

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Chaplain Tom Moll 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, and Don Prince. David Nichols was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the October 14, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The two regularly scheduled meetings in November fall on the same date and time as the annual Veterans Day ceremony and the week of the Thanksgiving holiday. Holding a single meeting on November 18 might be appropriate to avoid scheduling conflicts and to accommodate holiday schedules. If Council is in favor of this change a motion would be appropriate. A motion to hold a single Council Meeting in November on the 18th was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Halloween is Thursday, October 31 and Trick or Treat hours are 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please be aware of children in the streets if you are traveling during these hours.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5 with voting hours from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Mason Municipal Center is a polling place that day.

The date of the November Planning Commission meeting has been changed from Tuesday, November 5 (Election Day) to Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m.

The fifth annual Mason Serves volunteer event will take place on Saturday, November 9.

A Veterans Day service will take place on Monday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mason Municipal Center Atrium.

Councilmembers are invited to a community Menorah lighting and Chanukah celebration held at 5:30 p.m. on December 3 at Deerfield Town Center.

At this time of year, City Council typically authorizes the purchase of a gift certificate for a ham or turkey for City employees. An additional option would be a gift certificate for the Community Center. If Council would like to offer this to all City employees, a motion to this effect would be

appropriate. A motion to purchase gift certificates for City employees was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

The Princeton Review states that the Cincinnati area ranks higher than the national average for SAT scores. Two City of Mason schools fall within the top ten for highest ranking SAT scores within the State of Ohio. Kings High School ranked #7 with a total SAT score of 1730 and Mason High School ranked #3 with a total SAT score of 1744.

The Community Center is promoting a buy one get one free offer to the Golf Center at Kings Island for premier members. Certificates may be purchased at Symbiosis for two rounds of golf with cart for the price of one. There were two large events held at the Community Center last weekend, a Guinness Book of World Records event in partnership with the High School National Honor Society and a Dragonfly Foundation event in partnership with Paige's Princess Foundation.

Five years ago, the Community Center was on trajectory to be operating at a loss of \$2 million per year when the City made the decision to enter into partnerships for a Community Center expansion. This expanded Community Center model was projected to lose \$325,000 per year. Over the past calendar year, with an increase in partnerships and operations, the Community Center is \$2.8 million per year better off from projections five years ago. Eric explained that these numbers are simplified and do not take into account the economic development engine that the Community Center has become. AssureX Health, another Community Center partner, has brought additional tax revenue to the City with job expansion in just 2 years from 20 to 100 jobs on the City campus. Venture capital groups in California are noticing the City of Mason and its Community Center model as a way to use wellness to drive economic development in a locality.

RECOGNITION OF LISA PARIS OF MASON SERVES

Ms. Paris stated that Mason Serves brings together the community to help families in need. This is the 5th year for the event and on November 9th over 200 volunteers will assist approximately 50 residents with outdoor maintenance. She read a letter from a homeowner expressing gratefulness for assistance in past years. Vice Mayor Kidd thanked Mason Serves for their service to the community.

RECOGNITION OF RACHEL KOPFLER, MASON PARK FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Ms. Kopfler, President of the Mason Park Foundation, stated that they have been working to build an all-inclusive playground, Common Ground, on State Route 42. She showed a video produced in May by a group of High School students promoting Common Ground Playground. She expressed appreciation to the students for creating such a high quality video and asked Jeff Schlaeger to introduce the students. Mr. Schlaeger, school psychologist and SIBS advisor, introduced the students and talked about the unique talents they brought to the project, including their heart for the children Common Ground Playground will serve. Rachel Kopfler introduced Meredith, a High School Senior, and thanked her for organizing the construction and installation of the "*Future Home of Common Ground*" sign at Route 42. Rachel replied to Councilmember Grossmann's question that there are a few accessible playgrounds in the Cincinnati area and explained how Common Ground Playground will be designed to meet the needs of children with mobility, unseen,

sensory, and visual challenges. Toni Martin, parent of a child in the video, stated how this playground can be used by children and veterans with a wide range of disabilities.

PRESENTATION BY MASON COUNCIL BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Councilmember Pelfrey, Bicentennial Committee of Council Chair, introduced committee members Councilmember Spaeth and Councilmember Cox. She stated that the committee was organized over a year ago, is working to plan a yearlong celebration in 2015 and thanked City staff, Festivals of Mason, Mason Historical Society, and Park Board for their support. Councilmember Pelfrey presented the Bicentennial logo, mission statement and announced that Common Ground Playground has been identified as the charitable organization mentioned in the mission statement. She discussed plans for construction of an ironwork deco on the Kings Mills bridge over I-71, historical outdoor plates, and placement of three outdoor kiosks with community information posted. Additional projects such as a Masonopoly Game are being developed.

Councilmember Cox reported on community and business engagement. He stated that several projects have been identified and asked that businesses please contact him if they are interested in becoming involved. He listed examples of civic group involvement such as Kiwanis working with the Food Pantry, Lions Club working with Luxottica, Boy Scouts mini-jamboree, Park Board baseball tournament, Festivals of Mason signature event, and Faith Day. Other groups contacted include VFW, American Legion, Mason Community Players, Children's Theatre, Downtown Mason Association, Mason Schools, and Mason Parks and Recreation. Councilmember Cox introduced Judy Cox to explain Historical Society activity. Judy said that the Historical Society has been working on entering historical records into a searchable database, publishing two books and one cookbook, a collectible coin, walking/driving tour, Mason history curriculum with the schools, a William Mason genealogy display, and plans to paint a mural near the Downtown Plaza.

Councilmember Spaeth stated that the Bicentennial is a yearlong celebration in need of many volunteers. She said that about 30 people signed up at the Heritage Festival and encouraged interested parties to contact the committee through the website or hotline to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Councilmember Pelfrey announced dates for Bicentennial events in 2015: January 26 – Council Kickoff Meeting; Mid May – Mason Veterans Memorial Celebration; September 17, 18, 19 – Signature Event; and November – Time Capsule Placement.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Sallie Nally invited Council to the Northeast Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce annual awards luncheon on November 13. The keynote speaker presentation will be on business, service, and building community.

ORDINANCE 2013-79 SECOND READING: ADOPTING THE REVISION, CODIFICATION, RECODIFICATION, REARRANGEMENT AND PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF MASON, IN BOOK FORM, FOR THE CURRENT SUPPLEMENT

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

Jennifer Heft stated that Ordinance 2013 – 79 revises, amends, and restates the Codified Ordinances of the City of Mason. She explained that a supplemental codification updates the codification with new ordinances that have been authorized by Council since the last recodification or supplemental codification. Staff's objective is to annually update the City's codification to accurately reflect the operations of the City. This current supplemental incorporates all legislation enacted for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:14 p.m.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:15 p.m.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-79 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-83 AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF FEES AND ITEMS COLLECTED ON BEHALF OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS EXCEEDING THE CITY MANAGER'S PURCHASING AUTHORITY

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, as a home rule charter city, has the ability to modify purchasing authority from the State of Ohio template to allow for more flexibility and responsiveness while offering the level of control and accountability that ensures taxpayers' dollars are utilized in an efficient and cost effective manner. He explained that the City sometimes collects revenue on behalf of a group and then is responsible for payment to the organization; basically revenues collected are passed through the City to the organization. For instance the Manta Rays swim team, as a member of Ohio Swimming and Swim USA is required to pay a fee per participant. Those fees are included and collected as part of the City's fees for each swimmer's participation in the program. Once all fees are collected, the City is invoiced by Ohio Swimming and Swim USA and pays the required membership fees for each participant. However, when these payments reach the purchasing authority threshold of \$15,000, it requires additional Council action to authorize the payment. Eric stated that staff recommends utilizing the City's authority as a Charter City to formally recognize changes to the purchasing policy to accommodate the City acting as a conduit for these types of program fees. This would reflect current business procedures, streamline the process, and satisfy State Auditors.

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 2013-83 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-84 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KZF DESIGN, INC., IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$90,000, FOR THE PREPARATION OF CRITERIA DOCUMENTS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES FOR DESIGN-BUILD OF THE PROPERTY AT 3900 STATE ROUTE 741 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Richard Fair discussed both Ordinance 2013-84 and Ordinance 2013-85 together. Ordinance 2013 – 84 authorizes the City Manager to enter into a contract with KZF Design, Inc. for criteria architect services for the new Public Works facility. Richard explained that in 2011 City Council approved Design-Build as a method for providing construction services allowing flexibility for future project construction and development. The Design-Build method does not work as well for more complex building types, such as medical office buildings, but is well-suited for the renovation of an existing building for a Public Works garage. Richard said that the Design-Build (DB) method of construction delivery is different from the standard, Design-Bid-Build, method. Instead of having the architects and engineers design renovations and prepare construction documents before the contractor is involved, the design itself is part of the bidding competition, in addition to price and other factors. This allows for competition among bidders not just for price, but for which team can create the best value for City dollars. Richard stated that the Criteria Architect is responsible for preparing design criteria specifications based on city functions and processes and is restricted from participating in the Design-Build team. Potential DB teams then submit schematic designs, presenting ways to meet the design criteria by seeing that the City gets the most for its money. Richard stated that the City sent out four proposals for Criteria Architects and interviewed two firms. KZF Design has the experience and capabilities to serve the City with this next vital step in the process. An emergency clause has been added to keep the overall process on schedule so that City equipment and materials will be under roof next fall prior to the 2014 ice and snow season.

Richard stated that Ordinance 2013 – 85 authorizes the issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) related to the new maintenance facility. He explained that on July 8, 2013, Council approved Ordinances 2013-66 for the building purchase (\$2.3 million) and improvements (\$2.7 million). The total acquisition and improvements is not to exceed \$5 million. Ordinance 2013-67 authorized the City to be reimbursed for the property acquisition and improvements when the financing is issued. Issuing the notes near the end of the year allows the City to be reimbursed for the acquisition and initial design cost while having the resources to enter into improvement contracts in early 2014. The ordinance includes an interest rate not to exceed 5%. Based on current market conditions, staff anticipates when the note is priced, an interest rate substantially lower, likely 2% or less. Richard said that future steps include sending out RFQs to companies interested in the project, choose two to three design teams to interview, and then submit the best design concept for Council's review and acceptance. The goal is to begin construction in March of 2014.

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 Ordinance 2013-84 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-85 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING AND IMPROVING A BUILDING IN THE CITY

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 Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-85 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-86 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WARREN COUNTY FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIFTEEN MOBILE AND TEN PORTABLE RADIOS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,426, FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS IN THE CITY OF MASON

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

Eric Hansen stated that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has mandated changes requiring Warren County to update from analog to a digital radio system. Mason Police and Fire Departments have been transitioning to digital radios over the last three years. Eric explained that Ordinance 2013-86 will help departments outside of public safety transition to digital radios prior to the end of this year. Chief Moore, Safety Director, has been working with department heads to review possible options for preventing a potential communications gap caused by this change. They have evaluated options for the use of all communication devices including cellphones, pagers, and radios and options for how each device has a role in day to day operations, special events, and in the event of an emergency. Eric stated that staff recommends the purchase of 15 mobile and 10 portable radios, total cost of \$40,426, for use by all City departments. This is considerably less than what is currently in use by these departments. Staff is hoping that with the effective use and allocation of the proper combination of mobile radios, portable radios and cell phones the quantity needed can be permanently reduced from current amounts. However, there may be the need to purchase additional devices once the combination has been tested and evaluated. The Safety Committee reviewed this purchase and is recommending Ordinance 2013 – 86 for adoption.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-86 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Pelfrey reported that Safety Committee and City staff met with Fairways at Pine Run Homeowners Association representatives. City staff presented three actions to improve traffic safety: the purchase of four moveable speed boxes, posting “It’s Our Town, Slow Down” signs, and marking crosswalks. She stated that they expect the traffic problem in this neighborhood to improve once the full interchange at Western Row is completed.

Councilmember Grossmann, Court Liaison Committee Chair, stated that the Ohio Supreme Court has determined that the Mason Municipal Court Judge must receive full-time pay, retroactive to 2011 due to the jurisdiction’s increased population. Councilmember Grossmann said that, with this change, the City might consider making Mason Municipal Court full-time as well. He discussed the potential restructuring of the municipal court system if Warren County would consider hiring three full time county judges to serve the three municipal courts.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed the City Manager’s report on the financial success of the Community Center and the benefit of this and other recreational amenities such as the golf course and parks to residents and business.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS - none

EXECUTIVE SESSION: EMPLOYMENT/COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment/compensation of public employees was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:09 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:27 p.m.

A motion to add Ordinance 2013-87 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2013-87 APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MASON AND MASON PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS, IAFF, LOCAL 4049, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

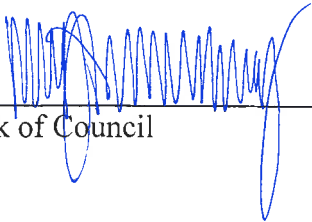
A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

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

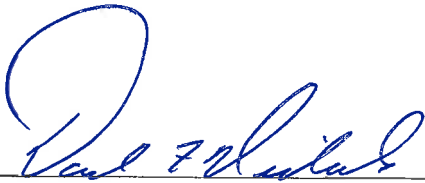
A motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-87 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Spaeth).

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:30 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor