

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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: Diana Nelson, Barbara Berry-Spaeth, Ashley Chance, Kathy Grossmann, Charlene Pelfrey, Don Prince, and Victor Kidd.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the February 8, 2016 Council Work Session Minutes was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to approve the February 8, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The week of March 28 is Mason Schools' spring break along with many area school districts. In the past, this has been a conflict both for some Council members as well as members of the public or staff. A single council meeting in the month of March would not pose a problem to legislation timeframes. If Council wishes to cancel the March 28 Council Meeting, a motion is in order. A motion to cancel the Council Meeting scheduled for March 28, 2016 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Assistant City Manager Jennifer Heft will be out of office the week of March 28 and I will also be traveling. It would be appropriate to appoint Service Director Richard Fair as Acting City Manager that week. A motion to appoint Richard Fair as acting City Manager during the week of March 28 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

The City will host a breakfast with the Mason Deerfield Chamber Board of Directors at the Golf Center on Thursday, March 3 at 8:00 a.m.

The Mason Community Center, in partnership with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, will host the 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Race to Anyplace* on Saturday, March 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Participants receive a free Community Center day pass and family members receive half off the daily admission price. This event helps support research and patient services for those affected by leukemia and lymphoma.

Mason City Tax Returns are due Monday, April 18. The Mason Tax Office offers “free” assistance to residents in completing their Mason tax return. In addition to regular office hours, the Tax Office offers residents extended office hours on Saturday, April 9 and Monday, April 18.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Pelfrey stated that meetings for the Safety and Downtown Committees will be scheduled over the next two weeks.

Councilmember Chance stated that he attended his first Parks and Recreation Board meeting in February. At the meeting, the success of the Daddy Daughter Dance at the Community Center and upcoming activities were discussed.

Councilmember Grossmann stated that the Employee Relations Committee met and she thanked staff members for educating the newest Councilmembers serving on this committee.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** - none

**ORDINANCE 2016-31 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MKSK FOR PLANNING SERVICES RELATING TO THE NORTH MASON TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT**

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

Eric Hansen stated that the northeast 1,100 acre quadrant of the City, known as the North Mason Technology District, has been a focus area for Economic Development over the past five years. With two successful Duke Site Readiness Grant applications, the City has brought in a national site selection consultant to help plan and position this property for future development and is now poised to continue attention in this area of industrial development opportunities. Recently, this area has seen significant investment with expansion at Mitsubishi and Masters Pharmaceuticals under construction. Eric said that Mason has received an additional grant from the Duke Energy Foundation designed to help communities implement strategies and recommendations from the Duke Site Readiness program. With the \$9,500 Local Community Development Duke Foundation Grant along with a \$9,500 Mason match, the City will contract with MKSK development team. Eric explained that the items to be addressed include master plan land use, marketing/branding efforts, concepts and strategies for dealing with buffering and compatibility of the area, and utility/infrastructure planning. He said that the Duke Site Readiness program has been a tremendous opportunity for the City and valuable regional partnership between the City of Mason, Duke Energy, and Warren County. This partnership continues to enhance economic development activity in the City.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-31 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2016-32 ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A PARK MASTER PLAN FOCUSING ON SUNDIN FIELDS AT HERITAGE OAK PARK AND THE LOU EVES MUNICIPAL POOL FROM THE KLEINGERS GROUP IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FEE OF \$75,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

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

Jennifer Heft stated that in 2008, with the downturn in the economy, the City focused on critical safety services with minimal funding directed to Mason's parks. As a result, park amenities are in need of significant repairs, maintenance and revitalization efforts. In 2014, approximately \$500,000 was spent on fencing, field improvements and irrigation to ball fields at Corwin M. Nixon Park. In 2015, Heritage Oak Park was renamed Sundin Fields at Heritage Oak Park. Ballfield fencing was installed and a decorative archway was added honoring Mason Park Board Chair, Ginny Sundin with over 30 years of volunteer service in the parks. Jennifer explained that recent upgrades to the City's park system, including improvements at Lou Eves Municipal Pool, have been necessary to maintain a basic service level. There is growing interest to improve park facilities to meet existing as well as new and growing diverse needs. She stated that park master planning for two of the City's largest park facilities, Sundin Fields at Heritage Oak Park and Lou Eves Municipal Pool, would provide a strategic foundation when evaluating improvements to all Mason park facilities. In early January, a Request for Proposals (RFP) process was initiated to select a firm to develop a Park Master Plan. After reviewing seven proposals and conducting personal interviews with four firms, staff recommended The Kleingers Group for this work. She explained that this firm has worked with the City on several projects in the past, understands requirements of the RFP, and are willing to listen and work with staff and others to fully understand community needs for City parks. Jennifer stated that the 2016 Budget included \$75,000 for park master planning and an additional \$500,000 to complete a new project at Sundin Fields at Heritage Oak Park as prioritized and outlined in the Park Master Plan.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-32 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2016-33 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ELEX, INC. FOR THE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE & FIBER OPTIC INTERCONNECT PROJECT (SIGNAL AND FIBER PROJECT) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,009,027**

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

Kurt Seiler stated that in 1988, the City installed its first traffic signal at US-42 and 2nd Avenue and now the City has 40 signals, with an additional 2 under construction. All signals are controlled with 1970's technology. The proposed project will significantly upgrade the City's entire traffic network. Kurt stated that in 2012, the City applied and received approximately \$2 million in federal grant funding for the citywide Signal and Fiber Interconnect Project. He stated that the project includes installation of about 26 miles of fiber optic cable and upgrade of all traffic signals and controllers. Kurt described the layout of the system that includes the extension of fiber optic capability to the Service Center, Water Reclamation Plant, Fire Stations, Lou Eves Municipal Pool, parks, and Golf Center. The new system implements traffic adaptive signal control at 15 intersections to sense traffic backups and adjust signal timing to provide longer green time to that movement. This quicker reaction time can significantly reduce the duration of a backup. Kurt stated that pedestrian signal heads will be replaced with countdown signals to meet new ADA standards. The project also includes a significant upgrade to the existing emergency pre-emption system. Emergency pre-emption at a traffic signal allows the approaching emergency vehicle to control the signal to indicate a green light in the direction of travel providing a much safer response. Emergency pre-emption can also assist with moving congested traffic thru the intersection to allow the emergency vehicle to avoid traveling into oncoming traffic lanes. Kurt stated that the City's current system is about 15 years old and utilizes a strobe light on the vehicle to control the traffic signal, which can be problematic in poor weather and has a shorter range of detection. The new system will utilize a GPS based system that will be much more reliable, has a longer range of detecting emergency vehicles and many other features. Kurt stated that 5 bids were received with Elex, Inc. submitting the lowest bid. Elex, Inc. has performed a number of projects within the City and consistently delivers quality workmanship. In addition, Elex, Inc. has completed similar projects in the City of Fairfield and City of Evendale. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2016 and be complete in fall 2017.

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

The system's impact on heavy traffic events such as the Tennis Tournament and student drop-off and pick-up at Mason High School was discussed and Kurt stated even with the new system, tennis organizers have expressed the desire for police presence. Eric Hansen added that officers at special events are paid by the event itself, not at City expense. Kurt stated that he does not expect the new system's adaptive control feature to have any noticeable impact on school traffic. Kurt answered Council questions regarding the system's ability to expand into the future. He stated that 12 of 72 fiber optic strands in the cable will be utilized and all signals will have satellite uplink with priority control. Kurt explained that with \$2 million in grant funding, the cost to the City will be just under \$1 million. Future projects to install Wi-Fi at Lou Eves Municipal Pool, Corwin Nixon Park, and Heritage Oak Park are being planned for 2017.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-33 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Mayor Spaeth asked for a progress update on the Golf Center. Jennifer Heft stated that the structural issue has been stabilized, the restaurant and dining area opened last week, and the Pro Shop is in a temporary space until the renovation is complete. During the basement remodel, mold was discovered. The mold was removed and improvements to air flow are expected to eliminate future issues. The Pro Shop is projected to reopen in March and the remodeling of this facility, built in 1972, should extend its useful life.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**- none

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: LAND ACQUISITION**

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:44 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:45 p.m.

A motion to add Ordinance 2016-34 and Ordinance 2016-35 to the agenda was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2016-34 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH BERNICE STEPHENSON RELATED TO APPROXIMATELY 33.5 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY**

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-34 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2016-35 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FREQUENCY CITY SOUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000, FOR PRODUCTION AND AN ENTERTAINMENT ARTIST AT THE RED, RHYTHM & BOOM CONCERT ON JULY 3, 2016 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Eric Hansen stated that a \$150,000 contract with Frequency City Sound includes stage, lights, sound, and a Tier IV performer. He explained that upgrading the performance tier would increase

the contract by \$25,000 for each level upgrade. If Council would like to change the tier level of the performance, an amendment to the Ordinance would be required.

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

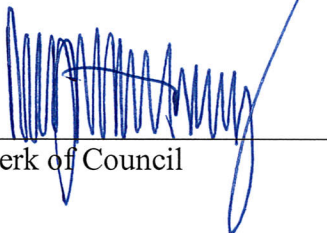
Council discussed the type of artists available at each level, music genre, and audience. In the 2016 Budget, \$460,000 has been set aside for all events, including Heritage Festival, Christmas in Mason, and Red, Rhythm & Boom. Council discussed how to distribute these budgeted funds across the three events. Council expressed the need to have a consistent date for Heritage Festival, and decided that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September should be the target date. They expressed the desire to have Tier II or Tier III performers at Red, Rhythm & Boom.

A motion to amend Ordinance 2016-35 by increasing the contract amount not to exceed \$200,000 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-35, as amended, was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:28 p.m.

  
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Clerk of Council

  
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Mayor