

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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.

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 Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 6:07 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:04 p.m.

Associate Pastor Phil Blodgett opened the regular meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the September 14 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

FIREFIGHTERS SWEARING-IN

Chief Bryan Brumagen recognized four firefighters recently hired with the City of Mason and Mayor Grossmann conducted the ceremonial swearing-in of Mathew Davies, Kelly Murray, Colten Neu, and Logan Snow.

RESOLUTION 2020-11 PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-10, 2020 AS NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

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

Chief Bryan Brumagen stated Fire Prevention Week is observed this year the week of October 4 through October 10. This year's theme is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen." Chief Brumagen

provided tips for home safety in the kitchen. A virtual tour of the fire station will be provided in lieu of the annual open house events.

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.

Councilmember Chance and Chief Brumagen discussed evaluating the possibility of an open house event at the fire station this year while keeping safety in mind.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-11 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mason Challenger League applied for the State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant to secure \$25,000 in grant funding to contribute towards the construction of an inclusive Field of Dreams baseball field at Makino Park. Mason Challenger League was one of 2,000 applicants throughout the nation and have been selected in the top 200 finalists for the grant. The finalists will be narrowed down to the top 40 vote-getters and each will receive a \$25,000 grant. Voting takes place online between September 23 and October 2. The link to the voting website can be found on imaginemason.org. Anyone can vote no matter where they live as long as they are 18 years or older, and can vote up to 10 times per day, every day that the voting window is open.

Over 1,700 community members engaged in this year's Heritage Festival virtual experience. Many viewed a virtual video tour of the Alverta Green Museum, explored Mason's Historical Marker Trail to visit the City's historical sites, created artwork of what Mason's history looks like, completed a trivia activity including sharing a picture on social media, and wrote a poem or short story about Mason's history. The top three winners will receive a \$50 Come Together Mason e-gift card to be used at local small businesses.

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.

Eric Hansen introduced Parks and Recreation Director Chrissy Avery to provide an update on Mason Manta Rays activities. Chrissy discussed the Mason Manta Rays celebrating their 17th anniversary, and continued construction of the Mason Municipal Aquatics Center, and introduced Mason Manta Rays Head Coach Ken Heis. A video showcasing the Mason Municipal Aquatics Center and the new Mason Manta Rays logo was displayed. Chrissy discussed the process of selecting the logo design for the new swim team logo, and thanked Ryan Brazelton for creating the logo as a City donation. Ken Heis shared information on the success of the Mason Manta Rays,

being the highest ranked City owned swim team in the country, and the opportunity to add swimmers to the team with the new Aquatic Center.

Councilmember Chance stated the Mason Municipal Aquatics Center is an opportunity to bring people together near Downtown Mason. Councilmember Chance and Mayor Grossmann thanked Ken Heis for his dedication to the swim team.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Caryn Weckstein of 4239 Serpentine Way stated having a moment of silence instead of prayer is more welcoming.

Robin McCluggage of 5545 Red Fox Court stated concerns of having her name and address on Mayor Grossmann's report distributed at the September 14 City Council meeting and the report is making assumptions about individuals listed.

John Looker of 111 E. Main Street discussed the veterans' banner program and thanked Council and City staff for their assistance with the project. John said that he is being featured on a can at Grainworks Brewing and the City of Mason will be dedicated as a Purple Heart City on November 9. Councilmember Nelson and Councilmember Chance thanked John Looker for his dedication to the Veterans Committee and for his service.

ORDINANCE 2020-86 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR TOWER PARK PUD

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

Kurt Seiler said the Tower Park PUD located on Tylersville Road features private roads in the potential subdivision and seven buildable lots. Planning Commission approved the design at the August 14 meeting contingent on dedication of 50 feet of right of way on Tylersville Road and submission of a subdividers contract and performance bond.

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.

Councilmember Nelson discussed safety concerns due to the potential of snow and ice falling from the towers.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-86 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (Nelson).

ORDINANCE 2020-87 AUTHORIZING THE CITY LAW DIRECTOR TO FILE A PETITION FOR APPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY NECESSARY FOR THE SR 741 WIDENING PROJECT, DETERMINING PUBLIC EXIGENCY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (SANDRA L. EVES)

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

Kurt Seiler discussed Ordinance 2020-87 and Ordinance 2020-88 together. The SR 741 Widening Project from SpyGlass Hill to Welden Drive includes 24 parcels of land needed to acquire right of way. One of the three remaining parcels is the Indiana and Ohio Railway, which Council approved. To keep the project on schedule it is necessary to appropriate the remaining two parcels, an emergency clause is included for Ordinance 2020-87 and Ordinance 2020-88 to clear the right of way by mid-October.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-87 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-88 AUTHORIZING THE CITY LAW DIRECTOR TO FILE A PETITION FOR APPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY NECESSARY FOR THE SR 741 WIDENING PROJECT, DETERMINING PUBLIC EXIGENCY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (GVS OHIO HOLDINGS I, LLC)

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

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 2020-88 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-89 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT OF THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT THE MASON GOLF CENTER FOR \$57,825 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

Kurt Seiler stated this ordinance focuses on design for irrigation at The Mason Golf Center. Half of the irrigation system was built in the early 1970's with the other half of the irrigation built in the 1990's with the additional nine holes that were added. Significant efforts have been made to

keep greens in play due to the older, current irrigation system. Bids are being obtained for an irrigation system to begin in fall of 2021.

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.

Councilmember Nelson, Kurt, and Eric discussed the risk of losing holes due to the outdated irrigation.

Mayor Grossmann stated no further discussions have been had for the future design of the golf course.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-89 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS

ORDINANCE 2020-90 AMENDING THE INVESTMENT AND DEPOSITORY POLICY

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

Jennifer Heft said the City's investment policy was developed in 2013. The State of Ohio has altered the investment options available by allowing the City to invest in municipal bonds with a maturity not to exceed ten years. Ordinance 2020-90 allows the City to diversify the City's investment portfolio with a focus on safety, liquidity, and return on investment.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-90 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-91 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SULLIVAN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000, FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO GRIT PUMPS AND REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR THE CITY OF MASON WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

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

Jennifer Heft said the grit pumps at the City's Water Reclamation Plant are aging and operate 24 hours a day. New grit pumps are included in this year's budget and the City's five-year capital improvement plan. The current pumps have been rebuilt once but cannot be rebuilt a second time.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-91 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-92 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HOWELL RESCUE SYSTEMS, INC. TO PROVIDE RESCUE TOOLS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Jennifer Heft said rescue equipment known as the “Jaws of Life” contains multiple pieces of equipment used to extract individuals from wrecked vehicles. The current rescue equipment was purchased in 2006 and has a life expectancy of fifteen years. The Fire Department evaluated options and the recommended equipment package includes all tools and accessories needed.

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 2020-92 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to add Ordinance 2020-92 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-93 APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF MASON AND THE MASON POLICE ASSOCIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENTS, 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 stated the City has a three-year union contract with the Police Department for Sergeants, Lieutenants and Officers. The City has successfully negotiated a new three-year contract that has been approved by the union.

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 2020-93 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to add Ordinance 2020-94 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

As part of the Board of Veterans Affairs, Council thanked John Looker for his work helping the City of Mason become a Purple Heart City and invited the community to attend a Purple Heart ceremony at the November 9 Council Meeting.

Councilmember Honerlaw stated staff provided a downtown zoning update at the Downtown Committee meeting.

ORDINANCE 2020-94 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF LAND FROM T.E.J. HOLDINGS INC. TO THE CITY OF MASON FOR \$1 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

Eric Hansen stated the City has the opportunity to acquire property to secure the future irrigation source for The Mason Golf Center. The City has access to wells located along the river to pump water for golf course irrigation in lieu of purchasing water wholesale, providing cost savings to the City.

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 2020-94 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nelson discussed House Bill 242 and home rule authority, Senate Bill 286 authorizing an income tax credit for volunteer firefighters who purchase firefighting safety items and encouraged the community to file taxes directly to the City of Mason to help keep tax dollars in Mason. Councilmember Nelson stated the correct date for the APC's annual dinner is October 20.

Mayor Grossmann stated revisions were made to her report given to Council at the September 14 City Council Meeting. An addendum will be added to the report including small business legislation.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Kristin Goecke of 6567 Farmbrook Court stated her political party affiliation does not discount her contributions to the community. Kristin and Mayor Grossmann discussed Mayor's report given to Council regarding the recall petition including referring public records and items being opinion-oriented.

Courtney Tong of 4721 Country Downs Drive shared concerns of being misrepresented in Mayor's report and provided reasoning for participating in recall efforts.

Laura Smith of 6768 Grand Oaks Court shared concerns of Mayor's report, council members actions, and recommended that the report be removed from public record.

Karen Kopack of 3829 Crooked Tree Drive thanked John Looker for his efforts supporting veterans and shared her friend Julie Swolack's prepared statement regarding concerns of Mayor's report. Karen stated concerns with future businesses wanting to locate in Mason based on Mayor's report.

Randy Stegbauer of 5358 Hidden Creek Circle stated leadership is concerning and statistical analysis Mayor's report.

Bonnie Collins of 4801 Appaloosa Trail stated gathering signatures for petitions was in support of Mason businesses and not a political effort. She stated concerns with her name being associated with political affiliations and that effecting her childhood cancer fundraising effort.

Mark Lortz of 5145 Minuteman Court stated concerns in Mayor's report related to small business owners and Downtown Mason improvements.

A brief recess was held at 9:00 p.m.

The regular Council Meeting reconvened at 9:07 p.m.

Danielle Tymitz of 5086 Parkside Drive provided her reasoning for participation in the petitions and stated that the Mayor is unwilling to accept feedback. She encouraged collaboration to create innovative and timely solutions.

Glen Garvin of 4974 Lava Court provided concerns with Council leadership. Mayor Grossmann and Glen discussed timelines of small business recovery programs.

Trisha Hilton Mills of 535 Shawnee Lane provided a recap of her interactions with Council via her son's boy scout troop involvement. She discussed concerns of Council social media comments, actions, and intentions of Council.

Mark Haake of 3620 Dunlap Court shared leadership concerns and inaccuracies in Mayor's report. Mark stated Mayor's report is harmful to businesses and residents.

Ryan Cleary of 5156 Minuteman Court thanked Council for supporting and representing the City. Ryan stated that politics is causing safety concerns in neighborhoods in the City, discussed leadership versus politics, and encouraged Council to be the best leaders they can be.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL OUTSIDE OF THEIR COMMITTEES – None.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance.

VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:02 p.m.