

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2004**

Mayor Beck called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Following a prayer lead by Chaplain Rick Huff, those in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following members of Council were present: Victor Kidd, Steve Osborne, Tony Bradburn, John McCurley, Charlene Pelfrey and Peter Beck. Councilmember Tom Grossmann was absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2004 Council worksession was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Osborne. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 2 ABSTAIN (McCurley and Pelfrey)

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2004 Council meeting was made by Vice Mayor Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Osborne. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 2 ABSTAIN (Osborne and McCurley)

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2004 joint meeting with the Chamber of Commerce was made by Councilmember McCurley, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: 4 YEAS, 2 ABSTAIN (Osborne and Pelfrey)

**PRESENTATION OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Beck read the Proclamation and presented it to Russ Finney a member of the Exchange Club of Northeast Cincinnati. This proclaimed the entire month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Russ Finney explained about the club's focus on the prevention of child abuse. He presented members of Council with a blue ribbon, which serves as the national symbol for the prevention of child abuse.

Mayor Beck noted the presentation by Half-Price Books appearing on the agenda, will be rescheduled for the April 26, 2004 meeting.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mr. Schwartz of 6309 Tartan Fields Lane addressed Council and asked about the proposed alternate truck route. He asked what the positive points were for making this proposal. Vice Mayor Pelfrey stated she did not attend a meeting personally with the school official. She stated she has been miss quoted on this matter and she has not spoken in favor or against this proposal.

She stated she would like to clarify there is no effort to create a truck route from I-75 to I-71. She stated an alternative for trucks to travel on Tylersville Road to Mason Montgomery Road was just discussed. Mayor Beck stated this has been discussed with the DMA and there is no support for it so it is not going anywhere. Councilmember McCurley stated he is strongly opposed to this option. There are many students along this route and he does not feel it is conducive to truck traffic. He also stated ST RT 42 is a state route and as such is the designated truck route.

#### **RESOLUTION 2004-04 PROCLAIMING APRIL 24, 2004 AS EARTH DAY**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council this event has taken place in Mason for many years. He stated the Earth Walk will take a slightly different route this year due to the work on the dam at the Pine Hill Park.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2004-04 was made by Vice Mayor Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Osborne. VOTE: ALL YEAS

#### **RESOLUTION 2004-05 ARBOR DAY**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council this is a result of the effort put forth by the City of Mason's Tree Committee which contributes to the city receiving the Tree City USA award. Diane Clasen of 720 Eagle View Court, stated this is the sixth year the Tree Committee has given away tree seedlings to the first 300 individuals to finish the earth walk. She also explained the City of Mason Tree Committee is hosting the Southwest Ohio Regional Tree City USA Awards Program this year.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2004-05 was made by Councilmember Osborne, seconded by Vice Mayor Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

#### **ORDINANCE 2004-47 ACCEPTING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR VILLAGE LAKES, SECTION 6, BLOCK "B", AND RELEASING THE PERFORMANCE BOND**

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

Richard Fair explained to Council this is the last multi-family section of the subdivision to be accepted. He stated the streets, which are private, include Fieldsedge Drive and the northeast end of Pondfield Lane. He said the Public Utilities, Public Works, Engineering Department and Greater Cincinnati Water Works have inspected the public improvements. The utilities and other improvements will become the city's responsibility upon acceptance. He added staff recommends accepting the public improvements, contingent on the submission of a one-year maintenance bond.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-47 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2004-48 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROZZI'S FAMOUS FIREWORKS TO PROVIDE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY DURING THE CITY OF MASON'S "RED, RHYTHM & BOOM" FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

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

Scot Lahrmer explained to Council the City has been hosting an annual Fourth of July Celebration for a few years known as "Mason's Red Rhythm & Boom." He said this year's patriotic celebration is planned for Saturday July 3, with the high -profile entertainment act, Don McLean. He also stated the last three years the City has witnessed over 5,000 people attend each Fourth of July celebration and Rozzi's Famous Fireworks has been providing Mason's Fireworks since its inception in 1999. They have the ability to provide, first and foremost, a safe display and secondly, the best exhibit for the money. He stated in 2003 we witnessed a quality 20-minute fireworks display for \$21,000 that is recommend continuing for \$21,000. He concluded by stating there is no increase in fees for 2004.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-48 was made by Councilmember Osborne, seconded by Vice Mayor Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2004-49 CREATING THE POSITION OF IT TECHNICIAN IN THE CITY OF MASON AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council as the City continues to improve the efficiency of municipal services through better utilization of technology, the need to manage rapidly growing technology demands and investments increases. He stated a second IT position is part of the solution to these growing demands. An IT Manager position was established by City Council nearly four years ago to handle a mounting workload, improve the City's utilization of technology and reduce rapidly growing expenses spent on a variety of IT consultants and vendors. Eric said since that time service demands in all departments have grown considerably. The addition of the Community Center, along with the new Municipal Center have created additional opportunities but also increased reliance on IT expertise. Eric stated IT is currently responsible for the maintenance of 17 core servers as well as the City wide Local Area network, over 150 computers and over 400 user accounts, a growing number of specialized and general software packages and their vendors, contract for City website, providing support to GIS office, network security (e-mail, virus, "spam" attacks, outside intrusion, etc.), support to the new computer lab at the Community Center, hardware and software procurement, as well as pursuing new avenues to reduce costs and improve work productivity. He also said \$157,000 of savings can readily be attributed to the hiring of the IT Manager. Eric also stated too much of the Information Technology Manager's time is spent troubleshooting and not enough time can be spent on network maintenance duties, until they are in crisis, or on value added projects. With another staff position available daily, the troubleshooting of end user computers would be maintained on a regular basis, allowing the IT Manager to better utilize time and skills. He added outsourcing options have been investigated and, except on a small scale, have proven cost-prohibitive. The position was discussed and recommended by the Finance Committee as part of the 2004 Budget process and was included in the final 2004 Budget adopted by Council.

A general discussion among Council followed Eric's comments on the hiring range and the experience the City is looking for in this position. Councilmember Osborne stated if they cannot find the right person for this position at this rate, he encouraged staff to come back to Council rather than suffer through a bad hire. Councilmember Kidd agreed with those comments and suggested the training dollars be included in the compensation package and tied to the length of service. Mayor Beck asked Eric how he came up with the hiring range. Eric responded they reviewed the City's hiring range and tried to incorporate it into that. He said it is their hope they will hire someone they can work with and train. Councilmember Osborne also stated the Employee Relations Committee is reviewing the compensations of all employees to insure they are falling in a competitive range and they are classified properly. He stated this is necessary so the City is not incurring the expense of interviewing and hiring on a continuing basis. He also stated if the salary is not in a competitive range, a person will only stay in a position until they receive training and then they move on to another job.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-49 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2004-50 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO.2004-14  
ESTABLISHING THE POSITIONS AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR  
EMPLOYEES OF THE MASON MUNICIPAL COURT AND DECLARING  
AN EMERGENCY**

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

Eric Hansen stated this legislation is needed to clear up confusion and make the compensations for positions consistent within the Court's organization. Specifically he mentioned the deputy clerk position. Councilmember McCurley stated he would not support this legislation as it represents approximately a 15% increase and the City employees received only a 5% pool increase. Councilmember Osborne asked if these positions are the ones the City has discretion over. Eric referred to the Exhibit A for clarification on which positions the City has control. Councilmember McCurley asked if this was included in the budget. Eric Hansen reported it was not included as it was submitted after the budget was complete. Councilmember Osborne agreed with Councilmember McCurley but will support it as the City does not have control over this position. Mayor Beck stated at the end of the year, the City can control the budget of the Court and adjustments can be made at that time. Vice Mayor Pelfrey stated she has not been in favor with the different compensation ranges requested by the Court. She stated since she doesn't have a legal background she relied on those that did. She asked again if Council has discretion over this decision. Tim Garry, the law director, stated as long as the Court's establishment of the salaries is deemed to be reasonable; the City has no option but to approve it. Councilmember Osborne stated the Court has agreed to work in conjunction with the city in review of the compensation levels. He said this entails working with a professional salary study that spans the entire area from northern Kentucky to Columbus. He added this will illustrate if anyone is being paid outside the normal range. Councilmember Kidd stated the City must decide to go along with this or enter into a large legal battle with the court that would be costly and ultimately the City could lose. Councilmember McCurley stated the Court has tripled the number of employees over the last few years. He asked Tim Garry if there is any limitation on this. Mr. Garry referred to the Exhibit A as the positions the City has discretion over. Councilmember McCurley referred to a recent report from the Court showing a clear reduction on the number of cases heard by the Court.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-50 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Pelfrey. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 NAY (McCurley)

**ORDINANCE 2004-51 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER  
INTO A CONTRACT WITH LARRY SMITH CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR  
CONSTRUCTION OF THE US 42 NORTH PHASE 1 TRUNK SEWER AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Scot Lahrmer explained to Council the City's Sewer Master Plan calls for the rehabilitation/reconstruction of the main US 42 Trunk Sewer, which runs northerly from Quinn Park in the southern part of Mason to the existing Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). The first section of the trunk sewer (US 42 South) was reconstructed in 2002, from Quinn Park to a point just south of Tylersville Road. Scot stated the preliminary design for the next section of the trunk sewer reconstruction, from Tylersville Road to the Four Seasons Apartments, was completed by Finkbeiner, Pettis & Strout (FPS) in 2000. Following completion of the preliminary design, discussions were conducted with OEPA and the affected property owners. He said a large amount of opposition developed over issues having to do with OEPA stream corridor policy, and the removal of trees and other disruption associated with sewer construction. Various alternative techniques to open-cut sewer construction were investigated to minimize disruption. The most promising of these techniques was sewer-bursting, a technique in which a device inserted in the existing sewer breaks up and pushes out the wall of the pipe and pulls along a replacement pipe. In sewer-bursting there is no surface disruption, other than at manholes. The design was modified to include pipe-bursting for critical parts of the project and open-cut relocation for other parts. Also, due to difficulty in obtaining necessary easements for portions of the project at any reasonable cost, it was decided to divide the project into two phases, with Phase 1 running approximately 3,300 feet northerly from Tylersville Road.

In 2002, the City was made aware that St. Susanna's Church, one of the major affected property owners in Phase 1, was planning to construct a new worship center at a location which would conflict with the proposed route for the reconstructed (open-cut) sewer. Following numerous discussions with St. Susanna's, the route was re-designed in 2003 to accommodate the new worship center and various OEPA concerns. It was also decided to increase the size of the new sewer to 27-inch diameter, to provide greater hydraulic relief for sewers in the Villas Creek area. The Villas Creek area is immediately upstream of Phase 1, and has a number of residences which have recently been subject to basement flooding. A Permit-to-Install (PTI) for Phase 1 was issued by OEPA in January 2004, and bids for the project were opened on April 2. Two bids were received and the low bidder was Larry Smith Contractors, Inc. at \$793,936. The Engineer's estimate for Phase 1 was \$875,000.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-51 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember McCurley. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2004-52 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PAVEMENT PLANING, ASPHALT RESURFACING, REPLACING RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS, PAINTING AND STRIPING ON STATE ROUTE 741**

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

Richard Fair explained to Council as part of the Ohio Department of Transportation Urban Paving Policy, SR 741 is scheduled for resurfacing in ODOT calendar year 2005, which begins July 2004. He said the first step in the process, according to ODOT guidelines, was for the City to prepare resurfacing drawings which are under review by ODOT. ODOT is now requiring City Council to approve preliminary legislation which will authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with ODOT. Richard said contract language requires the City to cooperate with ODOT by paying to prepare the drawings; acquire right-of-way, which is not needed for this project; pay for the non-federal share of the construction costs and for 100% of items not paid for by ODOT; and pay 100% to upgrade all handicap curb ramps. Richard further explained this program has an 80/20 funding split, with ODOT paying 80% and the City paying 20% of the construction costs, plus items not covered by the Urban Paving Policy. At this time it is impossible to estimate how much the City's share is until the final quantities are approved by ODOT. However, the City's share should be under \$180,000, which was budgeted in 2004.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-52 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2004-53 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$4,700,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING MASON-MONTGOMERY ROAD IN THE CITY.**

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

Scot Lahrmer stated the purpose of the Mason-Montgomery Road Improvement Project was to increase safety for residents and motorists, increase safety for students at Mason schools, facilitate the flow of traffic by increasing the road capacity to meet both present and future traffic demands, and create pedestrian walkway systems and bike paths as an alternative means to driving. Bond anticipation notes were originally issued in 2001, in the amount of \$6 million for this project. The current notes in the amount of \$5.7 million will mature on May 31, 2004. Scot stated the new issue represents a principal payment in the amount of \$1 million dollars.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-53 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Osborne. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2004-54 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH 32 FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2004 FORD F-150 HALF-TON PICK-UP TRUCK**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council the Engineering & Building Department currently utilizes a 1994 Ford F-150 half-ton pickup for City inspections. The 1994 pickup has accumulated excessive mileage, has exceeded the City's scheduled vehicle replacement date, and is incurring increasing maintenance costs. City inspectors utilize pickup trucks because their higher ground clearance is ideal for off-road use. The extended cab provides space not only for storage of reference materials and tools, but it may also be used to transport up to four additional passengers if necessary. Eric stated replacement will provide a reliable and more versatile vehicle for daily use on inspection sites throughout the City. Considering the F-150 Ford's warranty, the history and consistency the City has had using Ford vehicles in the fleet, and the favorable discount available from the State Bid Program, the Ford F-150 represents the best value for the City's specific needs. The State bid cost for this vehicle is \$18,886. Upon replacement the existing truck would be declared surplus and auctioned. Eric also said as part of the budget process, the Equipment and Finance Committees of Council discussed and recommended the replacement of this vehicle. The 2004 Budget included \$25,000 for the purchase of this replacement vehicle.

Vice Mayor Pelfrey asked if staff has ever looked into buying slightly used vehicles instead of new. Eric replied they had not due to the state bid process and the established replacement schedule. She suggested it be considered in the future.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-54 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Pelfrey. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Bradburn)

**ORDINANCE 2004-55 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WOOLPERT LLP FOR PROFESSIONAL PARK PLANNING AND DESIGN SERVICES TO COMPLETE A PARK MASTER PLAN AND NEW PARK DESIGN**

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

Scot Lahrmer explained to Council, the City is in need of a park master plan to design new parks with the services and facilities expected by City of Mason residents. The plan needs to represent elements requested and desired by residents to ensure a viable City park and recreation opportunity. He stated it is critical that the plan be based on community input and a practical

design of park facilities that sufficiently contains the elements the community has requested. He also said it has become evident with the growing demand for sports fields that the primary uses of the larger park sites currently being discussed are soccer and football fields and baseball diamonds. A balance of passive elements also needs to be considered. Scot stated both passive and active design elements have been discussed at recent Park Board meetings.

He explained while Council discussion has concentrated on the three large parcels recently acquired by the City during the last three years, the City has smaller open space parcels and a greenway corridor that should be designed for efficient use of park land and linkages to the current park system. Scot explained the City solicited proposals from a pre-qualified list of park planning and design consultants for the Park Master Plan and New Park Design. Five proposals were submitted and it was determined that Woolpert located in Cincinnati, is most qualified for the work. Woolpert submitted a total cost of \$71,000 with a plan specific to the scope of services outlined in the City's Request for Proposals. Two less qualified proposals came in with a cost of nearly \$50,000, a third came in at \$87,000 and a fourth came in at over \$175,000.

Scot further explained while the total cost for the Woolpert proposal is \$71,000, staff is recommending City Council approve a not-to-exceed price of \$74,000. This would cover an additional public workshop that might be needed to assist with public buy-in to the process. Once City Council approves this ordinance, the public workshop planning process will begin in May, with conceptual plans and probable construction costs provided in June. The final version will be presented to Park Board and City Council in September. The budget amount allocated for this project is \$50,000 but this was for a project scope of only two sites, Castle and Biehle. Since the Council Finance Committee discussed this project, the Gould property has been purchased. Therefore, staff recommends the Woolpert proposal, which includes six sites and the Muddy Creek corridor with connections and planning of their relationships with our current park system.

Vice Mayor Pelfrey asked who would be the steering committee. Scot stated the Park Board would serve as the steering committee and staff will also assist.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-55 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Vice Mayor Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2004-56 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH 32 FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2004 FORD EXPEDITIONS**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council the Fire Department fleet consists of a variety of vehicles for emergency response as well as daily service delivery. The 2004 Budget identified the purchase of two vehicles to rotate into the Department fleet: a 2004 Crown Victoria and a 2004 Ford

Explorer. The Explorer was to be assigned to a Fire Inspector, while the new car was to be assigned to the Deputy Chief. Eric explained this, in turn would allow existing vehicles to be rotated to less intensive emergency use, and those vehicles that had exhausted their useful life would be declared surplus and auctioned. He explained following this type of cycle extends the overall life of the Department's fleet, maximizes its ability to respond to emergency calls, and ensures that the City's investment in vehicles is fully utilized. Eric stated a Crown Victoria and a Ford Explorer are available on the State Bid for a total cost of \$64,225. However State Bid pricing is also available on two Ford Expedition XLT's at a total cost of \$57,982 from 32 Ford. The Ford Expeditions are a more versatile vehicle for the Fire Department's use, allow greater flexibility for future rotation within the Department and reduce the initial cost by over \$6,000. Eric stated as part of the 2004 Budget process, both the Equipment and Finance Committees of Council reviewed and recommended the initially proposed equipment purchase. Consequently \$65,000 was included in the 2004 Budget for these purchases.

Vice Mayor Pelfrey stated she is in favor of this purchase but in the future she would like to see a comparison between a new vehicle and a nearly new one.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-56 was made by Councilmember McCurley, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Bradburn)

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The April issue of *Mason Matters* should be delivered on April 8 in the Pulse-Journal.

A Council work session is scheduled for Monday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Mason Municipal Center and will include dinner.

On Saturday, April 24, the City's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Walk will be held beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the front plaza of the Mason Municipal Center. Participants will walk through downtown Mason to Kings Mills Road and circle back to the Lou Eves Municipal Pool through Pine Hill Lakes Park. The event has been expanded in recent years to accommodate resident interest in Earth Day festivities. Park Naturalist Kendra Schide will present an Earth Day, Every Day program and answer questions and concerns about the earth. City of Mason Public Works employees will demonstrate environment-related equipment, such as the brush chipper and leaf vacuum. As part of the City's Arbor Day recognition, tree seedlings from the City's Tree Committee will be available for Earth Walk participants after the event.

A request for a transfer of a liquor permit for Valentino Entertainment, Inc. has been received. Scot stated it is located at 753 Reading road and now called Meridas. Councilmember Kidd stated he has reservations about this and would like to request a hearing. Councilmember McCurley suggested it be discussed with our law director since this request is for a transfer not requesting a new one.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember McCurley reported on Planning Commission. He stated a new development will be occurring at ST RT 42 and Tylersville Road.

Councilmember Osborne stated the Employee Relations Committee is working on the classification and review of compensation for all employees. He stated the Court is also participating with this. He also stated the Finance Committee is reviewing the effect the reduction of the half percent on the income tax credit would have on the finances. He added Councilmember Grossmann will be reporting on this in the future. Councilmember Osborne requested a run rate analysis for re-ups and memberships for the Community Center.

## **COUNCIL OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Mayor Pelfrey stated she received a call from an elderly couple that use the Community Center. She stated the man explained how someone broke into his locker. She said she knows it is hard for the front desk to watch who passes in and out of the turnstile. She suggested we review how we can control the traffic by the front desk and she also suggested adding a surveillance camera. Scot stated they will be changing the traffic pattern. He also said two cameras exist now and they are looking into adding another. He added they have recently started issuing locks for lockers. Mayor Beck stated he has concerns over the security from the school access and traffic must be controlled from that direction. Councilmember Osborne stated a code of conduct should be included in the membership agreement if it is not already part of the form.

Mayor Beck mentioned the water rate comparison was provided to Council and revealed Mason located somewhere in the middle. He said we were not the highest and not the lowest. He also asked Scot about the status for the Snider Road extension. Scot stated the developer has made a proposal and it appears to be the best suggestion the City has heard to date. Scot stated he would like direction from Council on how to proceed. Councilmember McCurley stated he is in support of this proposal. Vice Mayor Pelfrey agreed we should move forward.

Mayor Beck stated he will be meeting with the small businesses in the Chamber on Tuesday. He said he will also be meeting with the DMA along with Vice Mayor Pelfrey. He also stated the volunteers who worked on the Veteran's Memorial will be recognized on April 28, 2004 during a luncheon. This event will be held at the Grace Baptist Church.

Councilmember Osborne requested the joint meeting be rescheduled with the School Board.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to reconvene into regular session was made by Councilmember McCurley, seconded by Councilmember Osborne. VOTE: ALL YEAS


A motion to not hold a hearing on the transfer of the liquor permit was made by Councilmember McCurley, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** None

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember McCurley, seconded by Councilmember Osborne. VOTE: ALL YEAS

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor