

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Chaplain Jerry Pelfrey 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 February 11, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Attendance at the March 11 Council Meeting will not be adequate and a motion to cancel the March 11 Council Meeting was made Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS. The next regularly scheduled is Monday, March 25.

The City of Mason and Assurex Health are partnering together with Hoxworth Blood Center to hold a blood drive on Monday, March 4 in the Mason Municipal Center parking lot near the Veterans Memorial. Appointments can be scheduled through Hoxworth's webpage.

Mason Community Center in partnership with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will host the annual Race to Anyplace on Saturday, March 16 as part of the efforts to support research and patient services for those affected by leukemia and lymphoma. All participants will receive a free Community Center day pass. Family members of participants will receive half off the daily admission price.

A brief video was shared showcasing Mason's historic event, opening the full interchange at I-71.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Nelson reviewed updates on current legislation and advised the DeWine administration proposed increasing gas tax by 18 cents per gallon due to infrastructure needs. This increase includes a 60/40 split between state and local government with municipalities receiving 13%. There are no current updates with local government funding. Centralized tax collection will likely go to the Supreme Court. She said Mason's Online tax tool is now available on the City's website and staff are available to assist the community with taxes Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Council discussed the gas tax increase benefiting Mason by increasing the revenue that goes towards roads and bridges.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Amy Fornshell, manager of the Warren County's Child Advocacy Center, reviewed how the advocacy center was created and how it impacts Warren County. The organization makes a difference in the healing process for children and provides connection to resources for the future. They partner with schools, law enforcement, hospitals, and in-house counseling providers to deliver specialized needs for children. Council discussed the organization having a self-sustaining budget, long term influence on children, having child-centered development training, and 40 Mason children being assisted through the Child Advocacy Center last year. Council thanked Amy for providing additional information on the organization and her compassion for the community.

## **INTRODUCTION OF RICK AND ELLEN SCHEELER**

Eric Hansen introduced Rick and Ellen Scheeler and family. The Scheeler family suffered a tragedy in 2018 and lost their daughter Mary. Rick and Ellen chose to reflect their daughter by giving back to the community and have raised \$120,000 through their efforts towards the Mason Parks and Recreation Foundation for the Common Ground Playground. He said the Scheeler family represents the best of what Mason's community means. Ellen expressed their desire to share their daughter's passion for giving and caring. She spoke of her daughter's life being full of love and their family being blessed by the support for Mary and their family. Rick said Common Ground will bring people together, thanked the community, and praised his family for being amazing and supporting each other. A video from the Mason Parks and Recreation Foundation website was played in honor of Mary. Council thanked the Scheeler family for their generosity and partnering to celebrate Mary's life. At the Mayor's invitation, a moment of prayer was led by Councilmember Honerlaw.

## **ORDINANCE 2019-26 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PENCHURA, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS FOR COMMON GROUND PARK IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$455,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Eric Hansen said through community efforts, City staff in cooperation with the Mason Parks and Recreation Foundation has been working toward completing the next phases of the Common Ground Playground and securing the playground equipment. The equipment is specially designed to ensure the equipment is developmentally appropriate for children with and without disabilities. The current contract holder through the state cooperative procurement program is Penchura, LLC. The current state contract expires on February 28, 2019 and in order to lock into savings of about \$54,000, the contract must be awarded before the state contract expires. Production of the equipment will not begin until the City releases the manufacturer to do so. This will allow time for the next phase of construction, concrete work necessary in and around the park structure, to be complete. He said subsequent legislation will be necessary later this year for the installation of the proposed equipment. The City and the Mason Parks and Recreation

Foundation are looking into the option of pursuing a “community build” which allows for a portion of the equipment to be installed by community volunteers. He said fundraising continues with significant momentum and the expense for the equipment continues the matching program with the City.

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 2019-26 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2019-27 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WARREN COUNTY ENGINEER’S OFFICE FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROCK SALT**

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

Jennifer Heft said in preparation for snow and ice removal during the 2019-2020 winter season the City combines with other communities, in addition to the Southwest Ohio Purchasers for Government (SWOP4G) purchasing program, for the purchase of rock salt for snow removal each year. Warren County continues to facilitate this cooperative agreement as an additional option for obtaining rock salt at the lowest price possible. She said Ordinance 2019-27 is not to purchase the rock salt, but to confirm a formal agreement with the Warren County Engineer’s Office to participate in the 2019-2020 season.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-27 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2019-28 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$4,000,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING A GOLF COURSE IN THE CITY**

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

Jennifer Heft stated this ordinance is for the re-issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes that were used for the original acquisition of the Golf Center at Kings Island for \$9 million. Bond anticipation notes were reissued reducing the outstanding principal in 2008 through 2010. In 2011 and 2016, obligation bonds were provided for the principal balance remaining on the bond anticipation notes. These bonds had the most flexibility while hedging against rising rates at a time when the City had a higher amount of short-term debt. To date, \$4.5 million has been paid

towards the outstanding principal. She said this new issue represents a principal payment in the amount of \$500,000, which was included in the 2019 Budget. The total principal outstanding is \$4 million. The City's Finance Director anticipates the interest rate will be about the same as last year and will likely be around 3%, when the note is priced.

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 2019-28 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2019-29 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO A LEASE AGREEMENT AND A SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE, AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, MODIFYING THE BASE RENT PAYMENTS UNDER A LEASE-PURCHASE FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

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

Eric Hansen advised Ordinance 2019-29 refinances the Community Center expansion. He stated in 2009, the City initiated the partnership with TriHealth and have had the opportunity in the last year to expand. TriHealth's partnership has provided a top tier amenity for Mason's residents including additional foot traffic, earnings tax for the community, shared services, and a shared mission of wellness. Lease-Purchase Financing preserves long-term financial viability. He said the expansion debt uses rent revenue from TriHealth to pay for the expansion, through the 25 year lease-purchase financing agreement. The new issuance reduces the term of debt by five years and in 10 years that rent will become 100% capital revenue for the City. This amendment also locks in the interest rates.

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 2019-29 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2019-30 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR SALE AND PURCHASE WITH ATRICURE, INC ("ATRICURE") AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Eric Hansen advised the title is incorrectly listed in the agenda and will be reflected in the contract documents as AtriCure, Inc. Michele Blair introduced Tonya Austin, AtriCure Vice

President of Human Resources, Jerry Patton, AtriCure Director of Facilities, in the audience and Sam Privitera, AtriCure Chief Technical Officer who was unable to attend. She thanked AtriCure for the hospitality and partnership during the I-71 Interchange opening ceremony. She provided a brief history starting in 2014 when AtriCure accepted Mason's recruitment package as a start-up company in Mason thereby furthering growth of the City's biohealth hub. This initial AtriCure project committed to construct a state-of-the-art 85,000 square foot corporate headquarters, investing \$13 million in new capital investment, 175 new jobs, and payroll of \$10 million within five years. The project size and investment were exceeded and the job creation and payroll were achieved in less time than projected. This sale and purchase contract includes five acres the City owns on the north end of the AtriCure campus as well as an economic development incentive package that will leverage a healthy and progress incentive package from JobsOhio. The proposed expansion plan completes a comprehensive renovation and retrofit, converts high bay space into mezzanine workspace, doubles existing office and clean room capacity while also enabling an efficient, more streamlined manufacturing process, and positions AtriCure for a continued growth strategy. She said the project investment totals over \$15 million. The project will retain the current commitment of 175 jobs and grow that commitment by 280 additional jobs by 2023. The incentive package includes a tax incentive through a community reinvestment area tax abatement which will infuse the school of an additional \$1.5 million and \$4 million back to the community over the term of the abatement.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for the adoption after the first reading in order to facilitate the project schedule necessary to secure this investment in Mason and allow AtriCure to meet necessary competitive needs for the company's growth within the City of Mason was made by Vice Mayor Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to provide an abatement under the community reinvestment area program of 100% of real property improvements for a period of 15 years on the value of the new building improvements for AtriCure as authorized by the State of Ohio community reinvestment area program and contingent upon the company making an annual compensation payment to the Kings Local School District for the term of the abatement period was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-30 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Council discussed bringing more arts in to Mason and a work session was scheduled for March 25 at 6:00 p.m.

Council discussed the importance of liquor enforcement. Eric Hansen advised that Mason Police Officers work within the law and go beyond with education and training. Council should not direct how the law is enforced.

Vice Mayor Spaeth and Eric Hansen discussed the proactive work of the Public Utilities Department completing a comprehensive evaluation of Mason's industrial pretreatment program

in 2018 to evaluate inefficiencies and integrating improvements and how that and all City departments positively impact and put efforts towards economic development in the City.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** – None.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:46 p.m.