

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 8, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 Styrcula, Michael Gilb, T. J. Honerlaw, and Kathy Grossmann.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the May 11 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Styrcula, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to approve the June 3 Special Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 ABSTAIN (Nelson, Chance).

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Monday, July 6 City offices will be closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

To date, the City has gifted over 1,700 Come Together Mason e-gift cards and 688 gift cards have been redeemed with a total value of over \$16,000. Currently 51 local businesses have signed up to participate in the gift card program and an additional 26 businesses are in the process of activating their account. Expiration dates were established to encourage a quick redemption and timely support of local business during the COVID-19 crisis.

In May, the City launched reimagemason.org for Mason small businesses as they navigated the multiple recovery opportunities available. On June 1, the City opened the application period for the Small Business Service Agreement Program and the Small Business Forgivable Loan Program. The application deadline for these programs is Wednesday, June 10 at midnight. Questions or inquiries regarding these programs can be emailed to [masonbusinessrecovery@masonoh.org](mailto:masonbusinessrecovery@masonoh.org) or can be addressed through the City's Business Recovery hotline at 513.229.8513 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the remainder of the program's application period.

The City's Incident Command team continues to catch up on the backlog of work and develop restarting plans. Opening of areas includes conditions and guidelines that have changes or continue to change. For example, playgrounds were originally set to reopen on July 1 but recent communication reopens them early with unattainable conditions that they are cleaned every hour. City of Mason park facilities and playgrounds will open, but playground equipment is cleaned infrequently and not the hourly cleaning as recommended to meet COVID-19 guidelines.

The City is hosting a free Drive-In Movie event on Saturday, June 20 at Corwin M. Nixon Park. Those attending the event will enjoy a special screening of the film "Secret Life of Pets 2" on a giant inflatable projector screen. Radio transistors will be provided to event guests to enjoy the film from radios in their vehicles. Registration is recommended to reserve a parking space. Local restaurants participating in the Come Together E-Gift Card Program will be promoting a drive-in restaurant special the day of the event.

Mason City Tax Returns are due Wednesday, July 15. Residents are encouraged to file early and can have their taxes calculated and filed online by visiting the City's website at [imaginemason.org](http://imaginemason.org). Residents can also drop off paperwork to the Tax Office.

**RESOLUTION 2020-2 SECOND READING: ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MASON FOR THE YEAR JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021**

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

Eric Hansen stated this is not the annual budget for the City of Mason. It is a mechanism of the Tax Budget process the State of Ohio requires to justify receipt of local government funds through the State. The Tax Budget is the mechanism through which Council can annually adjust the property tax rate. A 4.4 millage can remain again for 2021. A 4.4 millage is below the 5-mills allowed by Charter, below the previous 5-mill levy amount, and less than neighboring jurisdictions.

Public Hearing was opened at 7:14 p.m.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Councilmember Nelson and Vice Mayor Gilb discussed projections of the Safety Service Fund having a negative amount in 2021 and developing plans to ensure funds do not become negative.

Councilmember Bradburn stated the Fire Department is in need of a third medic unit and the Safety Committee will review options to bring to Council. Councilmember Nelson and Eric discussed Safety Funds including property tax revenues and earnings tax dollars dependent on the health of the economy.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-2 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2020-53 FIRST READING: AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 2.7 ACRES FROM B-3 (ROAD SERVICE COMMERCIAL) TO I-1 (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) LOCATED BEHIND 1110 READING ROAD (READING ROAD REZONING)**

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

Eric Hansen set a Public Hearing for Monday, July 13.

**ORDINANCE 2020-54 APPROVAL OF THE REPLAT FOR LOT 19 IN FALLING BROOK PHASE A-11**

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

Kurt Seiler said this lot is being developed as landminiums and the State requires each unit to be recorded concurrently with the buildings construction. This replat provides the individual building lots for Lot 19 in the Falling Brook Subdivision. Planning Commission and staff recommend approval of the replat.

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 2020-54 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2020-55 APPROVAL OF THE DILLEY SUBDIVISION, PHASE 2 REPLAT**

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

Kurt Seiler said the four existing lots are under common ownership and the property owner would like to consolidate the lots into one lot. Planning Commission and staff recommend approval of the replat.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-55 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2020-56 APPROVAL OF THE DEDICATION PLAT FOR WAHE PROPERTIES LLC**

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

Kurt Seiler stated this ordinance is for approval of a dedication plat for portions of Western Row Road and Butler Warren Road. This plat will dedicate approximately 0.5 acres of right of way as required by the City of Mason Thoroughfare Plan.

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 2020-56 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2020-57 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CINCINNATI MAGAZINE FOR DESIGN, LAYOUT, AND PRODUCTION OF CENTERPOINT MAGAZINE**

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

Jennifer Heft provided a review on the history of printed community newsletters in Mason and Deerfield Township. In 2014, the City approached Deerfield Township, TriHealth, and Mason City Schools about a partnership to develop a community-wide publication. Today, CenterPoint has become a significant receptacle for community news and information, events and activities, and programming. CenterPoint is used as a tool in crafting service agreements with local organizations and businesses and the City. Advertising space is available for purchase in the publication. Revenues from the sale of advertising space are used to offset the cost of the publication. She said the publication is distributed quarterly to approximately 48,000 households. The fall 2020 issue will be the last issue under the current contract with Cincinnati Magazine. The City sent requests for proposals to five printers and publishers and two proposals were received. Staff is recommending moving forward with the proposal from Cincinnati Magazine. Cincinnati Magazine's proposal includes coordinating with one team for design and production and offers an additional final proofread of each CenterPoint by their Director of Editorial Operations. She said the Cincinnati Magazine proposal cost is \$61,400 per issue with an estimated annual cost of \$245,600. As new members of the Community Center and community population goes up, distribution costs will go up as well.

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

Councilmember Bradburn and Jennifer discussed partners Deerfield Township, TriHealth and Mason City Schools purchasing pages.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-57 was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2020-58 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROZZI'S FAMOUS FIREWORKS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,350 TO PROVIDE FIREWORKS FOR THE 2020 RED, RHYTHM AND BOOM EVENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Eric discussed Ordinance 2020-58 and Ordinance 2020-59 together. This year's Red, Rhythm and Boom event would be dramatically changed due to the Covid-19 impact as staff look for ways to keep the brand with a scaled down patriotic event and assist small businesses in the area. Many resources approved earlier this year for Red, Rhythm and Boom will not need to be expended. The proposed fireworks display for 2020 would be staged at Corwin M. Nixon Park. Changing the site location to Corwin M. Nixon Park would allow Rozzi's to use larger fireworks shells during the display and will also provide sightlines for the community to view the firework display from the Mason Municipal Campus as well as Downtown Mason. Fireworks would be the feature and designed for broad viewing and help encourage patronage of small businesses. He said Ordinance 2020-58 authorizes a contract with Rozzi's Famous Fireworks in an amount not to exceed \$34,350 for a 25-minute fireworks display on July 3. An emergency clause has been added to the ordinance in order to provide payment to Rozzi's immediately to secure these services. Eric stated the City placed two large tents with seating on the Downtown Plaza and behind Mason Grill/Comets Pizza/Common Beer Company to encourage the community to visit businesses in Downtown Mason by providing additional seating as businesses navigate new operations and abide by social distancing guidelines. Both tents are located within the boundaries of the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area. The tents are currently scheduled to remain up until Wednesday, June 24 at a cost of approximately \$12,000. Keeping the two tents and seating currently in place in Downtown Mason would come at a lesser expense compared to the cost of having the tents and seating removed on June 24 and then re-delivered and set up for July 3 celebrations. He said staff received a quote to extend the use of the tents in Downtown Mason from Wednesday, June 24 until the end of July which will cost the City an additional \$13,000. If Council would like to retain the tents in Downtown for a longer period of time beyond July 31, an amendment to the legislation would be necessary.

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.

Council discussed supporting small businesses, best financial options at this time, providing opportunities for residents to be festive and enjoy the community while social distancing, possibility of closing off streets, being unaware of how the economy may affect the upcoming budget, tent utilization to encourage residents to help small businesses in the area, hosting additional fireworks shows later in the year, and costs in line with purchase of tents, storage, and installation equipment. Eric and Jeff noted five votes are needed to proceed as an emergency clause for fireworks at Red, Rhythm and Boom.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-58 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS (Nelson, Bradburn, Honerlaw).

A motion to reconsider the vote on Ordinance 2020-58 was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 NAYS (Nelson, Bradburn).

Councilmember Chance and Jeff discussed to adopt any piece of legislation, four affirmative votes are needed and to adopt legislation as an emergency, five affirmative votes are needed to proceed with the contract prior to the thirty day waiting period.

Councilmember Honerlaw noted he thought additional Council members would vote to dismiss this legislation.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-58 was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS (Nelson, Bradburn, Honerlaw).

**ORDINANCE 2020-59 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COLDIRON EVENT RENTALS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 FOR TENT RENTAL AND SEATING SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Mayor Grossmann and Eric discussed keeping the tents up for the option to host a plaza event later this summer or fall and the need to amend this ordinance for costs to do so. Councilmember Chance and Councilmember Bradburn stated the timing is premature to anticipate what could happen in a month or two.

A motion to amend Ordinance 2020-59 to extend the time of tent rentals in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (Honerlaw).

Councilmember Honerlaw and Eric discussed frequency and routine use of tents on the plaza.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-59 as amended was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (Honerlaw).

**ORDINANCE 2020-60 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND / OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED**

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

Kurt Seiler said the pre-application process for Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant funding is a funding source to match up projects where the City already has federal dollars involved. For the SR 741 Resurfacing Project, the City was notified by ODOT that SR 741 from the Kroger Driveway to I-71 is eligible for funding in the Fiscal Year 2023 Urban Paving Program. With this program, ODOT funds 80% and the City is responsible for the remaining 20% plus all pavement repairs, plan preparation and other items. He said this equates to approximately a 50/50 split in project costs between the City and ODOT. The OPWC funding request will be used to cover the City's estimated cost for this project. The Mason-Montgomery Road Improvement (Concord Crossing Drive to Enterprise Drive) project will complete the widening of the remaining two-lane section of Mason-Montgomery Road to three lanes and also include a sidewalk connection on the west side from the Mason City Schools bus garage to Concord Crossing Drive. OPWC funding would allow the City to move forward with this project.

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

Councilmember Nelson, Councilmember Bradburn and Kurt discussed traffic concerns with increasing lanes to five and merging down to two lanes at the bridge. Multiple projects are planned through phases to improve safety and traffic flow, including widening the bridge.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-60 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

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

Randy Stegbauer of 5358 Hidden Creek Circle provided feedback on restricting public input and Mason police officer's duty to intervene. He said residents are organizing a walk Saturday, June 13 and invited residents to join.

Tracy Snyder of 6304 Blackheath Circle provided concerns with the golf course master plan and input on other options to consider.

Richard Shimkus of 475 Tee Drive provided feedback on the golf course master plan including The Grizzly Course and a driving range.

John Looker of 111 East Main Street said the Board of Veterans Affairs is meeting this week to discuss the banner program and establishing Mason as a Purple Heart City. He said Blue Skies For The Good Guys and Gals is hosting their regular gathering July 10 and 11 in Middletown.

Eric stated the Board of Veterans Affairs will be meeting Thursday, June 11 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom through ICRCTV.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Eric addressed resident concerns provided in Recognition of Visitors. He said any officers witnessing other officers using excessive force has a duty to intervene and report and failure to do so will subject them to discipline. He encouraged residents to visit [imaginemason.org](http://imaginemason.org) for useful resources. Eric stated the master plan concept discussions have evaluated improving the golf course, including a driving range location, on an incremental basis and further discussion and action is expected.

Councilmember Bradburn apologized to Councilmember Chance for miscommunication at a previous meeting.

Councilmember Nelson reviewed Senate Bill 310 and Mason would need to pass a resolution to follow federal guidelines and eligible expenditures to receive distribution. She anticipates a ruling in November on HB 49 centralized tax collection. She provided feedback on Mason Community Center Phase 1 usage where members pay for a reserved time to be in the Center. Councilmember Nelson, Eric Hansen, and Jennifer Heft discussed projected demand and how to transition opening in phases under state regulations. Phase 1 is the first stage of opening and provides time to review and brainstorm the demand, access to the facility, and adhering to safety protocols to make adjustments and modifications moving forward to Phase 2. Councilmember Nelson is interested in continuing live Zoom feed during Council Meetings to provide additional real time engagement as a benefit to the community.

Mayor Grossmann said regular monthly membership fees at the Community Center will be reinstated in July. Mayor Grossmann and Jennifer discussed Phase 1 including access to the walking track, pools, and fitness floor and staff remains cautious of opening the group exercise classes in Phase 1 due to the demand. Mayor Grossmann and Councilmember Nelson discussed anticipating use of local government funding calculations for distribution of Senate Bill 310 funds. Mayor Grossmann said public input time limits provide the ability to interact as well as be cautious in the live stream Zoom format.

Councilmember Chance thanked Mason's Police Department for everything they do for the community.

Mayor Grossmann and Eric reviewed innovative programs Mason's Police Department engages in to connect with the community and build relationships with citizens and students including Campus Safety and Bridge of Life.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:12 p.m.