

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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 Joshua Styrcula. Barbara Spaeth was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the August 3 Special Council Meeting and August 14 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to approve the August 28 Special Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Grossmann).

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Throughout the month of September, the City of Mason is focusing on building compassion throughout the community as part of celebrating the City's ranking as 4th Best Place to Live for Families. Some of the month-long initiatives the City will be offering include the Recognize a Good Neighbor campaign, Compassion in Action Sidewalk Chalk Challenge, a community wide food drive with Mason Food Pantry, and Bridging Stories, a 4-week program designed to bring people from all walks of life together to discuss adversity, change, and community. The community is encouraged to support the small business community in Mason and consider paying it forward to encourage residents to do other similar acts of compassion.

The annual Heritage Festival will take place on Saturday, September 16 at the Mason Downtown Plaza. The annual Heritage Festival Parade will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will start at the corner of Foxfield Drive and Mason Montgomery Road. The parade will head north on Mason Montgomery Road and continue west on US Route 42 towards the Downtown Plaza. The parade will ultimately disband near 4th Avenue. Following the parade, the event will feature kids' activities, vendors, music entertainment and a drone show until 10:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Mason Community Center will be open from 7:00 a.m. to noon and Mason Municipal Aquatic Center will be closed on Saturday, September 16 to encourage the community to attend the event.

On Friday, September 29, the City will be hosting a free, outdoor patriotic concert featuring the Southwest Ohio Philharmonic at Corwin M. Nixon Park at 6:00 p.m. The performance will be themed "*America the Beautiful*" in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Mason Veterans Memorial. Community members are welcome to come early beginning at 5:00 p.m. to enjoy various food

trucks, beverages provided by the American Legion Post 194, as well as a performance by the Northern Cincinnati Youth Orchestra from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Family Promise 25th Anniversary Gala takes place on Sunday, October 1.

The City of Mason will be celebrating World Inclusion Day on Sunday, October 8 at Makino Park from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to celebrate diversity and unity. This event brings people of all backgrounds and abilities together for a day filled with sports and recreation, workshops, and fun activities. The event will feature a variety of organizations.

The Mason Historical Society's Annual Cemetery Walk is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Rose Hill Cemetery.

The 9th annual Mason Corporate Challenge will take place on Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m. at The Grizzly Golf and Social Lodge. The Mason Corporate Challenge is a 5k walk/run engaging the Mason corporate community in a city-wide competition, supporting employee involvement in health and wellness activities, and giving back by donating proceeds to select charities. Each participant will receive a \$20 Come Together Mason E-Gift Card.

A motion to not have a public hearing for a D3 liquor permit at Maha Foods LLC DBA Bheemas was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to not have a public hearing for a transfer liquor permit from Ramons Cantiba LCC to Herradura Inc. DBA Cazadores was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to not have a public hearing for a D5 liquor permit at DLM Springboro LLC DBA Dorothy Lane Market was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS. Vice Mayor Nelson stated Dorothy Lane Market is on track to open in 2025.

A motion to add Executive Session for the purpose of Acquisition/Disposition of Property to the agenda was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

MASON MILE PROJECT – MADE CDC

A representative was not able to attend, and Eric Hansen read a provided statement on their behalf. The community input is available for review at makethemile.com and available through their media outlets. The consulting team will complete a background report provided in draft form to the CDC for review. The consulting team will also complete a draft of strategy by the end of October.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mugdha Godbole of 8072 Winding Creek Road said Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) is celebrating Raksha Bandhan festival events. She reviewed the HSS mission and educational programs. She spoke about how Raksha Bandhan is a symbol of unity in the community. Bands of Raksha were provided to Council members.

RESOLUTION 2023-23 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE WARREN COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

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

Eric Hansen said as required by the State of Ohio, a budget to justify receipt of local government monies is required to be adopted each year. The Tax Budget is then submitted to the County Auditor who then sets property tax rates, and the City in turn must officially accept the property tax rates. The rate for the Safety Fund as authorized by the 2012 Charter Amendment continues to be 4.40 mills and lower than the tax rate needed for the previous fire levy.

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 Resolution 2023-23 was made by Councilmember Styracula, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-74 APPROVAL OF THE DEDICATION PLAT FOR READING ROAD (ISLAMIC CENTER DAYCARE)

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

Kurt Seiler said this property is a dedication plat to meet the requirements of the City of Mason Thoroughfare Plan. The property is located on the west side of Reading Road and approximately 100 feet north of Donna Jean Blvd. This site is zoned B-3, Commercial Road Service District. This is the future site of the Islamic Center Daycare facility.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-74 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-75 APPROVAL OF THE RECORD PLAT FOR THE HATCH SUBDIVISION

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

Kurt Seiler said this plat will consolidate the existing three parcels into one lot and will also dedicate right of way along Mason Montgomery Road as required by the City of Mason Thoroughfare Plan. A portion of the site is located outside the City and will go to the County for approval.

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 2023-75 was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-76 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WARREN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR EDUCATION, INSPECTION AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES NECESSARY TO MEET THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION (NPDES) PHASE II REQUIREMENTS FOR 2024 – 2028, NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000 PER YEAR

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

Jennifer Heft said since 2004, the City has annually entered into an agreement with Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to provide educational and inspection services. Partnering with Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District has given the City an opportunity to consistently meet EPA Best Management Practice regulations at the least cost to residents. Annually Warren County SWCD completes a financial evaluation of their fees, which includes matching state grant funding. The City’s contribution helps SWCD fund a full-time staff member who is available to provide educational outreach and involvement. This ordinance authorizes a five-year agreement for from 2024 to 2028.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-76 was made by Councilmember Styrcula, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2023-77 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH XYLEM WATER SOLUTIONS USA, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF FLYGT RAW INFLUENT SEWAGE PUMP PARTS FOR THE WATER

RECLAMATION PLANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$81,700 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Kurt Seiler said the City's Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) contains four 110 horsepower (HP) and two 45 HP raw influent sewage pumps. The larger pumps operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The 45 HP pumps were designed to operate during periods of low flow and are no longer useful at the WRP's current average flow except utilization as drainage pumps when cleaning out a wet well. The WRP has an existing 110 HP pump in need of repair and requires a stator rewinding or factory replacement. This is the first stator on an original 2006 pump that has required replacement. In addition, staff is recommending the purchase of critical spare parts to eliminate significant wait times on replacement parts that may be needed in the future.

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.

Councilmember Bradburn and Kurt discussed not be able to use the 110 HP and 45 HP pumps at the same time. The 45 HP were originally used during slower periods.

Councilmember Grossmann and Kurt discussed the significant repair costs and potential cost of a replacement pump.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-77 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice Mayor Nelson said the Veterans Board discussed being on schedule for the Mason Veterans Memorial grand reopening and reviewed items that have been updated for the Memorial. She said the Downtown Committee discussed the Southwest Ohio Philharmonic concert happening on Friday, September 29 and the resident-led initiative, *Picture Mason!* Canvas pick-up and art display details are on the City's website at imaginemason.org.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Bradburn said he received the financial statement from MADE Chamber. He and Eric discussed receiving more details for outside funds and expenditures.

Councilmember Chance shared a personal experience with Mason police officers and complimented the Mason Police Department for their ongoing diligence. He encouraged the community to come out to future September 11 ceremonies with the schools and Warren County and praised the ceremony this year.

Vice Mayor Nelson said Ohio is ranked number one in the Global Groundwork Index. The City of Mason has brought in approximately 1,328 jobs from 2019 to 2023. She thanked staff for their relentless efforts in bringing jobs to Mason. She said Governor DeWine invested \$90M in mental health and addiction services to strengthen response and programs.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None.

Councilmember Haake thanked HSS for sharing information at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ACQUISITION/DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Acquisition/Disposition of Property was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:45 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:46 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 10:08 p.m.