

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
BICENTENNIAL OPENING CEREMONY
JANUARY 26, 2015**

The Town Crier called all to assemble. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

MAYOR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE MASTER OF CEREMONY

Mayor Nichols welcomed everyone to the first night of a year of opportunities that will recognize and celebrate all that makes the City of Mason special. He thanked Bicentennial Committee of Council Chairperson Pelfrey and members Councilmember Spaeth and Councilmember Cox for working over the past two years organizing events for the Bicentennial Year. He recognized the many community organizations and people who have contributed to Mason's success: business leaders, city staff, citizens, Mason Historical Society, Mason Parks Foundation, Mason Community Player, Northeast Chamber of Commerce, Mason Kiwanis Club, and Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau. He commended the Bicentennial Committee for strategically aligning with the Mason Parks Foundation's goal of building Common Ground Playground by directing all proceeds from Bicentennial events to a facility that will benefit our community for many years. Mayor Nichols recognized Kings Island, Great Wolf Lodge, and Tri-Health as key players in their support of the Bicentennial. He said that Mason's founder, William Mason, was a Revolutionary War Veteran and expressed a special thank you to all active Military and Military Veterans. Mayor Nichols spoke about his recent visit with Miss Betty Westerkamm, whose family purchased the land in 1948 where the municipal campus and high school are located today. Miss Westerkamm shared with the Mayor her memories of growing up on the family farm and as a Mason City School teacher. The conversation made him realize that it is the individual experiences and history that have helped Mason grow from a city of 6000 residents in 1970 to 35,000 residents in 2015 and to be recognized by *CNN Money Magazine* as the 7th Best Place to Live. He said that this just didn't happen by chance and challenged everyone to find out how we got here. Mayor Nichols introduced the Master of Ceremony, Jim Scott of 700WLW Radio. Mr. Scott has been a familiar voice in the community for over 45 years and has consistently been a top-rated personality in the Tristate. Mr. Scott thanked the Mayor and stated that he is honored to participate in today's ceremony.

American Legion Post 194 and Mason VFW Post 9622 presented the colors. Pastor Jerry Pelfrey read Psalm 103:1-8 from a Bible that was presented to the Village of Mason in March 1952. Mayor Nichols led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Hollyn Lana sang the National Anthem.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF OHIO JOHN KASICH

Ms. Sherri Carbo, Southwest Ohio Regional Liason for Governor Kasich, presented a Resolution to the City of Mason extending best wishes for a memorable year. Governor Kasich congratulated the City via a recorded video presentation.

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR ROB PORTMAN

Mr. Robert Braggs III, Outreach Representative for U.S. Senator Rob Portman, read a letter from Senator Portman and stated that a flag flying over the U.S. Capitol today will be presented to the City in honor of Mason’s Bicentennial.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAUL ZELTWANGER

Representative Paul Zeltwanger stated that he is honored to be here and excited to represent Mason. He acknowledged the Police, Firefighters, and staff that have served the City of Mason and presented a Proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives in recognition of Mason’s Bicentennial with best wishes for a prosperous future.

WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONER TOM GROSSMANN

Commissioner Grossmann stated that although he is honored to represent the entire county, his heart is in Mason. He stated that while proclamations list many facts that we already know, it is people who really make the city. He presented a Resolution from the Warren County Board of Commissioners, who join in celebrating Mason’s 200th Birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF MASON BICENTENNIAL SPONSORS KINGS ISLAND, GREAT WOLF LODGE, AND TRIHEALTH

Mr. Don Helbig, Kings Island Public Relations Manager explained the history of why Kings Island located to Mason in the 1970’s. Since that time, the park has grown from 160 acres to 364 acres, much like the population of the City of Mason.

Mr. Steve Mombach, TriHealth Vice President of Ambulatory Services, Corporate Health and Senior Services said that this year is the 5th anniversary of the partnership between TriHealth and the City of Mason. He explained that TriHealth considers working with municipalities an integral part of their business model and offers an array of services to the community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Councilmember Pelfrey stated that when William Mason purchased 640 acres of land in 1803, this part of the country was the American frontier. In 1815 he platted 16 lots on this land that would become downtown Mason. Back then as today, Mason was a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Councilmember Pelfrey stated that events have been created that will meet the Bicentennial Committee’s mission statement to “honor the legacy of the past, the thriving prosperity of the present and the bright future of the City.” She recognized the special guests in

attendance: Veterans, County elected officials, Mason Schools, School Board, School staff, City staff, Councilmembers, former Councilmembers, the Bicentennial Team, Mike Stretch of Branding Ground, the three major sponsors, and Bill and Kathy Kinane of Mason Manor House.

Councilmember Cox recognized ICRC TV, Mason High School student musical performers, Mason Community Players, Bicentennial Commemorative Committee, and Fuzzy Berner. He explained that Fuzzy Berner helped with the restoration of “Old Betsy” which was the first motorized pumper in Mason’s Fire Service.

Councilmember Spaeth recognized tonight’s volunteers Greg Sturk, Frank and Sharon Chapman, Gladys DeMarco, Doreen Schowalter, and Tori Berry. She thanked the students in the Mason High School Broadcast Crew who produced the Bicentennial video. She recognized Mason Historical Society members, President Jerry Mullins, and former President Judy Cox. Councilmember Spaeth introduced and shared some history of Mason’s long-time residents: Norma Jean Clark, Harold Dumford, Ralph and Ruby Green, Bruce Hendricks, Larry and Sharon Marsh, Imogene Mays, Earl and Lola Osborne, Mildred Smith, Les and Ellen Spaeth, Paul and Rosemary Steiner, Loretta Terry, Evelyn Thompson, and Norma VonHolle. The oldest living descendant of William Mason, Mr. Don Wolfe was introduced, along with four other descendants of Mason’s founder.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER - MR. LES SPAETH

Mr. Spaeth shared his memories of Mason from 1920 through 1950. He said that his hometown in the 1920’s was a beautiful town with trees arching over the streets. The children in Mason at this time did not have many material possessions and grew up with a good understanding of discipline, respect and hard work. He told stories of his youth and his happiness as he returned to beautiful Mason after his service as a Marine in World War II.

INTRODUCTION OF RACHEL KOPFLER - MASON PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

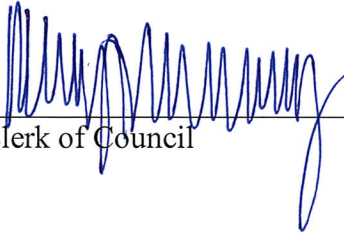
Ms. Kopfler thanked the Bicentennial Committee for designating Bicentennial proceeds to benefit the construction of Common Ground Playground. She explained the importance of providing opportunities for all children to participate in physical activities.

DEDICATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE


Mason City Council and the Bicentennial Team opened the time capsule and added the following items: 2014 Mason High School Yearbook, Bicentennial Coins, Mason Monopoly Game, *Around Mason* book, *Mason Photo History* book, Police Chief’s Bicentennial badge, and Mason Fire Department Bicentennial patch. Additional items will be added to the time capsule throughout the year, including proclamations presented at tonight’s meeting. Everyone was encouraged to sign the Guest Registry.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Nichols thanked the Bicentennial Committee, elected officials, and guest speaker Les Spaeth. Rabbi Yosef Kalmanson closed the meeting in prayer. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. with the Town Crier's call and the ringing of the bell.



Clerk of Council



Mayor