

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 11, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Diana Nelson, Tony Bradburn, Mark Haake, Kathy Grossmann, Josh Strycula, and Barbara Spaeth. Ashley Chance was absent.

SENATOR STEVE WILSON PRESENTATION

Senator Steve Wilson announced the City will be receiving \$400,000 towards adaptive ballfields at Makino Park as part of the 2022-2023 State of Ohio Capital Budget.

Council thanked Senator Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2022-17 CONGRATULATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MASON CHALLENGER LEAGUE

Jeff Forbes read Resolution 2022-17.

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

Susan Murdock of the Mason Challenger League thanked City Council and Senator Wilson and discussed the Mason Challenger League visiting Williamsport, Pennsylvania to play an exhibition game in August as part of the Little League World Series.

Mayor Spaeth provided Resolution 2022-17 to the Mason Challenger League.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2022-17 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Strycula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF LARRY SIMS PRESENTATION

Sheriff Larry Sims provided an update to Council with an overview of calls for service in Warren County and discussed the Warren County Sheriff's Office moving into the new Warren County Jail in 2021.

Council thanked Sheriff Sims and discussed visiting the new Warren County Jail.

MASON MILE UPDATE – MADE CDC

David Charpentier provide an update of the Mason Mile Project and discussed the upcoming meeting schedule for the project and Downtown Mason Mile Project team members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the June 13 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Styracula)

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

A motion to not request a hearing for a D1 Liquor Permit for Nishit Liquor LLC was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

The 2022 Music in Mason Series continues Friday, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. with three remaining concerts scheduled at the Mason Downtown Plaza. Concerts will include two music entertainment bands each Friday night.

The City continues to promote Mason’s small business community. Throughout July, the City is celebrating “Patio Season in Mason” and promoting all Mason establishments where residents and visitors can enjoy a patio experience. Patrons who visit patio businesses in Mason will be eligible for prizes to The Grizzly Golf and Social Lodge. In August, and in the spirit of Mason being on the international stage as a host city to the Western and Southern Open, the initiative will focus on recognizing small businesses that offer international cuisine options. Mason is home to many establishments that highlight the diverse culture we have in the community which contributes to the quality of life we have to offer to our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The 2022 Western & Southern Open will begin in Mason on Saturday, August 13 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center. The tournament features the world’s top ten ranked men and women in this combined week of tennis. The City of Mason will be hosting economic development partners and governmental partners at different events during the tournament to strengthen our regional relationships and maximize our opportunity to promote Mason as a place to do business.

The Linder Center of HOPE continues their Education Series on Wednesday, August 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Manor House. Brett Plyler, M.D., Lindner Center of HOPE will discuss an overview of anxiety disorders and treatment. The 2022 LCOH Education Series will continue to provide expert discussion on mental health, addictions, and mental wellness on September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21.

The 2022 Red, Rhythm and Boom event featuring The ReUnion of Souls and Smash Mouth returned to its pre-pandemic stature drawing an estimated crowd of over 20,000 people. The general layout of the Mason Municipal/Community Center Campus, including the Aquatic Center and Mason High School provides a unique opportunity to host this signature event for the community and visitors. The event began with the opening of Kids’ Zone at 4:00 p.m. This area was increased this year featuring over 25 activities that were selected to reduce wait times.

Proceeds from the 2,415 wristbands sold were directed to the Parks & Recreation Foundation. The City was able to secure 20 food vendors to provide a variety of food options. The Mason Challenger League sold water with proceeds directed to the adaptive ballfields at Makino Park. There were no complaints or issues related to the fireworks display. The City did have Fire Department personnel available in the Lakeside Subdivision during the display. After the show, event personnel inspected the area for any debris. Prior to the event, residents in the Lakeside Subdivision received event information along with Come Together Mason e-Gift cards for any inconvenience during the event. The City continues to utilize an Incident Command structure to better organize and manage all aspects of the event. Steve Johnson was the Incident Commander for the 2022 event, and he was shadowed by Police Officer Jamie Van Wagner who will assume the Incident Commander responsibilities next year.

Steve Johnson said 30 City staff members throughout all City departments were a part of the Incident Command structure, providing new learning opportunities. Steve Johnson passed the torch award on to Jamie Van Wagner as she begins planning for the 2023 Red, Rhythm, and Boom event as Incident Commander.

Jamie Van Wagner said she's looking forward to leading the Incident Command Team for Heritage Festival and Red, Rhythm & Boom.

Council thanked City staff for their efforts in hosting the Red, Rhythm & Boom event.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Spaeth said visitors have a time limit of five minutes during Recognition of Visitors.

Charlene Pelfrey of 5399 Mason Road discussed concerns of The Regional Center for the Arts and the use of the Gould property.

A motion to extend Charlene Pelfrey's time during Recognition of Visitors was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 2 NAYS (Spaeth, Nelson).

Matt Fellerhoff representing Tufts University discussed Ordinance 2022-87.

A motion to limit discussion to a ten-minute segment per Councilmember during Resolutions, Ordinances, Committee Reports, and Old and New Business was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula.

Council and Jeff Forbes discussed limiting Council discussion to ten minutes during Ordinances, Resolutions, Committee Reports, and Old and New Business.

A motion to amend the original motion allowing two ten-minute segments of discussion during Resolutions and Ordinances per Councilmember, and one ten-minute segment per Councilmember during Committee Reports and Old and New Business was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 2 NAYS (Spaeth, Nelson).

Council discussed limiting Council discussion to ten minutes during Resolutions, Ordinances, Committee Reports, and Old and New Business.

A motion to limit discussion by Councilmembers to two ten-minute segments during Resolutions and Ordinances per Councilmember, and one ten-minute segment per Councilmember during Committee Reports and Old and New Business was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 2 NAYS (Spaeth, Bradburn).

RESOLUTION 2022-18 RECOGNIZING JULY AS NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

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

Jennifer Heft said July is the month that the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recognizes the importance of our nation’s parks and recreation facilities. The City has been fortunate to be able to offer community wellness amenities such as Mason Community Center, Mason Municipal Aquatic Center, and The Grizzly Golf and Social Lodge as well as over 300 acres of park space for the community to enjoy. The City’s eight parks provide opportunities for the residents to participate in various sports and organized activities, inclusive play, picnic areas, nature areas, and fishing. The City’s expansive bike path system now provides the possibility for residents to access the Little Miami Bike Trail which ultimately connects to 110 miles of trail throughout the State.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2022-18 was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2022-85 FIRST READING – REPEALING CHAPTER 125 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MASON REGARDING STANDARDS OF BEST PRACTICE FOR REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

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

A Public Hearing was set for August, 8th, 2022.

ORDINANCE 2022-86 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH JOHN G. AND DONNA S. ROBBINS

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

Kurt Seiler said consistent with past policy, a pre-annexation agreement has been submitted by John Greg and Donna Robbins, owners of the property located at 4800 Cox-Smith Road in Union Township. The property is contiguous to the City of Mason and the property owners are requesting to tap into the City of Mason's sewer and water system prior to annexation. The pre-annexation agreement allows them access to the sewer and/or water system but requires the property owner to pay 150% of the standard sewer and/or water rates until such time that the property is annexed.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-86 was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of acquisition/disposition of property was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Vice Mayor Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:22 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:02 p.m.

ORDINANCE 2022-87 APPROVING A TAP-IN PERMIT FOR CITY SANITARY SEWER SERVICE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT PARCEL NOS. 12-26-200-002-1 AND 12-26-200-002-2 LOCATED IN WARREN COUNTY, OHIO

Jeff Forbes read Ordinance 2022-87.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-87 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: 0 YEAS, 6 NAYS (Bradburn, Haake, Grossmann, Styracula, Spaeth, Nelson).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Grossmann said the Community and Recreation Committee met to discuss the use of the Gould Property and construction of the Dog Park.

Councilmember Grossmann and Councilmember Bradburn discussed the deed restriction for the Gould Property and uses of the property.

Vice Mayor Nelson said a Public Engagement Meeting to discuss the Gould Property is taking place on Monday, August 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Downtown Plaza and discussed the Regional

Center for the Arts. Vice Mayor Nelson discussed the Southwest Ohio Philharmonic performance taking place on Saturday, August 6 at the Mason Municipal Campus.

Mayor Spaeth discussed scheduling an Employee Relations Committee Meeting.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Haake discussed uses of the Gould Property and thanked Chief Ferrell for his efforts in securing the State grant for adaptive ballfields at Makino Park.

Councilmember Grossmann said the Warren County Fair takes place from July 18 through July 23. Councilmember Grossmann discussed adding Council agenda items, the Deerfield Township Cemetery Project, and advancements to Downtown Mason.

Mayor Spaeth thanked Steve Johnson and City staff for Red, Rhythm & Boom. Mayor Spaeth discussed the 50th anniversary of The Grizzly Golf & Social Lodge, and the 50th anniversary of Festo.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Charlene Pelfrey of 5399 Mason Road discussed concerns of The Regional Center for the Arts and the use of the Gould property.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Nelson.
VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:42 p.m.