

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Chaplain Marc A. Champagne opened the meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Diana K. Nelson, Barbara Berry-Spaeth, Ashley Chance, Kathy Grossmann, Don Prince, and Victor Kidd. Charlene Pelfrey was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the December 12, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Christmas tree pick-up is occurring this month. Residents should place their trees at curbside for pickup. Trees placed in bags at the curb will be removed by Rumpke.

The 2017 Election of Officers and Directors for the Area Progress Council of Warren County, Inc. will take place on January 27 at the Golden Lamb Inn.

City offices will be closed on February 20 in observance of President's Day. Mason Community Center will be open with normal operating hours.

City of Mason was recognized for the 17th year as one of 45 communities honored to be a Tree City USA.

Due to developers needing additional preparation time, it has been requested public hearings for Ordinance 2016-126 Tower Park be continued to February 27 and Ordinance 2016-127 Greenland Park be continued to February 13.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice Mayor Spaeth reported the Downtown Committee has been discussing ways to bring additional life to the downtown plaza and area businesses. The Committee is looking into providing temporary shade on the plaza in 2017 and if well received will consider future installation of more permanent structures. They discussed possible changes to the Sunshine Concert Series in an effort to increase attendance. The Committee is also discussing ways to further develop downtown through retail, residential and restaurants.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS - none

ORDINANCE 2016-126 SECOND READING: APPROVAL OF A REVISED CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TOWER PARK DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 710 TYLERSVILLE ROAD (TOWER PARK)

A motion to continue the Public Hearing and table Ordinance 2016-126 to February 27, 2017 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2016-127 SECOND READING: APPROVAL OF A REVISED CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE GREENLAND PARK MASON TOWNHOMES DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 228 MASON-MONTGOMERY ROAD (GREENLAND PARK)

A motion to continue the Public Hearing and table Ordinance 2016-127 to February 13, 2017 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2017-1 REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE TAX ADVANCES DURING THE YEAR 2017 PURSUANT TO SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE

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

Eric Hansen stated when property taxes are collected by the County, the County Auditor has several months after the due date to distribute funds owed to local governments. During this delay, the County will earn interest from funds owed to local governments. State law allows local governments to request payments of the taxes prior to the required settlement. In many cases, it helps improve the cash flow for the local government and allows the local government to earn additional interest for itself rather than the County. This resolution will authorize the Finance Director to request tax payments.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-1 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-1 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ATLAS MACHINE AND SUPPLY, INC. FOR WATER RECLAMATION PLANT AERATION MIXER GEARBOX REPAIR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Kurt Seiler explained the Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) experienced an internal seizure in the primary gear box at the south oxidation ditch mixer. The function of the gearbox is to turn an aeration mixer to keep wastewater solids in solution, provide mixing, air (oxygen for organisms), and velocity around the oxidation ditch. The WRP has two separate oxidation ditch processes. The current wastewater volume into the plant only requires the operation of one

oxidation ditch. Staff contacted ATLAS Machine and Supply, Inc. who would remove the gearbox, disassemble, and evaluate repairs necessary to return to service. The size of the gearbox required a crane for removal and coordination of shipping to a machine shop for disassembly and evaluation. ATLAS has estimated repair costs at \$37,329. The 2017 Budget includes \$250,000 to both upgrade and/or repair various pieces of equipment throughout the Water Reclamation Plant including the aeration mixer gearbox rebuild. An emergency clause has been added to the ordinance due to the time sensitive nature of having the Water Reclamation Plant back to normal operating conditions.

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

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-1 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-2 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$8,000 TO WARREN COUNTY HUMANE ASSOCIATION, A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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

Jennifer Heft discussed Ordinance 2017-2 and Ordinance 2017-3 together. She stated in 2006, the Finance Committee developed and Council approved a policy to guide contributions to local non-profit organizations. The policy recommended limiting City maximum contributions to \$8,000 and no more than a third of a group's budget. This is accomplished through a matching program where the City contributes one dollar for every two dollars raised from other sources by the non-profit group. The City received three requests for participation in the 2017 program - Warren County Humane Society which has participated since 2010, Mason Historical Society which has participated since 1993, and Project Rise Above. This is the first year the City received a request from Project Rise Above, an organization that helps to create awareness of the Warren County Veteran's Court and treatment available to local veterans. Project Rise Above has not yet received approval of its non-profit status and will be considered once that is in place. The Finance Committee reviewed and recommends adoption of Ordinance 2017 – 2 and Ordinance 2017 – 3.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-2 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-3 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$8,000 TO THE MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-3 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nelson clarified that Project Rise Above had recently received its 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

Vice Mayor Spaeth asked Eric Hansen to explain to residents why there will be an increase in their water bills. Eric stated that the City has been in contract with Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) for the past 16 years and water rates are based their increases. Effective January 1, 2017 there will be a water rate increase of 3.75% and annually thereafter ending January 1, 2021. Also in 2017 there will be a 1.5% Cost of Living Increase (COLA) for sewer and storm water fees. Information related to increases in all utility fees is available on the City's website and the next edition of CenterPoint.

Councilmember Nelson asked when the 4th quarter finance report would be ready to give a year-end update. Eric Hansen replied it would be available at the next council meeting.

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 Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:25 p.m.

Vice Mayor Spaeth left executive session prior to reconvening into regular session.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:12 p.m.

A motion to add Ordinance 2017-4 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Chance.

ORDINANCE 2017-4 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 Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-4 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: 5 YEAS. (Vice Mayor Spaeth was absent for the vote)

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:14 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Mayor