

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Mayor McCurley.

Following the pledge of allegiance, the Color Guard of the American Legion removed the flags from the City Building in recognition of the final Council meeting being held at 202 West Main Street. Vice Mayor Fox read a poem he wrote recognizing the occasion.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following members of Council were present: Jim Fox, Dick Staten, Victor Kidd, Peter Beck and John McCurley. Councilmembers Tom Grossmann and Charlene Pelfrey were absent.

Mayor McCurley nominated Matt Fedders as the new representative from the City of Mason to the Warren County Housing Authority. A motion was made by Councilmember Staten to approve this appointment, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS Mayor McCurley preformed the swearing in duties.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2002 Council Meeting was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Michele Almady of Thornberry Court addressed Council and stated she was upset with the lack of assistance she has received from the City regarding the speeding problem they have on Thornberry. She asked why the double yellow lines were painted on the street. Scot Lahrmer responded one suggestion was to paint the speed limit on the street and another suggestion was to paint double yellow lines on the street in an attempt to narrow the street. Ms. Almady stated the street looks like a runway. She asked about the status of the chicanes being installed on the street. Scot responded they have been reviewed and reported to Council. The Safety Committee will now review them and make a recommendation. Ms. Almady asked about the stop sign being installed. Ken Schneider responded they cannot be utilized to control speed. She stated she has been in contact with the Ohio Department of Transportation and was informed provisions are provided for situations where accidents have occurred. Ken Schneider offered to discuss the matter with the Ohio Department of Transportation. Scot Lahrmer stated the police have

attempted to set up a community wide meeting for Thornberry. Tim Pier of 5893 Thornberry addressed Council and quoted the "Cincinnati Enquirer" stating double yellow lines can indicate a heavily traveled street and may have a negative impact on property values. He stated he fenced his yard to safe guard his child. He asked that any other changes be discussed with all the residents prior to the changes being made. He recommended a boulevard effect would solve the problem and add value to the area. John Burns of 5957 Thornberry addressed Council and stated there is a large number of children in the area and a large number of speeders. He stated an effective solution would be to install wide speed bumps such as he found in Dublin, Ohio. He stated the wide bumps are not uncomfortable for the driver of the car but they do slow them down. Councilmember Kidd stated citations have increased in the area and the City has attempted to help the situation by painting double yellow lines on the street. He added the City is looking at other options and the community should know we are doing what we can to resolve the problem.

**RESOLUTION 2002-11 PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 6-12, 2002 AS NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

The Resolution was read by Eric Hansen.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2002-11 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RESOLUTION 2002-12 PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 26, 2002 AS "MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY"**

The Resolution was read by Eric Hansen.

Becky Osborne addressed Council and thanked Council for the support they have shown this program in the past. She stated plans for this year include collecting books for children in Over the Rhine, collecting coats, collecting soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House, contributing to the Wendy Faulkner Memorial Fund, a park beautification project for Hosea Woods Park and assisting with a project for the Veteran's Memorial Fund. She stated they are expanding into a year long effort in the schools to replenish the food pantry and recycling school supplies for Over the Rhine students. She said due to this expansion, the name is being changed to "Make a Difference" not just for a day. The web site address is [www.masonmakeadiff.org](http://www.masonmakeadiff.org)

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2002-12 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RESOLUTION 2002-13 ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE 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 Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2002-13 was made by Vice Mayor Fox, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2002-14 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2002-94 ESTABLISHING THE POSITIONS AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE MASON MUNICIPAL COURT AND DECLARNG AN EMERGENCY**

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

Vice Mayor Fox asked about the status of the report on court revenue projections that Council has requested. Judge Parker said they are in the process of doing that. He said it is part of the budgeting process. He stated this year might not be typical due to vacancies and the move into a new facility. He stated he expects the revenue to remain the same and he stated the salary for the prosecutor should be removed from his budget as well as the pay for the police officer. He said their salary and benefits cannot be included in his budget. Vice Mayor Fox asked if he was considering increasing fines or court costs. Judge Parker replied he cannot be focused on money. He invited Vice Mayor Fox to review the financial records of the Court. Councilmember Beck asked for a breakdown between the City costs and the Township costs. He said the Court has added seven positions and stated he does not feel the income will offset that expense. He added a request to increase a person's salary 38% is not reasonable. Judge Parker explained this current request and stated it is a savings to the City. Ken Schneider stated after a review of the request it reduces the impact on the City financially by \$7,000. Mayor McCurley

stated information has been requested and has not been supplied. Councilmember Staten requested the Mayor call the question.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-114 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: 4 NAYS, 1 YEA (Kidd) Motion failed.

**ORDINANCE 2002-129 MODIFYING THE COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Scot Lahrmer stated this legislation increases the Law Director's compensation from \$23,000 to \$24,000 effective July 1, 2002. In addition, the legal services performed by the law firm are requested to increase from the rate of \$136 per hour to \$142 per hour. One exception to the \$142 rate is litigation and labor negotiations which is being proposed at \$156 per hour.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-129 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2002-130 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JIM VEARIL CONCRETE AND EXCAVATING FOR REPAIR WORK TO A CONCRETE TANK AT THE WATER RECLAMATION PLANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Scot Lahrmer explained to Council with the dry weather, the small oxidation ditch at the Water Reclamation Plant was taken out of service to repair an airline leak. When the tank was being dewatered, it was discovered that the tank wall was cracked and buckling inward near the one bank of diffusers. Five firms were contacted for estimates to make the necessary repairs with only two responding. The firm of Jim Vearil Concrete and Excavating was selected at a cost of \$21,650. Vice Mayor Fox stated the Utility Committee reviewed this matter and recommends approval.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-130 was made by Councilmember Staten, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2002-131 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO PAY UP TO \$30,000.00 AS THE CITY OF MASON'S LOCAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE \$1,000,000.00 SOUTHWESTERN WARREN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION STUDY BY THE OHIO KENTUCKY INDIANA (OKI) REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

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

Scot Lahrmer explained to Council a collaborative effort is being made within Warren County to perform a study to determine how to improve the traffic situation in southwest Warren County. The estimated cost of the study is \$1,000,000 and will take two years to complete. Scot stated it is anticipated the results of this study will enhance the areas ability to secure support at the state level for improvements. OKI is funding 80% of the study leaving a balance of \$200,000. Warren County has agreed to pay for \$100,000 leaving the remaining jurisdictions responsible for \$100,000. This legislation authorizes the City to contribute \$30,000 to this effort. Councilmember Beck stated OKI is committed to this effort. He stated an OKI meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2002. He said it will be a Transportation Improvement Workshop and suggested the City be represented.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2002-131 was made by Councilmember Beck, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

A Council Walkabout will take place on October 7, 2002 at the new Community Center. The time is 6:00-7:30 p.m

The new Municipal Center will be open for business on Tuesday September 24, 2002. The move took place over the weekend.

The recycle rally is not being scheduled for this year. Any questions should be directed to the Warren County Solid Waste District at 695-1209.

Esther Lanham, secretary in the Parks and Recreation Department, has been selected to receive the National Association of Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants 2002 Excellence Award. This will be announced in the next issue of *Mason Matters*.

Due to the season's early fall, leaf collection will begin one week earlier this year. It begins on October 7, through December 22.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Beck stated a meeting will be held on October 1, 2002 at the American Legion at 5:00 p.m. for the Executive Committee of the Veteran's Memorial Fund. He also stated the American Legion, Rotary Club and Mason Landen Kings Chamber of Commerce are holding golf outings which will contribute to the Veteran's Memorial Fund.

### **COUNCIL OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor McCurley reported a meeting has taken place with state MRDD officials to discuss property located on US RT 42. He also stated he has met with Mike Fox of Butler County, Liberty Township and West Chester Township to discuss a possible JEDD to finance road improvements.

Mayor McCurley also stated October 10, 2002 is the dedication of the new Municipal Center. October 12, 2002 is the open house from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Councilmember Beck reminded everyone the Halloween Hayride is scheduled for October 11 and 12. He also stated the week of October 1 recognizes National Law Week.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Betty Davis of Hanover Drive addressed Council and stated she has many fond memories of this building. She stated she has served on Council since 1974 and seen 4 City Managers, 1 Law Director and 2 Clerks of Council.

**CLOSING CEREMONIES FOR 202 WEST MAIN STREET**

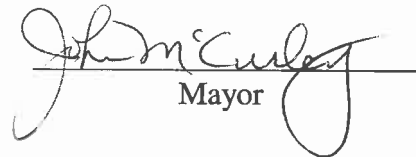
Mayor McCurley displayed a picture of an historic view of Mason's old Main Street. He said it will be displayed in the new Municipal Center.

Mason High School freshman, Ben Villani dressed in full Scottish attire, played the bagpipes as all those in attendance left Council Chambers. Mayor McCurley turned off the lights

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Beck, seconded by Vice Mayor Fox.  
VOTE: ALL YEAS  
TIME: 9:20 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor