

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance pursuant to the terms of ORC 121.22(G)(8) and that such executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 5:35 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 6:07 p.m.

Vice Mayor Gilb opened the regular meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the December 14, 2020 Council Meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Bradburn, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Michele Blair announced a new economic opportunity with Bon Secours Mercy Health to set in motion the construction of an acute care hospital that will initially focus on emergency care and orthopedic surgery. She introduced visitors from Bon Secours Mercy Health: Dave Fikse, Mercy Health-Cincinnati President, Dan McCarthy, Vice President of Real Estate Development, Nick Wessels, Development Manager, and Jim McGraw Cincinnati Board President. She reviewed three aspects that drive the City's economic success—a culture of wellness, investment, and innovation and research. This project will bring over \$150 million in investment and add 220 jobs in Mason, with an increase to approximately 280 jobs by 2028. Dave Fikse provided a brief background to Mercy Health's strong history in the region and their partnership with Bon Secours advancing their footprint nationally and internationally. He is excited about the future of healthcare and the opportunity to invest in and build relationships in Mason. Dan McCarthy reviewed the new project metrics including size, services, location, and visual landscape.

Council welcomed Bon Secours Mercy Health to the community. They discussed this project bringing an economic boost, complimenting the current bio health start-ups in Mason, Bon Secour meaning good health, and looking forward to further developing Mason’s health community.

A motion to add Ordinance 2021-1 to the agenda was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2021-1 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH BON SECOURS MERCY HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR A PORT AUTHORITY INCENTIVE LOAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-1 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilb. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2021-2 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN ADDENDUM TO THE CONTRACT WITH PCC AEROSTRUCTURES INTEGRATION CENTER, LLC AND SPS TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

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

Eric Hansen discussed Ordinance 2021-2 and Ordinance 2021-3 together. In the fall of 2019, the City announced three major investment projects, PCC, SPS and Rhinestahl, which are key to the City of Mason’s economic strategy. The three projects total over \$170 million in new investment, bring key talent and payroll to the City and will help launch the Mason R&D Park. The 2020 global pandemic added some considerable challenges to the original timeframe for the completion of design and construction across all three projects. Amendments to the contracts between the companies and the City are needed to assist with moving these projects forward and achieving compliance with construction completion targets and original contract language.

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-2 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2021-3 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN ADDENDUM TO THE CONTRACT WITH MORED 1, LLC AND RHINESTAHL CORPORATION

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

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-3 was made by Councilmember Chance, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2021-4 APPROVAL OF THE REPLAT FOR KINGS MILLS PLAZA, SECTION 1E, LOTS 4A AND 4B

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

Kurt Seiler said two lots are located on the south side of SR 741, just west of the Dunkin' Donuts site. This replat shifts the existing property line between the properties to the west approximately ten feet. Lot 4A will be re-platted to Lot 4C and Lot 4B will re-platted to Lot 4D. Planning Commission recommends approval of the replat.

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 2021-4 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Styrcula. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

ORDINANCE 2021-5 FIRST READING: AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, REGARDING NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

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

A Public Hearing was set for Monday, February 8, 2021.

RESOLUTION 2021-1 REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE TAX ADVANCES DURING THE YEAR 2021 PURSUANT TO SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE

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

Jennifer Heft stated when taxes are collected by Warren County on behalf of Mason, the County Auditor has several months after the due date to distribute the funds owed. During this delay, the County will earn interest from funds owed to local governments. State law allows local governments to request payments of the taxes prior to the required settlement.

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

A motion to adopt Resolution 2021-2 was made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

RESOLUTION 2021-2 ENCOURAGING JOE BURROW A SPEEDY RECOVERY AND RETURN TO CINCINNATI BENGALS

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

Mayor Grossmann read highlights from the resolution stating Joe Burrow's grandmother set a Mississippi high school record for shooting an 82-point game in basketball and that while 1990 was the last time the Bengals won a playoff game, Mason is confident Joe Burrow will lead the Bengals to the playoffs and at which time Mason pledges to declare Joe Burrow day in Mason.

Councilmember Nelson noted he was rated a four-star football recruit committed to The Ohio State University to play football on May 27, 2014 and some may say this was the wisest decision of his career.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2021-2 was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City began Christmas tree pick-up on Monday, January 4 and will continue throughout the month. Residents should place their trees at curbside for pickup. Trees placed in bags at the curb will be removed by Rumpke.

The Area Progress Council of Warren County, Inc. will take place at a Business After Hours meeting on Wednesday, January 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mason Deerfield Chamber will be hosting the rescheduled Beacons of Resilience Awards Night on Thursday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Manor House.

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of President's Day.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Gilb stated the CIC met and recommends continuing funding authorized for Small Business Recovery Programs. He said an additional \$60,000 would fund the need of eligible applicants. A motion to authorize the City to provide up to an additional \$60,000 to the Mason Community Improvement Corporation in order to round out the business assistance programs previously authorized by Ordinance 2020-52 and to fund critical impact supplemental grants as determined to be appropriate by the CIC, and to direct the Law Director to prepare the necessary legislation to formally authorize the additional funds and to amend the existing service agreement with the CIC as may be necessary was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Nelson. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Councilmember Nelson said Governor DeWine stated law enforcement officers will not be on the list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the first roll out. She encouraged residents to reach out to Governor DeWine with concern. She requested residents contact her through her email at DianaNelsonCPA@gmail.com with questions on how to reach out. She reviewed SB175 which was amended to include duty to retreat language and SB10 which increases penalties for theft in office.

Councilmember Honerlaw said he attended a rally on January 6, 2021 to support President Trump and protest election fraud. He exercised his right to peacefully march with other individuals and was not there representing the City of Mason. He stated he was not aware of, nor participated in illegal activity and opposes such acts. He shared images of his location and video that he took while in attendance.

A brief recess was held at 7:00 p.m.

The regular Council Meeting reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Jeff Forbes advised pursuant to the State requirement and respect for fellow community members, a mask should be worn while in the Council Chambers.

Councilmember Nelson and Councilmember Styrcula oppose time limits for visitors to speak. Council discussed those addressing Council to be concise and not repetitive. A motion to limit public input dialogue to three minutes per visitor was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Chance. VOTE: 5 YEAS, 2 NAYS (Nelson, Styrcula).

Caryn Weckstein of 4239 Serpentine Way said having prayer prior to the meeting is unwelcoming and there needs to be a separation of church and state. Councilmember Chance said prayers at the beginning of Council Meetings are a combination of religious and cultural backgrounds to serve the diversity in Mason. Councilmember Bradburn and Jeff Forbes discussed a case in 2014 where the Supreme Court held that the practice of prayer before a town meeting does not violate the establishment clause of the constitution.

Caleb Anching of 3800 South SR 741 appreciates Council and said the nation was formed one nation under God.

Karen Kopack of 3829 Crooked Tree Drive shared concerns with Councilmember Honerlaw using his title in interviews for the save America rally and it reflects poorly on Mason. Councilmember Honerlaw stated he did not reach out to the press. He was contacted for an interview and was asked his job titles.

Paul Martin of 1662 Kings Court provided his opinion on Councilmember Honerlaw's actions and sees him unfit for office due to attending.

Jeff Battles 280 West Pekin Road in Lebanon stated Councilmember Honerlaw exercised his First Amendment right and meant no harm by attending. He is saddened people came to Council to challenge his actions.

Jordan Hardee of 6473 Timbers Court shared his concern with the precedent of someone contesting the results of the Presidential election with no evidence of voter fraud. He doesn't think Councilmember Honerlaw knew the actions going on at the rally but is concerned about the gathering with no evidence of fraud.

Terry Piening of 5056 Village Green Drive stated she supports Councilmember Honerlaw for being in Washington D.C. and supporting the President.

Joe Kraimer of 4192 South Shore Drive said he is thankful we still have the ability to have a First Amendment right and the freedom to practice religion. He commended Councilmember Honerlaw for exercising that right.

Heidi Latsko Hill of 6714 Parklake Drive said she was impressed with respectful actions on Council. She appreciates Councilmember Honerlaw's statement but disagrees with it due to contradicting statements and actions.

Keri Arinsmier of 4420 Kingfisher Court said Councilmember Honerlaw represents the City and as a citizen she wanted the community to know they are welcome here.

Kevin Lawson of 7277 South View Court in Springboro said he wants people to vote, he supports Councilmember Honerlaw's actions and stated Council works together for the City.

William Fry of 7286 Osceola in Blanchester supports Councilmember Honerlaw and his drive to serve the community.

Darryl Piening of 5056 Village Green Drive said people are making assumptions about Councilmember Honerlaw's intentions and the attacks need to stop in the Mason community and the nation.

Amy Christianson of 6420 Fieldstone Drive said she appreciates Councilmember Honerlaw's statement but thinks he has questionable judgement and is disturbed to see Councilmember Honerlaw in the company of those who attack Democracy.

Amy Mercer of 5689 Crestwood Drive said it puts people off to pray prior to the meeting. She said it was Councilmember Honerlaw's right to protest but is offended by him being interviewed representing everyone in Mason. Mayor Grossmann discussed extending some grace in regard to communication interpretations.

D. Curtis of 2025 Highland Street in Middletown said people should not believe everything they hear from the media.

Patti Gardner of 8631 Cottonwood Drive in Cincinnati said Councilmember Honerlaw has done many good things for Mason and did not intend on violence happening during the rally.

Vera Long of 5112 Creek Stone Court stated Councilmember Honerlaw should have thought about the repercussions of discussing the rally with press considering the political climate.

Councilmember Chance understands there is passion about political stances and is not proud of both political parties passing judgement. He is a Council member but is a father first and will be leaving to commit to a promise with his son tonight. He said he will watch the remaining comments from visitors. Councilmember Chance departed the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Vice Mayor Gilb acknowledged the \$156 million investment with Mercy Health and does not want to lose sight of Mason's great community and future.

Mark Burrell of 6370 Pattis Way spoke on Councilmember Honerlaw's integrity, respects the idea of liberty, and has concerns with losing liberty. He thanked Council for serving the community.

Jason Moore of 505 West Church Street commended Councilmember Honerlaw for standing for what he believes in.

Karla Blair of 7585 Lakota Springs Drive in West Chester stated Council behavior at the December Council Meeting was deplorable and bullying is not okay. She wanted to remember JJ Day and a moment of silence was held for the Day family.

Tina Helsinger of 1178 Poplar Hill Drive in Lebanon shared her support for Councilmember Honerlaw and thanked him for standing up for what he believes in.

Lori Walzer of 10237 Meadowknoll Drive in Loveland spoke on behalf of Councilmember Honerlaw's character.

Chad Sites of 5931 Socialville-Foster Road supports Councilmember Honerlaw and said do not lose sight of what led us to this point. He played a video of political comments.

Rick Sites of 5931 Socialville-Foster Road said guilt is individual and not by association. He condemns violence along with Councilmember Honerlaw and President Trump.

Sabrina Hartshorn of 3601 Wayne Avenue in Dayton thanked Councilmember Honerlaw for going to Washington D.C. and attending the rally.

Chuck Blair of 7585 Lakota Springs Drive in West Chester fought for his right and everyone's right as a U.S. Veteran. It bothers him people cannot get along anymore and thanked Councilmember Honerlaw for standing up for his right.

Mark Haake of 3620 Dunlop Court said he spent twenty years supporting and defending our nation. He supports Councilmember Honerlaw's right to support the President and thinks there was a lack of judgment in his communication with the press.

Jody Briggs of 4868 Long Drive in Liberty Township supports Councilmember Honerlaw's actions and said perceptions are inaccurate.

Dominick Peraino of 6868 Heritage Club Drive joined via video conference and said when a person takes a role of leadership, he/she is held to a higher standard. He stated Councilmember Honerlaw brought dishonor to the City.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Gilb, seconded by Councilmember Bradburn.
VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:07 p.m.