

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 10, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Chaplain Marc Champagne 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.

Mayor Kidd moved Resolution 2018-23 up on the agenda.

**RESOLUTION 2018-23 ENCOURAGING SANTA TO VISIT ALL LOCAL CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS**

Mayor Kidd introduced Resolution 2018-23 to Honorary Councilmembers sitting in for elected Councilmembers. Macy, Bella and Mayor Kidd read the resolution. Resolution 2018-23 was unanimously approved by the 12 Honorary Councilmembers. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the November 12, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Speath. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

With the adoption of the 2019 Budget and other end-of-year business, no additional meetings should be needed until January. A motion to eliminate the December 24 Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Speath. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

The City partners with Mason Schools for Hope for the Holidays providing additional support for local families in need during the holidays. Donations will be accepted through Friday, December 14. Toys and clothing items may be left in the collection barrels at the Community Center, the Municipal Center in the main atrium, and the Police Department lobby.

Warren County Municipal League Annual Holiday meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12.

On Friday, December 14, Christmas Movie Night will be held at the Mason High School Auditorium. Guests are encouraged to dress in their favorite Christmas pajamas.

City offices will be closed on Monday, December 24, Tuesday, December 25, and Tuesday, January 1. City offices will be open Monday, December 31. The Community Center will be open on these days with reduced hours.

Rumpke services will not be impacted on Monday, December 24. Waste and recycling service will not occur on Tuesday, December 25 and collection will be delayed one day through the week concluding on Saturday, December 29. Similarly, service will not occur on Tuesday, January 1, and collection will be delayed one day through the week to Saturday, January 5.

The City will begin live Christmas tree pick-up Wednesday, January 2. Mason residents should place their trees at curbside for pickup after removing all decorations. Trees placed in bags at the curb will be removed by Rumpke.

A motion to not request a public hearing for a D5 liquor permit for Lao Sichuan LLC at 7888 South Mason-Montgomery Road was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to not request a public hearing for a Liquor Agency Contract for Kings Mills Liquor LLC at 2571 Kings Mills Road was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Nelson congratulated the Finance Department and City management for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. She congratulated Mason's commitment and the Finance Department for receiving this award since 1997.

Councilmember Grossmann, as part of the Downtown and Arts and Entertainment Committees, congratulated staff, the committees, Mason's community and the Chamber of Commerce for a successful Tree Lighting event.

Vice Mayor Spaeth advised the Safety Committee will meet after the holidays and continue to look at ways to improve the community during the opioid and addiction crisis. She wanted to remind residents to keep 1<sup>st</sup> Responders in mind during the holidays as they are always available to keep the community safe.

Councilmember Chance thanked the Safety Committee for continual research and ideas towards the addiction crisis. He stated there were more overdose deaths in the City of Mason than all automobile deaths in Warren County last year.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Richard Welsh of 6416 Eagleview Drive stated he and other residents living near the Golf Course support any effort to improve the Golf Course as it is a tremendous asset to the community. Mayor Kidd said many residents have a strong emotional attachment to the Golf Course and it is a great green space amenity. He stated the City has been working to find solutions that are responsible in the community and financially sound. Councilmember Chance is the Golf Course Committee Chair and welcomes residents to discuss improvement and development ideas.

Mary Claybon of 5875 Falling Brook Drive took the opportunity to share with residents in the community to wipe off changing tables or put a cover down in public bathrooms as reports have been given that drug users are utilizing the changing tables as an apparatus for drug use.

Tim Neumann of ICRC advised the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is proposing a policy change that will reduce franchise fees to municipalities and potentially close down public, education, and government television organizations. He encouraged Council to support ICRC and submit a Public Comment to the FCC in regards to the importance of ICRC in communities.

**ORDINANCE 2018-136 FIRST READING - AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 3.19 ACRES FROM B-3 (ROAD SERVICE COMMERCIAL) TO B-PUD (BUSINESS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) WITH APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN LOCATED ADJACENT TO 6391 READING ROAD (BRIGHTSTAR PUD)**

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

A Public Hearing is scheduled for January 14, 2019.

**ORDINANCE 2018-137 FIRST READING - ADOPTING THE REVISION, CODIFICATION, RECODIFICATION, REARRANGEMENT AND PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF MASON, IN BOOK FORM, FOR THE CURRENT SUPPLEMENT**

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

A Second Reading is scheduled for January 14, 2019.

**ORDINANCE 2018-138 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CINCYTECH USA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 PER YEAR FOR THREE YEARS**

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

Michele Blair said CincyTech is a seed stage investor and strive to strengthen the regional economy by driving talent and capital into investible technologies. The City's partnership with CincyTech has helped the City reach technologies in emerging markets, entrepreneurs, and companies from information technology, biosciences, and digital IT that have established Mason as a recognizable hub for innovation. The CincyTech portfolio has about 44 companies and Mason is home to approximately 12% of the total CincyTech portfolio. More than 59% of the total jobs in the region exist in Mason. She said CincyTech companies generated more than \$122 million in venture and private equity investment to support their work and brought nearly 300 new jobs to Mason in 2016. Today, those numbers have increased with over \$163

million in venture and private equity and almost 600 jobs. Eric Hansen read a letter, highlighting the creation of successful companies which transform lives, submitted by Don Wright, CEO of Clarigent and an active part of the portfolio, who was unable to attend the Council meeting.

Mike Venerable, CEO of CincyTech, reviewed bringing Assurex to Mason, the connection with investors to Mason, and the growing support of CincyTech. He thanked Mason for their successful partnership.

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.

Councilmember Chance stated CincyTech has brought over \$500,000 to the City in revenue and appreciates CincyTech investing in these companies during the seed stage. He thanked Mike Venerable and the Economic Development Team for their hard work and dedication.

Vice Mayor Spaeth reiterated the importance of the public/private partnership and highlighted CincyTech bringing 1,015 jobs to Mason. She congratulated CincyTech and the City for their continued success in bringing jobs to Mason.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-138 as amended was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-139 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR AMBLESIDE MEADOWS, PHASE 3B**

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

Kurt Seiler said the proposed residential PUD consists of 314 buildable lots and will contain 25 single family lots and two open space lots. This plat will dedicate the rights-of-way, utilities, storm, and sewer easements necessary for this development. 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 2018-139 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-140 ACCEPTING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR KINGS MILLS PLAZA AND RELEASING THE PERFORMANCE BONDS**

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

Kurt Seiler stated public improvements with the Kings Mills Plaza development included the four lane roadway, new sanitary main, existing traffic signal improvements, and the construction of Center Drive. City staff have inspected the public improvements and recommends accepting the public improvements, contingent on the submission of a one-year maintenance bond and a performance bond.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-140 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-141 ACCEPTING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR WILLOW BROOKE THE RIDGE SECTION ONE AND TWO AND FOR WILLOW BROOKE THE ESTATES SECTION ONE AND RELEASING THE PERFORMANCE BONDS**

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

Kurt Seiler stated public improvements for previous sections of the Willow Brooke subdivision have already been accepted. City staff, along with Greater Cincinnati Water Works, have inspected the public improvements and recommends accepting the public improvements, contingent on the submission of a one-year maintenance bond and a performance bond for remaining punch list items such as sidewalks and street trees on undeveloped lots.

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.

Councilmember Grossmann, Mayor Kidd, Eric and Kurt discussed a mound, fence and trees partitioning the lots backing up to the state-of-the-art water reclamation plant, staff addressing any concerns about odor throughout the year, and signage posted to inform perspective buyers about the location of the water reclamation plant.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-141 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-142 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE LOWEST AND BEST BID FOR THE EAGLE VIEW DRIVE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT FROM FORD DEVELOPMENT CORP., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$207,002, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

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

Kurt Seiler said the City hired Strand and Associates to study Eagle View Drive roadway due to rainwater concerns. The results confirmed that the twin 36” pipes are undersized for the capacity needed of culverts in the area. The two existing culverts on Eagle View Drive are reinforced

concrete pipes that were constructed in 1995 to provide access to Eagleview Village. An 8'x 4' Box Culvert will alleviate the street flooding and lessen the chance of local flooding to the residents. Outlet structures in each of the basins at the Golf Center will be modified to retain additional water and provide a slower release of water. The City received eight bids and Ford Development was the low bidder on this project. Ford Development has completed numerous projects in the City including the recently completed Bethany Road Improvement Project, Bethany Road Roundabout project, and the Mason Road Widening and Roundabout. \$200,000 was included in the 2018 Budget for this project and the stormwater fund will cover the remaining amount of the project.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-142 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-143 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE KLEINGERS GROUP IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$103,000 FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SUNDIN FIELDS AT HERITAGE OAK PARK – PHASE 1 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Jennifer Heft said in February 2016, the City contracted with the Kleingers Group for Park Master Planning including Lou Eves Municipal Pool. During the Parks Master Plan process, one of the items identified was drainage issues at Heritage Oak Park affecting the ability to use the fields. Improving the drainage issue would allow the fields to drain and play to resume more rapidly eliminating the need for additional fields. In November, an outside organization used the fields at Heritage Oak Park during a wet weather and significantly damaged the fields. The City has met with Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau along with representatives of Cincinnati Ultimate Players Association regarding the damages. As staff evaluated proposals for repairs to the fields and the lack of usability of the fields for much of next year the idea of moving forward with regrading and drainage included in Master Plan Phase I of the redevelopment of Sundin Fields at Heritage Oak Park became more prudent to do at this time. If the regrading and drainage work was performed at this time it would reduce the need to close the fields again at a later time to perform the work. At the Finance Committee meeting on November 14, the Finance Committee discussed the project and included funds in the 2019 Budget for this work. This contract is for preliminary schematic design and phase 1 engineering design. Once engineering plans are completed, construction would be anticipated to start in late spring/early summer and be completed in the fall. Soccer play will also likely be impacted in spring 2020 to allow enough time for establishing durable turf.

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

Councilmember Nelson and Jennifer Heft discussed working with the outside organization and Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau for reimbursement of field damages.

Councilmember Grossmann and Jennifer Heft discussed staff looking for alternative field options for sporting groups who would normally use the fields to conduct practices, games, and programs.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-143 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-144 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT #32798 WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING ROUNDABOUTS ON US 42 AT BETHANY ROAD AND AT MASON-MORROW-MILLGROVE PROJECT**

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

Kurt Seiler discussed Ordinance 2018-144 and Ordinance 2018-145 together. In 2017, the City applied for an Ohio Statewide Urban CMAQ grant through OKI for ODOT funding. The grant was approved for \$2,751,535 toward the estimated \$3,439,379 overall cost of the US 42 Roundabouts Project. The project will change two existing stop controlled intersections to roundabouts and widen US 42 between the two intersections to a 3-lane section. In addition, a multi-use path is also included in the project that will connect from SR 741 to US 42 along Bethany Road, along US 42 to Mason-Morrow-Millgrove Road and also along Mason-Morrow-Millgrove Road to an existing path at Mason Sports Park. Ordinance 2018-144 authorizes the City Manager to enter into an LPA Federal Local Let Project Agreement to receive grant funds. The agreement defines the requirements for the federal funding and provides ODOT's approval to allow the City to administer the design, bidding, construction management and inspection services. Ordinance 2018-145 authorizes the City Manager to enter into the design contract for the US 42 Roundabouts Project. Mead and Hunt Inc. is a local firm that has successfully completed several similar projects in the area and was selected from a total of 12 firms. The design fee for this project is estimated \$484,373 and the 2018 Budget includes \$500,000 for this design work. Construction would be scheduled to begin in 2022.

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 Grossmann and Kurt Seiler reviewed the benefits of roundabouts including slowing speeds down, greatly improving traffic flow to reduce delays, removing the possibility of power outages, and reducing the number and severity of crashes at intersections.

Councilmember Honerlaw reminded residents to yield at roundabouts instead of stopping.

Councilmember Chance and Kurt discussed a truck apron for semi-truck trailing tires and having no current issues with semi-trucks utilizing current roundabouts.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-144 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-145 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE US 42 AT BETHANY ROAD AND US 42 AT MASON-MORROW-MILLGROVE ROAD ROUNDABOUTS PROJECT DESIGN FROM MEAD AND HUNT, INCORPORATED IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FEE OF \$484,373 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-145 was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-146 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE CENTRAL PARKE BOULEVARD EXTENSION DESIGN FROM CARPENTER MARTY TRANSPORTATION IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FEE OF \$49,934 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

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

Kurt Seiler stated Central Parke Boulevard is a primary collector street parallel to Mason-Montgomery Road. This project would complete the extension of Central Park Boulevard from Financial Way to Western Row Road. This section of roadway will become increasingly more important as traffic increases on Mason-Montgomery Road. Alternative parallel routes such as Central Parke Boulevard increase capacity to the transportation system without widening Mason-Montgomery Road. As development occurs south of Cedar Village Drive, the roadway will be extended and will eventually connect to Socialville-Fosters Road at Wilkens Boulevard. Right-of-way for this section of road was dedicated in 2007 from Christ's Church at Mason. This contract allows for the necessary surveying, design services, and easement documentation for the project. The 2018 Budget included \$100,000 for the design work for this project. Remaining Central Parke TIF funds will be used for design and construction of these improvements. Carpenter Marty Transportation has not previously worked for the City but several of their staff members have worked on previous projects while working for other firms.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-146 was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.



**ORDINANCE 2018-147 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CDW-G FOR THE PURCHASE OF NETWORK SWITCHES, FIREWALLS, LICENSING, AND OTHER NECESSARY NETWORKING EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51,000**

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

Jennifer Heft said recently the City's Internet switches were found to be compromised. These updates were planned for 2019, but given the recent event staff is recommending moving forward with these purchases now.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-147 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to amend Ordinance 2018-147 adding an emergency clause was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-148 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**

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

Jennifer Heft discussed Ordinance 2018-148 and 2018-149 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. Department Heads review their budget line by line and items outside of their legal level of control to transfer budget amounts to different line items occurs as part of the re-appropriation process. There will be 16 fund transfers with the most significant being \$14 million re-appropriated to the General Capital Improvement Fund to provide for reinvestment back in to the community. There is also a \$2.7 million transfer from the General Fund to the Safety Fund for the income tax revenues collected for safety services. She stated there are 11 supplemental appropriations in Ordinance 2018-149.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-148 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-149 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS OF MONIES**

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

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

Councilmember Grossmann thanked staff and the Finance Committee for carefully reviewing the financial budget.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-149 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2018-150 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**

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

Eric Hansen stated there are 1,100 line items that compose the City's budget. This Ordinance approves the 2019 Annual City Budget, a planning document that sets broad guidelines and approves appropriations for the subsequent project year. 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 also has a paving program to stay proactive with street maintenance. New this year to the budget, is an Economic Sustainability Fund that has \$1 million with an outlook for future year concerns such as recessions and price increases. The Finance Committee reviewed the budget with an eye towards not only this coming year, but future years and to maintain aggressive capital investment. He reviewed a few projects including funds for landscaping at the new interchange at Western Row and I-71, the possibility of a new salt storage facility, a downtown development contingency, and connecting sidewalks. He said this budget remains rooted in smart investment in the future and economic development as well as conservative without sacrificing services or amenities. He thanked staff and the Finance Committee for the amount of work given to the budget.

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.

Councilmember Honerlaw vocalized concern about the management team overseeing the Golf Course and the amount of money moved to cover Golf Course losses. He wants to assist in improving the Golf Course and look at ways to make it profitable.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-150 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

## **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Mayor Spaeth thanked Rachel Kopfler for her continuous efforts to raise funds for Common Ground Playground and asked the community to keep her son Grant, a part of her inspiration for this park, in their prayers for his recent surgery. She also thanked City crews and staff from all departments working around the clock for brush pick-up and snow removal.

Councilmember Nelson stated she has notice an increase in signage along roadways and followed up as a reminder to have staff clear those signs.

Councilmember Grossmann thanked City crews for brush pick-up and staff cross-training to assist during peak times. She stated Downtown Mason's decorations look phenomenal and is grateful for the spirit it brings during the holiday season.

Mayor Kidd appointed Councilmember Gilb to The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Steve Jones of 913 Leslie Court brought up economic market concerns for the future and how the City will mitigate that impact. Mayor Kidd advised the City intentionally plans to diversify business sectors to carry economic struggles of other sectors. He said City staff and Council think like entrepreneurs and invest in smart ways to help tax payers. Eric Hansen stated the Sustainability Fund preparation sets aside budget when economy is good in case a downturn occurs. The Unencumbered Fund balance has 3-4 months of expenses held as well. Mason builds the worst case scenario in to this years' budget and future budgets. Councilmember Grossmann praised economic development and the City's innovative tax policies. Councilmember Honerlaw stated large events like Red, Rhythm and Boom would be downsized or delayed. Eric added the last recession provided opportunity for staff cross-training, departments working together, and building community relationships. Steve stated he appreciates the City's forward thinking.

Mayor Kidd wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said great things have happened on multiple levels in the community. He praised Mason's diverse community as a model for the rest of the country.

## **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:59 p.m.