

**CITY OF MASON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

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

Present: Councilmembers: Bruno, Clark, Ferris, Naeyaert, Johnson, Tornholm, Waltz
Absent: Councilmember: None
Also present: Martin Colburn, City Administrator
Eric Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer
Kerry Minshall, Fire Chief
Mark Howe, Assistant Fire Chief
David Haywood, Zoning and Development Director
Deborah Cwierniewicz, Deputy City Clerk
Dennis McGinty, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 17, 2009

The regular meeting Minutes of August 17, 2009 were approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Waltz,
to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$181,017.83 as submitted.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR

Norm Austin, Mason Fire Department Engineer, invited Council to the Commemorative Memorial Ceremony to be held at the James Pelton Fire Station No. 1 lower level Memorial Garden, September 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. following "Mason Cares."

Angie and Dean Cords of 115 Bush Street submitted a petition dated August 26, 2009, to Council requesting a four-way stop for the intersection of Bush and Center streets.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Resolution No 2009-37 – Bid Award to Purchase a Pumper/Rescue Engine to Replace Engine 806 and Incorporate the Functions of Squad 815

Fire Chief Minshall spoke regarding the work accomplished through the committee formed by Assistant Fire Chief Howe to prepare a bid specification packet for the purchase of new Pumper/Rescue apparatus. The committee spent more than forty hours preparing bid specifications and evaluating the submitted bids. Assistant Chief Howe introduced fellow committee members; Engineers Dennis Whipple and Steve Armstrong, and Engineers/Fire Fighters Dan Kennedy and John Sabbadin. Howe presented the committee's itemized bid specification and subsequent findings.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Waltz,
to consider Resolution No. 2009-37 as read.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution No. 2009-37 was introduced by Naeyaert and seconded by Bruno.

**CITY OF MASON
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2009-37
RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE BID TO PURCHASE AN ENGINE/RESCUE APPARATUS
September 8, 2009**

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2008 the City Administrator authorized the Fire Department to assemble a committee to write specifications for a Engine/Rescue apparatus for the protection of the City and Townships; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2009 the Mason City Council through the approval of the 2009/2010 budget authorized the Engine/Rescue Committee to proceed with going to bid for the Engine/Rescue; and

WHEREAS, nine companies, submitting five bids, were received and reviewed by the Fire Department Engine/Rescue Review Committee and the City Management Review Team; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2009 after review and discussion the Fire Department Engine/Rescue Committee passed unanimously 5-0 their recommendation to City Council to expend \$516,369 for the purchase of a Spencer/Spartan Engine/Rescue; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Mason accepts the recommendation of the Mason Fire Department Engine/Rescue Committee in expending up to \$516,369 for a Spencer/Spartan Engine/Rescue.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby accepts the bid of Spencer Manufacturing, Incorporated for the Spencer/Spartan Engine/Rescue for \$516,369.

RESOLUTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution No 2009-38 – A Resolution of Support for the Tri-County Regional Urban/Rural Service District/Boundary Committee and the Pursuit of the 2009 Land Information Access Association (LIAA) Partnerships for Change: Sustainable Communities Grant

Haywood gave a brief overview of the Regional Growth Project of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and one of its implementation efforts known as the Urban and Rural Services District/Urban Service Boundary (URSD/USB) Committee.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Waltz,
to consider Resolution No. 2009-38 as read.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution No. 2009-38 was introduced by Bruno and seconded by Naeyaert. Discussion was held to include the contribution amount.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Johnson,
to amend Resolution No. 2009-38 by inserting the words “and agrees to contribute an amount not to exceed \$400.00” at the end of the *Be It Further Resolved* paragraph.

Yes (5) Ferris, Naeyaert, Johnson, Tornholm, Waltz

No (2) Bruno, Clark

MOTION APPROVED

**CITY OF MASON
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2009-38
A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL URBAN/RURAL SERVICE
DISTRICT/BOUNDARY COMMITTEE AND THE PURSUIT OF THE 2009 LAND INFORMATION
ACCESS ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT
September 8, 2009**

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission adopted the “**Regional Growth: Choices for our Future**” report and poster plan; and

WHEREAS, members of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and other local communities have passed resolutions in support of the Regional Growth Project; and

WHEREAS, the “**Regional Growth Choices for Our Future**” project, if fully implemented, will:

- Reduce congested lane miles on regional roads by approximately 50% and save taxpayers between 1.6 and 4.8 billion dollars in road improvement costs which would otherwise be required if current trends are unchecked;
- Save the equivalent of three townships of agricultural land and open space;
- Reduce air pollutants by tens of thousands of kilograms per day, leading to public health benefits and lower long term public health costs; and Improve the region’s quality of life and economic competitiveness, including urban redevelopment opportunities, in an increasingly global economy greater than would occur under current public policies; and

WHEREAS, the Urban and Rural Service Districts/Boundaries (URSD/USB) Committee is an implementation activity of the “**Regional Growth Choices for Our Future**” project; and

WHEREAS, the URSD/USB Committee and its members have demonstrated a multiple year commitment to the study of service boundaries and shared services between jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Committee is pursuing a policy solution to the issue of urban service expansion based on the following elements of regionalism:

- Establishing visions and goals, and setting new policy to achieve those goals
- Looking at process: using visioning and planning to create a fair structure
- District and boundary lines that are flexible
- Collaboration emphasized through voluntary agreement
- There is a binding trust rather than accountability
- Empowerment created by the constructive involvement of many communities; and

WHEREAS, the urbanized core communities and the rural communities that surround it are equal partners in this endeavor, the entire region will benefit from the outcome of a successful urban service boundary strategy in terms of the farmland and natural resource protection, savings in infrastructure costs, and air pollution reductions listed above; and

WHEREAS, the Committee is determined to successfully implement an urban service boundary policy that strengthens relationships between local jurisdictions based on trust and equitable distribution of resources; and

WHEREAS, the most efficient manner to declare an equitable policy is to complete a detailed study and analysis of existing implementation strategies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council declares its support for the Urban/Rural Service District/Boundary Committee and its pursuit of research and grant opportunities related to the successful and equitable development of an urban service boundary policy, including the 2009 Land Information Access Association Partnerships for Change: Sustainable Communities Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administrator is hereby authorized to sign this resolution and transmit it to all other governments and agencies involved in the URSD/USB Committee and related research and grant activities, as an indication that the City Council supports and endorses this proposed project for the region agrees to contribute \$400.00.

RESOLUTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentation – Planning Commission By Laws

Haywood informed Council regarding the revised Planning Commission By Laws adopted August 14, 2009 by the Planning Commission, in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Discussion was held regarding content of Section 2 of the by laws. Council asked Mr. Haywood to convey its comments to the Planning Commission for consideration as amendments to the document. No action was taken.

Discussion – Options to Deter Delinquent Water Bills from Rental Properties

The City Council requested research into alternative methods for reducing the number of delinquent water and sewer bills being placed on the summer tax roll. Smith reported on various enforcement methods used by other municipalities. He suggested adding a \$50.00 fee to all water and sewer bills returned to the tax roll as a disincentive for delinquent payment property owners, as well as covering some of the expenses incurred by the process. It was the consensus of the Council to establish the \$50.00 fee in the next update of the Directory of Fees at the end of 2009.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tornholm commented regarding State budget cuts noting the affirmative planning for purchasing by the City and its volunteer fire service support. She also acknowledged Councilmember Ferris for her hours volunteered to the Farmer's Market. Tornholm spoke regarding the memo to Council from Michael Canteberry about the new City Hall site plan. Discussion ensued. It was discussed that it was too late to consider *[insert]* **most of the** suggestions at this time. Waltz stated that he spoke with staff regarding the concerns of Mr. Canteberry to find that the issues had been considered, but were not viable. Further discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Bruno informed Council that Mike Samson retired after almost 29 years of service to the City of Mason.

Naeyaert informed Council regarding a Mason High School student who has been diagnosed with cancer and whose family is unable to pay for the ongoing and building medical expenses. A can/monetary drive will be held this Saturday.

Johnson informed Council that Middlebury Street residents spoke with him informally regarding blight issues with rental properties on Peachtree Place between Ash and South streets. He asked the City Administrator to investigate the situation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Distributed.

LIAISON REPORTS

Waltz informed Council regarding current Historic District Commission business.

Clark informed Council regarding current Downtown Development Authority business.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Colburn informed the Council regarding current city business.

PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR

Fire Chief Minshall thanked Council for their support.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Martin A. Colburn, City Clerk

Leon Clark, Mayor