

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 10, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the March 13, 2023 Council Meeting minutes as amended was made by Councilmember Styrcula, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The next scheduled City Council meeting is Monday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Each month this year, the City is celebrating being ranked as 4th Best Place to Live for Families. The City is partnering with TriHealth to feature events and activities highlighting the City's culture of wellness. In April, the City encourages the community to come together to Renew, Refresh and Reconnect. Disconnect to Reconnect is an initiative to encourage families to unplug from technology every Tuesday and enjoy Mason parks and amenities. A Community Clean Up event on Earth Day is scheduled for Saturday April 22. Also on Saturday, April 22, the City is partnering with the Warren County Drug Task Force for the annual National Prescription Drug Take Back event. Arbor Day is on Friday, April 28 and the community is encouraged to get a free tree sapling at Mason Community Center. The City will be promoting ways to spring clean your life including cleaning and organizing tips as well as ways to reduce mental clutter and digital connectivity.

Mason City Tax Returns are due on Tuesday, April 18. The Tax Office is offering residents extended office hours on Saturday, April 15, Monday, April 17, and Tuesday, April 18.

This year is the Mason Veterans Memorial's 20th anniversary. To honor this milestone, the City of Mason is investing in significant improvements to the Memorial. This work includes new landscaping, lighting, concrete, replacement of memorial bricks, the addition of the Space Force monument stone, a new Gold Star Families Memorial, a Purple Heart Memorial, and reflection benches. In April, the City is recognizing the month of the Military Child. The City will be offering free access to Mason Community Center and Mason Municipal Aquatic Center April 21-23. A family fun day is planned on Saturday, April 22 where military youth can enjoy a free swim lesson and exclusive access to amenities. The Grizzly Golf and Social Lodge will be hosting a free golf lesson for military children on Wednesday, April 26 and a free round of golf on the academy course throughout the month of April. The City has also teamed up with the Mason small business community to offer discounts and specials for military children throughout the month of April.

Participating businesses include Buffalo Wings and Rings, Big Dogs Pizza, Lucky Dog Grille, Mexi-Q, Moss & Ivy, Cincy Sammys, and Quatman Café.

The Community Center's Spring Shop Local event will be held on Wednesday, April 26 featuring Mason area merchants and home sales representatives that sell a variety of items.

The City has a unique opportunity to leverage the use of the Come Together Mason gift card to introduce Vega employees to the small business community in Mason. In working with Vega leadership, the City was able to secure an opportunity to have Vega match the City's contribution of a \$25 Come Together Mason e-gift card for each employee. Over 370 employees will receive a \$50 Come Together Mason e-gift card in early April that will drive nearly \$20,000 of new revenue into the small business community.

RED, RHYTHM AND BOOM ANNOUNCEMENT

Council encouraged audience involvement and announced the 2023 Red, Rhythm and Boom event will feature multi-platinum rock band Gin Blossoms with an opening performance by Lit.

MASON MILE UPDATE – MADE CDC

Kacey Richards of 216 Short Street and MADE CDC representative said updates on the Mason Mile Project include the remaining piece of the market analysis to construct the strategic plan. He requested the community submit feedback by Monday, April 24 through the online community survey. He encouraged residents to attend the activator meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Rich Cox of 3425 Broken Ridge Drive said roadways in the Crooked Tree subdivision is in disrepair, Church Street and surrounding area roads needs an infrastructure update, and a streetlight is out on Reading Road. He mentioned use of possible money available for updates. Eric Hansen said strong balances contribute to the City's bond ratings and discussed equalizing balances.

RESOLUTION 2023-12 ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MASON FOR THE YEAR JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024

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

Eric Hansen set a Public Hearing for May 8, 2023.

ORDINANCE 2023-44 SECOND READING - ADOPTING CHAPTER 125 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MASON REGARDING REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTION DISCLOSURES

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

Eric Hansen said there have been many discussions of Chapter 125 over several years. The last iteration was the result of a committee recommendation which was repealed in 2022 by City Council. A City Charter amendment covers similar topics of Chapter 125 in a simpler version. Councilmember Grossmann offered a new version of Chapter 125 at the March meeting.

A motion to table until the next Council meeting for full Council involvement was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: 2 YEAS, 3 NAYS (Nelson, Styracula, Spaeth).

Council discussed redundancy in Chapter 125 versions, economic development continuing, ensuring conflict free transactions, Chapter 125 always being in place for transactions, no other cities having a Chapter 125, Council interpretation of this version, a false perception provided to the community, voters in Mason already passing the Charter amendment, the purpose of the Ohio Ethics Commission, and holding City Council, businesses, and City staff accountable.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2023-44 was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: 2 YEAS, 3 NAYS (Nelson, Styracula, Spaeth).

ORDINANCE 2023-45 APPROVAL OF THE REPLAT FOR CASTLE PARK 2728 REVISION 1

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

Kurt Seiler said this replat will consolidate the two existing lots into one lot. The purpose of this replat is for an expansion of Prasco's corporate campus to include a new parking lot with security guard station as well as a roadway connecting the adjacent properties. The plat also includes necessary easements for the development.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-45 was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-46 APPROVAL OF THE RECORD PLAT FOR THE FERRELL SUBDIVISION

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

Kurt Seiler stated this plat will consolidate the existing two parcels into one. The property is located off Aunker Drive. Since this street is an alley, staff and Planning Commission are supportive of granting a variance to the 50-foot Thoroughfare Plan right of way requirement.

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

Councilmember Bradburn and Kurt discussed a house being on one lot and a detached garage being on the other lot. This will consolidate the lots together into one parcel.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-46 was made by Councilmember Styrcula, seconded by Vice Mayor Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-47 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SITEWORX FOR THE CITY OF MASON MOSAIC SUBDIVISION WRLD TIF/ CENTRAL PARKE BOULEVARD ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,921,570

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

Kurt Seiler said for efficiency and cost savings, bids were collected for the Central Parke Blvd extension along with WRLD and will be included within the same contract. The TIF Service Agreement requires Mason and WRLD to jointly fund a TIF service account to facilitate the site's needed public infrastructure. The current development is now named the Mosaic Project. The Mosaic Project includes the extension of Veterans Parkway, sidewalk along Veterans Parkway and Mason-Montgomery Road, and landscaping. Central Parke Boulevard begins at Cedar Village Drive and extends just north of Financial Way. This project would complete the extension of Central Park Boulevard from Financial Way to Western Row Road by constructing approximately 1,300 feet of new roadway.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-47 was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-48 DECLARING CERTAIN CITY EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF SAID EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY

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

Kurt Seiler said the City periodically disposes of surplus vehicles and equipment that no longer serve a useful purpose in delivering public services. Surplus may also include unclaimed or forfeited property acquired through police related activity. The City sells surplus items through internet auction which has proven to be the most effective and brings the lowest possible administrative cost to the City. The Ford Escape and the Chevrolet Kodiak Dump Trucks all have severe corrosion issues. The frame on the Ford Escape is severely rusted and is no longer safe to drive. Additional items include older Frown Crown Victoria's and forfeit property acquired through police.

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

Vice Mayor Nelson and Eric discussed smarter fleet management and vehicles now being stored at the Service Center with a wash bay.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-48 was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Nelson provided a National League of Cities Small City Council update including a complete list of the top twenty grants for small communities. She entered Mason into a drawing and Mason was chosen as a winner for videos to be completed about tourism in Mason.

Mayor Spaeth said the Railroad Company is responsible for the railroad tracks on Snider Road between U.S. Route 42 and Western Row Road. Kurt Seiler said he encourages the public to reach out to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to provide feedback on the railroad. The ties under the tracks are rotting and he anticipates improvements with the Snider Road Improvement Project. Mayor Spaeth said Music in Mason begins in June.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:39 p.m.