

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Chaplain Kyle Linville opened the meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the March 8, 2021 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to approve the March 15, 2021 Council Work Session minutes was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City of Mason offices will be closed Friday, April 2 in observance of Good Friday. Mason Community Center will be open regular operating hours on Friday and open from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with limited access on Easter Sunday, April 4.

The tax filing deadline for Mason is April 15, 2021. The IRS changed the 2020 Federal tax filing due date from April 15, 2021 to May 17, 2021. State law requires the City of Mason's deadline to be the same as the State of Ohio's due date – which has not yet been changed from April 15. Unless or until that occurs, Mason tax returns will be due on April 15, 2021. However, to help ease confusion for Mason residents, businesses, as well as staff, the City of Mason does not intend to assess any late filing penalty for tax returns filed between April 15 and May 17 this year. Mason taxpayers are encouraged to continue to file early especially if a taxpayer is getting a refund.

L3 HARRIS LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION: MARS 2020 PERSEVERANCE ROVER

Michele Blair welcomed and introduced the new General Manager of L3Harris and Mason resident Clayton McClain, Chief Technologist Mark Dapore, and Director of Marketing and Communications Penny Bena. Clayton discussed their current portfolio in avionics and sensors including spaced based sensors, spacecraft communications, optical/infrared systems, and recognition software. Mark discussed the exciting and critical role L3Harris played in the Rover Perseverance landing on Mars. Not only did the Mason team help create components for the rocket that launched Perseverance to Mars, but they also designed and built critical communications technology that links the rover to Earth while it explores the planet.

Council thanked L3Harris for locating in Mason and discussed L3Harris being an important and engaged corporate partner to the City, the value of relationships and business retention, pathways available for students, and L3Harris having one of the largest co-op programs at University of Cincinnati.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Rick Inskeep of Butler Warren Road said an accident occurred on his street due to dangerous road conditions.

RESOLUTION 2021-4 PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 25 TO MAY 1 AS CLEAN WATER WEEK

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

Eric Hansen introduced Shawn Hollon, Public Utilities Director. Shawn discussed cross training within the Public Utilities Department and work on the Community Center pools, new Mason Municipal Aquatic Center, economic development, industrial pretreatment, and storm water treatment. He said the internship program with Mason City Schools was a success and one individual is now employed with the City of Mason. Ohio EPA requires a Class IV operator license onsite forty hours a week unless two licensed Class III individuals could fulfill that time. Ed Smith, a long-term City employee recently completed the extensive Class IV license. Ed spoke about the hard work and knowledge the license requires for completion. Eric Hansen said the City now has two Class IV operators and on track to have three. With Ed's Class IV completion comes a promotion to Assistant Director of Public Utilities.

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 thanked Ed for building into the careers of others.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2021-4 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2021-48 ADOPTING SECTION 121.08 OF THE MASON CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Eric Hansen said Council has discussed establishing guidelines that create an atmosphere during Council meetings that allows for broader and easier public participation. At the meeting on January 11, the concept of safer public participation was formally addressed, a draft of guidelines was presented for Council members' consideration at the meeting on January 25 and action was tabled for legal review and further evaluation. At the March 8 meeting Council members recommended

additional revisions and for legislation which would place the guidelines into the City's Codification. Chapter 121 of the Mason Codified Ordinances provides various regulations and guidelines for Council and its meetings.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-48 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Bradburn said the Safety Committee will meet before the next Council Meeting to discuss tornado sirens, generators, and fire station locations. The City has been in contact with Ms. Knoop in response to a safety and resource concern brought to Council on March 8.

Councilmember Honerlaw said a Downtown Committee Meeting at 8:00 a.m. and a Board of Veterans Affairs meeting at 9:00 a.m. will be held Thursday, March 25.

Mayor Grossmann said another Policy and Legislation Committee meeting will occur before the next Council Meeting.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A confirming vote for the reappointment of David Smith to Mason Port Authority was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Councilmember Nelson reviewed the local government relief aid allocation in the \$1.9T American Rescue Plan, retroactive exclusion of unemployment benefits, and a fifth hearing on tax conformity legislation.

Vice Mayor Gilb recognized the anniversary of shutdowns due to the pandemic and reflected on a recent article from the Wall Street Journal. He said as we remain hopeful to move out of the pandemic, let us be better listeners.

Councilmember Chance expressed concern about repercussions of municipalities funded from the \$1.9T American Rescue Plan. Councilmember Nelson said provisions in the bill may be damaging.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Acquisition/Disposition of property was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:09 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:07 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:07 p.m.