

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Chaplain Tom Moll opened the meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the September 23 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The regularly scheduled Council meetings in November coincide with Elections and Veterans Day as well as the week of Thanksgiving. A motion to cancel the November 11 and November 25 Council Meetings to hold one Council Meeting on Monday, November 18 was made by Councilmember Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE ALL YEAS.

A motion to authorize the purchase of a Holiday gift certificate for Butcher Bills, Kroger's, the Community Center, or Golf Center for each City employee was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A Warren County Municipal League membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16.

The 5th Annual Mason Corporate Challenge will be held on Saturday, October 19 at the Mason Golf Center. This is a 5k walk/run designed to engage the Mason corporate community and "give-back" by donating proceeds to select charities. City employees joining Mason's Team have proceeds going to the Park and Recreation Foundations support of Common Ground Playground.

Mason Deerfield Chamber will be hosting the annual Gems of Excellence Awards Night on Thursday, October 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Manor House. Winners will be announced at the event.

October 30, 31, and November 1 are Member Appreciation Days at Mason Community Center. There will be prize drawings and member savings at Symbiosis. On Friday, November 1, a "Fun Night Out" for members only from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. will include pizza, bingo, an obstacle course, and games.

Halloween will be celebrated on Thursday, October 31 between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Rain or shine.

Saturday, November 9 is a special evening with the Southwest Ohio Philharmonic, led by Cincinnati Ballet Music Director Carmon DeLeone as they perform the best of Broadway's classics. The event will take place at Great Wolf Lodge beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now open to the general public.

Funding for State Route 741 improvements for the Gap Project has been secured. The first submission for funding was in 1999. This project will be a significant improvement to current traffic flow and for the City's future economic health.

The majority of the Cities amenities, projects, and activities offered to residents is through the earnings tax. The share of earnings tax Mason residents pay is lowered because of business success. In 2008, about 20% of the Cities earnings tax was generated by residents. In 2018, about 11% was generated by residents and the remaining comes from Mason businesses, which is significant to the Cities economic development effort.

A Public Hearing for amendments to the Tower Park Development is scheduled for the Monday, October 28 Council Meeting and will not be advertised. The developer withdrew these amendments and will resubmit.

Council has generated an environment of departments working together over the years. The City provides health insurance coverage to full-time employees and in recent years a wellness program has been provided to save health insurance dollars as well as incentivize employees to participate in activities to improve health. Recently, the Common Ground Playground had gravel arriving prior to turf being placed. Instead of contracting this service to spread gravel, City employees from varied departments worked together to unload and spread gravel to prep for turf as part of the wellness program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Nelson stated the Finance Committee is working on the 2020 budget. She encouraged residents to register to attend the free Southwest Ohio Philharmonic event on Saturday, November 9 by calling 513.229.8500 or online at imaginemason.org.

Councilmember Gilb advised the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) approved a number of projects for the 2021 fiscal year. Mason's SR 741 project was approved for over \$3 million in federal funding. He said the total funding for this project, over multiple years, has been about \$33 million. Kurt Seiler said the City increased the local match to 60/40, as opposed to the general 80/20. He stated potential OPWC funding will also provide additional funding of the SR 741 project. Currently, the City has one ODOT and three OKI grants to further reduce costs and bring tax dollars back to Mason. The SR 741 project has been separated into three projects and will be under construction through 2023.

Councilmember Chance advised Park Board is focused on raising money and programming for the new Mason Municipal Aquatic Center.

Councilmember Grossmann stated A Matter of 50 Meters website is now available and bike path changes as well as an Aquatic Center timeline has been updated on the City's website.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Josh Wills of 1010 Reading Road stated noise violation concerns for his neighborhood which is in close proximity to Crossroads Church. He advised if noise concerns continue, he will take legal action with Crossroads Church and the City of Mason. Mayor Kidd and Councilmember Chance discussed actions Crossroads has taken to mitigate the concerns and long term resolutions Crossroads is considering.

RESOLUTION 2019-17 MASON MANUFACTURING MONTH

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

Eric Hansen introduced Economic Development Director, Michele Blair. Michele stated Manufacturing Month is an opportunity to celebrate innovation, manufacturing, technology, and the connectivity nurtured between Mason, the business community, and Mason schools. This year, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Region leads the country in National Manufacturing Day opportunities with over seventy events. City of Mason companies have a significant presence at these events. She thanked Ashley Ward, Aticure, Fanuc, Festo, Hi-Tek, Makino, Mitsubishi Electric and Rhinestahl for hosting or participating in events throughout the month to celebrate manufacturing and engage the next generation of innovators. She said the Greater Cincinnati region has seen a 4.7% increase in manufacturing jobs in the last five years, higher than the national increase of 3.7% during the same period.

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

Councilmember Grossmann complimented the opportunity for learning at the day long multi-company event on October 25 with activities for kids and apprenticeship programs offered.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2019-17 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2019-113 AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN DONATED EASEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF OTHER CERTAIN EASEMENTS AS PART OF THE SR 741 (SPYGLASS HILL TO WELDEN DRIVE) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

Kurt Seiler discussed Ordinance 2019-113 and Ordinance 2019-114 together. Ordinance 2019-113 is for temporary and permanent easements from 21 parcels for the widening of the northern portion of SR 741 from Spyglass Hill to Welden Drive from its current configuration to 5 lanes. The costs for purchase of these easements has been determined by the appraiser and verified by the appraiser reviewer. The next step is to authorize the acquisition and make formal offers to the property owners. He said Ordinance 2019-114 acquires the remaining right-of-way needed for the improvement of SR 741 and Parkside Drive Intersection. Council adopted Resolution 2019-14 in September, which is the first step in the appropriation process allowing for all of the needed right of way to be acquired. Ordinance 2019-114 directs the Law Director to file the appropriation action for the remaining parcel. He said because the appropriation is related to a road project, the City can use a method known as the “quick-take” process to allow the road project to continue even before the appropriation is completed. An emergency clause has been added to keep the project on schedule.

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 2019-113 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2019-114 AUTHORIZING THE CITY LAW DIRECTOR TO FILE A PETITION FOR APPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY NECESSARY FOR THE SR 741/PARKSIDE DRIVE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, DETERMINING PUBLIC EXIGENCY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (UNITED DAIRY FARMERS)

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-114 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2019-115 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE RUSH TRUCK CENTER OF OHIO FOR ENGINE REPAIRS TO A 2009 INTERNATIONAL 7400 DUMP TRUCK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,956 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 earlier this fall, staff reported issues with a City truck used as a frontline truck for leaf and brush pick up as well as snow and ice removal. A complete diagnosis determined that the truck was in need of an engine overhaul and replacement of the engine turbo cooling

system. This ordinance formalizes Council's motion from September to authorize moving forward with the repairs.

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 2019-115 as amended was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2019-116 AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT TO GREATER CINCINNATI WATERWORKS FOR A COMMERCIAL METER PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$155,000 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 stated the new Municipal Aquatic Center requires upgraded water service for both new amenities and fire protection for the facility. The former Lou Eves Municipal Pool did not have a fire line and the new facility will require a sprinkler system for fire protection. Mayor said the ordinance contains an emergency clause to maintain the schedule for this project. Emergency clauses allow Council to take immediate action and not wait thirty days.

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 2019-116 as amended was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2019-117 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FORD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$149,094 FOR THE DOWNTOWN MASON PARKING LOT PROJECT

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

Kurt Seiler discussed Ordinance 2019-117 and Ordinance 2019-118 together. Ordinance 2019-117 authorizes the construction of a parking lot in Downtown Mason for 27 parking spaces with a connection to the existing Fifth Third parking lot. Staff requested bids from five contractors with three being non-responsive due to being either too busy or the project being too small for them to be interested. The lowest and best proposal for the parking lot was from Ford Development Corporation. Ford has completed many projects in the City. Ford indicated they may be able to start on the project before the end of the year with completion being weather dependent. The contract completion date is for the lot to be available for use by the end of May 2020. Kurt said Ordinance 2019-118 will be a first reading.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-117 was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2019-118 FIRST READING AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BRIGHTVIEW LANDSCAPES, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,568 FOR LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION AT THE DOWNTOWN MASON PARKING LOT PROJECT

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

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Gilb said former Councilmembers adopted legislation, specifically Chapter 121, stating Council Meetings shall, in general, be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. As the public face of the community, he suggested Council renew the commitment to uphold the highest level of decorum and disagree respectfully. Council discussed providing additional training with each new election, following the rules of decorum during and outside of meetings, and continuing education currently offered and recommended by fellow Councilmembers.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:06 p.m.