

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
April 27, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was held via video conferencing using Zoom technology and broadcast live through ICRC feed. The public was able to access the live broadcast by logging on to the City's website or going directly to ICRC's website.

**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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the April 13 Council Meeting and April 21 Special Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

In lieu of hosting Shop Local at Mason Community Center on April 29, the event is now offered online April 27 through May 3. The City is promoting local vendor and merchant websites and social media outlets via [imaginemason.org](http://imaginemason.org).

The City is hosting a virtual 5k event on Saturday, May 2 where community members are encouraged to walk or run their favorite 5k route in Mason or run on a treadmill. Participants are encouraged to submit a photo of their completion to the Community Center at [communitycenter@masonoh.org](mailto:communitycenter@masonoh.org). Participants must be a current member of Mason Community Center to be eligible for a prize.

Merchants that can accept a Master Card payment are encouraged to register with the City's Come Together Mason e-gift card program. Residents and organizations can buy a gift card sent through email to be used at any of the participating merchants. More than 400 gift cards have been redeemed with a total value of approximately \$9,000 thus far. Mayor Grossmann stated a tutorial is available online explaining how the gift cards program works.

A motion to allow the visitor in Council Chambers present then move Recognition of Visitors after Ordinance 2020-49 on the agenda was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

John Looker of 111 East Main Street reported on items the Board of Veterans Affairs has been working on including banners displayed of veterans in Downtown Mason, making Mason a Purple Heart City, and the Memorial Day parade is anticipated to be cancelled but a special meal for veterans will occur after the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilmember Bradburn and John discussed providing examples to Council to review. Mayor Grossmann and John discussed the amount of banners and permission from families. Eric Hansen said banner templates have been created and details are being finalized, location of banners are being reviewed, and he anticipates supply chain delays during this time. The intention is to begin with historical figures then provide opportunities for local residents to help sponsor banners for their loved ones.

## **ORDINANCE 2020-47 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NEYRA PAVING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,557 FOR ASPHALT MAINTENANCE AT MASON SERVICE CENTER AND MASON SPORTS PARK**

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

Kurt Seiler discussed Ordinance 2020-47 and Ordinance 2020-48 together. These ordinances cover annual maintenance for some parking areas and the bike path. There are multiple areas in the City that are in need of crack seal and sealcoating in order to prolong the City's investment. Staff obtained bids for several maintenance areas and then combined the best priced bids. This resulted in two separate contracts in order to obtain the best pricing for each area. He said Ordinance 2020-47 contracts with Neyra Paving, Inc. for crack seal, sealcoating and re-striping at the Mason Service Center and Mason Sports Park. Service Center staff is installing underdrain in portions of the Sports Park parking lots prior to the sealcoating work. Ordinance 2020-48 contracts to Houck Asphalt Maintenance for repairs, crack seal, sealcoating and re-striping at Quinn Park, a portion of the bike path along Mason-Montgomery Road (Socialville-Foster Road to Irwin-Simpson Road), Downtown parking lots, and a portion of the Golf Center cart paths. Both Neyra Paving, Inc. and Houck Asphalt Maintenance have completed various projects for the City of Mason with excellent results and no complaints.

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 Bradburn and Kurt discussed changes in prices due to the current economy and some timing schedules moving up due to other cancellations for uncertainties.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-47 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2020-48 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HOUCK ASPHALT MAINTENANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,402 FOR ASPHALT MAINTENANCE AT QUINN PARK, PORTION OF MASON-MONTGOMERY BIKE PATH, DOWNTOWN PARKING LOTS, AND GOLF CENTER PATHS**

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

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 2020-48 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2020-49 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND THE INDIANA & OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY**

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

Kurt Seiler said the US 42 project includes the at-grade railroad crossing located at the intersection of US 42 (Reading Road) and Tylersville Road. The existing crossing consists of a rubber panel material that has not been manufactured for over twenty years and is no longer available. In addition, the wooden crossties below the track deteriorate, causing the track to vibrate and bounce as vehicles cross over. Crews from the railroad, with the help of City crews, replace and fill the voids with asphalt. Recently, City engineering staff and I&O personnel, have asked the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) to assess the crossing for possible federal funding through the Grade Crossing Safety Program. He said the project has now been approved and ORDC has provided a Letter Agreement detailing the proposed funding for the improvement. ORDC has agreed to fund 100% of the design costs and 50% of the construction cost for the estimated \$600,000 project. The remaining 50% of construction would be split with I&O providing 30% and the City providing 20%. Construction is anticipated to occur between June and August 2021 while school is out. The proposed project will replace the entire crossing, including the subsurface drainage, crossties and rail with a concrete tub style crossing that eliminates the need for wooden crossties.

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

Councilmember Bradburn and Kurt discussed a \$120,000 expenditure with completion next year.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-49 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

A motion to limit public input dialogue to four minutes per guest within a 60-minute time frame and no dialogue between Council members and guest was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

John Looker of 111 East Main Street stated American Legion has been closed and is in financial need even with resources provided through the CARE program. He said Warren County Veterans Services is providing relief funding for veterans in need. Eric Hansen and John discussed eligibility of the American Legion through Ordinance 2020-43, a gift card program with CDC awaiting a service agreement, Council considering other avenues for assistance, and encouraging residents to donate and contribute to the Legion.

Brandi McKinney of 947 Olympia Drive said local businesses will pay it forward. People and businesses have reached out offering help for her family after speaking on April 25. She stated Mayor should guide the Council team in a positive and fair manner.

Reese McKinney of 947 Olympia Drive stated excitement for the small business parade that occurred. She said Council should be nice to each other.

Joy Bennett of 1054 Willow Lane stated concerns about unaddressed public communication, differences in liberal and conservative views, and apprehension with Council introducing legislation without an implementation in place.

Glen Garvin of 4974 Lava Court shared support for Mason residents and commended the support of the community for local businesses. He stated Ordinance 2020-46 funding source concerns and encouraged Council to work together.

David Meyer of 7821 Clearwater Court shared concerns with intimidations from a resident close to Council.

Mark Haake of 3620 Dunlop Court thanked City staff for reaching out for a well-being check. He stated Ordinance 2020-43 and Ordinance 2020-46 inconsistencies and encouraged Council to share consideration for each other to lead the City.

Jordan Arnold of 989 Indianwood Drive said Council represents Mason's value in different ways and expressed gratitude for Mason's community coming together before the pandemic, during the pandemic, and moving forward after the pandemic.

Crystal Maag of 4755 White Blossom Boulevard provided concerns for previous Council interactions and thanked Council members for their individual support towards residents and the current level of respect displayed.

## **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Nelson reviewed City staff's memo of business recovery concepts and programs for all Mason businesses including the business expense grant loan program to provide expense relief and the economic development forgiveness loan program to provide support for recovery needs and growth opportunities for Mason businesses. She recommended the Economic Development Committee discuss the concepts at their next scheduled meeting. Councilmember Nelson thanked Mr. Cohen of CMC Properties for his continued interest in the growth of the Mason community.

Councilmember Styrcula thanked John Looker for his service to the country and to his support of the veterans in this community.

Councilmember Bradburn and Jennifer Heft discussed working with the Fire Department's medical advisor as well as with TriHealth's doctors, through the developed partnership, on advice during this time and steps to take with reopening fitness facilities.

Vice Mayor Gilb offered an apology to residents that may have been offended by Council and stated Council is working together to find good solutions for the community.

Councilmember Chance thanked residents for participation in the vehicle parade through Downtown Mason. The parade brought families and the community together.

Councilmember Honerlaw apologized to Council for communication that may have been taken offensively as that has not been his intent.

Mayor Grossmann stated the Economic Development Committee is motivated to implement action for local businesses and will be discussing City staff concepts at the next meeting. She stated she is leading Council Meetings to the best of her abilities, reviewed the importance of Robert's Rules of Order, and went through scenarios where she has had to redirect Council during Council Meetings.

## **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:28 p.m.