

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
July 14, 2025**

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: Mark Haake, Scott Gibson, Diana Nelson, Barbara Spaeth, Ashley Chance and Joy Bennett.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the June 9 Council Meeting minutes was made by Vice Mayor Chance, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to approve the June 23 Special Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Vice Mayor Chance. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 2 ABSTAIN (Haake, Gibson).

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mason Municipal Aquatic Center Pool will be hosting several upcoming events including Dive in Movie for Premier Members on July 17, Senior Day on July 23, Premier Member Pool Party on July 25 and Late-Night Family Swim on August 2.

In conjunction with Market on the Mile (in partnership with MADE CDC), Music in Mason will continue Friday, July 18. Music in Mason will also return on July 25 whereas the Market on the Mile will return on August 1 and 15, September 5 and 19.

The 2025 Cincinnati Open, hosted by the City, will take place from August 5 through August 18 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center. This year's event will be the largest in the tournament's history as it expands from nine days to two weeks in length. There will be even more players, matches and entertainment than ever before. The tournament will debut the \$260 million tennis campus transformation, led by the City, Warren County Port Authority, Beemok and the state of Ohio. The City's Incident Command Team for tennis, led by City staff across all departments, will help with a variety of efforts to assist with traffic, parking, etc., in preparation for this highly anticipated event.

The Second Annual Mason Small Business Community Impact Award's nominations are due on August 1. The City asks residents to share stories and experiences on how a small local business has made a significant impact on Mason's quality of life. Nominations can be made by visiting the City's homepage at www.imagemason.org.

The Small Business Resource Guide is a valuable source of information for those looking to start a small business in the City. This information can be found on the City's homepage, under the

Business tab. Other details can be sought by contacting Jordie Bacon, Planner for the City of Mason, at 513-229-8500.

The Mayor commended the City staff for organizing this helpful information for the City's small business community.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Nitu Sharma, a member of the American Hindu Society, of 5597 Wheatmore Court, shared her distress on the terrorist attack in India last April.

Brother Steven Gerard Sidlovsky, of 1109 West 8th Street, of Lorraine, Ohio, spoke on his petition for Future Ohio and Mason Preborn Personhood.

A Mason resident commended the City on its booming economic development and shared his concerns on the Indian terrorist attack.

MASON MILE UPDATE – MADE CDC

Sherry Taylor, President and Chief Executive Officer of MADE CDC, provided updates on the Mason Mile. She spoke on past and upcoming events, including the previous week's advisory meeting, the public input meetings at Mason Historical Society (to be held the week of August 4th) and the proposed zoning for an upcoming meeting this fall.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PETITION FOR THE CREATION OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI TENNIS COMMUNITY AUTHORITY AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 349.03

The public hearing was opened at 7:37 p.m.

The public hearing was closed at 7:38 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2025-15 RECOGNIZING JULY AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

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

Hanna Puthoff read Resolution 2025-15.

Jennifer Heft said the City recognizes July as National Parks & Recreation Month and celebrates its 40th anniversary by promoting Parks & Recreation's amenities and contributing to healthier communities. The theme this year is "Build Together, Play Together." The City offers a vast number of recreational opportunities to its residents led by Parks & Recreation Director, Chrissy Avery, and staff. The Community Center and the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center offer a wide range of amenities and collaborates with partners, such as TriHealth, to perpetuate the importance

of wellness in the City. The Grizzly Golf Course, the innovative Makino Park and the 300-mile shared use paths also contribute to enhance the quality of life for residents.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2025-15 was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Bennett. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Council discussed the upcoming legislation for Parks & Recreation Master Plan updates.

ORDINANCE 2025-55 GRANTING AUTHORITY TO ORGANIZE THE GREATER CINCINNATI TENNIS COMMUNITY AUTHORITY AS A POLITICAL AND CORPORATE BODY, DEFINING THE BOUNDARY OF THE AUTHORITY'S DISTRICT, APPOINTING INITIAL MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE AUTHORITY, PROVIDING THE METHOD OF SELECTING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND FIXING THE SURETY BONDS FOR THE MEMBERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Hanna Puthoff read Ordinance 2055-55.

Eric Hansen discussed Ordinance 2025-55. He explained that it was the final capstone item to secure the home of the tennis tournament in Mason. He said this public entity could provide services such as recreation, maintenance of facilities, and collect fees that are similar to taxes, for example on sales of tickets, admission, parking, concessions and merchandise. Eric Hansen explained that this authority serves as a tool to generate revenue from the activity and to maintain and support the publicly owned facility. He listed examples of other local community authorities in neighboring communities. Eric Hansen went on to explain that Council would need to appoint the board members of this authority, including two representatives from the City, two from Cincinnati Tennis, two from the Warren County Port Authority, as well as a joint representative between the City and the Warren County Port and he finished by naming the appointees: Joe Reigelsperger, Jennifer Heft, Commissioner Young, Phil Smith, Ford Perry, Bob Moran and Mike Hansen.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-55 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Gibson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2025-56 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CARGILL, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY 5,500 TONS OF HIGHWAY ROCK SALT AT \$73.15 PER TON

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

Hanna Puthoff read Ordinance 2055-56.

Jennifer Heft discussed Ordinance 2055-56, Ordinance 2055-57 and Ordinance 2055-58 together.

Jennifer Heft explained that the City's cooperative purchasing programs allow the City to receive the lowest prices for salt by collaborating with other communities in the area. She indicated that Cargill proposed the lowest bid through both programs under Warren County Engineers Program (bidding \$96.25 per ton) and Southwest Ohio Purchasers for Government (SWOP4G) (bidding \$73.15 per ton). She said this ordinance would authorize the contract with Cargill through the SWOP4G program for the purchase of rock salt.

Jennifer Heft reviewed the alternative contracts for the purchase of salt. She said the City executes this to ensure their backup salt supply is sufficient throughout the winter season.

Jennifer Heft noted the City is constantly looking for creative ways to control costs related to the salt purchasing programs. She explained that the City secured a grant for needed brine equipment from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency H2O Ohio Rivers Initiative Chloride Reduction Program in the amount of \$63,092. She described how the program reduces overapplication of deicing materials which enter the groundwater resources. Jennifer Heft elaborated that the grant would secure improvements to the brine system, would provide new liquid storage tanks and would be housed inside the Service Center in hopes to protect them from the outdoor elements to extend their useful life. Additionally, she said the City would be purchasing a new trailer with the brine applicator attached. She went on to say the budget allotted \$95,000 for the purchase of this equipment and the grant funds applied to that would be \$61,213.

Jennifer Heft explained that the City is currently evaluating an additional salt barn location to aid neighboring communities in purchasing salt from the City at a lower rate.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-56 was made by Vice Mayor Chance seconded by Councilmember Gibson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2025-57 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO ALTERNATE CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY ROCK SALT IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Gibson seconded by Councilmember Bennett. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Hanna Puthoff read Ordinance 2025-57.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-57 was made by Councilmember Bennett, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2025-58 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BRINEMASTERS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF ONE (1) BRINE BLENDING AND DISPENSING SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$69,810

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

Hanna Puthoff read Ordinance 2055-58.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-58 was made by Vice Mayor Chance, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2025-59 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VOGELPOHL FIRE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE E-ONE RESCUE APPARATUS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Hanna Puthoff read Ordinance 2055-59.

Eric Hansen spoke about the fire rescue truck. He said it is used to carry equipment for more extensive rescue operations that can't be carried on ladder trucks or fire engines, including water, ice, for confined space or equipment collapse. Eric Hansen went on to say the City's current rescue truck was inherited in 1992 from the Volunteer Fire Company through the Joint Fire District. He said although still effective, it has started to show wear and tear and has experienced challenges with maintenance, securing parts and equipment. He recommended a new vehicle would be

appropriate to provide consistent provision of services. Eric Hansen said thorough research went into the decision to purchase the rescue truck, manufactured by E1, costing \$715,323. He went on to say that an additional \$25,000 to \$40,000 would be needed to equip the vehicle with the necessary equipment for use. He explained the 2025 budget did not include this in its funds so an emergency clause would be necessary before the pricing expires by the end of the month. He said the truck would arrive in late 2028.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-59 was made by Councilmember Haake, seconded by Councilmember Gibson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2025-60 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FOR DESIGN OF THE US ROUTE 42 SHARED USE PATH PROJECT FROM STRAND ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FEE OF \$264,448 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

Hanna Puthoff read Ordinance 2025-60.

Kurt Seiler discussed Ordinance 2025-60 and Ordinance 2025-61 together.

He said both ordinances relate to the shared use path along US 42 from Hanover Drive to State Route 741, establishing a connection to the current paths throughout the City. The City received a grant just under \$900,000 through OKI Transportation Alternatives Funding. Therefore, he explained the City must follow the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) process for designing and constructing the path. The pre-selection process was completed, and Strand Associates established the best proposal.

Ordinance 2025-60 was established for the design of the project which includes environmental and Army Corps Coordination and may or not be needed on authorized tasks until the alignment and footprint of project is established. He went on to say the base contract is just over \$200,000, and if authorized would cost around \$60,000.

Kurt Seiler explained that Ordinance 2025-61 was established for the Local Public Authority (LPA) grant with ODOT, since it was initiated by federal funding. The amount is for the process and grant funds.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-60 was made by Vice Mayor Chance, seconded by Councilmember Gibson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Council discussed the location points of the path and expressed their enthusiasm for this passage which would perpetuate an active lifestyle while encouraging foot traffic to the downtown area.

ORDINANCE 2025-61 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT #42414 WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING THE US ROUTE 42 SHARED USE PATH PROJECT

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

Hanna Puthoff read Ordinance 2025-61.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-61 was made by Councilmember Bennett, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Haake expressed his excitement for the preliminary draft of the Mason Mile Master Plan.

Councilmember Bennett gave an update from the Park Board's previous meeting. The Arts and Culture Committee is planning to create an Art Park Master Plan. She explained that the planning process has not begun yet as the partner selection process has not yet been confirmed.

Mayor Nelson discussed the recent Arts and Culture Meeting. She explained that the staff is writing a Request for Proposal (RFP) so the design of the Master Plan can begin. The committee aims to finish the current park projects while planning the new park simultaneously. She described the new park as a smaller version of NYC's Central Park; a peaceful retreat with many trees, flowers and walking paths. Mayor Nelson said the committee would meet the next day and she would provide information on Heritage to begin plans for updates. The mayor spoke on the recent Small Business Committee Meeting. She expressed her enthusiasm as she announced Duke Energy would be awarding the City with a grant of \$30,000 to distribute to small businesses. The committee will delve more into the process and will elaborate as more information is provided. These awards will be distributed at the November Council Meeting. She also congratulated City staff on a job well done on the City's Small Business Reference Guide. The mayor also touched on the Small Business Community Impact Award's submission deadline.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Nelson summarized the State's veto overrides related to property taxes. The mayor congratulated the Mason Manta Ray athletes for competing in a five-day national swim meet with several earning personal bests as well as the medals won by those athletes at the 2025 Ohio Open

Water Championship. Additionally, Former Mason Manta Ray, Carson Foster earned the opportunity to compete in the World Championships in Singapore. She said the Mason Police Department trained at Warren County ESC focusing on autism spectrum disorder and mental health de-escalation. She thanked the officers for their continued efforts.

Councilmember Spaeth spoke on the Warren County Veterans Board's veteran's event at the Warren County Fair. She said all veterans and current military personnel were invited to attend for a free meal and admission.

Council congratulated Police Chief Wells on his graduation as a member of the 294th Session of the FBI National Academy.

Council commended the City's Incident Command Team and staff on Red, Rhythm and Boom's incredible event. They foresee next year's event to be even more prolific as our nation celebrates 250 years of independence.

Council expressed unity with the Hindu community from the horrific attacks on India. They shared their appreciation for the wide range of diverse residents in the City.

Councilmember Bennett presented a status update on House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 88 saying there has been no further movement on the bill at that time. She predicted no movement would occur until after summer break.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Bob Viney, of 374 Walnut Lane, inquired about the traffic access to and from the Cincinnati Open. He asked if the new Tennis Authority included any plans for traffic flow.

Eric Hansen explained that the New Community Tennis Authority only pertained to the financial welfare of the campus itself and did not stipulate any authority on traffic flow. He said primary access points would be the same as the previous years.

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 Gibson seconded by Vice Mayor Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:28 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Bennett seconded by Councilmember Gibson. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:04 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bennett, seconded by Councilmember Haake. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:04 p.m.

