

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Chaplain Marc Champagne opened the meeting in prayer. Posting of Colors was provided by American Legion Post 194 followed by recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**RESOLUTION 2017-19 COMMENDING CHARLENE A. PELFREY FOR HER OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO**

Jeff Forbes read Resolution 2017-19.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-19 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**RESOLUTION 2017-20 COMMENDING DONALD R. PRINCE FOR HIS OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO**

Jeff Forbes read Resolution 2017-20.

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.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-20 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Council expressed appreciation of Councilmember Pelfrey's and Councilmember Prince's dedication and service to the City. Council thanked them for their continued encouragement, knowledge, and mentoring to make Mason a better City. The City presented gifts commemorating their years of service.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: REP. PAUL ZELTWANGER, COMMISSIONER TOM GROSSMANN, SHERIFF LARRY SIMS, JUDGE BATSCHE, SHERRY TAYLOR**

Mayor Kidd invited guests to share comments on Councilmember Pelfrey's and Councilmember Prince's tenure. Representative Paul Zeltwanger advised he highly respects Councilmember

Pelfrey and Councilmember Prince as citizens and thanked them for their conviction and passion. He provided letters of commendation on behalf of the House of Representatives. Judge Batsche shared personal stories of both Councilmember Pelfrey and Councilmember Prince. He reviewed their kindness, bravery, and faithfulness to friends, family, colleagues, the City, and their values. Sherry Taylor, President and CEO of the Mason Deerfield Chamber of Commerce, expressed sincere gratitude for both of their services towards the City including encouraging downtown initiatives, being a liaison, and providing a beneficial partnership. She provided them with gifts and commemorating certificates. Sheriff Larry Sims advised Councilmember Pelfrey and Councilmember Prince have made a significant impact on the City of Mason and Warren County. He thanked them for their continued efforts and willingness to give advice and guidance. Warren County Commissioner Tom Grossmann shared personal experiences about their friendship and care for the community. He thanked Councilmember Pelfrey and Councilmember Prince for being transparent and great leaders.

### **FAREWELL COMMENTS: COUNCILMEMBERS CHAR PELFREY & DON PRINCE**

Councilmember Pelfrey expressed appreciation for guests' kind words and service in the City and Warren County. She thanked her family, friends, members of Grace Baptist Church, Council, new Council-Elects, residents, veterans, current military, and City staff for their volunteerism, hours of hard work, and support for her on City Council.

Councilmember Prince thanked guest speakers, friends, family, colleagues, the community, and City staff for their continuous encouragement and support. He stated the Safety Committee was the most rewarding committee providing significant positive outcomes. Councilmember Prince presented Eric Hansen with an American flag that had been presented to him from crew members of the U.S.S. Mason. This flag is flown in the veteran's memorial each year on Memorial Day. He stated it has been an honor to serve the City of Mason.

Mayor Kidd announced a brief recess at 8:15 p.m.

### **RECONVENE COUNCIL MEETING**

Council Meeting reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the November 13, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Council will meet on Friday, December 1 at 5:30 p.m. for newly elected Councilmembers to be sworn in and Council will elect Mayor and Vice Mayor. A reception will begin at 4:30 p.m. Mason's Tree Lighting Ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. on the Downtown Plaza to start the Holiday season.

The second regularly scheduled Council Meeting in December falls on December 25. All remaining business should be ready for Council action on December 11 and with adoption of the 2018 Budget, no additional meetings apart from the December 11 meeting should be needed until January. A motion to eliminate the December 25 Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

The Shop Local event will be held on Wednesday, December 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Community Center. This is an opportunity to pick up holiday items from Mason area merchants.

The Jewish Discovery Center is hosting a giant Chanukah Menorah Celebration on Thursday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Deerfield Towne Center.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Pelfrey gave Eric Hansen the timelines from 2000 to present for the Downtown and Safety Committees to be provided to the new Committee Chairs. She encouraged Council to vote yes on a ban of medical marijuana.

### **PRESENTATION TO MASON PARKS FOUNDATION – AMERICAN LEGION AND CROSSROADS CHURCH**

Commander Jennings of American Legion Post 194 thanked the City of Mason and Council for providing partnership opportunities. He presented Rachel Kopfler of Mason Parks Foundation with a check in the amount of \$1,550. He stated half the proceeds from Music in Mason are provided to the Parks Foundation and half provided to Hope for Heroes. Tim Senff of Crossroads Church advised they hosted a 5K run in September benefiting the Common Ground Playground Project and presented a check to Rachel Kopfler in the amount of \$7,500. He stated they are grateful for Council support. Rachel Kopfler thanked both organizations for their donation and encouraged residents to get involved with events for the sense of community while benefiting the Parks Foundation.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Gary Pflieger of 7907 Yellowwood Drive advised Council needs to discuss and listen to the voters in regards to medical marijuana concerns. Councilmember Nelson agrees the concern is about what the community wants. Mayor Kidd, Councilmember Grossmann, and Jeff Forbes discussed the timeline for the possibility of a referendum for the residents to decide on this issue.

### **ORDINANCE 2017-153 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TEAM ALL SPORTS FOR BALL FIELD RESTORATION WORK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000**

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

Jennifer Heft stated since 2010, the Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau (WCCVB) has partnered with the City to host events at Mason Sports Park, Corwin M. Nixon Park, and Sundin Fields at Heritage Oak Park. These events further the City's mission to build a culture of wellness and provide increased quality of life for residents. Annually, the rental fee for the use of fields by WCCVB has been \$20,000 and the City reinvests that money back into the parks for maintenance and improvements. This year, the City would like to utilize this money to help offset the cost of repair of nine fields at Corwin M. Nixon and Mason Sports Parks. Staff contacted two companies in the area to provide quotes for the project. Team All Sport submitted an estimate in an amount of \$30,000. The WCCVB 2017 rental fee of \$20,000 will be directed toward this project.

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 2017-153 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-154 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PROPUMP & CONTROLS, INC. FOR AN IRRIGATION PUMP CONTROL SYSTEM AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Kurt Seiler said the existing pump control was installed in 1995 and is in need of replacement. If the current system were to fail, replacement parts or technical support would not be available due to the system's age and failure of this control system could lead to significant damage to the golf course. With Kings Island Drive improvements, this will also affect the irrigation system on Kings Island Drive. The 2017 Budget included \$60,000 for this project. Golf Center staff in conjunction with Public Utilities staff received three quotes for retrofit control panels. ProPump and Controls Inc. submitted the lowest quote. Golf Center staff has winterized the existing system which will allow for the new control system and variable frequency drives to be installed and be ready for operation in the spring.

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 2017-154 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-155 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SMITH HUGHES FOR REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT AT THE WATER RECLAMATION PLANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$63,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Jennifer Heft said during routine preventive maintenance, the Komline Sanderson Dryer System hot oil boiler unit was found to have structural issues including broken off metal and cracks due to heat exposure. This equipment is used on a daily basis to heat sludge to reduce water content and increase solids concentration. Removing, reinstalling, and curing new factor material will require a minimum of two weeks for repair. A new unit would cost an estimated \$260,000 and a minimum installation time of two months. An emergency clause has been added due to the time sensitive nature of the needed repair in order to prevent fire hazards at the plant.

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 Ordinance 2017-155 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-156 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RE-APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER OF MONIES AND TRANSFERRING OTHER FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF MASON; THEREFORE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2016-169 OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO ON DECEMBER 12, 2016 FOR THE YEAR 2017**

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

Eric Hansen discussed Ordinance 2017-156 and 2017-157 together. As the City's priorities change or are modified throughout the year, re-appropriating funds is necessary at years end to close the City's accounts and prepare for the upcoming years' investments. He reviewed a few fund transfers as part of the re-appropriation process. \$11 million will be re-appropriated to the General Capital Improvement Fund to provide for reinvestment back in to the community. He stated the City has received more funds than anticipated in advanced dollars for projects. Also, there is a supplemental to the Safety Fund for additional over-time staffing for part-time staff in the Fire Department.

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 2017-156 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-157 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS OF MONIES: THEREFORE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2016-139 OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO ON DECEMBER 12, 2016 FOR THE YEAR 2017**

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 first reading was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-157 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-158 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**

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

Eric Hansen stated this Ordinance is for the 2018 City Budget, a planning document that sets broad guidelines and approves appropriations for the subsequent project year. The budget covers investment in capital projects including street maintenance and to expand economic growth. \$21 million is for capital projects and equipment including design for State Rt. 741 improvements, design for Snider Road widening, continued matching funds support for Common Ground Park, bike path and reconstruction projects, and Municipal Center Plaza improvements. The City has continued to budget for an equipment maintenance reserve that, if necessary, will provide enough funds to replace all fleet needs. He stated the City will similarly begin budgeting more aggressively and with flexibility for a street resurfacing program to keep proactive street maintenance. Eric reviewed campus security initiatives, full-time Firefighter positions, and a new Aquatics position. The Finance Committee recommended continuation of the matching program for Mason Historical Society, the Humane Society, Blue Skies for the Good Guys and Gals Warrior Foundation, and the possibility of two additional groups. The Finance Committee is recommending setting aside a similar amount as 2017 for community events such as Red, Rhythm, and Boom and enhanced funding for the Music in Mason series. There are several projects that will need additional long-term discussion on balancing revenues, expenses, debt, and timing. Eric said if there was interest in removing the plaza improvements from the budget a motion would be in order.

Councilmember Nelson advised the amendment would remove the 2018 \$250,000 appropriation for the Municipal Center Plaza improvements.

Council discussed the plaza fountain currently not working, improving the look and integrity of the building, and spending the money on other projects. Eric stated this budgeted item will allow for discussing options and preliminary work, but there is no current design.

A motion to amend the budget to remove the Municipal Center Plaza improvements budget was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: 1 YEA (Nelson), 6 NAYS.

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 2017-158 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2017-159 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-68 ESTABLISHING THE POSITIONS AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE MASON MUNICIPAL COURT**

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

Jennifer Heft stated this legislation is requested by the Municipal Court for individual pay rates for Court employees setting individual compensation ceilings by position and overall compensation expenses by funding type. Court expenses and revenue have remained relatively stable the last few years. There remain some vacant positions in the Court, and Court has indicated there is no intention of filling those positions at this time.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-159 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Prince and Vice Mayor Spaeth have concerns with the Waste Water Reclamation Plant not being maintained and machines needing replaced. Councilmember Prince advised a proper preventative maintenance plan should be in place. Eric stated the City will continue to have expenses as result of the plant operating all hours of every day. The Public Utilities Director is currently improving maintenance plans and the City will be more aggressive with inspections. Councilmember Grossmann inquired about needing to add maintenance staff at the plant. Eric advised the City is training current staff; however the City will need to outsource some maintenance by necessity.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** – None

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

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of employment/compensation of public employees, litigation, and land acquisition was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:34 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:03 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:04 p.m.