

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Associate Pastor Kyle Linville opened the meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Ashley Chance, Tony Bradburn, Joshua Styracula, Michael Gilb, T. J. Honerlaw, and Kathy Grossmann. Diana K. Nelson was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the January 27 Work Session and January 27 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, February 24. A Work Session will begin at 5:00 p.m.

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of President's Day. Mason Community Center will remain open with normal operating hours.

The Warren County Municipal League will be meeting on Wednesday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m.

At the beginning of each year, the Community Center features a New Year's membership promotion. In January 2019, 313 new Community Center memberships were processed. This year, the Community Center processed 860 new memberships in January. 309 of the 860 were new Premier memberships. More than a third of these memberships were new Premier memberships, followed closely by Corporate Premier and insurance-based Premier memberships. The Community Center continues to represent engagement in the community.

**HEALTHY WORKSITE GOLD AWARD 2019 RECOGNITION – CITY OF MASON
EMPLOYEE WELLNESS COMMITTEE**

Ten years ago, the City had the opportunity to offer a Wellness Program to employees in an effort to maintain rising health care costs, help employees take individual responsibility for group and individual health care expenses, and help the City as an entity as well as employees as individuals develop wellness as a tool to be used for economic development. This program has built comradery across all departments. Kari Geiser, Human Resources Director, introduced the employee Wellness Committee and provided an overview of the Wellness Program including being able to keep budgeted costs for employee health care the same since 2012 and maintain a slight increase in health care costs. This program offers physical, emotional, mental, and financial health opportunities. She said the City's Wellness Committee has increased

participation from 49 individuals when it began to over 150 employees enrolled this current year. The City's Wellness Program received the 2019 Healthy Worksite Gold Level Award from the Health Action Council of Ohio. Of the 111 Ohio organizations that were recognized, 66 organizations received the gold level status and only 6 of the gold level recipients were municipalities.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Don Williams of 214 West Church Street thanked the City for the multiple avenues of open communication provided such as e-newsletter, CenterPoint, and email notices and following up on Church Street driving concerns he brought to a previous Council Meeting.

ORDINANCE 2020-20 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH DAN MELENA OF MELENA PROPERTIES, LLC

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

Kurt Seiler said a pre-annexation agreement has been submitted by Dan Melena of Melena Properties, LLC, owner at 3268 US Route 42 in Union Township. The pre-annexation agreement allows the property owner to access the sewer and/or water system, but requires them to pay 150% of standard rates until the property is annexed. Only about 65 feet of the property's boundary touches the City, but Lebanon does not currently have a water main available.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-20 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-21 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 Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Eric Hansen stated the City, in recent years, has participated in the Southwest Ohio Purchasers for Government (SWOP4G) purchasing program to buy rock salt for snow and ice removal operations. The City is now preparing for the 2020-2021 season. In addition to the City's participation in SWOP4G, the City also began participating in the Warren County Co-operative agreement for rock salt several years ago as an additional option for obtaining rock salt at the lowest price possible. The Warren County Engineer's Office is requesting a formal commitment from each jurisdiction for their participation in the program. After bids are received and approved, additional legislation will be presented to Council for the actual purchase of rock salt for the 2020-2021 winter season.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-21 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-22 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HPT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PARTS AND MATERIALS USED FOR UV DISINFECTION EQUIPMENT FOR THE WATER RECLAMATION PLANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$113,000

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

Jennifer Heft said several of the components of the 14-year old Water Reclamation Plant's original UV disinfection system are in need of an upgrade. This upgrade will include replacing current seals and seal components that protect submerged electrical equipment with a newer more reliable seal system design. The current seals are beginning to break free which could run the risk of expensive electrical components becoming exposed to water. The 2020 Budget included \$113,000 for this work.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-22 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-23 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH DAVEY TREE COMPANY FOR AS NEEDED TREE REMOVAL SERVICES

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

Jennifer Heft discussed Ordinance 2020-23 and Ordinance 2020-24 together. The City's tree removal program consists of the removal of hazardous trees and dead trees that present safety concerns or are aesthetically displeasing. The impact of the Emerald Ash Borer has destroyed many ash trees in City parks, the Golf Center, public right-of-way and other City owned property and has significantly increased the number of hazardous/dead trees slated for removal. Staff is recommending contracting with two commercial tree removal companies to obtain the best price per tree when a removal is needed. Having the option of obtaining competitive quotes from two contractors for this service is the most cost effective method for this initiative. She said Ordinance 2020-23 and Ordinance 2020- 24 will not exceed a total amount of \$125,000 between both contracts.

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

Councilmember Honerlaw and Jennifer Heft discussed the tree trimming program recently reinstated as trees have become overgrown which causes damage to snow plows and emergency vehicles. The City began the program this year and will continue the program next year.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-23 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-24 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH ASPLUNDH TREE EXPERT, LLC FOR AS NEEDED TREE REMOVAL SERVICES

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-24 was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Honerlaw stated the Work Session on Monday, February 24 is at 5:00 p.m. and will have Hurdzan Golf, LLC present.

Councilmember Styracula invited the community to the BioOhio Regional Career Fair on Tuesday, February 25 at the Municipal Center from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is the 6th year this event will be hosted in Mason and at least ten companies will be represented. This event helps strengthen the biohealth community in Mason.

Vice Mayor Gilb said the Finance Committee will meet Thursday, February 13. The City received the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This award recognizes and encourages excellence in financial reporting and the City has received this award each year since 1997. He also reviewed the 2019 RMS report of The Golf Center including an increase in revenue by 8%, golf rounds played on the Grizzly Course increased 4%, overall revenue is 1% lower than the 2019 budget, expenses were 7% higher than 2018 and approximately 3% more than budgeted.

Councilmember Chance said the Ohio Municipal League reported local governments will be meeting to discuss the National Opioid Litigation on Tuesday, February 11. He said OneCity for Recovery will be hosting an En Blanc Gala on Friday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Manor House to help raise funds for opioid addiction. This year's theme is Shining Light & Providing Hope for Recovery and guests are encouraged to wear all white. He said the organization was able to provide recovery to about 1,100 people in 2019.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LAND ACQUISITION

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of land acquisition was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:49 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:14 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:15 p.m.