

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
October 26, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Ashley Chance, Diana K. Nelson, Tony Bradburn, Josh Styrcula, Michael Gilb, T. J. Honerlaw, and Kathy Grossmann.

Eric stated Council is anticipated to adjourn into Executive Session until approximately 7:00 p.m. when the regular meeting will resume.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ACQUISITION/DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY AND EMPLOYMENT/COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing acquisition/disposition of property and employment/compensation of public employees was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 5:05 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 7:00 p.m.

Associate Pastor Jeff Heslop opened the regular meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the October 12 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 ABSTAIN (Styrcula, Chance).

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Christmas in Mason Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place on Friday, December 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Downtown Plaza. As part of the Christmas in Mason Tree Lighting Ceremony, the American Legion is requesting a temporary liquor permit from the State of Ohio and approval from Council to allow for alcohol on the Plaza for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Legion will split profits from sales with the Mason Parks Foundation.

A motion to allow the American Legion to sell alcohol at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Downtown Plaza was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

At this time of year, City Council typically authorizes the purchase of a holiday gift certificate in lieu of a ham and turkey for the holidays for each City employee.

A motion to authorize the purchase of a Holiday gift certificate for City employees was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Halloween takes place on October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. rain or shine. Participation is voluntary, and information is available on imaginemason.org for safety tips as well as additional COVID-19 tips. Residents are asked to turn on their lights if they are participating. Mason Police and Fire Departments will be out in neighborhoods to distribute candy and encourage safety.

The City is working with Mason City Schools and Joshua's Place for the Mason Cares program. The purpose of Mason Cares is to provide a way for the City and School staff and the community to give back by assisting families in need during the holidays. The program includes adopting families or donating new and unwrapped toys, clothes, and gift cards. Donations will be accepted through Friday, December 14. Toys and clothing items may be left in the collection barrels at the Community Center and at the Municipal Center in the main atrium and the Police Department lobby.

Area Progress Council is holding their 37th annual Economic Outlook Breakfast on Tuesday, November 24 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving. The Community Center will be open on Thanksgiving Day from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The second wave of the Come Together Mason E-Gift Cards funded by the sewer fund will be distributed via email to Mason sewer customers beginning the first week of November.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Council discussed the distribution of CARES Act funding.

Mayor Grossmann introduced Congressman Steve Chabot via video. Congressman Chabot thanked City Council for all their efforts to help support businesses. Congressman Chabot and Council discussed Small Business Relief Efforts at the State and local levels.

RESOLUTION 2020-14 ADOPTING THE WARREN COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION 5-YEAR PLAN UPDATE

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

Eric Hansen stated the City has a strong 30-year history working with the Warren County Emergency Management Agency working collaboratively on emergency management activities. Eric said the Warren County Emergency Management Agency is required to update the Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years, and the City updates emergency management plans as part of that process.

Mayor Grossmann stated Council is proud of City staff and Incident Command during this emergency.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-14 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2020-15 FINDING THAT SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY/ INCIDENT COMMAND PERSONNEL ARE SUBSTANTIALLY DEDICATED TO MITIGATING OR RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Eric Hansen stated the City is well rehearsed in documentation and the financial component of the Incident Command System. Eric said Resolution 2020-15 helps the City establish reimbursements now available through CARES Act Funding.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-15 was made by Councilmember Styrcula, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-97 APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLATS FOR CROOKED TREE PRESERVE, PHASES 3D AND 3E

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

Kurt Seiler stated Section 3D of Crooked Tree Preserve subdivision includes 24 additional single-family lots and Section 3E of Crooked Tree Preserve includes 13 additional single-family lots. Kurt said the plats will dedicate the easements for utilities, sewer, water, and roads.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-97 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-98 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 \$47.22 PER TON

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

Jennifer Heft stated the City has historically purchased in two different cooperative purchasing programs for the City's rock salt. The low bid through the purchasing programs was Cargill Inc. with a price of \$47.22 per son. Jennifer said Ordinance 2020-99 authorizes an alternate contract in the amount of \$250,000 for the purchase of rock salt should the need arise.

Councilmember Bradburn and Eric Hansen discussed cost savings of storing rock salt and discussed the cost of constructing an additional salt dome.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-98 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-99 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN ALTERNATE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY ROCK SALT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-99 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-100 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PENCHURA, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS FOR PINE HILL PARK IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$275,000

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

Jennifer Heft said the playground and splashpad at Pine Hill Park was last replaced in 2003 and requires an estimated \$73,000 in repairs if parts are available. Jennifer stated the City would like to include similar inclusive pieces to the playground structure similar to the playground equipment at Makino Park to continue to provide inclusiveness at City parks.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-100 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-101 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STAUFFER SITE SOLUTIONS, LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$217,042 FOR THE CHURCH STREET STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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

Kurt Seiler stated this project would include catch basins and replace water mains to help reduce drainage issues. Greater Cincinnati Water Works will reimburse \$96,000 of the work to replace water mains. Kurt said this project is anticipated to start construction in late 2020 or early 2021.

Council, Kurt Seiler, and Eric Hansen discussed improvements for drainage issues on Frank Street, Miller Street, and Oak Street.

Eric Hansen stated Public Services Committee can review improvements for drainage issues on Frank Street, Miller Street, and Oak Street.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-101 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-102 DECLARING CERTAIN CITY EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF SAID EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY

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

Eric Hansen stated the City disposes of equipment via auction that no longer serves a public purpose, including equipment purchased by the City and can also include property and equipment acquired through police activity.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-102 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Styrcula stated as part of the Board of Veterans Affairs, the first round of veteran banners will be displayed for Veteran's Day and veterans can receive a state ID Card and DD214 from the Warren County Recorder Veterans Services Van on November 9 and November 10 at the

Mason Community Center. Councilmember Styracula stated the City of Mason will be dedicated as a Purple Heart City and the ceremony will be November 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Honerlaw stated City staff provided a downtown zoning update and improvements to E. Main Street was discussed at the Downtown Committee meeting.

Councilmember Chance stated Public Services Committee discussed underground utilities, improvements to E. Main Street, and bridge at the Kings Mills exit.

Councilmember Nelson discussed adding Ordinance 2020-103, Ordinance 2020-104, and Ordinance 2020-105 to the agenda regarding cost of living and merit increases for City staff.

A motion to add Ordinance 2020-103, Ordinance 2020-104, and Ordinance 2020-105 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-103 ESTABLISHING THE SALARY ADMINISTRATION PLAN, PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF INCREASES IN COMPENSATION ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, AND GRANTING A COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-103 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-104 REPEALING ORDINANCE 2019-138 OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, AND ESTABLISHING HIRING COMPENSATION RANGES FOR CITY OF MASON EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-104 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-105 MODIFYING THE CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH WOOD & LAMPING LLP TO PROVIDE FOR UPDATED COMPENSATION

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

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-105 was made by Councilmember Honerlaw, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Councilmember Nelson stated that due to COVID-19 the City Manager has not received an annual bonus that is typically distributed in March.

A motion to grant the City Manager a bonus of \$12,000 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: ALL YEAS

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Gilb read a statement of civility from a Mayor of an Ohio municipality.

Councilmember Bradburn read a statement from Quatman's Café thanking City Council for their work and support of Small Businesses.

Councilmember Nelson discussed Senate Bill 365 extending authorization of members of the public body to conduct meetings or hearings via technology, the current authorization to conduct meetings and hearings via technology expires December 1. Councilmember Nelson discussed the Ohio Bureau of Workman's Compensation mailing dividend checks through the end of October totaling \$1.3 billion, House Bill 669 enabling delivery for sales of alcoholic beverages and increasing the amount of alcoholic beverages allowed per person via carry out to three, and Bill 374 to repeal the State's Emergency Order preventing bars and restaurants to serve alcohol past 10:00 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

John Looker of 111 E. Main Street discussed the veteran banners being placed the beginning of next week and the City of Mason's Purple Heart City dedication on November 9.

Mark Haake of 3620 Dunlop Court thanked Council and City staff for their efforts and shared leadership concerns and Small Business Recovery Programs. Mark and Council discussed Small Business Recovery Programs and the MADE Chamber.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Nelson seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:58 p.m.