

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Marc Champagne opened the meeting in prayer. Local Boy Scouts led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Diana K. Nelson, Barbara Berry-Spaeth, Ashley Chance, Kathy Grossmann, Michael Gilb, and T. J. Honerlaw, and Victor Kidd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the June 25, 2018 Work Session Meeting Minutes and July 9, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Board of Veterans Affairs meeting is Tuesday, August 28 at 4:00 p.m. followed by a Safety Committee Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

City offices will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. The Community Center will have normal operating hours Friday, August 31 through Sunday, September 2. On Monday, September 3, the Community Center will be open from 6:00 a.m. to noon with limited services.

The Heritage Festival will take place on Saturday, September 15. New this year, the City is partnering with Mitsubishi Electronics to host a 5k throughout Corwin M. Nixon Park and Pine Hill Lakes Park beginning at 8:30 a.m. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. and activities will begin at approximately 11:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. on the Mason Municipal Center campus.

A motion to appoint Jennifer Heft as Acting City Manager from September 7 through September 17 was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Our neighbors are our true first responders in critical and major events. This day is highlighted as a reminder of how important our relationships with our neighbors are. If more people were good neighbors, being patient and kind, City resources would be put to more efficient use.

Mason Police Department will conduct another Citizens Police Academy beginning on September 18. Interested residents can register through the Mason Community Center.

A motion to not request a public hearing for a D5 liquor permit for C4S LLC at 854 Reading Road, Unit A was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to not request a public hearing for a D1, D2, D3 and D6 stock transfer liquor permit for King Island Co. was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Eric advised moving Ordinance 2018-94 would be appropriate in connection with those in the audience. Councilmember Gilb stated he does not support Ordinance 2018-90 or Ordinance 2018-91 and expressed they are not appropriate for Council consideration. A motion to move Ordinance 2018-94 up on the agenda and remove Ordinance 2018-90 and Ordinance 2018-91 from the agenda was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS (Nelson, Grossmann, Honerlaw).

ORDINANCE 2018-94 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MASON CITY SCHOOLS REGARDING THE CAMPUS SECURITY PROGRAM

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

Eric Hansen reviewed actions taken to broaden the Campus Safety Program and partnership with the schools, including MECC and Western Row schools. Coordinating with the schools allows the City and school partnership to establish a policing district and expand resources to provide a safety presence in the schools, Mason Community Center, and Municipal Center campus with the intent to provide a more focused and flexible approach to safety. Nearly 12,000 people visit the Municipal campus on a typical school day and developing a new approach to policing allows for enhanced safety, cost sharing, and for a deeper level of school participation. The new policing district also enhances the effectiveness for officers on the road and in other districts to focus on safety and incidents in their district. He stated the partnership and contribution from Kings Island provides the flexibility of additional staffing resources during the school year. Eric recognized Jonathan Cooper, Mason City Schools Superintendent, and members from the school board in attendance and shared appreciation for the enthusiasm from the schools and students.

Matthew Steele, Mason School Board President, introduced board members and shared appreciation of the collaboration bringing the community to a higher level of excellence in keeping the community members, visitors, and students safe and assisting in providing a safe learning environment for the students. Jonathan Cooper expressed gratitude to Council and City staff for reaching out in a proactive manner and continuing a growing partnership. He stated safety is a number one concern for any school district and is thankful knowing Mason has exceeded the coverage.

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.

Council praised the collaboration and shared excitement for the program coming to fruition, Mason being at the forefront of innovation, and the City and schools working in harmony as one, sharing the same goals.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-94 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Nelson followed up on the State cutting the local government fund. Currently there is a state surplus in the amount of \$368 million. Governor Kasich plans to use \$68 million to maximize the State's rainy day fund. She encouraged the community to complete the online form and send to their local representative to urge the State to invest those dollars back in to the local government fund. This form can be found on ImagineMason.org. Investing in our community provides services to residents such as infrastructure, safety services, and clean water. Investing in Ohio ensures a stable infrastructure, job growth, and a strong future for Mason's communities.

Vice Mayor Spaeth stated the Safety Committee continues to address the opioid epidemic in the community with Warren County's assistance. Agencies throughout Warren County issued the Warren County Blue Print report which implements a comprehensive response to addiction. She stated key elements comprising this report include research, prevention, treatment, public health, child welfare, recovery, support and criminal justice. The committee is also evaluating and continuing to improve the Campus Safety Program. She congratulated the Police Department on achieving their 7th accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, improving the delivery of public safety services by maintaining a uniform body of standards and best practices. Mason's Police Department was first accredited in 1997 and continues to be successfully re-accredited every three years. Only 7% of 850 police agencies in Ohio have been accredited. She stated the City stands apart with the Emergency Operations Center. City staff receive basic and advanced training of the National Incident Management Systems sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through a technology suite provided with a generous donation by Rhinestahl.

Councilmember Chance reported on the Downtown Committee's initiative and momentum to revitalize downtown.

RED, RHYTHM AND BOOM/INCIDENT COMMANDER PRESENTATION

Eric Hansen advised although the Red, Rhythm and Boom event is an amenity to the community, the event allows the City to run an Incident Command structure. Utilizing Incident Command ensures the quality of the event, keeps staff knowledgeable about emergency response, and provides professional development to staff. He presented Ryan Tyree, Incident Commander for 2018 Red, Rhythm and Boom with an award for a successful event. Ryan Tyree thanked City Council, City staff, volunteers, and participants for making Red, Rhythm and Boom another great success. He said it was an honor to serve as Incident Commander and passed the torch on to Lieutenant Jason Graham, Incident Commander for 2019.

RECOGNITION OF RED, RHYTHM AND BOOM VOLUNTEERS

Ryan Tyree stated Red, Rhythm and Boom is a success with help from the community. The Red, Rhythm and Boom volunteer incentive program increases volunteer engagement while assisting organizations to raise funds. The City provided a \$200 donation to organizations providing over 20 volunteers for the event. For every volunteer not associated with a specific organization, the City pledged \$10 to the Mason Parks and Recreation Foundation. Six organizations provided over 200 volunteers this year. Ryan thanked organizations that participated including Midwest Dhamaka, Mason High School Science Olympiad, Mason High School Model UN, Mason High School Student Government, Mason Monarchs Youth Baseball, and Faith World Outreach Center.

PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION DONATION PRESENTED BY AMERICAN LEGION

Ryan Tyree said the American Legion has been significant to the continued success to Red, Rhythm and Boom and other City events. American Legion has again coordinated the alcoholic beverage sales for Red, Rhythm and Boom. Proceeds from the sale of alcoholic beverages during Red, Rhythm and Boom and Music in Mason events are donated to Mason Parks and Recreation foundation and Operation 194, to assist with rehabilitating houses for veterans in need in the Mason community. Commander Dave Charpentier and members of American Legion post 194 presented a donation to Rachel Kopfler, president of Mason Parks and Recreation Foundation. The City presented a check to Rachel Kopfler, of the Mason Parks and Recreation Foundation, in the amount of \$19,909 for refreshments, volunteer pledges, ponchos, ice and wristband sales during the 2018 event. Mayor Kidd stated the greatness of a community is the volunteers. He appreciates the dedication, time, effort, and love for the community.

RECOGNITION OF MASON BOYS BASEBALL AND TENNIS TEAMS

Curt Bly, Mason Boys Baseball Coach, thanked the City for recognizing the team and advised it is a great message to the team that residents watch their success. He stated the team was highly successful as league, city, district, and regional champions and the coaches are proud of their successes on and off the field. Mike Reid, Mason Boys Tennis Coach, thanked Council for the recognition and said the tennis team won city and state championships this past spring. This is the first time in Mason High School history for tennis to win state. He stated although tennis is a team sport, Mason was second in state for singles competition. He commended the team's work ethic and team work. Mayor Kidd provided both teams with a proclamation.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Steve Jones of 913 Leslie Court shared concerns with Ordinance 2018-89 and Ordinance 2018-90 and requested both not be passed.

Kelly Kohls of 4255 Nicholson Road, Clarksville, Ohio, non-resident, stated she supports Councilmember Grossmann's drafts about purchasing property and expressed concern with Ordinance 2018-89 and Ordinance 2018-90. Mrs. Kohls also asked if any Councilmember had

ever bought neighboring property to a property being considered for purchase by the City. Mayor Kidd responded that he didn't know anybody who has ever done that while he has been on Council. Councilmember Chance then asked Mrs. Kohls to come back to the microphone and asked her why this was relevant.

Stuart Cowan of 104 East North Street expressed general concerns with the City purchasing property. Mayor Kidd advised elaborate thought and research goes into the City buying property. He said City Council and staff are frugal in keeping costs down, making good decisions, and operating at the highest level of honesty. Eric Hansen stated money is set aside in the budget for potential acquisition including City roads, sewers, infrastructure, etc. as part of development. He said quality of life, economic development, and infrastructure are the main reasons for property acquisition.

Zoanne Bouche of 8070 Leeshore Drive, non-resident, advised she is in favor of Councilmember Grossmann's amendments to disclosures for land transactions.

John Looker of 111 East Main Street thanked Councilmember Nelson for getting him involved with Blue Skies for Good Guys and Gals Warrior Foundation to assist Purple Heart recipients and Gold Star families. He stated there's a four-day event each year in July honoring these veterans and volunteers are always needed. Councilmember Nelson thanked John for his support and volunteer work.

Charles Galvin of 6100 Green Meadow spoke about the amenities the region offers and the growth and success of the Mason Manta Rays. He suggested expanding pool space to set the community apart and capture additional swimmers and other teams.

RESOLUTION 2018-15 A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE OHIO GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INVEST THE STATE BUDGET SURPLUS IN MUNICIPALITIES

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

Eric Hansen stated this resolution is in effort to encourage the State to invest the state budget surplus in local municipal governments. The local government fund is losing approximately \$2.5 million a year from actions by the State cutting and eliminating funding needed to provide local services. This \$2.5 million could support City services such as safety services, police, fire, and parks.

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.

Councilmember Nelson and Councilmember Honerlaw discussed Senate Bill 17 in effort to restore a portion of local government funding. Councilmember Nelson advised this resolution reaches out as a Council, but writing a letter as individuals will have a powerful impact.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2018-15 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2018-16 DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR ACTIVE AND INTERIM DEPOSITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Eric Hansen said every five years this is a routine procedure to comply with Ohio Revised Code and have a depositor named. The City has reviewed each financial institution to ensure the institutions meet the legal qualifications and has the financial strength and capacity to accept additional public funds deposits. An emergency measure is taken to avoid any gap in banking services.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2018-16 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2018-66 CREATING A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA AND ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY WITHIN SUCH AREA

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

Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 8:50 p.m.

Jennifer Heft stated the Downtown Committee and Arts and Entertainment Committee of Council and City staff has been gathering information and preparing the application to establish a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). The DORA is intended to attract residents and businesses to Downtown Mason and highlight the area as a destination for dining and entertainment. A DORA allows patrons 21 and older to carry and consume alcoholic beverages in a designated cup, within a designated area of Downtown Mason. There will be signage along the perimeter of the designated area and time frames established with options to adjust for special events. The City currently has eleven participating businesses. The next step is to submit the application to the Ohio Department of Liquor Control for approval.

Stuart Cowan of 104 East North Street shared concerns of the perimeter being near his house.

Steve Jones of 913 Leslie Court raised concern that residents or businesses may have competing visions with the Downtown revitalization. Council and staff advised there has been an overwhelming request from businesses and residents through surveys and discussions and

general interest in improving Downtown development. The overall consensus includes ambitions to have a more vibrant Downtown and foster engagement in local businesses.

Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 9:05 p.m.

Vice Mayor and Jennifer Heft discussed businesses having decals in their windows and individual businesses being able to determine if an outside drink is allowed in their establishment.

Councilmember Gilb and Jeff Forbes reviewed patrons venturing outside the DORA perimeter and treating penalties as an existing open container violation.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-66 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2018-92 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR AMBLESIDE MEADOWS, PHASE 5C

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

Kurt Seiler said Phase 5C is in the northeast of Ambleside Meadows and creates seven single family lots and two open space lots. 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 Chance, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-92 as amended was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2018-93 APPROVAL OF THE RECORD PLAT FOR MASON POINTE FOUR SUBDIVISION

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

Kurt Seiler stated this is a replat for the Mason Pointe Subdivision. The proposed replat has received a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals to divide the two large parcels into four lots ranging in size from 1.87 acres to 2 acres. Planning Commission recommended approval.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-93 as amended was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2018-95 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH BETHESDA HOSPITAL, INC. (TRHEALTH AMENDMENT)

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

Eric Hansen said in November 2007, City Council designated TriHealth as the preferred provider for long-term space and partnering at the Community Center. This partnership has been a success for the Community Center and TriHealth and residents have enjoyed the amenities, expansion of the Center, and access to quality medical care and specialist. With Assurex's graduation from the Community Center, the City once again has the opportunity to expand on the business model established by the partnership between TriHealth and the City. The addendum, to the original lease agreement, represents TriHealth's continued commitment to the City of Mason. He stated the City was able to secure an enhanced sharing of expenses along with an annual 2% inflationary increase. TriHealth has also committed to an annual payment of \$10,250 to a shared Community Fund used by both the City and TriHealth in furthering economic development initiatives that strengthen the partnership and the mission for building a culture of wellness in Mason. The City will provide an upfront "Tenant Improvement Allowance" of almost \$250,000, provided from balances from the Community Center, subject to prorated repayment should TriHealth not maintain the lease past the five-year guaranteed term. Otherwise, the term will be concurrent with original lease. Eric noted it is anticipated the lease agreement has a net benefit of \$1.3 million to the Community Center over the next five years. This partnership will allow TriHealth to expand the number of doctors, specialists and medical services available to Mason residents and allow the City to expand a presence in the bio-cluster.

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 Ordinance 2018-95 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2018-96 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LIFEGUARD AND LIFEGUARD SUPERVISION AGREEMENT WITH CINCINNATI POOL MANAGEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Jennifer Heft provided a brief history on the City providing lifeguards and transitioning to contracted services for lifeguards after evaluating creative staffing options to respond to changes introduced as a result of the Affordable Care Act. The Employee Relations Committee and legal counsel recommended contracting for lifeguard services and supervision and in 2013, the City contracted with SwimSafe Pool Management to provide these services to the City. The contract with SwimSafe Pool Management expires on September 30, 2018. City staff prepared bid documents and received proposals from Cincinnati Pool Management and SwimSafe Pool

Management. She said both companies provided quality bids reflecting similar levels of service in their proposals. The major difference was in pricing for the next year and subsequent years. Cincinnati Pool Management also provided the opportunity for a refund of \$115 per hour for times the outdoor pool is closed due to poor weather. A one-year contract with Cincinnati Pool Management will allow the City to evaluate the services provided and an opportunity to renew annually for four additional years.

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

Councilmember Nelson confirmed background checks are completed and received from Cincinnati Pool Management to ensure safety working with children.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-96 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Mayor Kidd excused himself from the meeting at 9:15 p.m. and Vice Mayor Spaeth chaired the remainder of the meeting.

ORDINANCE 2018-97 ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY FROM THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO FOR COMMON GROUND PLAYGROUND PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

Kurt Seiler stated the City received a \$400,000 grant from the State of Ohio for the Common Ground Playground project. The County is leasing their 11 acres of land slated for the park to the City until the lease expires in December 2019. At that time, the agreement outlines that the land will be permanently deeded to the City. Warren County Commissioners have agreed to deed the property sooner and this ordinance is acceptance of the property. An emergency clause has been included so the application to ODNR can be submitted immediately.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

Councilmember Grossmann advised she will abstain as a measure of caution due to her relationship to Commissioner Grossmann.

Vice Mayor Spaeth shared history about complications prohibiting the start of this project and this agreement eliminating complications.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-97 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Grossmann), 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

ORDINANCE 2018-98 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION CONTRACTOR FOR THE MUDDY CREEK REHABILITATION AND STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$522,830 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

Jennifer Heft said the Muddy Creek bike path that runs from Mason-Montgomery Road to Kings Mills Road is eroding and the bank is unstable. The bank has an approximately 10-12 foot tall drop with no existing vegetation to stabilize the bank against future erosive flows. The City will incorporate rock riffles to slow down cutting of the creek, rock toe armoring along both sides of the banks, and plant 120 new trees to be placed along the creek and bike path. The alternate bid includes replacement of the original wooden fence along the creek in this area with the black decorative fence used on all other roadway and bike path projects. She said construction will begin in late summer, continuing through the fall and winter with completion in spring 2019. The 2018 Budget included \$550,000 for this project. An emergency clause has been added due to the severity of the erosion and the closure of a portion of the bike path.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

Councilmember Honerlaw raised concern with the cost of the project and potential of moving the bike path. Eric Hansen advised the City's sanitary sewer line also runs parallel to the creek and would need to be moved increasing costs exponentially.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-98 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

ORDINANCE 2018-99 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MOBILCOMM INC. FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT INTO THREE (3) POLICE VEHICLES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,941

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

Jennifer Heft stated earlier this year the purchase of three new vehicles were approved to replace current cruisers in the fleet. With the additional police officer positions and Campus Safety team, additional vehicles are needed to supplement the growing department. The vehicles planned for replacement could remain in service longer for the Campus Safety team with new equipment. Vehicles assigned to the Campus Safety team will mainly be positioned at each of the schools while the officers are working and will not be driven as intensely as front line police vehicles.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-99 was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

ORDINANCE 2018-100 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH AND AMEND THE CITY OF MASON'S CREDIT CARD POLICY

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

Eric Hansen said Governor John Kasich recently signed House Bill 312 into law that intends to combat credit card abuse by some of Ohio's local government entities. The legislation requires all forms of local government to enact credit policies specifying how the cards can be used and who is authorized to use them. The City's current credit card policy exceeds what the State requires and has the level of control and accountability to ensure taxpayers' dollars are utilized in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The City's procedures can deviate from specific state regulations through home-rule in the City's Charter and formally authorize a credit and debit card policy to be established and implemented by the City Manager to meet the City's needs while giving the flexibility needed within the new state law.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

Councilmember Nelson and Eric Hansen discussed the City's credit card approval process for purchases, credit limits, and following home rule authority to meet what the state is requesting.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-100 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Grossmann read a statement expressing concerns of Ordinance 2018-79 verbiage and provided definitions of used and preferred language. Councilmember Nelson reiterated all Councilmembers are in favor for transparency and are on Council to provide transparency to the public. She is concerned with misuse and incorrect portrayal of the word transparency. Council discussed keeping the best interest of the public in mind and the need to work together as a team. A motion to add legislation to repeal Ordinance 2018-79 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 2 YEAS, 4 NAYS (Nelson, Spaeth, Chance, Gilb), 1 ABSENT (Kidd).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

John Looker of 111 East Main Street added Blue Skies for Good Guys and Gals Warrior Foundation is a non-profit organization established five years ago and one of the founders is a Mason resident. He stated September 21, 2018 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day and the Board of Veterans Affairs will be dedicating a Chair for recognition of those prisoners of war and missing in action. He said he's been a Mason resident since 1976 and has been working with Council for 25 years. He is disappointed with the current conduct of Council.

Stuart Cowan of 104 East North Street stated Council should follow specific guidelines and urges Council to spend money wisely. Vice Mayor Spaeth and Councilmember Chance advised they support transparency, have passed legislation to provide a best practices process, and are concerned about disagreements misleading the public about the purchase of land. Councilmember Chance advised in-depth processes are in place and Council needs to focus on moving Mason forward. Councilmember Grossmann clarified Stuart was requesting mandatory standards similar to her request for the Charter.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:16 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council