

**CITY OF MASON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

PRESENTATION BY BEEMOK CAPITAL GROUP

Eric Hansen said last August, Beemok Capital secured the sanction of the Western and Southern Tennis Tournament and introduced the Chief Operating Officer for Beemok, Ford Perry. In collaboration with Beemok, Mason has been able to look at new ideas and pursue options for maintaining the legacy of tennis in Mason.

Ford Perry attended via video conferencing. He said Beemok has been evaluating the opportunities and challenges to elevating the tournament to a level to be consistent with peer tournaments around the world. Beemok has respect for the community support provided for the tournament each year. He highlighted elements of the tournament that elevate Mason and the community including being one of nine most coveted trophies in all of tennis and the Western and Southern tournament involvement in the tennis landscape globally. Ford reviewed the anticipated growth, tourism opportunities, and estimated costs to expand for critical improvements including court expansion, player facilities, and green space. He shared renovation concepts that engage the community year-round.

REPORT AND COMMENTS - TENNIS WORKING GROUP

Eric Hansen said the effort to keep tennis in Mason has been a regional cast to secure the future of tennis and additional investment including but not limited to collaboration with local business owners, Sinclair College, Tennis for Charity, Warren County, Deerfield Township, CVG Airport, REDI Cincinnati, Cincinnati Business Committee, as well as many other stakeholders.

Kimm Lauterbach, President and CEO, with REDI Cincinnati spoke about the economic impact and the international attraction of the tournament. She stated REDI is invested in securing tennis in Mason along with the group of regional players.

Gary Lindgren, President, with the Cincinnati Business Committee said he recognizes how valuable this event is to Mason and the region. He said regional collaborative partnership efforts are important and said there is a lot of grassroots support in the area.

COMMENTS BY STATE OF OHIO SENATOR STEVE WILSON AND REPRESENTATIVE ADAM MATHEWS

Mayor Spaeth said the City has received tremendous support from State leaders for this project and many others.

Representative Adam Mathews stated with support of the region to continue the tradition of tennis in Southwest Ohio, the Ohio House of Representatives is able to fund \$22.5 million to offset investment for this year-round anchor in Warren County.

Ohio Senator Steve Wilson spoke about the history of commitment and tradition of the tennis community in Mason. The Senate contributions to ensure tennis stays in Mason have been budgeted in a super capital fund and includes \$1 billion to help with any unforeseen roadblocks. He said we want tennis here in Mason. Commitment has been made by the House and Senate.

ORDINANCE 2023 – 55 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15 MILLION AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES TO RETAIN THE WESTERN SOUTHERN TENNIS OPEN IN MASON

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

Jennifer Heft provided an overview of the history of formalizing Mason’s invitation for continued collaboration towards a shared vision for one of the highest profile corridors in the community.

Michele Blair said this is the 44th year the Western & Southern Open will be in the City. She highlighted financial partnership metrics, economic impact now and with the anticipated expansion in 2025, visual concepts, public/private partnership (P3) business opportunities, elevating golf and tennis, and the economic development opportunities.

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

Council thanked Ford Perry, City staff, State and County representatives, and stakeholders for their continued support and efforts navigating this process. Council discussed an abundant number of volunteers that help each year, Mason’s proven track record of P3, enhancing the culture of wellness in Mason, and the possibilities available through collaboration.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-55 was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 12:00 p.m.