

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Honorary Mayor Macy Vordemesche. Chaplain Edinson DeArco opened the meeting in prayer. Mason Police Color Guard presented the colors and 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 January 9, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes and January 9, 2017 Council Work Session Minutes was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

On March 17 at the Manor House, One City Against Heroin is holding a St. Patrick's Day Gala to raise funds and awareness for the heroin epidemic. At a previous event in 2015, Mason City Council authorized attendance by City officials and a consequent \$5,000 contribution. A motion to authorize attendance and contribution in 2017 was made by Councilmember Ashley Chance, seconded by Councilmember Kathy Grossmann. Vote: ALL YEAS.

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

Motion to not request a public hearing for a D3 liquor permit for Tenji Asian Cuisine at 5490 Beach Boulevard was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. Vote: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Diane Nelson reported on the year-end financial activity for 2016. The overall general fund collected had an increase of 7% in 2016 compared to 2015 due to the increase in income tax revenue. Income tax had a one-time increase in 2016 due to the change in state law that forced municipalities to change the due date for fourth quarter estimated tax payments from January 31, 2017 to December 15, 2016. She said while business collection was down 9%, withholding tax increased 11% and income tax payments increased by 13% from residents. Other general fund revenue was up 4% which includes reimbursements from the cooperative agreement for reimbursements from police officers servicing Kings Island. Expenditures were up 5% due in part to economic development incentives. The decreased cost of snow removal helped offset some of the increases. Although expenditures were up from 2015, they still came in 10% under

budget. Councilmember Nelson stated net activity was positive and allowed \$10 million to be transferred to the general capital fund, a \$2 million transfer increase over 2015. The safety fund, sewer fund and water collection fund all operated within budget. The storm water fund operated at a surplus. Revenues and expenditures were nearly the same for the Community Center which resulted in breaking even. No operating subsidy has been needed from general fund since 2012 when the Community Center expansion was completed. She said revenue from the golf course is down slightly due to rain and damage to the Bruin course. Golf course committee is working diligently to increase revenue.

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICERS

Chief Carter introduced officers Charles Bower, Scott Lyons, Matt Spitz and K9 Banshee. All officers were sworn in by Mayor Kidd.

WARREN COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE PRESENTATION BY MAJOR STEVE ARRASMITH

Steve Arrasmith, Commander of the Warren County Drug Task Force (WCDF), explained they provide full-time drug enforcement services that operate in Warren County and City of Wilmington in Clinton County. WCDF remains an initiative of the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) which is a collaboration of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking areas. In 2016, WCDF handled 441 criminal cases which was a 23% increase from 2015; 233 felony drug arrests which was a 24% increase from 2015; 83 drug search warrants; 66 firearms seized during investigations and processed 7 meth labs. There were over 70 fatal drug overdoses in 2016. He said the City of Mason has participated in the Warren County Drug Task Force since its inception. This year the Drug Task Force is asking for \$1 for each resident as of the last census for a total of \$30,712. Historically the Warren County Commissioners have used Mason's annual payment, along with other communities, as leverage for State and Federal monies. Warren County's annual contribution to the Task Force is \$145,000. The WCDF has a projected budget of \$1.2 million with most funds going toward personnel costs. Mayor Kidd requested Mason's contribution be used specifically for opiate related cases.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Randy Trapp of 537 Wedge Way, asked for clarification on Ordinance 2017-15. Mayor Kidd explained to Mr. Trapp the ordinance is scheduled to be discussed later in the agenda and any questions at that time would be addressed.

A motion to move Community Reinvestment Area Program #4 to 10B placement on agenda was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA #4

Economic Development Director Michele Blair introduced Chard Snyder representatives Joy Snyder, President; Ken Chard, Executive Vice President, along with Laurence Jones, Principal at SFC. Michele explained Chard Snyder is a third party administrator of benefit plans for private and public sector clients and is interested in making Mason the site of their new headquarters. Staff and Economic Development Committee are recommending a motion of Council to approve a 100%, 5-year Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) based on a \$9.3 million investment to build a 53,000 square-foot two-story corporate headquarters office facility, bringing 250 full-time jobs to Mason with an expected payroll of \$8.5 million. Joy Snyder explained Chard Snyder serves 1,200 employers in 38 states and has outgrown their offices currently located in Deerfield Township. The 8-acre Mason site, located on Cintas Boulevard directly west of the Seapine/Perforce Headquarters, is large enough to accommodate this growth. Michele Blair explained the tax abatement will facilitate construction and support the company's continued expansion. During the term of the abatement, the project will generate an additional \$770,000 in new revenue for the Mason City School District and an overall return on investment for the community of over \$1.2 million. The addition of Chard Snyder is expected to contribute to Mason's growing Biohealth & Technology Cluster in the Oakpark District.

A motion to provide an abatement under the Community Reinvestment Area Program of 100% of real property improvements for a period of 5-years on the value of the new building improvements, for Chard Snyder, as authorized by the State of Ohio Community Reinvestment Area Program and contingent upon the company making an annual compensation payment to the Mason City School District for the term of the abatement period was made by Councilmember Nelson and seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-5 AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION OF \$30,712 TO THE WARREN COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

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

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-5 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-6 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT, NOT TO EXCEED \$27,000, WITH WARREN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE EDUCATION, INSPECTION AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES NECESSARY TO MEET THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION (NPDES) PHASE II REQUIREMENTS

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

Eric Hansen stated since 2004 the City has annually entered into an agreement with Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to provide services more effectively. Warren County SWCD staff provides both educational and inspection services on current storm water facilities and construction projects in order to meet NPDES Phase 2 requirements and EPA Best Management Practice regulations at the least cost to residents. Part of their funding mechanism is a proportional match of funds supplied by local government agencies. In the past the State has matched up to 75 cents on the dollar. Eric stated the Warren County SWCD requests a fee increase this year from \$26,730 to \$27,000. The 2017 Budget included the City's contribution for this program.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-6 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-7 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRANE U.S. INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,500 FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE CHILLER CONTROL PANEL, CONDENSER WATER REGULATOR VALVE AND EXPANSION VALVE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Kurt Seiler explained this equipment is 15 years old and in need of repair. The expansion valve has lost its ability to calibrate and the control panel is unable to be repaired due to age, causing frequent shut-downs. A new control panel will allow for faster diagnosis and get the chiller back up and running. The new condenser water valve will allow for convenient start-ups in various temperatures. Kurt stated the 2017 Budget included \$120,000 for replacement of the control panel and cooling tower. Replacement of the control panel is just a portion of this project, staff expects to have contracts prepared for the cooling tower in the spring. An emergency clause has been added to have the equipment ready prior to the cooling season.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-7 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-8 AMENDING SECTION 1301.05 OF THE MASON CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Kurt Seiler explained the City will be utilizing new customer friendly, web-based building permit processing software which will reduce fees for residents, builders and businesses.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-8 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-9 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STAUFFER SITE SERVICES, LLC FOR THE MARIVAL/BROADVIEW STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$226,415 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Kurt Seiler explained this is a restoration project mostly funded from an Ohio EPA non-point source grant that will restore 3,200 linear feet of stream.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-9 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-10 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JACK DOHENY SUPPLY FOR THE PURCHASE OF ACOUSTIC SEWER INSPECTION EQUIPMENT

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

Jennifer Heft explained in 2004 the City purchased TV inspection system equipment to visually inspect the City's underground piping and sewer system. The City's insurance provider, MVRMA, has set a standard for inspection of lines every five years. Due to storm and sanitary sewer systems increasing in size and complexity, it has become more difficult to inspect every sanitary sewer line at a five-year interval with current equipment. New acoustic technology is faster and has the potential to bring inspection costs down to approximately \$.09 per foot versus the \$1.25 per foot. She said the State Purchasing Program will be used for this purchase.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-10 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LEBANON FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF SIX (6) 2017 FORD INTERCEPTOR UTILITY SUV'S IN THE AMOUNT OF \$164,517

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

Jennifer Heft discussed Ordinance 2017-11, Ordinance 2017-12, Ordinance 2017-13, Ordinance 2017-14 and Ordinance 2016-15 together. She said currently there are 40 vehicles in the City's fleet that are scheduled for replacement at an estimated cost of \$2,000,000. The City continues the strategy developed several years ago to rely on contingency amounts that more closely align vehicle failure with replacement. In Ordinance 2017-11, four of the six SUVs purchased will replace existing Ford Crown Vic Police Interceptors that have high repair costs and mileage in excess of 125,000. Legislation for the acquisition of equipment such as light bars needed for the Police cruisers will be presented at a future Council meeting. The fifth SUV will be used as the frontline Paramedic Chase Vehicle, replacing a 2004 Ford Expedition. The last SUV will be used as a city-wide pool vehicle until it is placed into regular service in 2018 as a front line Paramedic Chase Vehicle in the Fire Department, replacing a 2004 Ford Expedition. Jennifer stated in Ordinance 2017-12 a Ford Explorer SUV will replace a 2004 Ford F-150 pickup truck with over 140,000 miles that is no longer reliable for everyday use by inspectors in Engineering and Building. This vehicle has had over \$7,000 in maintenance and repairs and has excessive frame rust. Replacing the pickup truck with an SUV costs less, improves fuel economy and has better storage capabilities needed for operations. She explained equipment purchased in Ordinance 2017-13 will be used to groom ball fields and maintain turf with the use of attachments that connect to the hydraulic system. A 2001 model golf cart is currently used to drag equipment to groom ball fields at the sports park. This golf cart and equipment are in poor condition and no longer provide an efficient means for grooming. Jennifer stated brush chipper purchase in Ordinance 2017-14 will allow for three crews to use full size chippers. A smaller brush chipper currently being used will be moved to a backup role and shared by the Parks Department and Golf Center. The existing smaller chipper requires more time to chip larger quantities of brush and has frequent problems with the blades and hydraulic system when used on a daily basis. Jennifer stated Ordinance 2017-15 is for the purchase of two concession carts. Currently the Golf Center uses 2015, 1996 and 1999 model concession carts in need of engine replacement and other repairs exceeding the value of the carts. The carts to be purchased will be used primarily at the golf course and have provisions for hot/cold drinks and food. Jennifer explained last year the Warren County Health Department had concerns related to the concession stand located at the Golf Center. Based on those concerns the concession stand is slated to be demolished this year. These new concession carts will replace the concession stand in providing refreshments to golfers using the course. In addition, the City will be experimenting with the use of these concession carts during City sponsored special events.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-11 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-12 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LEBANON FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2017 FORD EXPLORER SUV IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,450

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

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-12 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-13 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CENTURY EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2017 SAND PRO/INFIELD PROP 3040 COMPACT UTILITY TRACTOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,084

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

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-13 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BUCKEYE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2017 BANDIT BRUSH CHIPPER MODEL 19XP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,154

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 1st reading was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-14 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2017-15 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CENTURY EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2017 CLUB CAR CAFÉ EXPRESS CONCESSION CARTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$46,798

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

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the 1st reading was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS

During Council discussion, resident Randy Trapp wanted clarification on reasoning for the purchase of two concession carts. Council discussed golfers' desire for concessions on the course and the need to insure that once purchased, the new concession carts are being utilized on a regular basis. Eric Hansen explained that in addition to golf course use, the carts will be used at City events and City partnerships throughout the year.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-13 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Mayor Spaeth reported Rachel Kopfler, the president of the Mason Parks & Recreation Foundation, had a meeting to discuss challenges the foundation is facing. Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities owns a part of the property where the park is potentially going to be built and Ms. Kopfler is hopeful an agreement can be made. Eric Hansen, Jeff Forbes, Ron Ferrell and Vice Mayor Spaeth are working with Rachel to assist with possible solutions. The playground would be accessible to adults and children of all abilities for Mason residents as well as surrounding areas. Councilmember Chance explained as a representative of the Park Board, they are also eager to help raise funds for the playground.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS - none

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:34 p.m.