

**CITY OF MASON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2004**

Whipple called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 201 W. Ash Street, Mason, Michigan. Naeyaert led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

Present: Councilmembers: Clark, Johnson, Naeyaert, Preadmore, Whipple
Absent: Councilmembers: Bruno, Helbig
Also present: Martin Colburn, City Administrator
Kathy Revels, Finance Director
Joe Dean, DPW Director
Deborah Stein, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: February 16, 2004

The Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2004 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION by Naeyaert, seconded by Johnson,
To approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$89,392.93 as submitted.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR

Barbara Tornholm, Planning Commission Chair and resident of 703 Roosevelt Street, commented that she is an adoptive gardener for two downtown planters. She submitted her comments in writing regarding planning suggestions for downtown planters and for the beautification of the city.

Shirley Beckman of 1761 Tomlinson Road stated that she is also an adoptive gardener for two downtown planters. She submitted her comments and suggestions for future planning in writing as well.

Whipple stated that the Downtown Development Authority recently discussed the downtown planters and is planning a trial year of seasonal uniformity.

Phil Bernardi of 359 Okemos commented regarding the 2000 Recreation Plan and the current Ad Hoc Recreation Committee. He felt that there are inconsistencies and cited the Mason Ethics Ordinance. He made suggestions, asked several questions regarding the work of the committee, and remarked about the absence of neighboring townships and the school board representatives on the committee.

Whipple responded to Mr. Bernardi's comments and questions. Clark stated that he spoke with Mr. Bernardi and expressed how much time was invested to make it a regional effort. The School Board and neighboring townships as far as Dansville were repeatedly invited.

Whipple allowed Mr. Bernardi to speak again. Mr. Bernardi commented on recommendations he gave to the Planning Commission.

Mike Klepinger of 367 E. South Street encouraged the Council to approve the Master Plan when it comes before them.

REGULAR BUSINESS**Resolution No. 2004-11 City Council Appointment to the Election Commission**

In accordance with the City Charter, a member of the council who is not up for election during the particular election that the commission is being appointed for is appointed to the Election Commission

Resolution No. 2004-11 was introduced by Clark and seconded by Johnson.

**CITY OF MASON
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2004-11**

February 16, 2004

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Mason does hereby make the following appointment to the Election Commission for calendar year 2004.

Election Commission (1)

Robin Naeyaert

RESOLUTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution No. 2004-12 A Resolution to Amend Alley Special Assessment Project 2003-02

Resolution No. 2004-12 was introduced by Johnson and seconded by Clark.

**CITY OF MASON
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2004-12**

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND ALLEY SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT 2003-02

February 16, 2004

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Mason did confirm the Alley Special Assessment Roll, Project 2003-02 (the assessment roll), on March 17, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost per front foot for the assessment roll was \$12.39 and the actual cost was \$9.43; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers on the assessment roll were assessed for eighty percent (80%) of the cost at \$9.91 per front foot over three years with payments to begin in 2003; and

WHEREAS, eighty percent (80%) of the actual cost per front foot was \$7.54; and

WHEREAS, the total assessment roll was \$16,107.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council does hereby amend the assessment roll to reduce the total cost per front foot from \$12.39 to \$9.43, and the total assessment roll is reduced from \$16,107.00 to \$12,259.01; and

FURTHER, the taxpayer cost will be reduced from \$9.91 per front foot to \$7.54 per front foot, and the outstanding taxpayer balances after the adjustment will be billed in two equal installments in 2004 and 2005; and

FURTHER, the Finance Director/Treasurer is hereby ordered to make the proper adjustments to the assessment roll or any refunds to taxpayers.

RESOLUTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Request –Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Events

Joe Watkins, MACC Executive Director, responded to questions and comments regarding the 2004 event schedule and request he submitted. In addition to the request for street closures and equipment, Mr. Watkins requested that the fees for the two annual parades be waived. Discussion was held and it was agreed to block Maple Street off up to Fink's Jeweler's to keep the parking lot open for Imperial Garden.

MOTION by Bruno, seconded by Naeyaert,
To approve the MMAC requests as submitted in the letter dated February 11, 2004 from Joe Watkins, Executive Director, subject to changing the street closure for the July 4th celebration on Maple to Barnes to end in front of Fink's Jewelers; and to reserve decision regarding the request to waive the fees for the two parades until after the budget is complete and an analysis of the city's financial position is considered.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Request for Excused Absence – Council Member Bruno

MOTION by Clark, seconded by Johnson,
To excuse Council Member Bruno from the March 1 and 15, 2004 meeting.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Whipple stated that Preadmore had called him to inform him that he would be going out of town on business and unable to attend tonight's meeting.

MOTION by Naeyaert, seconded by Bruno,
To excuse Council Member Preadmore's absence from tonight's meeting,
February 16, 2004.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Naeyaert commented that she is continuing to call residents on Okemos Street regarding hardship deferrals for the special assessment issue. She informed Mr. Bernardi that she and Helbig are on an ad hoc committee regarding the library.

Bruno requested that the city engineer submit a written approximate total expenditure of the engineering and inspection cost for the Okemos Street project, taking into account that the city has paid approximately \$85,817 to date.

NEW BUSINESS

Johnson stated that he has been asked if anything can be done regarding the duck weed in the city ponds. Discussion ensued. Several remedies have been tried. MSU has been asked to assist with the problem. Long term positive conclusions have not been identified.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was distributed.

LIAISON REPORTS

Clark informed the Council regarding the following Planning Commission business.

- A public hearing was held for the Master Plan. Minor changes were made and it will come before the council March 1.
- The Riverwalk Meadows developer requested to amend the site plan by excluding sidewalks along Howell Road. The Planning Commission did not approve the request.
- The Mayor was present and publicly gave a history and update of the recreation plan

Whipple informed the Council regarding the following Downtown Development Authority business.

- In addition to discussing the downtown planters, they are beginning the budget process and plan to be in sync with the city's budget year.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Colburn informed the Council on the following items.

- Negotiations are at an impasse to obtain an easement along Okemos Street to loop the water main. Discussion ensued.
- A public notice was published for the positive results that occurred from the water system samples tested in October 2003.
- Wendy's Restaurant is locating in Vevay Township on the former Three Chefs restaurant site. They are requesting to connect to the city's sanitary system.

PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR

Phil Bernardi of 359 Okemos Street asked Clark if there are any documents from the 2000 Ad Hoc Committee for review. Clark stated that all documents are included in the plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Martin A. Colburn, City Clerk

Russell W. Whipple, Mayor