

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
October 12, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Eric stated Council is anticipated to adjourn into Executive Session until approximately 7:00 p.m. when regular meeting will resume.

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

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing acquisition/disposition of property and employment/compensation of public employees was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 6:04 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:05 p.m.

Chaplain Tom Moll opened the regular meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION 2020-12 SKILLED CARE PHARMACY CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

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

Jessica Johnson said Skilled Care Pharmacy is celebrating their 40-year anniversary and have created bio-health jobs in Mason with a commitment to improving the quality of life for those they serve. Jessica introduced Skilled Care Pharmacy CEO Larry Galluzzo.

Larry Galluzzo thanked Council and the City of Mason for the 40-year anniversary recognition. Larry stated Skilled Care Pharmacy reduces the number of medications for those in long term care facilities to reduce the cost to the payer and increase quality of life.

Councilmember Nelson thanked Skilled Care Pharmacy for their commitment to Mason and said Skilled Care Pharmacy has an art gallery inside of their facility with artwork from residents that Skilled Care Pharmacy serves.

Mayor Grossmann read a proclamation for Resolution 2020-12 for Larry Galluzzo and Skilled Care Pharmacy associates.

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 Resolution 2020-12 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

MASON ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Councilmember Nelson stated the Mason Arts Council was established in 2019 and introduced Mason Arts Council President Tom Huff.

Tom Huff said the Mason Arts Council has been working to develop the Mason Regional Center for the Arts and introduced board members of the Mason Arts Council. Tom stated the Mason Arts Council is proposing to build a comprehensive center for the arts and displayed a video presentation for the Mason Regional Center for the Arts. Tom stated the Mason Arts Council would like to partner with the City to locate the facility in Mason on appropriate property.

2021 CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Mayor Grossmann stated the 2021 Mason calendar photo contest winners will be covered in the City Manager's Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the September 28 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City of Mason 2021 calendar photo contest winners have their photo featured in the 2021 City calendar and received a Come Together Mason e-gift card. 2021 Mason calendars are available at the Mason Municipal Center and the Mason Community Center. A video was displayed recognizing each month's calendar photo contest winner.

The reimagined Mason Corporate Challenge provides opportunities to engage the City's corporate partners. Those participating in this year's virtual Corporate Challenge event can submit a picture engaging in physical activity. The City has received entries from all over the world, and due to increased participation and corporate demand, the deadline for event submissions has been extended to October 14.

Premier members and winners of the Mason Community Center Member Appreciation Days raffle will be invited to the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center. At this preview event, guests can explore the facility and become familiar with what to expect for the opening season of the leisure pool in 2021. Guests will experience an exciting but scaled back version of the facility.

The Warren County Municipal League is meeting Wednesday, October 21 at Shaker Run Golf Course.

Halloween takes place on October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. rain or shine. Participation is voluntary, and information is available on imaginemason.org for safety tips as well as additional COVID-19 tips. Residents are asked to turn on their lights if they are participating. Mason Police and Fire Departments will be out in neighborhoods to distribute candy and encourage safety.

Over 75 businesses have signed up to participate in the Come Together e-gift Card Program, and nearly \$275,000 of local business activity was generated with the first wave of gift cards. 8,500 gift cards were sent to sewer utility customers as part of this program. A majority of the e-gift cards from the first wave expired on September 30 with remaining cards set to expire on November 1. Ordinance 2020–51 allows for the program to be expanded based upon further need. A second wave of the program is recommended to provide an additional \$50 e-gift card to the 8,500 sewer customers to expire at the end of March 2021. This would help address ongoing impacts to small business by driving further activity, provide direct relief to business and residential sewer customers. Any remaining balance after this wave would be available to encourage local business activity such as through corporate incentive programs, premier member incentives, or other programs once the General Fund reimburses the Sewer Fund for the unused balance.

Council and Eric Hansen discussed businesses continuously signing up to participate in the Come Together e-gift Card Program and the second wave of gift cards for Mason sewer customers.

A motion to proceed with a second wave of \$50 gift cards for all Mason sewer customers was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Mayor Grossmann stated the Come Together e-gift Card Program generated \$275,000 in the first wave of gift cards through the sewer program.

Vice Mayor Gilb stated the legislation passed for small business recovery committed \$2.2 million for small business recovery and the legislation passed was one of the largest small business recovery efforts in Warren County. Vice Mayor Gilb displayed a small business recovery report, provided a timeline of programs authorized by Council and introduced Planning Commission Chair and CIC member Dick Staten to provide a report on the CIC's small business recovery efforts.

Dick Staten thanked Council for their efforts for small business recovery and discussed the process for the CIC developing programs for small business recovery.

Council thanked Dick Staten for his work with the CIC and Planning Commission.

Mayor Grossmann said the sewer fund was used to provide funds back to taxpayers. Mayor Grossmann stated she attended meetings with Congressman Steve Chabot and provided him with Mason's small business recovery report. Mayor Grossmann expressed gratitude to staff for their efforts and creativity in developing programs for small business recovery.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS - None

RESOLUTION 2020-13 DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

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

Jennifer Heft said this year marks the 75th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the 30th anniversary of the National Disabilities Act. This year's theme is "Increasing Access and Opportunity." The City of Mason continues to provide opportunities for children and families through inclusive partnerships and programming with the Mason Parks and Recreation Foundation, Community Concepts, COI Connected, Mason City Schools, Mason Challenger League, and Include Health.

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

Mayor Grossmann stated Council is proud of the countries, languages, and population of all capabilities represented in the City.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-13 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-95 FIRST READING: AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 1.59 ACRES FROM HT-1 (HIGH TECH LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) TO B-PUD (BUSINESS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) WITH APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN LOCATED BETWEEN 4920 AND 4834 SOCIALVILLE-FOSTER ROAD (WHITE BLOSSOM PUD)

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

Eric Hansen set a Public Hearing for Monday, November 9.

ORDINANCE 2020-96 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STAUFFER SITE SERVICES, LLC FOR DEMOLITION OF THREE EXISTING STRUCTURES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$43,200

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

Jennifer Heft said this ordinance includes three buildings that the City is looking to have razed. Pine Hill Lodge and garage has significant issues with mold and flooding, making it unusable for programming. Staff recommends having the lodge and garage razed with parking lot would remaining as there is value in the property with its adjacency to Pine Hill Park, Jennifer stated that

the second property recommended to be razed is the former Maranatha Baptist Church property that is approximately 4.296 acres located at 4505 N. US Route 42. The property located adjacent to Sundin Fields at Heritage Oak Park is beneficial for the future master plan and ingress/egress development opportunities for the park. In August 1998, the City purchased 74 acres of the Westerkamm farm for the site of the Municipal Center. As part of the purchase agreement the City was granted the first right of negotiation on an additional approximately 40 acres of the Westerkamm farm that is located just north of the Municipal Center. Ms. Westerkamm is willing to include the .754 acres in the City's first right of negotiation agreement in exchange for the removal of a barn that has fallen into disarray on her property.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-96 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Honerlaw).

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nelson discussed having a copy of resident's statements in response to the Mayor's report added to the record. Councilmember Nelson stated House Bill 614 distributed \$614 million in Cares Act funding to Ohio political subdivisions, Mason will receive a total of \$2.4 million of the funding. Funds from the first round of Cares Act Funding not encumbered by November 20, and funds from the second round of Cares Act Funding not encumbered by December 30 will be reallocated to the County. Funds reallocated to the County will be returned to the State to be redistributed to other municipalities. Councilmember Nelson stated federal negotiations regarding the next round of stimulus funding include additional aid to state and local governments, greater flexibility using the funds, and additional time to encumber the funds.

Councilmember Bradburn and Eric Hansen discussed work on the Welden Drive Project, and the status of Heritage Oak Park.

Council and Eric Hansen discussed the process and budget for selecting a music artist for Red, Rhythm & Boom for 2021 and encumbering funds for the event.

Vice Mayor Gilb, Eric Hansen, and Kurt Seiler discussed notifying homeowners associations before performing work on private property.

Councilmember Nelson discussed issues with sidewalks and street lighting on East Main Street. Mayor Grossmann asked Public Services Committee to review the issue.

Mayor Grossmann and Councilmember Nelson discussed the copy of statements from residents in response to the Mayor's report. Mayor Grossmann stated a final copy of the report will be prepared, and all documents used in the report are public record.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Randy Stegbauer of 5358 Hidden Creek Circle commended Mason Arts Council's presentation and stated the Small Business Recovery report was helpful. Randy and Mayor Grossmann discussed the Mayor's report.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:55 p.m.