

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Chaplain Rick Huff 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 June 10, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

▶ The City plays host to the Western Southern Open tennis series on August 10-18. Tennis will be the theme at both the Golf Center and Community Center. A number of activities are being planned at the Community Center including discount tickets to the event for Community Center members and residents of Mason, a Tennis Festival on August 12, and tennis merchandise for sale in Symbiosis.

▶ The Summer Sunshine Concert Series continues this month. Upcoming concerts include: *School of Rock* on July 7th at Mason Municipal Center, *AJA* (Steely Dan Tribute) on July 14 at Mason Municipal Center, and *Slowhand* (Eric Clapton Tribute) at the Golf Center at Kings Island on July 21.

▶ On August 11 the Community Center will host the second annual Great Mason Chase. This event involves two person teams competing in a four-hour physical and mental challenge that leads them to local businesses, City facilities, and parks. The last concert of the Sunshine Concert Series will be held later that day at 6:00 p.m.

▶ On August 16, Premier members of the Community Center are invited to Lou Eves Municipal Pool from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

▶ Mason Community Center summer activities include "A Night at the Reds" and Movie Night at the Edge.

▶ A motion to not request a hearing for a D1 D2 liquor permit for Sports Express at 5280 SR-741 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RECOGNITION OF MASON HIGH SCHOOL 2013 VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL TEAM AND GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM

Mayor Nichols stated that Mason City School Superintendent, staff, and students contribute to the economic development success of the City of Mason and to its quality of life. The City is proud to recognize the numerous accomplishments of individual students, groups, and teams. Mayor Nichols introduced Ken Gray, Mason High School 2013 Varsity Boys Baseball Team Head Coach. Coach Gray said that it has been his pleasure to work with such outstanding young men. As he introduced the coaches and players, Coach Gray listed the many accomplishments of the team and individuals which included an undefeated regular season and #1 ranking in City and State polls. Mayor Nichols presented a proclamation congratulating the team on their successful baseball season.

Mayor Nichols introduced Liann Muff, Mason High School 2013 Varsity Girls Softball Team Head Coach. Coach Muff said that these girls played as a “team” that has been described by spectators as “fun to watch.” She summarized the 2013 season which included a trip to the State Tournament Final Four. Coach Muff highlighted the girls’ accomplishments as she introduced coaches and players. Mayor Nichols presented a proclamation congratulating the team on their successful softball season.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mike Anthony of 3778 Riverside Drive and Steve Sylvestre of 3781 Brookmere Place in the Carmelle Subdivision expressed concerns regarding safety when exiting their neighborhood onto SR-741. It was their understanding, when moving into the neighborhood, that installation of a traffic signal was planned in this area and they would like to know how to move this project forward. Mr. Anthony suggested that reducing the speed limit on this stretch of SR-741 would also be an improvement when exiting Carmelle. He added that another dangerous intersection along SR-741 that needs improvement is at Kings Mills near the gas station entrance. Council and staff discussed these concerns and stated that a traffic signal at the Carmelle subdivision is a logistical issue, not a budget issue. The City has encouraged developers to align Stone Ridge Drive so that the ultimate plan of a 4-way intersection at SR-741 could be realized. Eric explained that property owned by the developer of Wetherstone has recently been purchased by the City and will facilitate the extension of Stone Ridge Drive to SR-741. SR-741 is a State Route that must follow particular traffic guidelines with regards to traffic signals and speed limit. Last month Council approved a Grant Application for Program Year 2015 for improvements to the SR-741/Kings Mills intersection and the Stone Ridge/SR-741 intersection. Vice Mayor Kidd agreed that the Kings Mills intersection is dangerous and stated that it might be a good location for a roundabout. Councilmember Pelfrey stated that she would like to have staff and residents attend the next Safety Committee meeting to discuss traffic issues along SR-741.

ORDINANCE 2013-62 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR THE RESERVES OF CARMELLE PHASE 2

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 Reserves of Carmelle is an extension of Carmelle Subdivision developed by the same developer. He explained that Planning Commission put a restriction on the number of lots developed in this subdivision until the 4-way intersection with traffic signal could be constructed at Stone Ridge Drive and SR-741. Addition of lots in Phase 2 would exceed this number, so a temporary road will be constructed to Mason-Morrow-Millgrove Road to provide a second exit from Carmelle Subdivision.

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.

Council discussed the temporary road to Mason-Morrow-Millgrove Road as requested by Planning Commission. This gravel road will provide access for construction traffic and emergency personnel. Although this temporary road is not a permanent solution to the safety concerns of exiting Carmelle Subdivision at SR-741, it may provide a release valve that residents can use. Stone Ridge Drive has been designated on the Thoroughfare Plan as a collector street and is expected to connect to Mason-Morrow-Millgrove Road through an adjacent development when future development is complete. Mark Anthony, resident of Carmelle, in addition to his traffic light concerns, expressed objection to Stone Ridge Drive being used as a collector street. Steve Bosse, Vice President of Robert C. Rhein Interests, Inc., stated that Stone Ridge Drive is listed as a collector street on Mason's Thoroughfare Plan and has been built wide with turn lanes, boulevards, and mounds on either side to meet that intention. Councilmember Grossmann stated that this road has been on the City Thoroughfare Plan for years. Council discussed the ramifications of installing a traffic signal without State approval. Installation of a signal that does not meet Federal warrants would increase the City's liability. These warrants exist for a reason, and Eric Hansen expressed caution when building outside Federal warrants. Richard Fair estimated a cost of \$500,000 for completing an intersection with traffic signal at Stone Ridge Drive and SR-741. He estimates that to date, \$60,000 has been collected for this project from building permit fees. Councilmembers discussed tabling Ordinance 2013-62 and whether approval of this plat would impact the SR-741 traffic problem. Councilmember Cox expressed his frustration in the process of building houses with infrastructure coming in later.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-62 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS (Kidd, Spaeth, Cox).

ORDINANCE 2013-63 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN CINCYTECH USA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 PER YEAR FOR THREE YEARS

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

Michele Blair stated that Mason has partnered six years with CincyTech, a partnership that helps leverage what the City needs to be a regional pacesetter in the growth of innovation and technology jobs. CincyTech is a public-private seed-stage investor whose mission is to strengthen the regional economy by driving talent and capital into scalable, investable technology companies. She explained that CincyTech identifies the best companies in the

country and works to attract them to this region. CincyTech is funded by research and development, UC, Children's Hospital, regional organizations, corporations and only two municipalities: the City of Mason and Blue Ash. Michele stated that through CincyTech, Mason has leveraged over 13% of the 40 CincyTech company portfolio or 5 companies within the last several years: Assurex Health; Cloud Takeoff; ConnXus; eMerge Health; and StoreFlix. These companies have generated \$41 million in venture capital, 160 new jobs with average salaries of \$110,000, and represent 23% of total jobs created in the CincyTech portfolio. She stated that there are about four companies in the pipeline that CincyTech is driving to the City of Mason.

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 2013-63 was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-64 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH REACH EVENT MARKETING TO SUPPORT THE AVP VOLLEYBALL TOUR PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MASON TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000

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

Eric Hansen stated that the AVP national volleyball tournament is returning to Mason over Labor Day weekend. The City has been the host of this prestigious event from 2005 until its departure in 2009 when the national organization had financial struggles. During that time, the City provided \$50,000 per year in sponsorship contributions. With new enthusiasm and financial backers, the event is asking Mason to participate by providing funding in the amount of \$35,000 to AVP Volleyball Tournament/Reach USA for a traditional sponsorship/marketing package as well as a professional services/consultant component. Eric explained how this partnership allows the City to work on a national scale contributing to Mason's economic development success by supporting business and the recruitment/retention of the labor force. The professional services/consultant component would leverage the AVP event in promoting City assets such as the Community Center, Golf Center, Tennis Tournament and future AVP Tournaments to a specific target demographic. Eric said that Mason will be the third stop of a seven city tour and that joint programming is planned that will help the financial welfare of direct City amenities such as the Golf Center and Community Center. The Economic Development Committee is supportive of this partnership and recommends the adoption of Ordinance 2013 – 64.

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.

Council discussed the reduced cost of marketing this event from years past and that the City is actually receiving more services with this reduced cost. Comment was also made on the importance of branding Mason as the event location. Vice Mayor Kidd stated that this is a nice promotion for the City and should provide a boost to the Golf Center.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-64 was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-65 ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE WATER RECLAMATION PLANT & COLLECTION SCADA UPDATES – PHASE II DESIGN FROM BURGESS & NIPLE, INC., IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FEE OF \$55,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

Richard Fair addressed Council and stated that in November of 2012 City Council approved Phase I construction which is now complete. Richard explained that SCADA is a computer system that monitors and controls infrastructure and plant processes. The current SCADA system at the Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) is experiencing problems. Earlier this year the Public Utilities Committee reviewed and recommended moving forward with Phase II design. Richard explained that completing the design phase in 2013 will provide cost estimates for construction that can be included in the 2014 Budget process. He said that proposals were received from two engineering firms with Burgess and Niple, Inc. submitting the best proposal. Richard stated that once the second phase of the upgrade is completed, the system will allow better operation of the WRP process and remote monitoring of all the facilities. In addition, with this upgrade the City may be eligible to apply to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OPEA) for a staffing reduction during weekend days. The new system will be more reliable in monitoring and analyzing problems and reduce the costs for calling in staff to check out potential problems.

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 Ordinance 2013-65 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Pelfrey stated that the Bicentennial Committee met last week with Festivals of Mason and Mason Historical Society to work on a logo for the 2015 Bicentennial. She expects this to be a very active committee over the next year as they prepare for the celebration.

Councilmember Spaeth reported on many new programs offered at the Community Center pool and activities happening in the parks including Pine Hill Lodge spruce-up, Sunshine Concerts, a company picnic, and organized sports. In recognition of Parks and Recreation Month, Park Board members are hosting an appreciation lunch on July 17 for Park Maintenance staff.

Mayor Nichols reported that the Economic Development Committee met and reviewed other projects in the pipeline, including two very significant opportunities. The committee conducted an internal review of issues in an effort to continue improving the process. Mayor Nichols discussed the importance of the branding of Mason and that the business world is beginning to recognize Mason.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Spaeth stated that while on vacation, a guide on the U.S.S. Midway surprised her with his comments regarding the City of Mason. He not only knew where Mason was, but talked about the awesome Community Center. Councilmember Spaeth also stated that after visiting a new downtown business, it was brought to her attention by the owner that the City does not have a process in place to welcome new small businesses to Mason. She would like to see the City coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce on this.

Councilmember Cox stated that the Sunshine Concert series has been great and would like to pass on kudos to Chrissy Avery on a job well done. He also wanted to know if access to parking for the concerts at the Golf Center could be improved.

Vice Mayor Kidd stated that any new business in the City can request a ribbon cutting/Grand Opening which is a nice way to bring attention to the business. He also commented on what a great job the schools do promoting the City. Vice Mayor Kidd stated that he will be heading up the City's Chaplain Program. He appreciates the Chaplains that volunteer their time serving the community and stated that they deserve recognition for doing this difficult work. Vice Mayor Kidd also said that the Governor's Office requested that he testify before the Senate Ways and Means Committee regarding proposals relative to small business. He said that it was a great experience and that small business can look forward to some tax relief as well as income tax cuts for residents. He said that he appreciates the Governor's efforts in cutting taxes.

Mayor Nichols reported that there was a large turn-out at the Crossroads Church groundbreaking. He commented that they seem to be as happy to be in Mason as we are happy to have them in Mason. Mayor Nichols recognized Ginny Sundin for her many contributions to the Mason Community including her role as the Mason Girls Softball scorekeeper for ten years.

Vice Mayor Kidd suggested that City staff look into the installation of a better microphone and sound system for Council Chambers.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Matt, of Boy Scout Troop 43, addressed Council and stated that he was here tonight working on his Communication Merit Badge by reporting on the traffic light issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PROPERTY ACQUISITION/LITIGATION

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and litigation was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Cox.

VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:14 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:38 p.m.

ORDINANCE 2013-66 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR SALE AND PURCHASE AND AN OFFER TO SELL REAL PROPERTY WITH K. P. PROPERTIES OF OHIO IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,300,000 AND TO PURSUE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,700,000 RELATED TO THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-66 was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-67 DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF OFFICIAL INTENT AND ALLOCATIONS WITH RESPECT TO REIMBURSEMENTS OF TEMPORARY ADVANCES DURING FISCAL YEAR 2013 MADE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE TO BE MADE FROM SUBSEQUENT BORROWINGS


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

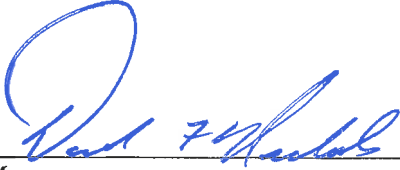
A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Vice Mayor Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-67 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 Vice Mayor Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:41 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor