 p.m.

Eric Hansen explained the public hearing on this ordinance has been continued through multiple Council meetings since September 2012. The owner no longer wants to move forward with the

rezoning and since that request has been withdrawn, it would be appropriate to defeat Ordinance 2012-52.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-52 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL NAYS. Ordinance is DEFEATED.

ORDINANCE 2013-34 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,900,000 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 Councilmember Cox, seconded by Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Eric Hansen explained that seven years ago the City purchased 142 acres as an investment to preserve property for future industrial development. The City has been paying down that debt and this action would reissue those notes, pay down the balance, and continue the note for an additional year. With this reissuance, \$300,000 will be paid towards the principal. This amount was included in the 2013 Budget.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-34 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-35 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT, NOT TO EXCEED \$24,000, WITH WARREN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE EDUCATION, INSPECTION AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES NECESSARY TO MEET THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION (NPDES) PHASE II REQUIREMENTS

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

Eric Hansen stated that annually since 2003, the City has entered into this agreement with Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). He explained that the City has certain obligations for permit and inspection requirements that would necessitate the need for additional City staff. The City's \$24,000 contribution helps SWCD to pay a full time staff member who then is available to provide educational outreach and involvement; plan review and inspection services to assist the City of Mason in meeting new Ohio EPA regulations at minimal expense to the City. Part of SWCD's funding mechanism is a proportional match of funds supplied by local government agencies and in the past the State has matched up to 75 cents on the dollar. The 2013 Budget included the City's contribution for this program.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-35 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

▶ A motion to not request a hearing for a D1 D2 liquor permit for Adventure Holdings, LLC at 2590 Water Park Drive was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

▶ On Saturday, April 27, the Warren County Municipal League and the Hamilton County Municipal League will host a joint breakfast at the Sharonville Convention Center.

▶ The Northeast Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce will host the Spring Gala Dinner and Auction on Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Manor House Banquet & Conference Center.

▶ To accommodate upcoming schedules and anticipated legislation, adjusting the Council meeting schedule is appropriate. 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. A single meeting on the second Monday of those summer months should 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 2013 on the 2nd Monday of the month was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - none

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Nichols stated that contributions to help with funeral expenses incurred for the burial of Lashawn Daniels should be directed to Grace Baptist Church at 5595 Mason Road.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – none

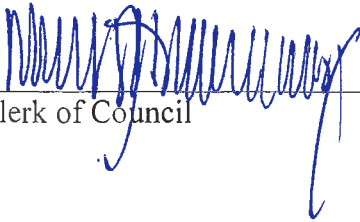
EXECUTIVE SESSION: LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:06 p.m.

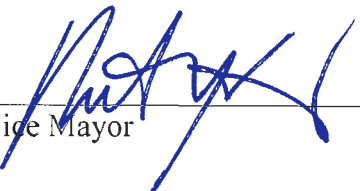
A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:23 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey.
VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:23 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Vice Mayor