

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Associate Pastor Phil Blodgett 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, Tony Bradburn, Joshua Styrcula, Michael Gilb, T. J. Honerlaw, and Kathy Grossmann.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 10 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: 6 YEAS 1 ABSTAIN (Nelson).

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. A motion to cancel the March 23 Council Meeting and hold a Work Session on Monday, March 30 at 5:00 p.m. was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

The Annual BioOhio Job Fair is Tuesday, February 25 in the Atrium of the Municipal Center. This is the 6th year this event will be hosted in Mason. Mason works regionally with the State and with BioOhio to bring companies and potential employees to Mason. This event helps strengthen the talent workforce in the biohealth community and Mason's economic development strategy.

The Mason Community Center is hosting a World Down Syndrome Day event on Sunday, March 15. Children with Down Syndrome can enjoy activities such as games in the Field House, gymnastics, open gym, swim, and rock climbing, between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Chaperones and parents are admitted free.

The Annual Police Awards Banquet is on Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m. to honor members of the Mason Police Department and Mason citizens who have made a difference within the community.

The Mason Community Center in partnership with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will host the Race to Anyplace on Saturday, March 21. Teams of 4 to 12 riders will compete on stationary bikes to see who can ride the farthest which helps support research and patient services for those affected by leukemia and lymphoma.

Eric introduced Kate Solomon, Executive Director of the FC Cincinnati Foundation. Kate said FCCF is excited about collaborating for a new mini-pitch field at Makino Park. This will be the

third mini-pitch soccer field in the greater Cincinnati area. She said the field will bring team programming, through organizations like Top Soccer, and individuals to play. Top Soccer provides sports and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

A motion to move Ordinance 2020-26 up on the agenda was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-26 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATED TO MAKINO PARK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Eric Hansen said construction of the all-inclusive Common Ground playground at Makino Park continues to move forward throughout the winter with an anticipated opening date of late spring 2020. The FC Cincinnati Foundation has offered to partner with the City to construct and donate a mini-pitch field at Makino Park. This proposed field will be unique compared to the two previously built by the FCC Foundation as it will be designed to be accessible with larger doors and special surfaces so wheelchairs can move freely on it. He said Rachel Kopfler, Kevin Collins, and Chief Ron Ferrell, who are in the audience, continue to make an impact and work hard in moving the park forward. Makino Park is a one-of-a-kind asset for Mason and the entire Greater Cincinnati Region. He said this ordinance will allow a Memorandum of Understanding with FC Cincinnati Foundation and provide the ability for the Foundation to move forward with finalizing plans and begin construction of the mini pitch field project. The Foundation will cover the entire cost of the construction of the mini pitch field. Preliminary ground work is anticipated to begin in March with the actual construction of the field to begin in late April. It is the goal of both the Foundation and the City to have the project complete in May.

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

Council thanked FC Cincinnati Foundation and the community's support and involvement for this project and discussed timing of FCC Field opening.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-26 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Chief Moore introduced Mike Hurdzan with Hurdzan Golf LLC. Mike provided an overview of the proposed Master Plan for the City of Mason Golf Course while taking into consideration today's consumer and reimagining the golf course to be sustainable. He said an all-weather practice facility is ideal. Council and Mike discussed this being a concept plan, revitalizing the golf course infrastructure, Hurdzan Golf LLC being a prestigious consulting group and highly recommended, and Mike Hurdzan being recognized amongst other golf course designers including Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Bryon Nelson, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Rees Jones, and Pete Dye. Council thanked residents for feedback from the Work Session. Eric Hansen said authorization with Hurdzan began the design process for the Master Plan. Implementation and construction will be a fluid ongoing process.

A motion to move item #8 up on the agenda was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF PRESENTATION BY SHERIFF LARRY SIMS

Sheriff Larry Sims reviewed the 2019 Year in Review Report and noted two special situations occurring last year where Deputy Sheriffs went above and beyond with proactive reactions. The report can be found at wcesooh.org.

WARREN COUNTY DRUG TASK PRESENTATION BY COMMANDER STEVE ARRASMITH

Commander Steve Arrasmith reviewed the 2019 Annual Report and thanked Council for the City's support. He said the multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force remains the most effective and cost efficient way to target drug trafficking. The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDA) federal program works with federal, state, and local law enforcement and provides a small amount of funding. Drug Task Force funding is received from a variety of sources and is inconsistent and unpredictable. He stated the Warren County Drug Task Force completed 479 drug diversion investigations in 2019. Commander Arrasmith reviewed current drug trends including Warren County ranked highest for opioid and LSD seizures and 11th in methamphetamine seizures in the State, and noted heroin fentanyl is the primary cause of overdose deaths. He stated the Warren County Drug Task Force is appreciative of the relationship with the City of Mason.

Council and Commander Arrasmith discussed the Recovery Ohio Grant, a phone line at 513.695.0070 and email at drugtips@wcdtf.org for submitting anonymous drug activity tips, Drug Task Force prevention education initiatives, and overdose statistics. Council thanked the Drug Task Force for the invaluable service to the City.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Perry Schwartz of 6309 Tarton Fields Lane read an email he sent to City Council and City management with encouragement to reinstate the Golf Course Committee for a special concentration of leadership towards golf course improvements.

ORDINANCE 2020-5 AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 0.97 ACRES FROM R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO R-6 (CONDOMINIUM AND LANDMINIUM RESIDENTIAL) LOCATED AT 4320 STITT ROAD (STITT REZONING)

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

The Public Hearing opened at 8:14 p.m.

Kurt Seiler stated this property is currently zoned R-1, Single Family Residential and the applicant is requesting to rezone it to R-6, Condominium and Landominium Residential. The property to the north, east and south are zoned R-6 with existing attached residential uses and the property to the west is zoned R-PUD (Residential Planned Unit Development) with existing attached residential uses. Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning from R-1 to R-6 as it is consistent with the primary uses listed in the Comprehensive plan and surrounding zoning. If this property were to be developed as R-6, a plan would need to be presented at the Zoning Board of Appeals. The property is under one acre and code requires one acre to be developed as R-6.

David Allen of 3899 Sandtrap Circle and the Pine Run HOA president shared concerns with landscaping and asphalt investments at Pine Run, home values, and ongoing flooding and drainage concerns.

Don Lay of 3965 Sandtrap Circle clarified R-6 zoning has potential for use as multi-family use property and inquired on signing up for the City's e-newsletters.

George Mckean of 3901 Sandtrap Circle is also interested in signing up for the City's e-newsletters to stay informed.

Council and Kurt discussed this property not being a part of the current HOA at Pine Run, issues vetted through Planning Commission before arriving at Council, no site plan currently for the property, and being good neighbors.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:30 p.m.

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 2020-5 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-25 APPROVAL OF A REVISED CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TOWER PARK DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 710 TYLERSVILLE ROAD (TOWER PARK)

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

A Public Hearing was set for March 9, 2020.

ORDINANCE 2020-27 AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 TO THE WARREN COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

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

Eric Hansen said the City of Mason has participated in the Warren County Drug Task Force since its inception. In 2018, the Warren County Drug Task Force funding significantly decreased due to changes in seizure and forfeiture laws resulting in fewer funds for overhead costs. As a result, the Drug Task Force asked all participating members for additional funds as a result of these changes that limited alternate revenue streams. Preserving this program was identified as a priority by Mason's Safety Committee and the committee recommended the City provide funding of \$100,000 to be directed toward maintaining the Drug Diversion Program. He said historically the Warren County Commissioners have used Mason's annual payment, along with other communities as leverage for state and federal monies to assist in fighting drug related crimes and the opioid epidemic. The Task Force handles drug related cases and complaints in the City of Mason as well as multi-jurisdictional investigations. They also share equipment and investigative resources with the Mason Police Department on an as-needed basis. Eric stated the Task Force has asked the City to once again consider a \$100,000 contribution in 2020 to continue funding the Drug Diversion Program. The Safety Committee has reviewed this request and recommends Council move forward with this level of contribution.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-27 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-28 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RACK AND BALLAUER EXCAVATING COMPANY, INC. FOR THE MAKINO PARK ASPHALT PAVING PROJECT

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

Kurt Seiler stated prior to the grand opening of Common Ground Playground at Makino Park this spring, one outstanding item toward the completion of the playground phase of the park is the final surface course of asphalt on the parking lot, striping the parking lot and installation of an asphalt path surrounding the playground. The estimated cost for this work was approximately \$150,000 so the bids received were very attractive. He said the goal is to have the asphalt work completed before the grand opening of the park anticipated to take place in late spring 2020. Completion of the asphalt work in the spring is heavily dependent on the weather since there are minimum temperatures required for this work. The 2020 Budget included \$200,000 for remaining items related to Makino Park.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-28 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-29 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE LOW AND BEST BID FOR THE SR 741 AND PARKSIDE DRIVE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FROM RACK AND BALLAUER EXCAVATING COMPANY, INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

Kurt Seiler said realignment of SR 741 at Kings Mills Road and Parkside Drive will be a tremendous improvement to the intersection increasing capacity and reducing delay currently occurring. The City currently has approximately \$4 million in grant funds towards the project. The 2020 Budget included \$4,837,846 for this project and over \$600,000 from the JW Harris TIF. Construction is expected to start this spring and last approximately one year.

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 Styrcula and Kurt discussed fairly minor traffic impact while construction is going on.

Councilmember Bradburn and Kurt discussed the project going from the signal at Kroger to Cox-Smith Road improvements, utilities completion outlook, and signal poles arrival time frame.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-29 was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-30 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CDW-G FOR THE PURCHASE OF HARDWARE AND LICENSING TO REPLACE AND UPGRADE THE EXISTING CITY-WIDE PHONE SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000

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

Kurt Seiler said the Citywide phone system was replaced in 2013. It was anticipated that the system would require replacement in 2018 but the system has lasted an additional 2 years. In the 2nd quarter of 2020, the system will be marked end of life by Cisco and will no longer be covered under maintenance. The current phone system uses Voice Over IP technology to support over 200 phones, 400 phone lines, and 200 voicemail accounts. The system is utilized throughout multiple City facilities including the Municipal Center, Community Center, Water Reclamation Plant, Service Center, Fire stations, and will also service the new Mason Aquatic Center. The system is a critical piece of City infrastructure that facilitates communication with residents and City staff. He said an upgrade will allow the City to leverage resources implemented with the new City SAN storage system and Citywide fiber ring network to aid in disaster recovery. This will add system failover, robust backups, and the ability to sync with an offsite disaster recovery system. The system is expected to last 5 to 7 years which is consistent with the City's upgrade

schedule as well as technology trends. Kurt stated the 2020 budget included \$150,000 for the Citywide phone system. CDW-G is part of the state purchasing program and the City has worked with them as part of multiple IT related projects.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-30 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Honerlaw reported the Downtown Committee completed a gap analysis and overview of happenings with Downtown Mason. Cathy Harbison attended as representative of the MADE Chamber. The next meeting is February 27 at 8:00 a.m.

Mayor Grossmann said the Educational Initiatives Committee, with members of the MADE Chamber, discussed creating events fostering greater engagement between Council, staff, and local business and educational leaders to tackle workforce development and future needs of the City.

Councilmember Chance said Employee Relations will meet in November.

As Chair of the Finance Committee, Vice Mayor Gilb provided a review of the 2019 financial overview including budgeted versus actual funds. He stated Moody's reviewed the City's Aaa status and City staff compiled a report exemplifying Mason's continued growth, ability to attract talent, and maintain a strong financial profile. Eric Hansen advised the City received confirmation of a Aaa rating. City staff collaborated to create the presentation about Mason's financial health, economic development success, partnerships, and quality of life in the community. Councilmember Nelson stated Finance Director Joe Reigelsperger is a great asset to the City.

Councilmember Chance said the Public Services Committee is discussing signs for exits leading up to Mason and working with ODOT in regards to overpass lighting on SR 741.

Councilmember Bradburn stated the Safety Committee received an overview of the Campus Safety Program by Chief Todd Carter, Captain Jerry Deidesheimer, and Lieutenant Matt Hayes. Chief Bryan Brumagen provided an overview of the Fire Department and the need for a third medic. The Committee is researching the needs for the Fire Department to receive a Class 1 rating. The Fire Department currently has a Class 3 rating.

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Councilmember Nelson said the Veteran's Board is developing veteran flags to highlight local veterans and place around the Downtown Plaza. Councilmember Chance, as a previous member of the Veteran's Board, stated he saw the idea from another town that displays flags.

Councilmember Bradburn said his biggest take away from the Warren County Municipal League meeting was that Governor DeWine recommended to legislators not to be anxious to pass legislation that affects the current operations of local government. Councilmember Nelson appreciates the decision to leave decisions in local municipalities hands instead of State.

Councilmember Nelson said the Ohio Department of Health as launched a new online initiative to help fight opioid and drug addiction. The new dashboard tracks data from emergency hospital rooms to track overdoses per county each quarter. She said the Governor has been discussing proposal of fund allocation for the opioid settlement.

Councilmember Chance 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.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Styrcula recommended residents research topics in regards to the school levy to ensure information is accurate and visit the Warren County Auditor's website or masonohioschools.com.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ACQUISITION/DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY AND EMPLOYMENT/COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase and sale of real property was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:09 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:28 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:28 p.m.