

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
November 9, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Associate Pastor Jerry Pelfrey opened the regular meeting in prayer. Colors were posted by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Military Order of the Purple Heart provided a Challenger Coin and plaque to Council in special recognition of becoming a Purple Heart City.

RESOLUTION 2020-16 DECLARING THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO A PURPLE HEART CITY

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

Mayor Grossmann read and provided the proclamation to the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The Military Order of the Purple Heart thanked Council for their efforts in becoming a Purple Heart City.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-16 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the October 26 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to move up Ordinance 2020-106 in the agenda was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020-106 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (REDI) CINCINNATI IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 PER YEAR

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

Michele Blair introduced Brian Hodgett, Vice President of Community Relations & Government Regulations for Proctor & Gamble, Dieter Moeller, President and CEO of Rhinestahl, and Kimm Lauterbach, President & CEO of REDI Cincinnati. Michele stated the City of Mason participated in the Cincinnati USA partnership beginning in 2000 and benefitted in the economic development partnership and has since partnered with REDI Cincinnati beginning in 2014.

Brian Hodgett thanked the City of Mason and Council for their partnership with REDI Cincinnati and stated the City of Mason is a leader in the region in economic development. Brian stated REDI Cincinnati was responsible for bringing in 6,500 jobs and \$500 Million in new capital expansion in 2019.

Dieter Moeller thanked Council for the opportunity for the continued partnership with REDI Cincinnati and discussed the success of the partnership.

Councilmember Chance stated the importance of private/public partnerships for the growth of economic development.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-106 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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.

A motion to cancel the November 23 City Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Mason Deerfield Chamber will be hosting the Beacons of Resilience Awards Night on Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the Manor House.

Area Progress Council is holding their 37 Annual Economic Outlook Breakfast on Tuesday, November 24 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in partnership with the Warren County Chamber Alliance.

As of November 6, 8,422 Come Together Mason e-gift cards have been emailed from Yiftee to City of Mason sewer customers. The e-gift cards are good at 76 Mason businesses and will expire on March 31, 2021. The gift cards can also be forward as a gift to friends or family. Additional cards can be purchased individually.

The Mason Challenger League received a \$25,000 Neighborhood Assist grant for the Field of Dreams at Makino Park. 2,000 applications were received, and the Mason Challenger League received the grant as one of the top vote getters. This inclusive field will be primarily used for Mason Challenger League participants and athletes with special needs.

The City is partnering with Warren County and Cohen Recycling to participate in their annual Christmas lights recycling program. Warren County are providing bins for the front lobby at the Mason Community Center where the community can recycle old or unwanted Christmas lights.

The City is partnering with Mason Schools for the Mason Cares Program. The purpose of the Mason Cares Program is to provide a way for the City and School staff along with 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.

The Community Center's Shop Local event will be held on Wednesday, December 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., featuring Mason area merchants that sell gift items. This year's event will be held in the gym to allow social distancing.

The City will host the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 4 at the Mason Downtown Plaza. This event is free and open to the public. The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. on the Downtown Plaza. This annual event will feature holiday music, complimentary photos by the tree, iceless ice skating, train rides for kids, food, beverages, and craft stations until 8:30 p.m. In addition, Mason's Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area will be available to the community to purchase beverages from participating establishments for adults 21 years and older to enjoy. The 2020 Christmas in Mason Calendars will be available at this event which will highlight holiday events, activities, and programs taking place the month of December.

Santa is making a stop in Mason this Holiday season before heading back to the North Pole. On Saturday, December 12, a Mason fire engine carrying Santa will make its way through the City stopping at a few locations to talk to children, take pictures, and pass out a small gift. Santa will make six stops in Mason between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

The annual Hanukkah Menorah Lighting will take place on Tuesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the parking lot of Regal Cinema. Details are available at jewishdiscovery.org.

The City is hosting multiple virtual events for the community to participate in for the opportunity to win gifts to support local Mason businesses. Details are available at imaginemason.org.

A motion to not request a public hearing for a Class C1, C2, D6 liquor permit for Nishit Liquor LLC DBA Lou's Pony Keg was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance.

A motion to not request a public hearing for a Class C1,C2 liquor permit for United Dairy Farmers was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Warren County Commissioner Tom Grossmann and Council discussed CARES Act funding, Mason's small business relief programs, and the possibility of reopening Warren County's small business relief programs.

Randy Stegbauer of 5358 Hidden Creek Circle discussed the Come Together Mason e-Gift Card program and the Mayor's report.

ORDINANCE 2020 – 95 AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 1.59 ACRES FROM HT-1 (HIGH TECH LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) TO B-PUD (BUSINESS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) WITH APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN LOCATED BETWEEN 4920 AND 4834 SOCIALVILLE-FOSTER ROAD (WHITE BLOSSOM PUD)

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

Kurt Seiler stated the proposal is for a 6,200 square foot commercial retail building that may include a drive thru or pickup window and the proposed use of the property has yet to be defined outside of commercial or retail space. Kurt said variances are being requested for the size of the PUD and number of pedestrian amenities.

Owners of the property displayed a proposed rendition of the new building. Property owners stated amending the zoning code for the proposed property addresses the issue of demand for how the property is currently zoned. Council, property owners, and Kurt Seiler discussed building materials, building uses, and recommendations from City staff and Planning Commission.

The Public Hearing opened at 8:40 p.m.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:41 p.m.

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 2020-95 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Honerlaw. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 NAYS (GILB, HONERLAW).

ORDINANCE 2020 – 107 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE SPORTS CENTER COMPLEX DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT DESIGN FROM CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FEE OF \$33,670, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

Kurt Seiler stated the bridge at Sports Center Complex Drive is near the end of its useful life and the 2020 budget included plans to design and construct the project. Kurt said construction would take place after the Western and Southern Open in 2021.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-107 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020 – 108 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LAKE ERIE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 FOR GUARDRAIL REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

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

Kurt Seiler stated there are 80 locations throughout the City that have guardrail and several guardrail locations along Fairway Drive are aging and are no longer required by today's safety standards due to low-speed conditions. Staff is recommending a contract in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to allow contingency for other minor repairs at other locations throughout the City on an as needed basis. The guardrail project was discussed at Public Works Committee.

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 2020-108 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020 – 109 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KT SUPPLY LTD FOR THE MASON - LEBANON BIKE PATH CONNECTOR PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$594,396

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

Kurt Seiler stated this project will connect the City of Mason trail system from the Mason Sports Park to the City of Lebanon – Countryside YMCA Trail, which connects to the Little Miami Scenic Trail and accomplishes a primary objective of the 2001 City of Mason Bicycle and Pedestrian Way Master Plan. Kurt stated the proposed alignment runs across vacant land owned by the City of Lebanon within the City of Lebanon corporation limits, and the City of Lebanon donated the right-of-way needed for the project and has agreed to take over maintenance for the portion of the path located within the City of Lebanon. Kurt said federal grant funds will reimburse 80% of the construction costs, and construction is expected to start early 2021.

Council and Kurt Seiler discussed the project and maximizing the grant to reimburse 80% of the construction costs.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-109 was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020 – 110 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS WITH A MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT AGENCY OR AGENCIES IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 FOR ENTERTAINMENT ARTISTS FOR THE 2021 RED, RHYTHM & BOOM CONCERT

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

Eric Hansen stated the planning process has begun for 2021 Red, Rhythm & Boom and City staff are working to book an entertainment act for the event. The Ordinance does not specify a vendor in order to provide flexibility to look into different talent and booking agencies. Eric stated the funds for the following year's event are budgeted in the prior year. Eric said Ordinance 2020-111 authorizes a contract not to exceed \$150,000 for Frequency City Sound for the purchase production equipment, sound, and staging to accommodate the scale of the event.

Councilmember Bradburn discussed securing a quality entertainment act for the 2021 event.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-110 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styracula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020 – 111 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FREQUENCY CITY SOUND IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 TO PROVIDE THE STAGE, SOUND, LIGHTS AND VIDEO SCREENS FOR THE 2021 RED, RHYTHM & BOOM CONCERT

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

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 2020-111 was made by Councilmember Styrcula, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2020 – 112 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FEDERAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TRAINING TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Eric Hansen said the Fire Department participates regionally for hazardous materials response training. The City works with Northeast Fire Collaborative to secure training for hazardous materials and the City is reimbursed for the cost of the training.

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 2020-112 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Grossmann stated Economic Development Committee met to discuss the partnership with REDI Cincinnati and provided details on regional economic activity.

Councilmember Chance discussed a letter provided by the MADE Chamber regarding small business relief and stated the Downtown Committee can discuss CARES Act funding.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed CARES Act funding, committee involvement, and including all sectors of the City and businesses in discussions.

Councilmember Nelson and Eric Hansen discussed the Western and Southern Open and small business relief funding.

Councilmember Nelson discussed House Bill 49 regarding centralized tax collection and stated the Ohio Supreme Court ruled centralized tax collection from the State is legal and ruled it is unconstitutional for the State to charge for centralized tax collection.

Councilmember Nelson stated the ability to hold meetings virtually via electronic technology will expire on December 1 without legislation extending the deadline.

A motion to add Resolution 2020-17 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2020-17 A RESOLUTION TO URGE GOVERNOR DEWINE AND THE OHIO LEGISLATURE TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR OPERATING PUBLIC MEETINGS ELECTRONICALLY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Council and Jeff Forbes discussed State guidelines for meeting electronically.

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 Resolution 2020-17 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (Honerlaw).

Councilmember Styrcula and Mayor Grossmann thanked the Board of Veterans Affairs and City staff for their efforts in Mason becoming a Purple Heart City.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Randy Stegbauer of 5358 Hidden Creek Circle discussed the Come Together Mason e-Gift Card program and assistance for small businesses and restaurants. Randy Stegbauer stated the bike paths in Mason are a great asset to the City.

Mayor Grossmann responded to Randy Stegbauer's questions regarding the Come Together Mason e-Gift Card program and the Mayor's report.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Nelson seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:55 p.m.