

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
April 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Vice Mayor Gilb opened the meeting in prayer.

A motion to add Old and New Business to the agenda was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the March 9 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to approve the March 28 Special Meeting minutes as amended was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula,. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Gilb).

A motion to approve the March 30 Work Session minutes was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Styracula,. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Gilb).

A motion to approve the April 1 Special Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to approve the April 3 Special Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

112 families completed the Easter Egg Hunt throughout the community. All participants will receive a \$25 Nifty Yiftee e-gift card for use at participating businesses in Mason. Five golden egg winners were drawn randomly and will receive a \$100 Nifty Yiftee e-gift card. The Nifty Yiftee Gift Card serves a long time ambition of marketing efforts with businesses and directs business to businesses suffering during this time. These cards are useable at all participating merchants. Merchants interested in being involved or residents interested in purchasing a gift card can visit imaginemason.org.

The Incident Command structure is a nationally recognized protocol, specifically in emergency services. The City has used an Incident Command structure for activities such as Red, Rhythm

and Boom and snow removal. Chief Todd Carter and Chief Bryan Brumagen, Mason's COVID-19 Incident Commanders, provided an overview of Mason's initial steps through the Incident Command team to be proactive as well as ongoing safety measures and allocation of resources during the pandemic. Many Mason companies are retooling to help supply chains and common acts of kindness amongst neighbors are examples of gratitude as the community navigates through this together. The City's communication response has been delayed and programs have been cancelled or delayed due to reallocation of resources towards critical operations. Councilmember Chance thanked the City for the leadership displayed and proactive preparation during this time.

A motion to move Consideration of previously Tabled Items up on the agenda prior to Ordinance 2020-46 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-44 RATIFYING THE PURCHASE OF CLEANING SUPPLIES FROM RAVE CLEANING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,762 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Jennifer Heft said the City implemented an Incident Command Team in order to coordinate our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 18, a state of emergency was declared in the City which allows the City Manager the ability to make purchases above the \$15,000 threshold without Council approval as long as the purchase is related to the emergency at hand. Snazzy's Car Wash, one of the City's existing partners, reached out to the City indicating that they were affiliated with another company that supplies disinfectant called TB Quat, which is proven to combat and kill the COVID-19 virus. The owner of Snazzy's Car Wash indicated their willingness to assist the City in obtaining the disinfectant. With supplies quickly depleting, the City decided to move forward with the purchase of 184 cases of TB Quat disinfectant totaling \$19,762. TB Quat is used daily to clean the City's Fire Department vehicles. She said any product unused during the COVID-19 crisis can be used by the Fire Department in the future.

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 2020-44 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-45 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS TO PURCHASE WETLAND MITIGATION CREDITS DUE TO THE SR 741 (SPYGLASS HILL TO WELDEN DRIVE) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

Kurt Seiler said this project is part of the Capital Improvement SR741 project. The potential area that would be disturbed is roughly 0.22 acres. However, the mitigation rules and ratios require the City to purchase 0.60 mitigation credits. For the small amount of wetland impacted by the project, the option to purchase credits in a wetland bank is a more financial prudent option. He said a wetland bank allows for larger wetlands to be constructed and then other agencies can buy credits to help offset the costs for the wetland maintenance and satisfy their mitigation requirements. Staff believes buying credit from a mitigation bank is the most cost effective option. Five Rivers Metroparks has established the Great Miami Mitigation Bank and is authorized by USACE and OPEA to sell wetland mitigation credits to entities required to mitigate wetland impacts.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-45 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUSLY TABLED ITEMS

Motion to remove Ordinance 2020-43 from tabled status and allow for consideration by Council was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Vice Mayor Gilb stated the Finance Committee met and discussed a desire to help Mason businesses on an immediate basis and reviewed programs other communities are doing. The Finance Committee recommended a gift card program contracting with Mason/Deerfield Community Development Corporation, CDC, to make up to \$160,000 in purchases on an immediate basis. Vice Mayor Gilb read the amendments recommended to Ordinance 2020-43.

Council discussed financial options through a gift card program, possibility of taking away earnings for the future through a gift card program, the Mason Deerfield CDC being the agent for the City to infuse dollars into the community, managing tax payer dollars appropriately, providing a gift card program in addition to providing \$500,000, concerns of businesses not offering gift card options currently, short- and long-term business recovery strategies, and a Pay It Forward fund to be collected and invested during economic downturns. Council also reviewed programs other communities are doing to support businesses.

A motion to amend Ordinance 2020-43 was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-43 as amended was made. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Eric said discussion is anticipated with the CDC for administrative costs and to tie gift cards with a larger purchase to drive additional purchases.

ORDINANCE 2020-46 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAMS, BACK-TO-WORK PROGRAMS AND ENTER INTO SERVICE AGREEMENTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 2 YEAS, 5 NAYS (Nelson, Chance, Styrcula, Gilb, Grossmann).

Jeff Forbes read Ordinance 2020-46.

Eric Hansen said the Finance Committee requested legislation be generated in reference to programs discussed. Finance Committee Chair, Vice Mayor Gilb said with concerns to preserve Mason businesses and bring businesses back to normal operating levels, this ordinance provides support to the community as Mason begins to come back to work and assists in revitalizing and regenerating the community to move forward.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS (Nelson, Chance, Styrcula).

Ordinance 2020-46 will require a second reading.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Gilb said he encourages small businesses with funding difficulties under the CARES act to reach out to the City to provide guidance for relief.

Councilmember Nelson provided updates on the State of Ohio's programs for small businesses including the Keep Connected program, Executive Orders including suspended rent for small businesses, tax extensions, liquor buyback program, and the ability to defer health insurance premiums as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. She recommended a Work Session to discuss Ordinance 2020-46.

Councilmember Chance stated his interest in supporting the small business community. He encouraged residents to visit united2support.com to buy a t-shirt where 100% of proceeds go to the Mason Deerfield CDC to support Mason's small businesses.

Councilmember Bradburn said the Safety Committee will be meeting to discuss proactive safety measures with anticipation of the Community Center opening.

Councilmember Honerlaw stated his support for the community, read inspirational quotes to reassure businesses and residents during this crisis, and encouraged businesses to provide services to those that cannot currently continue to afford it. He stated concerns with miscommunication provided to the public. Councilmember Chance said his intent is never to offend fellow Council members.

Councilmember Styrcula stated concerns in delaying support to Mason's small business.

Mayor Grossmann stated collaborative efforts she set out to accomplish as Mayor and reviewed discouraging conduct through disagreements, assumption of assigning motives, and miscommunication. She provided an overview of Mason's small business assistance proposals. Councilmember Chance encouraged the united2support.com t-shirts.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:07 p.m.