

**CITY OF MASON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2017**

Whipple called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 201 W. Ash Street, Mason, Michigan. Madden led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

Present: Councilmembers: Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Vogel, Waltz, Whipple
Absent: Councilmember: None
Also present: Deborah S. Stuart, City Administrator
Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connie Crippen of 115 North Jefferson Street asked various questions about the cost of the sidewalk assessments relating to the proposed 2 mill increase to the budget. She stated that she knew the matter would be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Brown, second by Droscha,
to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Motion – Approve Minutes: Regular Council Meeting April 3, 2017
- B. Motion – Approve Bills in the Amount of \$ 27,381.35
- C. Motion – Authorize City Administrator to Enter Into Temporary Contract for Planning Services
- D. Resolution No. 2017-14 – Approve Grant Application Submission to Secretary of State to Purchase a New Voting System from Dominion Voting Systems, Inc.
- E. Correspondence, Receipt of:
 1. Capital Improvement Plan (Adopted by Planning Commission April 11, 2017)
 2. Monthly Revenue Report
 3. Quarterly Investment Report
 4. City Attorney Report
 5. Governing – MI Leadership Forum Information

Yes (7) Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Vogel, Waltz, Whipple
No (0)

MOTION APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARING

Special Assessment Roll for Sidewalk Improvements Special Assessment Project 2017-1

Whipple stated that the proposal before Council states that there would be no special assessments for sidewalks. The hearing is being held because the process was started and the required public hearing had been published.

Whipple opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Connie Crippen of 115 North Jefferson Street had questions regarding the special assessment from 1990. Whipple directed her to contact City Administrator Deborah Stuart to review the situation.

Amy Cumbo of 123 North Jefferson asked how she would be able to review the plans for the sidewalk assessments because she works during office hours. Stuart stated that she would assist Ms. Cumbo.

Whipple closed the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.

Resolution No. 2017-15 – Approve Special Assessment Resolution No. 5 for Project 2017-1

MOTION by Madden, second by Droscha,
to adopt Resolution No. 2017-15.
Yes (7) Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Vogel, Waltz, Whipple
No (0)
MOTION APPROVED

**CITY OF MASON
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2017-15
APPROVE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION NO. 5
FOR PROJECT 2017-1
April 17, 2017**

WHEREAS, pursuant to due notice to all interested parties, this City Council did meet on Monday, April 17, 2017, in the City Hall, 201 West Ash Street, Mason, Michigan, for the purpose of reviewing the special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto for the 2017 Sidewalk Improvements Special Assessment District - 2017-1; and

WHEREAS, at the time and place designated for said meeting, the meeting was duly called to order and the opening of the hearing for objections to the special assessment roll, (Exhibit A) prepared by the City Assessor and on file with the City Clerk, was announced, said roll assessing the cost of certain sidewalk improvements against the benefiting properties; and

WHEREAS, Attachment A lists the impacted parcels that will be removed from the previously determined special assessment roll due to the desire of the City Council to eliminate the sidewalk assessments where sidewalk is existing; and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator recommends waiving the Columbia Street special assessment for new sidewalk placement to keep the street program on schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, no special assessment district be established for Project 2017-1.

Yes (7) Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Vogel, Waltz, Whipple
No (0)

RESOLUTION APPROVED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2017-16 – Amendment of Established City Council Meeting Times for the Year 2017 from 7:30 pm to 6:30 pm

MOTION by Waltz, second by Brown,
to adopt Resolution No. 2017-16.

Discussion was held whether to change the City Council 7:30 p.m. meeting time to 6:30 p.m.

MOTION by Droscha, second by Brown,
to amend Resolution No. 2017-16 by striking all references to 6:30,
insert 7:00, and at the end of the fourth paragraph add, effective at the
first meeting in June.

Yes (6) Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Waltz, Whipple
No (1) Vogel
MOTION APPROVED

VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION

Yes (5) Brown, Droscha, Madden, Vogel, Waltz,
No (2) Ferris, Whipple
MOTION APPROVED

**CITY OF MASON
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2017-16
AMENDMENT OF ESTABLISHED CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIMES
FOR THE YEAR 2017 FROM 7:30 PM TO 7:00 PM
April 17, 2017**

WHEREAS, at the December 19, 2016 City Council Meeting, the Council passed Resolution 2016-50 to set meeting dates for 2017; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of that resolution the meeting time was also set to begin at 7:00 pm; and

WHEREAS, at the April 10, 2017 Council meeting a request was made to discuss changing the meeting times from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that established meeting times for Mason City Council meetings be amended for the year 2017 from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm, effective the first meeting in June.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause these times to be published in a local newspaper.

Yes (5) Brown, Droscha, Madden, Vogel, Waltz,

No (2) Whipple, Ferris

RESOLUTION APPROVED

MOTION – APPROVE AMENDMENT OF CITY OF MASON PUBLIC ART POLICY

Stuart spoke regarding the proposed amendment to the Public Art Policy. She asked for clarification regarding two matters: 1) Is the percentage of funds related to expenditures or fund balance, and 2) Because the policy language is flexible in allowing Council to prioritize other things or to not allocate dollars, would Council want to discuss this every year or would it be the policy that the budget would have the allocation included in the annual budget.

MOTION by Vogel, second by Droscha,
to approve the amendment to the Public Art Policy as presented by the City Administrator.

Discussion was held regarding the best way to address the matter.

MOTION by Waltz, second by Ferris,
to amend the proposed Amendment of City of Mason Public Art Policy by stipulating in the funding paragraph that it will be the City's General Fund balance that will provide the 1/10 of 1% funding.

Ensuing discussion determined that the policy needed to be addressed further.

VOTE ON THE AMENDED MOTION

Yes (0)

No (7) Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Waltz, Vogel, Whipple

MOTION FAILED

VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION

Yes (0)

No (7) Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Waltz, Vogel, Whipple

MOTION FAILED

Mayor Whipple, with consensus of Council, requested staff to provide a proposed allocation plan that takes into account research into all of the granting authorities, what they require, what is reasonable, and how it best fits the City's budget relative to balancing flexibility and demonstrated commitment.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion – Approve Amendment to Rules and Regulations of the Mason Fire Department

Whipple requested that Council allow him to abstain from this matter as he is a member of the Mason Fire Department as well as the author of the proposed amendment.

MOTION by Vogel, second by Droscha,
to allow Mayor Russ Whipple to abstain from the item of business that would
approve an amendment to Rules and Regulations of the Mason Fire
Department for the reason that he is a member of the Mason Fire Department
and he authored the proposed amendment.

Yes (7) Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Vogel, Waltz, Whipple
No (0)

MOTION APPROVED

At this time Mayor Whipple turned the gavel over to Mayor Pro Tem Brown.

Resolution No. 2017-18 was introduced by Madden and seconded by Ferris.

**CITY OF MASON
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2017-18
APPROVE AMENDMENT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT
April 17, 2017**

WHEREAS, at the December 1, 1996 Mason City Council Meeting, the Council reviewed and approved the Rules and Regulations of the Mason Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 Rules and Regulations state that any amendment approved by the voting members of the Department must subsequently be approved by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, that document has been amended on April 2000, May 2001, and December 2002; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2017, members of the Mason Fire Department met to approve amendments to the Rules and Regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Mason Fire Department be approved.

Yes (6) Brown, Droscha, Ferris, Madden, Vogel, Waltz
No (0)

Abstain (1) Whipple

RESOLUTION APPROVED

At this time, Mayor Pro Tem Brown turned the gavel over to Mayor Whipple.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Ferris informed Council regarding various events: Arbor Day Celebration will be held April 28, 2017 at City Hall where a Tulip Tree will be planted in recognition of Arbor Day Honoree Robert Bryans; the Kiwanis Annual Blood Drive was a success; the Arts initiative, Mason (AIM) is holding its annual fundraiser and auction at Bestsellers Extra on April 22.

Droscha informed Council regarding Planning Commission business.

Whipple informed Council regarding Downtown Development Authority business.

Correspondence was distributed. Whipple informed Council regarding correspondence received after the delivery of the meeting packet.

Waltz inquired about the reconstruction of the old Baja Grille building as well as the old shoe store. Stuart stated that staff continues to address both sites and is diligently working to find solutions for each building with their particular situations.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Stuart informed Council regarding the effects of recent rain events on the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Because of the headworks project, it was possible to pump water out, with the help of three additional pumps. It is a reminder that the City needs to continue to move forward with the phases of improvements to the plant to avoid the need to bypass the system due to not being able to sustain a heavy rain event. She also informed Council regarding the Business Leaders for Michigan presentation on financial stability in Michigan communities that she attended today.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk

Russell W. Whipple, Mayor