

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 13, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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, Joshua Styracula and Barbara Spaeth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 13 Council Meeting and March 1 Special Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There are several City events in 2023, including Music in Mason, Red, Rhythm & Boom, Heritage Festival, and Christmas in Mason, where the City partners with the American Legion. The American Legion requests approval from Council to allow for alcohol throughout the year during City events. Profits from the sale of alcohol at City events will be split with the Mason Parks Foundation. A motion to approve the sale of alcohol at the Downtown Plaza and Mason Municipal Campus for City events throughout 2023 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. 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 promoting the City's culture of wellness, in partnership with TriHealth. Throughout the month of March, the City is highlighting inclusivity. Mason is a community that represents a variety of backgrounds and abilities that embraces respect, compassion, and opportunities for all. Mason Community Center is hosting a bring a friend free day on Tuesday, March 21 to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and on Wednesday, March 29 the Community Center will be hosting an inclusive fitness family fun class at 2:00 p.m. Additional opportunities are available at imaginemason.org.

City of Mason offices will be closed Friday, April 7 in observance of Good Friday. The Mason Community Center will be open normal operating hours on Friday and Saturday. The Community Center will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Easter Sunday, with limited access. Waste collection will not be affected by the holidays.

Mason City Tax Returns are due on Tuesday, April 18. The Mason Tax Office offers assistance to residents in completing their Mason tax return. Residents can have their taxes calculated and filed online by visiting the City's website. Residents can also visit the Tax Office at customer service inside Mason Municipal Center or contact customer service for assistance over the phone. The Tax

Office is offering residents extended office hours on Saturday, April 15, Monday, April 17, and Tuesday, April 18.

Resolution 2023-9 was moved up on the agenda. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2023-9 COMMENDING KENDRA TAYLOR FOR HER OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO

Jeff Forbes read the Resolution.

Eric Hansen said Kendra Taylor embodies compassion and dedication to service.

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

Mayor Spaeth said a reception for Kendra occurred prior to the meeting where Council had the opportunity to speak. Mayor Spaeth and Councilmember Chance discussed Kendra's positive impact and how she has always been graciously helpful.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2023-9 was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

MASON MILE UPDATE – MADE CDC

Kacey Richards of 216 Short Street and MADE CDC representative said the work on Mason Mile Project this month includes a residential marketing analysis, the awareness campaign, and branding and visual identity. He thanked local area businesses and community members for helping with the awareness campaign. He said Tuesday, March 21 is the next activator meeting and encouraged residents to join the Downtown Mason Mile Project Facebook group.

WOMEN WALKING WEST PRESENTATION BY DR. GEORGE SEHI

Dr. George Sehi said Women Walking West provides women an opportunity to achieve their educational goals by removing social, financial, academic, and cultural barriers. Their focus is a one-on-one mentorship for educational achievement. Women Walking West currently serves approximately 145 women, 25 in the Mason area, from 43 different countries. He reviewed worldwide statistics regarding the degree of attainment, salaries, and educational success for foreign-born women. They receive support through outlets such as sponsorships, partnerships, grants, special events, endowments, and donations.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Ryan Cleary of 5156 Minuteman Court thanked the City for the additional police presence in the area he expressed concerns for at a previous Council Meeting.

RESOLUTION 2023-10 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Eric Hansen said City Council adopted Resolution 2021–19 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement accepting proposed settlement funds from the National Opioid Distributor settlement through the State of Ohio OneOhio MOU. Since that time, the State of Ohio and participating local governments continued to pursue settlements as part of the national effort to hold opioid pharmaceutical supply chain participants accountable. Approximately \$17 billion in settlement funds will be used by participating states and subdivisions to remediate the impacts of the opioid crisis. Resolution 2023–10 allows the City of Mason to receive opioid settlement funds and includes language to allow the City Manager to enter into future agreements for settlements related to the opioid epidemic.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2023-10 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2023-11 RECOGNIZING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

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

Jennifer Heft stated the City has developed monthly programming and activities throughout 2023 that celebrate the City’s recognition as 4th Best Place to Live and the continued commitment of building a culture of wellness in the community. The month of March focuses on inclusivity and highlights Mason as a community that represents a variety of backgrounds and abilities. The City’s wellness amenities are designed to remove barriers and allow for inclusive use. Makino Park serves as the City’s inspiration to provide recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed by all regardless of age or ability and continues to be a regional destination for inclusive play. In addition to Mason’s signature park, Pine Hill Lakes Park and Pawmyra Dog Park provide inclusive recreational opportunities. She said the City continues to partner with organizations that represent inclusivity. The City has a long standing partnership with the Mason Challenger League, a youth baseball organization for children with physical and developmental disabilities. The Challenger League has been instrumental in fundraising efforts to complete the Phase II adaptive fields at Makino Park. Mason Community Center offers an inclusive All-Stars basketball program and the Manta Rays Champions competitive swim team. Both programs are designed so individuals with physical or developmental disabilities can participate in an athletic environment and strengthen skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-esteem. Jennifer stated the Community Center has served as a job readiness facility for several years, offering opportunities for individuals with disabilities to

learn on the job skills. More opportunities and amenities at Mason Community Center are highlighted on imaginemason.org throughout March.

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

Mayor Spaeth said all the inclusive activities discussed can be found at imaginemason.org. She said Susan Murdock with The Mason Challenger League has been working hard to raise funds for adaptive ballfields at Makino Park.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2023-11 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-13 SECOND READING - AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 137.419 ACRES FROM WARREN COUNTY R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) AND WARREN COUNTY I-2 (GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING) TO CITY OF MASON R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) AND I-1 (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) LOCATED AT BUNNELL ROAD AND US 42 (FORMER CASTLE FARM PROPERTY)

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

Kurt Seiler introduced City Planner, Jordie Bacon. Jordie said the property is approximately 137.42 acres in size and is located at the corner of Bunnell Road and US 42. The land was annexed into the City of Mason at the January 9 City Council meeting. The land is currently under Warren County zoning I-2, General Industrial Manufacturing and R-1, Single Family Residential. The proposal is to rezone the land to City of Mason zoning, compatible with the zoning around the property.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:48 p.m.

Rex Jaeger of 2752 South US Route 42 in Lebanon said he was curious as to what plans are in place for development. Jordie stated no plans are in place to develop this property. This property includes a flood plain, which would be planned as open space. Most open spaces in Mason, such as parks, are listed as R-1 in Mason zoning.

Jessica Tate of 2652 South US Route 42 in Lebanon thanked the City for their service and wanted to know why zoning is now being changed. Eric Hansen said with the accomplishment of annexation into Mason City limits in January, the property needs to conform to City zoning.

Nicole Dona of 2628 South US Route 42 in Lebanon said she is concerned she was not aware of the annexation. Eric Hansen said the City purchased the property in 2001 when Judge Castle gifted and sold the property to the City with the intent of eventually annexing into the City. Services had

been provided by Union Township. With the annexation, services would now be provided by the City, as with all properties within the City.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:56 p.m.

Councilmember Bradburn and Eric Hansen discussed the portion gifted being a park space and being preserved as green space.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-13 was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-28 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR GRISMER SUBDIVISION (READING RD)

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

Kurt Seiler said the property is located at the southeast corner of Snider Road and Reading Road. This dedication plat was approved by Planning Commission at the January 2023 meeting and dedicates 0.1941 acres of right of way along Reading Road to meet the requirements of the City of Mason Thoroughfare Plan.

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 2023-28 was made by Councilmember Styrcula, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-29 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000 WITH THE MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Jennifer Heft discussed Ordinance 2023-29 through Ordinance 2023-32 together. The City utilizes service agreements to guide contributions to local non-profit organizations. Service agreements limit City contributions to \$8,000 through a matching program where the City contributes one dollar for every two dollars raised from other sources by the non-profit group. Funds are provided to an organization in exchange for services provided that constitute a valid public purpose and result in a demonstrable benefit to the City of Mason. Many similarities among all service agreements include each organization serving as a resource to the City, providing educational outreach material, participation in community events, and utilizing the City's proceeds towards memberships to the Community Center for participants or mentors. Jennifer said the City began partnering with the Mason Historical Society in 1993. The Historical Society creates, promotes, and preserves Mason's history through education, community events, and programming. They

provide a free Mason Historical Society membership for the first year to all new Premier members of the Community Center and provide the Great Room at the Museum for City meetings and training events at no cost. She said the City's partnership with the Warren County Humane Association dates back to 2002. Services provided by the Warren County Humane Association are significant to the health and safety of the community. In 2022 in the Mason community alone, 119 stray animals were placed in the shelter and the Association provided neuter and return services to 64 cats, neutered 24 stray cats, and reunited 19 pet owners with their lost pet. Jennifer said the City has partnered with SAFE on Main since 2019 and they provide resources, safety, healing, and empowerment to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. SAFE on Main serves over 8,000 individuals each year and are a valuable resource to the City. Women Walking West has participated in the City's matching program since 2019. They provide two community events per year to address diversity and inclusion topics typically held at the Community Center for Mason residents and Community Center members.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-29 was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-30 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000 WITH THE WARREN COUNTY HUMANE ASSOCIATION

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-30 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-31 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000 WITH SAFE ON MAIN

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-31 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-32 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000 WITH WOMEN WALKING WEST

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-32 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-33 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SUPERGAMES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000 FOR KIDS ENTERTAINMENT ATTRACTIONS FOR THE 2023 RED, RHYTHM & BOOM EVENT

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

Eric Hansen said Red, Rhythm, and Boom is the City of Mason's signature event that provides the opportunity to showcase the quality of life offered in Mason and thank residents and businesses for choosing Mason. The Kids Zone continues to be a popular aspect of Red, Rhythm, and Boom. A large variety of kids activities are needed to serve a range of ages as well as alleviate potentially long lines during peak hours of the event. SuperGames will provide more activities that allow for a shorter wait time by allowing more kids to participate at once or complete an activity at a quicker pace. Some of the activities and attractions that SuperGames will offer a 9-hole putt-putt course, new slides and bounce houses, carnival games and a trackless train. In addition to providing kids activities, the City contracts with SuperGames to assist in securing and coordinating food vendors for the event. SuperGames will prioritize local food vendors that are based in Mason or have participated in past Mason events and then fill any additional needs with unique food trucks. Applications to participate as a food or non-food vendor are available on the City's website through May 15. He said Rozzi's Famous Fireworks and Rumpke will not require legislation this year.

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

Councilmember Bradburn and Eric Hansen discussed having activities that have shorter wait times to allow the most participation.

Mayor Spaeth said the new restroom trailer will be a great asset for future events.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-33 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-34 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VANDERWIST OF CINCINNATI, INC. FOR MEDIAN IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPING REPLACEMENT

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

Jennifer Heft discussed Ordinance 2023-34 and Ordinance 2023-35 together. Throughout the 1990's Mason experienced significant growth which resulted in many of Mason's main thoroughfares undergoing extensive widening. Raised medians that included irrigation and landscaping were added as safety improvements for these roadways and have now become a signature aesthetic piece within the Mason community. Medians are strategic safety features for motorists as well as pedestrians. She said raised medians provide additional traffic safety benefits such as a reduction of motor vehicle crashes, decrease delays for motorists, increase in capacity of roadways, reduction in vehicle speeds on the roadway, and a reduction of head on collisions from drivers traveling in opposite directions. The Federal Highway Administration strongly encourages the use of raised medians. Many of the existing irrigation in City medians are 20 years old or older and staff have experienced a significant increase in maintenance issues related to the aging systems. Jennifer stated last year, the City established a program to begin a phased approach to maintenance and replacement of the irrigation systems. The median irrigation systems along Mason Montgomery Road, between Socialville-Fosters Road and Tylersville Road were replaced last year. This year the City plans to focus on replacement of the median irrigation systems on Tylersville Road between US 42 and Mason Montgomery Road. Staff is recommending contracting with two commercial irrigation companies to obtain the most competitive quote and ensure that services could be performed. This maintenance contract will provide for the replacement of median irrigation systems and landscaping within the right-of-way.

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 2023-34 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-35 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BRIGHTVIEW LANDSCAPE SERVICES FOR MEDIAN IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPING REPLACEMENT

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

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 2023-35 was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-36 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARRETT PAVING MATERIALS, INC. FOR THE 2023 STREET MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,011,658

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

Kurt Seiler discussed Ordinance 2023-36 through Ordinance 2023-40 together. The City's public roadways require ongoing maintenance and reinvestment. Staff bid out the concrete work separately from the asphalt work this year due to encouraging results in the past few years. Staff recommends the Barrett Paving Materials base and alternate program for asphalt maintenance. Ordinance 2023-37 authorizes a contract with Adleta Construction for concrete maintenance which includes the base program and alternate. Concrete work includes the sidewalk program. Another critical component of preventing water penetration into the pavement is crack sealing and crack filling. Filling and sealing the cracks in pavement maintains the City's investment in roadway and helps with the rideability of the roadway. The annual street striping program places new pavement markings and retraces existing pavement markings on the City's public streets for continued traffic control and safety. First Star Safety has previously done maintenance of traffic work in the City. He said staff is recommending allowing for work on Tylersville Road that will be reimbursed by the Tower Park developer for their portion of the required work. A contingency fund allows the City to capitalize on any potential cost saving opportunities that may arise during the program. An emergency clause has been included in the concrete maintenance program to allow this work to start as soon as possible.

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 2023-36 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-37 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADLETA, INC. FOR THE 2023 CONCRETE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,238,339 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-37 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-38 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SCODELLER CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR CRACK SEAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000

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

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 2023-38 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-39 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH J & A CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR MASTIC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-39 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-40 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FIRST STAR SAFETY, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FOR THE 2023 STREET STRIPING PROGRAM

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. 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 2023-40 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-41 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH INTEGRATED GLOBAL SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$95,000 TO APPLY HIGH VELOCITY THERMAL METAL SPRAY COATING TO PADDLES FOR THE SLUDGE DRYER AT THE WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

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

Kurt Seiler said the Water Reclamation Plant is a significant component to City operations. Sludge removal is a primary process at the treatment plant. The sludge dryer processes waste to a dry sludge which local farmers use as crop fertilizer. After 15 years in operation, the Komline Sanderson sludge dryer was assessed for internal metal and protective coatings wear. This assessment provided a detailed report outlining the loss of original metal and protective spray coatings on the paddles and tabs because of normal abrasive wear. Rewelding paddle tabs and reapplying protective spray coat metal inside a dryer is needed. Integrated Global Services specializes in the metal spray coating needed on the equipment. A contingency amount has been added to account for any unforeseen problems or additional areas identified for repair once both companies are able to enter this confined space area and perform a thorough evaluation.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-41 was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-42 AMENDING CHAPTER 121 OF THE MASON CODIFIED ORDINANCES

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

Eric Hansen stated the Mayor established an Ad Hoc Rules Committee in September that was tasked with evaluating updates to Chapter 121 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Mason. The existing Chapter outlines the rules of City Council as it relates to items such as Council meetings and rules of procedure. Chapter 121 has not been substantially modified since the 1970's and is in need of updates to reflect current law and practice. In addition to updating existing language, the Committee recommended a Council Code of Conduct be included as a framework for best practices and decorum of elected officials. Staff researched examples from other municipalities for consideration and review. The Cincinnati City Council Code of Conduct was ultimately used as a foundation for the recommended code. He said the Committee met several times to review updates and a work session of Council was held in January to provide all of Council the opportunity to review and provide feedback to proposed changes and additions to Chapter 121. The Ad Hoc Rules Committee met in February to evaluate all Council feedback and determine final changes to Chapter 121. The Committee completed a revised draft that includes updates to reflect current law and practice as well as the addition of a Mason City Council Code of Conduct to provide best practices for City of Mason elected officials. The Ad Hoc Rules Committee recommends adoption of Ordinance 2023-42.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 NAYS (Bradburn, Grossmann).

Councilmember Bradburn said Council needs to have the opportunity to hear from the public. Councilmember Bradburn and Jeff Forbes discussed items being consistent with the City Charter, Council serving on boards and committees, and Council rules being up to Council to enforce.

Councilmember Grossmann said she was disappointed there was not a follow-up work session, and the Cincinnati Code of Conduct has a different structure than Mason. She is concerned with Council enforcement, individual public statement, and the Code of Conduct being ambiguous. Jeff Forbes said Council would enforce rules and what constitutes a violation. A motion to table Ordinance 2023-42 to discuss in a work session prior to the April Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: 2 YEAS, 5 NAYS (Nelson, Chance, Haake, Styrcula, Spaeth).

Council discussed having the right to personal opinion, being cognizant of being one of seven elected officials, additional feedback that was requested after the Council work session, efficient use of staff and Council time, Councilmember Grossmann requesting Council consider reviewing the Cincinnati Code of Conduct, and the U.S. Constitution.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-42 was made by Councilmember Styrcula, seconded by Vice Mayor Nelson. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 NAYS (Bradburn, Grossmann).

ORDINANCE 2023-43 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LIFEGUARD AND LIFEGUARD SUPERVISION AGREEMENT WITH CINCINNATI POOL MANAGEMENT FOR THE MASON COMMUNITY CENTER AND MASON MUNICIPAL AQUATIC CENTER

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

Jennifer Heft said in 2013, the City evaluated staffing options to respond to changes introduced as a result of the Affordable Care Act. The Employee Relations Committee and legal counsel recommended that the City contract out lifeguard services and supervision at municipal aquatic facilities. City Council authorized a contract with SwimSafe Pool Management to provide these services at Mason Community Center and Lou Eves Municipal Pool. After proposals in the fall of 2018, staff recommended moving forward with Cincinnati Pool Management due to pricing. She said staff recently solicited bids for lifeguarding services in February. Both Cincinnati Pool Management and Swim Safe submitted proposals. Cincinnati Pool Management provided a proposal for both the Aquatic Center and the Community Center. The contract with Cincinnati Pool Management would be a 5% increase from the current contract year for the Community Center and a 5% decrease from the Aquatic Center's current contract year, based on the initial year learning the pool operations and needs. Ordinance 2023-43 authorizes the City Manager to enter a contract with Cincinnati Pool Management for one year with the option to renew up to four years with a 2% increase each year. In addition, the contract provides the City the opportunity to purchase necessary chemicals for the pump rooms at a competitive price.

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

Councilmember Grossmann and Jennifer discussed additional guard services outside the scope of the contract including special events outside operating hours or rentals.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-43 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

OVERVIEW AND FULL COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHAPTER 125: REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTION DISCLOSURES

Mayor Spaeth provided an overview of Chapter 125 since 2021. She requested a full representation of the final format being proposed before engaging the Council in a work session. The document proposed is the original document proposed.

Jeff Forbes said prior to the Charter amendment adoption, the previous Chapter 125 was not automatic unless three members of Council requested the process. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended the process to include procedural items, exemptions, and information that was required to be disclosed on behalf of Council members, staff, and the other party. Five members of Council could stop, modify, or suspend the process. The City of Mason voters then adopted a Charter amendment to further transparency and avoid conflicts of interests.

Councilmember Grossmann said the process of disclosure is not required at all times and the post-Charter amendment proposal includes the disclosure process taking place prior to Council voting. Jeff Forbes explained the process occurs between the City and a buyer or seller of property. Proposed is a process involving the City and transfer of public funds to any non-profit or for-profit corporation for the process of property acquisition and the disclosure process to include buyers, sellers, Council members, identified City employees, and intended third party beneficiaries of public funds. The attachment to Ordinance 2023-44 represents the language proposed for adoption.

ORDINANCE 2023-44 FIRST 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 Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Haake said the Safety Committee discussed an overview of the strategic plan process for the Fire Department to ensure long-term success.

Councilmember Grossmann said Park Board reviewed the 2017 Sundin Fields at Heritage Oak Park Master Plan and discussed Mason Youth Organization aiming to ensure all ballfields have AED's and four swimmers attending the special Olympics meet in Bowling Green.

Vice Mayor Nelson said the Veterans Committee discussed Veterans Memorial updates and anticipates an unveiling on November 11 during a Veterans Day Ceremony.

Councilmember Chance thanked Kacey for the Mason Mile Project overview at Council Meetings and during Downtown Committee meetings.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Nelson provided a National League of Cities Small City Council update including working on a list of the top twenty grants for small communities. She said the House of Representatives met and proposed a local government funding increase from 1.6% to 1.7 %. The Ohio Municipal League (OML) is advocating for a 2.5% increase to re-establish funding. Legislation will be drafted to express the City's support of the OML advocacy for local government funding.

Councilmember Chance said Mason resident, Kristen Day reached out about Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) Awareness Month. The Municipal Center will light up blue this month to promote awareness.

Councilmember Bradburn and Eric Hansen discussed a manhole cover that was dislodged and repositioned. Councilmember Bradburn said there is a manhole located on Mason Montgomery Road that should be addressed.

Mayor Spaeth complimented the walking path at Pine Hill Lakes Park and the trail connection along the Aquatic Center.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Rex Jaeger of 2752 South US Route 42 in Lebanon said he is a Board Member on the Hook-A-Heart Foundation and the foundation holds a fishing event each spring for families with special needs. They provide fishing poles, kids activities, and food trucks.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn.
VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:38 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council