

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 14, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. Pastor Phil Blodgett 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, Michael Gilb, T. J. Honerlaw, and Victor Kidd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the April 23, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to appoint Jim Whitaker to the Library Board of Trustees was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Speath. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The next scheduled Council meeting is Monday, June 11, 2018. The regularly scheduled Council meeting for May 28 has been cancelled. City of Mason offices will be closed on Monday, May 28 in honor of Memorial Day. The Memorial Day Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. hosted by the American Legion Post 194 and VFW Post 9622.

WalletHub, a popular personal finance website, recently conducted and published a study to determine the Best Small Cities in America for 2017. Out of the 1,200 comparable cities included in the study, the City of Mason was recognized as 1 of only 2 cities in the State of Ohio that scored in the 98th percentile.

Mason residents and City Council have a strong history of supporting efforts to grow economic development in the City. Mason continues to be creative and develop new tools while generating an environment for business entrepreneur success. Recently, the City estimated that each dollar committed in incentives, to help Mason's business community, returned \$400 in property valuation growth, and generated \$2 in annual earnings tax. While that one dollar was a one-time commitment, the pay-off is annual. This correlates to Mason residents tax burden declining and providing access to high-paying, local jobs for Mason residents and their children. Thirty years ago for every dollar a resident paid in earnings tax, businesses paid \$1; twenty years ago it was \$1 to \$2; ten years ago it was \$1 to \$3 and today it is closer to \$1 to \$6. The share of the tax burden paid by residents has gone down 42% in the last 10 years. Tonight is an opportunity to celebrate the success of our local business leaders.

RESOLUTION 2018-13 FIRST READING: ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MASON FOR THE YEAR JANUARY 1, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019

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

Eric Hansen set the Public Hearing date for Monday, June 11, 2018.

ORDINANCE 2018-62 FIRST READING: AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 3.7 ACRES FROM R-4 TO R-PUD WITH APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN LOCATED AT 6958 BUTLER WARREN ROAD & 1480 WESTERN ROW ROAD (BEDI COTTAGES)

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

Eric Hansen set the Public Hearing date for Monday, June 11, 2018.

ORDINANCE 2018-63 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR AMBLESIDE MEADOWS, PHASE 5B

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

Eric Hansen stated this final plat for Ambleside Meadows contains nine single family lots and one open space lot. Planning Commission recommended approval of the final plat contingent upon the submittal of the Performance Bond and the Subdivider's contract.

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 2018-63 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2018-64 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STAUFFER SITE SERVICES, LLC FOR THE ANTHONY LANE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$139,487 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Eric Hansen said the existing culvert on Anthony Lane is about 35 years old. Staff have been monitoring the culvert and the deficiencies have reached a point that replacing the culvert is

necessary. The corrugated arch metal pipe will be replaced with concrete pipe which has a longer life span. The 2018 budget included \$90,000 in stormwater utility funds for the Anthony Lane culvert replacement project. The 2018 budget also included an additional \$250,000 in stormwater maintenance funds which will be used to supplement the culvert project as well as the catch basin replacements. Stauffer Site Services, LLC provided the lowest bid. An emergency clause has been added to complete the installation this summer prior to the school year resuming.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-64 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RECOGNITION OF MASON START-UP BUSINESS LEADERS

Mayor Kidd announced the official launch of the third Mason Tech Elevator location and celebrated the start-up culture in Mason and the continued growth opportunities for an innovative ecosystem. He said Mason is full of bright, forward thinking individuals, and a tech community that partners and gets involved with start-up businesses. He recognized businesses that are a part of the innovative community and have been a part of the Mason Tech Elevator program including Assurex Health/Myriad Genetics, ADB Companies, Atomic Robot, Bard, ConnXus, Genetesis, Hipaax, Include Health, Intellicasting, Lantek, Layer Logic, Riverbend Worldwide, Stack, Trayak, and few to be announced soon. Mayor Kidd praised the crosspollination happening and called out a few of our Innovation Partners: Top Gun Sales Performance, VGC, CincyTech, Festo, Rhinestahl, L3 Cincinnati Electronics, Mason City Schools, Kings Local Schools, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children's, REDI Cincinnati, UC Innovation Center, and Sinclair College. He thanked Steve and Becky Osborne for helping host the evening and being instrumental in helping fuel this innovative ecosystem. This work has set the City apart and garnered recognition statewide and across the United States.

Don Wright, a founder of Assurex Health in Mason reviewed how Assurex started in a garage with four people in 2007, and grew to about 500 employees with an average salary of over \$75,000, and continues to grow and need additional space. Most importantly, Assurex has helped ¾ million patients figure out which mental health medications best suit them. With the help of Lindner Center of HOPE and other wellness factors, Mason is becoming the center of mental health and wellness in the United States. He stated Assurex succeeded due to technology from Cincinnati Children's, hardworking individuals, and support from partners. Partners help with leveraging commitments from the State and Region. He said Assurex would have failed without the support of the City of Mason. Assurex Health is the first company to pay back all loans in southwest Ohio before they were due and committing three times as many jobs. When he is ready to locate his next company, he will be locating in Mason and hopes to announce more on that topic soon.

Peeyush Shrivastava, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Genetesis, recognized his co-founders in the room and described Genetesis' start at Thompson Library at Ohio State University with only four people. They moved in to the Tech Elevator Building a year ago with

about six people and now have 23 staff, with the expectation of 30 by the end of 2018. Genetesis uses technology to detect coronary artery disease in patients with chest pain arriving in the emergency room in 90 seconds, without the use of exercise or ionizing radiation. The current process takes 12-24 hours to detect, exceptional cost, and possible hospital admission. He commented on the importance of Mason Tech Elevator and how their location there allows them to build on the foundation of previous Mason entrepreneurs like Assurex. Mason's history and success growing early stage companies is why he wants to be here as part of the momentum. He is grateful for the opportunity to build something special in Mason.

Yannick Schilly, Vice President of Operations for Festo, reviewed Festo's success both locally and on a global level. He stated the support of Mason's economic development team and strong support from the Region allowed for Festo's successful launch in Mason. Mason dedicated teams took care of the company needs even before they completed construction, utilizing the resource of the Mason Tech Elevator. This was a terrific kick-starter and support. Mason's strong ecosystem ensures Festo's success. Yannick is moving from a corporate role with Festo to a venture startup and will be launching that here in Mason because of the culture of the City, quality of life, great schools, access to talent, good universities, and entrepreneurial infrastructure. He has expertise in smart factories and automation and will work on bridging the gap from today's industry to future industries and is excited to begin a new venture and invest again in Mason.

Brian Perry, Vice President of Operations at L3 Technologies, talked about their two businesses in Mason, space avionics and infrared cameras. Brian introduced his team and discussed their mission and how important it is to recruit the right talent quick enough that is conducive to innovation. L3 corporate is headquartered in New York with 35,000 employees worldwide and \$10 billion in sales. Large companies move slow and the Mason facility, which is home to 800 employees, will look to offset this quality with resources that are adaptive, flexible, and make accessing talent quicker. Brian acknowledged that the Mason Tech Elevator Program and the Triangle Elevator Building is expected to be a part of this solution facilitating 80 to 100 employees in Mason. He commented on the heightened competition for L3 business company-wide, with many states vying for the investment. He thanked Mason's economic development team and the collaboration of Steve Osborne's team. They stepped up, were creative for keeping them in Mason, Ohio and will position them to bring additional work. L3 has big plans for the Mason location.

Mayor Kidd said these businesses are inspirational and he is proud to be a part of this community.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS, RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

A motion for the Law Director to draft an Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 2018-61 was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 3 YEAS (Grossmann, Honerlaw, Gilb), 3 NAYS (Nelson, Spaeth, Chance), 1 ABSTAIN (Kidd).

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Chance.
VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 6:43 p.m.