

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

A moment of silence was observed to honor Maya Collins and her family. Vice Mayor Spaeth reflected on Maya's battle with cancer and how she was an inspiration and positive role model for the community.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Chaplain Edinson DeArco 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, Charlene Pelfrey, and Don Prince. Victor Kidd was absent.

**INNOVATION WEEK KICK-OFF**

Michele Blair expressed appreciation to Rhinestahl, Festo and Assurex bringing key industry technology and learnings to the community. Rhinestahl President and CEO, Dieter Moeller, shared his appreciation of the private/public partnership with the City of Mason and how the City's interaction with companies is innovative and fosters relationships. He explained how Rhinestahl continues to stay on the forefront of technology advanced programs/systems and encourages creative thinking with employees and students. Esteban Reinhardt, CEO of North America for Festo, thanked the City of Mason for being involved with the community and industry, including Festo in community events, and encouraging growth and success. He reviewed Festo's history and choosing Mason because Festo recognized the City of Mason is different and does the right things. He discussed Festo's goals to make companies more successful and opening young minds to new possibilities offering hands-on training, including Festo's MAP<sup>2</sup> apprenticeship. Assurex President, Mark Veratti, thanked Council and the City of Mason for their efforts in creating a united team. He discussed Assurex's continued growth with a pioneering spirit.

**PRESENTATION TO MASON CITY SCHOOLS AND KINGS LOCAL SCHOOLS**

Michele Bair and Mark Veratti presented students and representatives of Mason City Schools and Kings Local Schools with Mendelson's Law kits to assist in learning the basics of genetics in the classroom.

**COUNCIL AND PUBLIC TOURS OF FESTO MOBILE MECHATRONICS LAB**

Eric Hansen requested a recess at 7:49 p.m. for Council to tour the Festo Mobile Mechatronics Lab. Regular session reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the September 25, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Pelfrey).

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is October 23 at 7:00 p.m. following a work session beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Mason Deerfield Chamber will be hosting the annual Gems of Excellence Awards Night on Thursday, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Manor House. A motion to approve attendance by City Council and City staff was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey.

The Mason Historical Society's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cemetery Walk is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Rose Hill Cemetery. The walk highlights military veterans and their families, including George and Mary Berry.

The Community Center is partnering with North Cincy Family and Mason Public Library to host a Family Fall Fest on Saturday, October 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Children can participate in the Halloween trunk-n-treat and a costume parade. There will be live performances by local businesses and children's programs in the area.

MADE Chamber is hosting a candidate forum on Tuesday, October 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Mason Middle School Auditorium. This is an opportunity for the public to hear from candidates for Mason City Council as well as Mason School Board.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mason Corporate Challenge will be held on Saturday, October 21 at the Golf Center at 9:00 a.m. This is a 5k walk/run designed to demonstrate the culture of wellness the City promotes and engage the Mason corporate community in a city-wide competition and "give-back" by donating proceeds to select charities.

The Mason Historical Society will be dedicating a historical marker for Rapid Railway on October 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the corner of US 42 and Dawson Road.

Halloween will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 31 between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., rain or shine.

City staff were asked to review how City departments demonstrate the value that City services provide to residents. The Bethany Road roundabout intersection had 12 injury crashes from 2007 to 2014. Since June of 2014 and the implementation of the roundabout, the intersection has had no injury crashes. The City has also been awarded federal funds, tax dollars coming back to the City, toward road projects in the amount of almost \$55 million since 2009. This amount is equivalent to approximately 100% of earnings tax dollars for two years.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Chance followed up on the success of the Crossroads 5K raising \$7,500 towards the Common Ground Playground project.

Councilmember Pelfrey and Eric Hansen reviewed upcoming Veterans Day week events. From November 8-12, veterans and their families receive free admission to Mason Community Center and discounted golf at The Golf Center. Year round discounts are also provided through the Community Center and Golf Center. A Veterans Service Outreach is available at Mason Community Center, in conjunction with the Warren County Recorder's office, on November 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and November 9 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This outreach allows veterans to facilitate access to their Free State of Ohio Veterans ID card. The Senior Center and Kids' Korner will be holding activities to honor veterans such as themed crafts and photo sharing of family members that have served. The annual American Legion Veterans Day Ceremony will be on November 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mason Municipal Center. The City of Mason will host a luncheon and recognize employees who are veterans.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Richard Inskeep of 6352 Butler-Warren Road provided concerns with the Butler-Warren Road Roundabout Project in regards to ways to reduce speeding and unsafe driving.

Steve Jones of 913 Leslie Court asked the Butler-Warren Road Roundabout Project be reconsidered due to his concerns with the slope on the eastern side of the intersection and suggested a trial with stop lights.

Thomas Gottlieb of 9894 Hunters Ridge, Deerfield Township inquired about the notice needed to apply for Council. Councilmember Prince referred him to the Board of Elections website.

Lonnie Vestal of 6211 Sherman Terrace Road inquired about the possibilities of medical marijuana production in Mason and stated crime and safety concerns. Jeff Forbes advised the cultivation of medical marijuana is issued through the state and no permit has been applied for cultivation in the City of Mason. Cultivation, processing, and retail dispensaries are all governed by State Commission. Eric Hansen stated the Safety Committee and Economic Development Committee will be discussing medical marijuana and advised the City to continue to learn as the State continues to develop regulations for this law.

## **ORDINANCE 2017-126 APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE DRAINAGE EASEMENT VACATION PLAT FOR THE WOODS OF ROSEMONT SUBDIVISION**

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

Kurt Seiler discussed Ordinance 2017-126 and Ordinance 2017-127 together. He advised Ordinance 2017-126 removes the existing easement and Ordinance 2017-127 relocates the storm drainage easement to run across the Araujo property to the creek.

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 2017-126 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-127 APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE DRAINAGE EASEMENT PLAT FOR THE WOODS OF ROSEMONT SUBDIVISION**

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 Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-127 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-128 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE BUTLER WARREN ROAD AT WESTERN ROW ROAD ROUNDABOUT PROJECT DESIGN FROM AMERICAN STRUCTUREPOINT, INC. IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FEE OF \$274,682 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

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

Kurt Seiler stated in 2015 Butler County Engineer's office approached the City of Mason to cooperate on the Butler Warren Road and Western Row Road intersection. 43 accidents at this intersection from 2012-2014 were a combination of State Highway Patrol, Warren County, Butler County and City of Mason. The project will correct the drastic grade change through the intersection, a 16' elevation difference between Barret Road on the west side and Western Row Road on the east side. This project will include replacing the culvert and tying in the sidewalk to the cemetery. Staff requested qualifications from engineering firms and received 12 submittals. American Structurepoint, Inc. designed the Mason Road roundabout and Bethany Road roundabout and was very responsive to staff throughout the design and construction of both projects. Butler County will reimburse 50% of this cost as a result of Ordinance 2015-81. This agreement provides for Butler County and City of Mason to split engineering costs and the local share of construction costs. The majority of total construction costs will be covered by an OKI grant. The remainder of the project's construction cost will be split between the City of Mason and Butler County. The agreement also acts as the necessary cooperative agreement for a possible OPWC grant application which could further reduce the local share for both Mason and Butler County. The current ODOT schedule has construction beginning in spring 2021, but could be sooner depending on the environmental clearance and right-of-way acquisition for the project.

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

Councilmember Pelfrey discussed methods of slowing down cars in this area and how roundabouts reduce speeding by slowing down a cars continual movement instead of stopping and starting.

Councilmember Prince inquired about additional property needed and the slope on the eastern side. Kurt explained a portion of the property on the northeast corner of the intersection is a possibility depending on how much the grade needs to be raised. This project will take a portion of the slope out by widening the intersection and lowering the grade.

Councilmember Grossmann thanked City staff for their diligence to offset construction costs.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-128 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Council and staff discussed the need to research state ordinances and next steps considered with medical marijuana. Continued discussion will occur in a work session beginning at 5 p.m. prior to the October 23 Council Meeting.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Lonnie Vestal of 6211 Sherman Terrace Road and Thomas Gottlieb of 9894 Hunters Ridge inquired about Council's thoughts on medical marijuana and what action will be taken. Vice Mayor Spaeth advised Council will research and gain additional information on the subject and discuss in the scheduled work session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: EMPLOYMENT/ COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of employment/compensation of public employees was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:06 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:12 p.m.

A motion to add Ordinance 2017-129 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-129 APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF MASON AND THE MASON POLICE ASSOCIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENTS, 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 Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-129 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Council members continued their discussion of the potential for a marijuana dispensary to locate to Mason. The discussion had begun during Old and New Business, prior to moving into Executive Session. Concerns were raised regarding the appearance of disharmony to the public. Concerns were also raised regarding the failure of the zoning process to begin as previously announced in June 2017 and the lack of communication to Council regarding the change in direction of process. Concern was also stated regarding the impact of the 4-month delay on the ability of Council to enact the needed legislation, as previously planned, in time to be effective, given the Ohio State timetable for applications to be submitted. No resolution was reached.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:24 p.m.