

**CITY OF MASON  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2017**

Mayor Whipple called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 201 W. Ash Street, Mason, Michigan. Ferris led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elizabeth Evans of 94 Primrose Lane read a letter written by Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk, dated October 16, 2017, regarding any Ballot Question Committees that had filed with the Clerk's Office. The letter states "that as of 5 pm today, no Mason Public School Ballot Question Committee in opposition has filed a Statement of Organization or any Campaign Finance documents with my office. Responsible Residents for Mason's Future, which is a Ballot Question Committee that did not mark whether it supports or opposes a ballot question, filed its Original Statement of organization with my office today (October 16, 2017)." Evans wanted the Council to be informed on this issue.

Kurt Creamer of 1817 Hagadorn addressed a facebook comment made by Council Member Vogel about local businesses supporting the Mason Public School's Bond Proposal. Creamer spoke to the importance of business owners supporting and making an investment in the community and stated that strong schools are needed to make a community prosper.

Laura Cole of 788 E. Maple Street gave a statement in support of the Mason Public Schools Bond Proposal. Cole is a teacher at Steele Elementary and spoke of the health and safety concerns of this building. Cole said that Mason schools are highly rated and would fail to not have a vision to move forward.

Howard Doss of 108 Harwell Terrace, presented a memo to the City Council regarding snow removal on sidewalks on Cedar Street from Ash Street to Kipp Road. Doss explained that he has witnessed many people who have almost been hit by traffic while walking on the street during snow events due to unclear sidewalks. Doss asked if the City of Mason Business District could be extended to this area, and per City Ordinance owners would then be required to remove snow/ice from the sidewalks.

Chistine Waltz of 482 Riverwalk explained the School Study Committee's process and how they reviewed and studied all the different issues and concerns. Waltz explained they came to a decision somewhere between 30 million – 130 million and settled on 69.7 million. Waltz also raised concerns regarding Masonbond.info as to not filing with Ingham County Clerk and asked the Council as to whether they should reconsider hearing their presentation.

Jim Maddix of 450 High Point Dr. Apt. 2 stated he does a lot of walking in the community and has concerns regarding the removal of snow on the sidewalks as well.

John Kelsey of 366 S. Jefferson Street, Apt. 3A asked the Council as to why we were here as the Council will not be taking a stand on the Mason Public Schools Bond proposal either way. Kelsey asked why the City of Mason chose to host a debate. Mayor Whipple replied that a Council Member requested to have a presentation given on both sides and that this was not a debate but an opportunity to present.

## **PRESENTATION**

- A. Presentation in Support of the Mason Public School's Bond Proposal, Presented by Matt Hall, Steve DeWayne and Patrick Meyers on Behalf of the Yes Mason! School Bond Committee.

Matt Hall gave a presentation on what a "Yes" vote would mean on the Mason Public School's Bond Proposal and how it would address critical school district needs.

- B. Presentation in Opposition to the Mason Public School's Bond Proposal, Presented by Mike Kelly on Behalf of MasonBond.info

Mike Kelly presented his concerns and issues regarding the Mason Public School's Bond Proposal. Waltz and Vogel had questions regarding the presentation.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION by Brown, second by Droscha,  
to approve the Consent Calendar as printed:

- A. Approve Minutes: Regular Council Meeting October 2, 2017
- B. Approve Alley Closure Request from Bad Brewing for the Winter Beer Fest on Saturday, January 27, 2018, from 9 am – 11 pm
- C. Financial Items:
  1. Approve Bills in the Amount of \$163,375.25
  2. Resolution 2017-35 – Designate Authorizing Signatories Effective October 23, 2017
- D. Receipt of:
  1. Interim Finance Director's Monthly Revenue Report – September 30, 2017
  2. Quarterly Investment Report Ending September 30, 2017
  3. City Attorney's Report – October 12, 2017

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Ordinance 212 – Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend Section 42-93 Possession or Consumption of Alcohol by Underage Person – And to Repeal Section 42-96 – Deferral of Proceedings and Probation in Cases of No Previous Conviction Under Section 42-93 of Article III – Offenses Involving Public Peace and Order – of Chapter 42 – Offenses – of the Code of the City of Mason, to Make the Minor in Possession of Alcohol Laws to Correspond to State Law Changes Within the City of Mason**

MOTION by Vogel, second by Madden,

to read for the second time and adopt an Ordinance to Amend Section 42-93 Possession or Consumption of Alcohol by Underage Person – And to Repeal Section 42-96 – Deferral of Proceedings and Probation in Cases of No Previous Conviction Under Section 42-93 of Article III – Offenses Involving Public Peace and Order – of Chapter 42 – Offenses – of the Code of the City of Mason, to Make the Minor in Possession of Alcohol Laws to Correspond to State Law Changes Within the City of Mason

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **COUNCILMEMBER REPORT**

- Ferris reminded everyone that Halloween is October 31<sup>st</sup> and trick-or-treat hours will be from 6 pm to 8 pm and that Kiwanis will be doing a trunk-or-treat at Darrell's from 5 pm to 6 pm.
- Ferris reported that AIM will be hosting a Fundraiser at Bestsellers on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 7:30 pm with a presentation from Bruce Cornelius, retired former chief photographer at the Lansing State Journal.
- Mayor Whipple reported that Ferris and he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at Beacon Lake Apartments.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Construction on N. Jefferson has finished and the project is wrapping up. Elm Street paving will start this week. Concrete work on W. Columbia will start soon but there have been delays due to weather. Trail Ambassadors Committee to determine the next stretch of trail to be done and there is a clean-up day scheduled for November 12. Gestamp has confirmed their expansion resulting in an additional 30 million dollars in personal property in 2019 with a creation of 40+ jobs. An IFT request for Gestamp will be presented shortly.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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Sarah J. Jarvis, City Clerk

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Russell W. Whipple, Mayor