

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 12, 2023**

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, Ashley Chance, Tony Bradburn, Mark Haake, Kathy Grossmann, and Barbara Spaeth. Joshua Styrcula was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 8 Council Meeting and June 5 Special Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The VFW Post 9622 is requesting a temporary liquor permit to allow for alcohol sales on the Downtown Plaza as part of the Music in Mason Freedom Festival on July 28. The American Legion Post 194 has already secured their temporary permits and the VFW's permit will enhance options and fundraising efforts for both organizations at this event. A motion to approve the sale of alcohol by the VFW Post 9622 at the Downtown Plaza for this event was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Vice Mayor Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

In honor of the City's recent ranking as 4th Best Place to Live for Families, the City will be celebrating throughout 2023 with monthly activities aimed at building a healthier and stronger community, in partnership with TriHealth. Throughout the Month of June, the City will be offering programs, activities and resources that promote outdoor safety throughout Mason. The City offers CPR and AED training that takes place the first Saturday of each month at Fire Station 51. Fire Department staff will be visiting the Senior Center, Kids Korner as well as doing demonstrations as part of Safety Camp. The Mason Police Department will host a PROTECT: Women's Self Defense class on June 20 and visit the Senior Center, Kids Korner as well as Safety Camp to discuss topics of self-protection. In addition, the City will be hosting free community swim clinics throughout the summer with the first clinic being held on June 14. TriHealth representatives will have a presence at the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center to discuss sun safety in late June. In addition to the above activities, the City will be promoting general safety tips revolving around the topics of heat safety, tornado safety, self-protection, swim safety, grill safety and campfire safety. For more information on this month's 4th best initiative, visit imaginemason.org.

In April, as part of the City's 4th Best Place to Live initiative, the City encouraged residents to take time to *Renew, Refresh, and Reconnect* in the community. The City provided activities and resources to help create a safe, clean and healthy community. Mason resident Parker Stranko, age

10, took this initiative to heart by spearheading his own clean up initiative while at his brother's baseball practice at Heritage Oak Park. Parker was recognized for his good deed.

The Women Impacting Mason-Deerfield Speaker Series will be held on Tuesday, June 13 at 8:00 a.m. The event will feature special guests Mayor Barbara Spaeth and Vice Mayor Diana Nelson, the first simultaneous female Mayor and Vice Mayor for the City of Mason.

The Warren County Municipal League Dinner will be held at The Grizzly Golf and Social Lodge from 5:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14.

In honor of Flag Day on Wednesday, June 14, members of the Mason community are encouraged to bring any retired or worn flag to VFW Post 9622 for proper disposal. The VFW is located at 119 W Main Street in Downtown Mason and is open daily at 2:00 p.m.

As part of activities related to the 20th anniversary of the Mason Veterans Memorial, the City will be hosting a veteran's fishing event in partnership with Casting Freedom. The fishing event will take place on Saturday, June 17 at Pine Hill Lakes Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The City encourages registration for this free event.

Music in Mason has kicked off and the next concert is Friday, June 16, with six remaining events. July 28 is the last event in the Music in Mason series.

The City continues to prepare for the annual Red, Rhythm and Boom event taking place on Monday, July 3 at the Mason Municipal Campus. The event will begin at 4:00 p.m. with access to kids' zone activities and attractions as well as food and non-food vendors. At 6:00 p.m. the concert will begin with opening act Lit, followed by headlining artist Gin Blossoms at 8:30 p.m. The event will conclude with a firework display by Rozzi's Famous Fireworks at 10:00 p.m. from behind the Mason Intermediate School. Red, Rhythm and Boom is made possible due to an Incident Command team that consist of twenty employees across departments, volunteers, and business partners.

On Monday, July 3, City staff will be preparing for the Red Rhythm and Boom event and City offices will be closed. The Community Center will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. On Tuesday, July 4, City offices will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

The City announced Steve Hartke as the new City's Engineer and Kurt Seiler as the Service Director.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Annie Droege of 4509 Estate Court said when larger tournaments occur in Mason, like the Division I Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, visitors should be encouraged to enjoy Mason and small businesses should be prepared for a larger crowd.

RESOLUTION 2023-18 RECOGNIZING MASON LIONS CLUBS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Jeff Forbes read the Resolution.

Jennifer Heft congratulated and thanked the Mason Lions Club for their continued service to the community. She said for the last forty years Club members ride along with the Mason Police Department to distribute candy on Halloween. Jim Cook, Mason Lions Club President, thanked Council for this recognition and introduced Club members in the audience.

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

Mayor Spaeth thanked the Lions Club for all they do in the community and talked about how the Lions Club previously sponsored the Bicycle Festival as the only food vendor and now participates in the Heritage Festival.

Councilmember Chance thanked the Mason Lions Club for their impact on the community, finding the need and growing their services.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2023-18 was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-56 FIRST READING: AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 15.1976 ACRES FROM R-2 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO RES-PUD (RESIDENTIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) WITH APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN LOCATED EAST OF MANOR HOUSE AND THE MOSAIC PUD, SOUTH OF ALVERTA, AND NORTH OF WHITE BLOSSOM (O+E PUD)

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

Eric Hansen set the Public Hearing for July 10, 2023.

ORDINANCE 2023-57 FIRST READING: ADOPTING THE REVISION, CODIFICATION, RECODIFICATION, REARRANGEMENT AND PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF MASON, IN BOOK FORM, FOR THE CURRENT SUPPLEMENT

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

Eric Hansen set the Public Hearing for July 10, 2023.

ORDINANCE 2023-58 ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF APPROXIMATELY 0.15 ACRES OF LAND TO THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO

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

Kurt Seiler stated this vacant parcel is on the east side of the Tylersville/Western Row/Stitt Road intersection. Most of Lot 3 is covered by utility, sanitary sewer and channel easements. The property could potentially be consolidated with City owned property across Stitt Road.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-58 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2023-19 APPROVING THE PETITION AND SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL ENERGY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE CHAPTER 1710, APPROVING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, AND IMPROVING CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO IN COOPERATION WITH THE I-75 ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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

Jennifer Heft discussed Resolution 2023-19, Ordinance 2023-59 and Ordinance 2023-60 together. She provided an overview of the PACE Program being utilized as an economic development tool to help commercial and industrial owners to gain access to affordable long-term financing for energy improvements to their buildings. The PACE Program is authorized and governed under the Ohio Revised Code and owners work with local jurisdiction to approve projects, secure approved PACE lenders and to assist with establishing special assessments necessary for the needed financing. The local government is not responsible for any financial default by the third party business. She said this past winter, Council adopted legislation approving the petition for the addition of the City of Mason property (City boundaries) to the I-75 Energy Special Improvement District (ESID). This action set the stage for the City to move forward with a PACE Program within Mason. The launch of a program is a multi-step process including formalization for additional projects to be considered. C.M. Paula was identified as the initial project as part of this effort. The City of Mason's participation in the I-75 ESID will help with broader economic development opportunities for companies and commercial organizations. Chris Wilkins, the City Finance Manager, is a representative on the I-75 ESID Board.

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

Councilmember Grossmann and Jennifer discussed the assessment schedule and payment process. The local government entity certifies the assessment to the county auditor who then places it on the owners property tax bill. Payments are made to the county and the county then reimburses and distributes those funds.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2023-19 was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-59 DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO IN COOPERATION WITH THE I-75 ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-59 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-60 LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, AND IMPROVING CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF MASON IN COOPERATION WITH THE I-75 SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGREEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-60 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-61 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE ENHANCEMENTS AND SERVICES RELATED TO THE AXON CAMERA SYSTEM FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Eric Hansen said Council authorized the purchase of a cloud-based in-car camera system for police cruisers, approximately a year ago, as Phase I of the total project to integrate camera systems used throughout the Police Department into the records system. The system was installed and placed into operation in October 2022, completing Phase I. Phase II of the project includes upgrading the Police Department's interview rooms to integrate into the system. Similar to the in-car system, the interview room system will store video footage off-site, eliminating the need for an additional server and maintenance. In addition, the system has the ability for public records and Prosecutor's Office requests to be accessed and released through a hyperlink, improving efficiency as well as staff time spent preparing footage. This contract includes the maintenance of camera and microphone technology as well as annual hosting and service fees. The cost for services for the first year is \$22,384 with annual increases of 4% for the additional four years of the total 5-year contract.

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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-61 was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Grossmann reviewed Park Board discussion about many City activities available including Music in Mason, summer camps at the Community Center, Senior Day at the Aquatic Center, Dive-In Movies each month and additional events at the Mason parks. She noted approximately 706 campers are enrolled in Mason's in-house summer camps. Park Board is interested in current Aquatic Center ongoings.

Vice Mayor Nelson said the Arts Committee is meeting this Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and the National League of Cities mid-year meeting is tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. via zoom.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Chance complimented Warren County's new sports park facility.

Mayor Spaeth spoke about the Mason Historical Society monthly e-newsletter. She said a section is called "This Month in Mason's History" and in 1868 there were horses running at large. She encouraged residents to become members of the Historical Society.

Vice Mayor Nelson said the state's \$86 billion operating budget should be passed this week and she will report any changes that will impact Mason.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: EMPLOYMENT/COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Employment/Compensation of Public Employees was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:51 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:57 p.m.

A motion to increase the City Manager compensation by a 3% merit increase and a 9% bonus was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:58 p.m.

