

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 14, 2008**

Mayor Grossmann opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Chaplain Rick Huff opened the meeting with prayer. Those in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following members of Council were present: Victor Kidd, Christine Shimrock, Don Prince, Todd Wurzbacher, Pete Beck and Tom Grossmann.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2008 Council meeting was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 ABSTAIN (Wurzbacher, Grossmann)

**SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICER JEFF WYSS**

Chief Ferrell introduced Police Officer Jeff Wyss. Mayor Grossmann presented the oath of office to Officer Wyss. Members of his family in attendance were introduced.

**RECOGNITION OF LAURIE PETRIE, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL ON AGING OF SOUTHWEST OHIO—WARREN COUNTY ELDERLY SERVICES PROGRAM**

Laurie Petrie, Director of the Warren County Council on Aging addressed Council and gave an overview of the types of services they provide. She distributed their annual report and explained over 221 Mason residents receive their services.

**PROCLAMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

Tim MaGee, owner of Court For Sports, addressed Council and stated they are hosting the first International High School Classic Basketball Tournament this year. He said there will be 14 teams including four international teams that will compete. He said this is a wonderful experience to expose the children to other cultures. Terri Smith noted the event will be held from July 21 through 24, 2008.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Chris Hodge of 6496 Caddy's Way addressed Council and asked about the status of improving the poor condition of the vacant car wash located adjacent to St. Susanna's

property. He said he understands there have been conversations about painting the structure. He said that is not going to fix the problem. Councilmember Kidd said he has met with the property owner and suggested it become a community project to improve the condition. Councilmember Prince said he is not in favor of passing legislation for one property. He said he would prefer dealing with the problem. Vice Mayor Beck said the City is currently reviewing the property maintenance requirements and may end up updating the current code. He said the City would keep him updated on this matter.

#### **MAYOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Mayor Grossmann requested the appointment of Richard Stewart from 5189 Harvestdale Drive to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He would be replacing Derek White. Council unanimously voted to approve this appointment.

Mayor Grossmann appointed Vice Mayor Beck and Councilmember Prince to the Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **RESOLUTION 2008-9      2<sup>nd</sup> Reading—Public Hearing      ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR JANUARY 1, 2009 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009**

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

Eric Hansen explained this is a second reading for the approval of the budget for year January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 as required by the Ohio Revised Code..

Mayor Grossmann opened the public hearing at 7:46 p.m. Perry Schwartz of 6309 Tartan Fields Lane addressed Council and asked how this years tax budget compares to last year. Eric Hansen responded this is a document that must be submitted to the county to receive local government funds. It does not set the City's fiscal budget.

Hearing no comments either for or opposed to this legislation, he closed the public hearing at 7:48 p.m.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2008-9 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: ALL YEAS

#### **CRA #4- FUJITEC AMERICA HEADQUARTERS**

Michele Blair reported to Council, this past month, Fujitec America announced the restructuring of their regional offices to allow for expansion of its new installations, modernization processes and service/maintenance offerings. She said their headquarters formerly located within the City of Lebanon, will relocate to a Mason facility at 7258 Innovation Way (formerly the Borden Building) in Mason's Innovation Business Park along I-71. This facility has been identified during the regional site location search, as the most desirable location for Fujitec to continue their company operations and growth.

Fujitec will lease the facility from Neyer Properties for an extended 10-year term with an option to renew after the initial term. They will occupy the full 116,200 square foot facility, using 34,000 square feet for office and 82,000 for manufacturing. The headquarters relocation will result in over \$4 million of retrofit and renovation investment to the current facility and will attract an initial 109 employees with an average salary of \$65,000 and a payroll of \$7.1 million. Michele said it is their plan, within a three-year period to increase to 115 employees with an annual payroll of over \$7.9 million. This investment means over \$1.2 million in new revenue generated to the local economy. Ben McNab of Colliers addressed Council and explained how Fujitech wanted a fresh location and this former Borden building met all of their requirements. He added without the tax incentives, they would have chosen a different site. Mr. Keiji Yamashiro, the Chief Executive Officer, addressed Council and explained how their business has evolved into the technical aspects of the industry.

Michele asked Council to adopt a motion to grant to Fujitec America, an abatement under the Community Reinvestment Area Program, a 100% of real property improvements for a period of 10-years on the value of the new building improvements and renovations and to transfer the existing abatement on the current building (expires in 2011) as authorized by the State of Ohio Community Reinvestment Area Program and contingent upon the company making an annual compensation payment to the Kings Local School District for the term of the abatement period.

A motion to approve the incentive as described by Michele Blair was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. Mayor Grossmann stated it is necessary for him to abstain as he has a business relationship with this organization. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Grossmann).

**ORDINANCE 2008-77 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH REACH EVENT MARKETING TO SUPPORT THE CROCS AVP MASON VOLLEYBALL TOUR PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MASON TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 PER YEAR FOR EVENT YEARS 2008 AND 2009**

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

Michele Blair addressed Council and explained this legislation approves a partnership with Reach Event Marketing to bring the AVP tournament to the City of Mason. She stated the proposed City of Mason – Reach Event Marketing Partnership is two-fold. It includes City business development participation during the weekend of the event as well as a marketing partnership that leverages significant publishing resources of the Reach Event Marketing Company to target audiences and develop messaging throughout the two-year partnership. Each of the publications cater to a specific target demographic and the City has leveraged the partnership to use these vehicles for both editorial positioning, as well as advertising some of its consumer-oriented programs and services. Michele said the Economic Development Committee is supportive of this partnership and recommends

the adoption of Ordinance 2008 – 77, providing funding in the amount of \$50,000 per year for two years to AVP Volleyball Tournament/Reach USA. Michele introduced Robert Slattery, Founder and CEO of Reach Event Marketing and Mario Cicchinelli, Director of Reach Event Marketing who provided background information on the exposure this event receives and spoke in favor of this partnership. Mr. Slattery stated two charities benefit for this event, Mason Parks Foundation and the Barrett Cancer Center.

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

Councilmember Wurzbacher reported the Economic Development of Council approves this recommendation.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-77 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RESOLUTION 2008-10 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO FILE A DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (DARE) GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION AND ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONTINUE A DARE PROGRAM**

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

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council, the purpose of this legislation is to support the Police Department in filing a grant application with the State of Ohio Attorney General's office to obtain funds to support the DARE program. Eric stated the DARE program is a valuable tool in building and maintaining relationships between the police and students. The continuation of the DARE program, along with the School Resource Officer position, gives the Police Department a continuing link to the students as they move through the school system. He stated since the program's inception, the City has been successful in securing a total of over \$300,000 to support this program. City Council is being requested to formally support the application of the 2008 DARE grant and continuation of the DARE program in the Mason City Schools.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2008-10 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RESOLUTION 2008-11 REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO TEMPORARILY REDUCE THE SPEED LIMITS ON WESTERN ROW ROAD DURING THE WESTERN ROW ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

Richard Fair explained the purpose of this legislation is to reduce speed limit on Western Row Road during construction to improve the safety of the workers, residents and the driving motorists. He said regulatory speed limit in the construction section is excessive and unsafe, because of lane shifts, narrow lanes, drop offs, reduced sight distances and construction activity moving in and out of the traveled lanes. In addition, some motorists are ignoring construction signs and advisory speed limits creating a dangerous situation for both workers and drivers. Richard explained the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation has the authority to determine and declare reasonable and safe speed limits on roads in Ohio. Upon the adoption of Resolution 2008 - 11 the ODOT Director will evaluate the matter to determine a safe and reasonable speed limit on this section of the road during construction and it is likely he will reduce the speed limits. At that time revised speed limit signs will be erected.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2008-11 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RESOLUTION 2008-12 PROCLAIMING JULY AS NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH**

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

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council, National Parks & Recreation Month was created by the National Recreation and Parks Association as an opportunity for communities to bring the importance of parks and recreation services into public focus. Eric stated Mason City Council has committed significant financial resources to improve and increase recreational facilities and programs for Mason residents. As a result, the City maintains over 300 acres of parkland in seven parks, which contain facilities for many active sports, playgrounds, picnic areas, natural areas, fishing and the Lou Eves Municipal Pool, and the Mason Community Center. Mason's newest park the Mason Sports Park was dedicated on April 19 adding over 54 acres to the park system.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2008-12 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**RESOLUTION 2008-13 SUPPORTING A RENEWAL 5 MILL AND AN ADDITIONAL 2-MILL FIRE LEVY**

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

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council in May, Council unanimously adopted Ordinances 2008-26 and 2008-27 proposing a 5 year, additional 2 mill and 5 mill renewal fire levies be placed on the August 5, 2008 ballot to ensure the continuation of property tax revenues to support the Fire and Emergency Medical Services provided by the City of Mason Fire Department. He stated a supplemental and renewal levy are necessary to continue the state reimbursement of the tangible property tax and fund a service level that would meet the national standards for response time in the most cost effective manner for residents of Mason.

Eric reported over the past several years, Fire and EMS professionals, Council Safety Committee and staff have been evaluating the City's Fire operations. Fire and EMS professionals have consistently recommended that the City move to the NFPA standard of six-minute response time – four-minute road time.

Councilmember Bradburn spoke in favor of the levies. He said they Safety Committee has been devoted to this matter and he reminded residents the EMS and Fire are on duty 24 hours 7 days a week. He added they need these resources. Mayor Grossmann said this does result in a small increase but it also helps hold down insurance rates for many residents.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2008-13 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-78 ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR THE WESTERN ROW ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (WESTERN ROW SUBDIVISION)**

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

Richard Fair explained Ordinance 2008-78 is required to approve the dedication plat for Western Row Subdivision as recommended by Planning Commission. He stated the property is located on the southeast corner of Mason Montgomery Road and Western Row Road and is needed for the creation of a right turn lane.

He stated Ordinance 2008-79 is required to accept the easements from Mason Christian Village, which the City paid \$1,000 to secure.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-78 was made by Councilmember Shimrock, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-79 ACCEPTING STANDARD HIGHWAY EASEMENTS FOR WESTERN ROW ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (MASON CHRISTIAN VILLAGE)**

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-79 was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-80 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF FIVE ACRES OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF MASON (LAKEWOOD COMMERCE CENTER)**

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

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council the purpose of the next three ordinances it to move forward with the comprehensive fire service upgrade plan for the City of Mason which is to relocate current Station 51 and open up new economic opportunity for targeted industrial development. He stated Ordinance 2008-80 would execute an agreement for the acquisition of five acres of real property located in the Lakewood Commerce Park; Ordinance 2008-81 would execute a joint economic stimulus agreement related to Lakewood Commerce Center; and Ordinance 2002-82 would approve the final plat for Lakewood Commerce Center. He further stated the real estate transfer, road construction, plat approval and economic development at Lakewood Commerce Center located along Mason-Montgomery Road, are necessary to complete the relocation of the Station 51 facility and at the same time create an advantageous partnership with Henkle Schuler/Bunnell Hill Development to open up economic opportunity within the Lakewood business park. The core elements of the agreements include:

1. Property acquisition in Lakewood Commerce Center for new Station 51, which is the most desirable site to achieve best fire service to the City of Mason;
2. Infrastructure development to access the station and up to 30 additional acres of industrial land which includes the construction of 770 feet of the main drive of the subdivision, a deceleration lane and left turn lane;
3. Economic stimulus agreement to kick-start interest in business attraction to this Mason commerce park.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-80 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-81 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A JOINT ECONOMIC STIMULUS AGREEMENT RELATED TO LAKEWOOD COMMERCE**

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-81 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-82 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR LAKEWOOD COMMERCE CENTER**

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-82 was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-83 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KNEISEL CONTRACTING CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$81,317.30 FOR THE STRIPING OF VARIOUS STREETS**

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck). Vice Mayor Beck stated he will abstain on this legislation due to his professional relationship with this firm.

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



Richard Fair explained to Council, the purpose of Ordinance 2008-83 is to award a contract to the lowest and best bidder to paint the City's public streets for continued traffic control and safety. He stated three bids were received with the best and lowest bid coming from Kneisel Contracting Corp. for \$81,317.30

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-83 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Beck)

**ORDINANCE 2008-84 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT #22061 WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING THE MUDDY CREEK BIKEWAY, PHASE II**

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

Richard Fair explained to Council, the City was successful in obtaining a federal grant through ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program to design and construct phase two of the Muddy Creek Bikeway from Pine Hill Park to Heritage Oak Park, continuing along the Muddy Creek approximately 3,950 feet long. He stated the bike path meets the objectives outlined in the Mason Bicycle and Pedestrian Way Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan by serving as a tributary to a portion of the Miami 2 Miami Connection; a regional bike trail system and utilizing a flood plain for open space conservation. Richard said Council previously approved Ordinance 2007-122, which entered into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation to acquire funds through the ODOT - Transportation Enhancement Program. Now ODOT is requesting a Local-Let Project Agreement in which the City agrees to project engineering, right-of-way acquisition, bidding, and project administration. The project is estimated at \$937,500 and ODOT will reimburse 80% of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$750,000. The City will be responsible for 100% of the engineering and right-of-way costs and 20% of the project estimate.

Richard reported the original plan was for the bike path to follow along the Muddy Creek. However, in order to save costs, staff developed several alternatives. The Public Works Committee reviewed the alternatives and is recommending pursuing a route along Lakeview Drive. This route reduces the number of property owners affected, reduces the number of creek crossings from three to one, provides a bike path in an area without sidewalks, and will correct several storm sewer problems. The disadvantage to this alternative is that it is longer than the Muddy Creek route. OKI is in favor of the alternative route. Richard concluded by stating the Public Works Committee is recommending Ordinance 2008 - 84 for adoption

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-84 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-85 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH INTERNATIONAL TRUCK & ENGINE CORP. FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE 2008 INTERNATIONAL CLASS 8 DUMP TRUCK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,948**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council, this spring, the engine of one of the City's older dump trucks failed. This truck is a 1995 model and the cost to replace or repair the engine is estimated to be in excess of \$20,000. He reported the Equipment Committee met to review this situation and recommended the replacement of this vehicle because of the age, maintenance history and the most recent engine failure. The Equipment Committee also discussed the City's overall vehicle replacement cycle and maintenance costs. The cost needed to keep older vehicles in operational condition has been exceeding the cost of replacing these vehicles with newer models. Eric said the Equipment Committee will be looking at fleet vehicle replacements based on maintenance and replacement costs in an effort to reduce escalating costs in this area. He reported this purchase is an unanticipated expense and is not included in the 2008 Budget, but was anticipated in the 2009 Budget.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-85 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-86 AMENDNG SECTION 963.08 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO REGARDING SALE OF ALCOHOL IN CITY PARKS**

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

Eric Hansen reported to Council, for several years, the Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has been trying to locate the US Australian Rules Football League (Footy Nationals) in Warren County. The US Australian Rules Football League was formed in 1997. The inception of the league included only a few Midwestern Teams like the Cincinnati Dockers but today has grown into a thirty-team national championship event with teams that come from 28 states (including California, Oregon and Washington on the West Coast) and Canada. Eric stated in 2007 the event was held in Louisville and in 2008 the event will be in Colorado Springs. The 2009 event was bid on by nine cities and the two finalists were Mason and Ft Lauderdale, Florida. Last month the City received word that Mason's Heritage Oak Park was selected as the site for the 2009

event. Final selection is contingent upon alcohol being permitted in the park for this event. Eric said if authorized, early next year Council will be asked to approve an application for a temporary liquor license for the League during this two-day event in October. The event is expected to bring around 800 players and a little over 1000 fans. The estimated economic impact for this two-day event is \$800,000.

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

Vice Mayor Beck asked for clarification on adoption affecting the codified ordinances of the City. Mayor Grossmann stated this is generic approval that allows alcohol to be sold in city parks. Each event will have to request permission from the City to allow the sale.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-86 contingent on compliance with the conditions mentioned in Exhibit A was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: ALL YEAS

A motion to approve the sale of alcohol for the "Footy National Event" at Heritage Oak Park was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 2008-87 ELIMINATING THE POSITION OF DOWNTOWN AND SMALL BUSINESS COORDINATOR AND CREATING THE POSITION OF PLANNING TECHNICIAN AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council, the Planning Technician Position was reviewed as part of the 2008 Budget process and the Finance Committee recommended it be included as part of the 2008 Budget adopted by Council - pending further discussion of the vacant Downtown and Small Business Coordinator position. He stated as the Downtown project is nearing completion, the Downtown Committee of Council has been considering future direction, goals, and focus for the Committee's efforts. As this process is unfolding, the Committee recommends eliminating the currently vacant Downtown and Small Business Coordinator position. As the Committee sets out future direction and service expectations, they will be in a better position to articulate what – if any – staffing, contracts or other resources will be necessary to meet those goals and will make recommendations to Council at that time.

Eric said in conjunction with the planning responsibilities, the Planning Technician position should be able to build upon the opportunities present in the Downtown District. Understanding and implementing the Downtown Overlay District and working with the Design Review Board, as well as other planning relevant items that the Downtown position had previously handled are specific expectations that can be added to this position. Together with the Downtown Committee, staff are exploring how projects are

handled within the Downtown Overlay District such as requiring the Planning Office to review and approve many of the renovation applications while leaving the more complicated and significant ones, such as new buildings, for Board review. Eric concluded the target objective is to streamline the process and make development review more efficient.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-87 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Wurzbacher. VOTE: ALL YEAS

**ORDINANCE 208-88 AMENDING SECTION 967.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING MASON COMMUNITY CENTER RATES**

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

Eric Hansen explained to Council, the Community Center Committee of Council and staff have been evaluating membership passes for the Community Center since late last year. The rates for passes have not been changed since 2005. He stated the proposed pass options are designed to meet the needs of current memberships as well as responding to the growth of membership services available in the Mason area by providing pass flexibility and additional pass benefits. Several factors that were considered include: competition, services available, spending habits of customers to the Center and operations of the Center as a community based facility. Based on this evaluation the Community Center Committee is proposing the addition of two new pass types.

Eric said the first is a "Pay As You Go Membership" which offers members the flexibility to pay monthly for a membership. The monthly fee includes an administrative and convenience fee. This pass would not require a \$50 sign-up fee. However, this membership is not eligible for the discount to the Lou Eves Municipal Pool (LEMP).

He said the second is a "VIP Membership" which addressed the concept of bundling services. Members are looking for convenience and simplicity. The local market consistently offers this type of service. Within the proposed package, members will receive free access to some services as well as discounts on other services. This membership type is designed to give members perks that are a good value for the dollar while offering the convenience of not needing to stop and purchase additional services on a regular basis. It will also allow for discounts on other services within the Parks and Recreation Department. Eric stated at this time some of the additional services would include:

- Drop-in babysitting services,
- Drop-in group exercise classes,
- A free fitness consultation for each member,

- 10 free VIP guest passes per year with the ability to purchase up to 20 additional VIP passes per year
- Guaranteed lowest program fee rate for all parks and recreation programs
- A 50% discount to LEMP.

Finally, the Community Center Committee of Council is recommending an annual cost of living increase to all passes, effective January 1 of each year.

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

Councilmember Shimrock asked if members would be able to change from one type of membership to another. Eric replied that has not been decided but is being discussed. He added to receive the VIP benefits; you would have to maintain that membership.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-88 was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Vice Mayor Beck. VOTE: ALL YEAS

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

Eric Hansen reported on the following items:

► The Farmers Market will begin this Saturday, July 12, and continue each Saturday, except August 23, until early fall. The market will be held in the parking lot of the Mason Middle School. It opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at noon.

► The City of Mason once again hosts the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters Men's Tennis Series from July 25 – August 3 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center. The Western & Southern Women's Open will be held from August 9 – 17. The City of Mason is proud to partner with Tennis for Charity in hosting these prestigious sporting events.

► Construction on the east portion (along Muddy Creek from Kings Mills Road to Four Seasons) of the U.S. 42 Trunk Sewer and Muddy Creek Restoration Project is scheduled to start in mid-July. Kings Mills Road at Muddy Creek will need to be closed later this month for up to two weeks, as details are finalized, detours will be publicized.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice Mayor Beck reported the Finance Committee has met several times regarding many items but the one that has received the most attention is the admissions tax. He stated the committee is still researching the matter and no decision has been made. Councilmember Bradburn stated no definite amount has been set. He stated the City is reviewing all revenue streams, as there are significant capital expenditures necessary in the future. Mayor Grossmann reported he would be meeting with Kings Island in the future.

Councilmember Shimrock stated the Downtown Committee met and discussed parking and striping. She reported there is the potential for 10 parking spaces in the area. Mayor Grossmann stated it would be possible for more spaces if the businesses cooperated and were able to reduce the number of curb cuts. Councilmember Shimrock reported discussions are ongoing with the business owners and it is hopeful that agreements can be worked out. Councilmember Kidd stated the burden to resolve this issue should be placed on the stakeholders. He said the downtown businesses should work to revitalizing the downtown area. He complimented Dick Yost for the leadership he has shown.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Mayor Beck stated the traffic signal on Western Row results in the traffic being backed up a long distance. He also stated he will be attending the 200 anniversary of the Masonic Lodge on July 25 from 6-8:00 p.m.

Councilmember Shimrock thanked the EMS staff of the City for coming to her personal assistance.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Perry Schwartz addressed Council and asked what the City was going to do with the Fire Station on Cedar Village Drive. Eric Hansen explained the City will be looking to sell this property. Perry said it should be in the paper that the City is planning to do this so residents will know.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: LAND ACQUISITION AND LITIGATION**

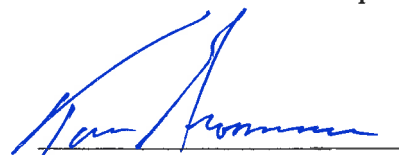
A motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussion land acquisition and litigation was made by Councilmember Kidd, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS

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

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Wurzbacher, seconded by Councilmember Shimrock. VOTE: ALL YEAS TIME: 10:45 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor