

**CITY OF MASON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2009**

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

Present: Councilmembers: Bruno, Clark, Ferris, Johnson, * Naeyaert, Tornholm, Waltz
Absent: Councilmember: None
Also present: Martin Colburn, City Administrator
Eric Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer
Deborah Cwiertniewicz, Deputy City Clerk
Dennis McGinty, City Attorney

* Naeyaert arrived at 7:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 16, 2009

The regular meeting Minutes of November 16, 2009 were approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Waltz,
to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$390,890.02 as submitted.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR

Leslie W. Bruno, Jr., of 1019 South Eugenia Drive spoke regarding issues he has encountered with the new employee/retiree health insurance.

REGULAR BUSINESS

First Reading – Ordinance No. 178 – Refuse Collection an Ordinance to Amend Article II – Collection and Disposal – of Chapter 62 – Solid Waste – of the Code of the City of Mason to Add New Section 62-33 of Chapter 62 to Require the Owner or Person in Control of Premises in Excess of Four Dwelling Units to Provide Refuse Collection and to Amend Section 62-36 of Chapter 62 at Subsection (b) Establishing the Conditions Necessary for an Unauthorized Accumulation of Refuse and Section 62-38 of Chapter 62 at Subsection (c) to Establish Methods for the Collection of Unpaid Refuse Collection Fees and to Amend Chapter 2 – Administration – to Establish Fines for Violations.

Colburn informed Council regarding the amendments to Chapters 2 and 62 of the Code. There have been recurring problems with trash accumulating outside apartment buildings exceeding four residences. Staff researched the Code and found that refuse collection is not addressed for residents living in a rental dwelling with more than four apartments. This amendment would require property owners of structures with more than four dwellings to provide trash service to their tenants. A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Bruno,
to consider Ordinance No. 178 introduced and read for the first time.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion – Local Officers Compensation Commission (LOCC) Recommendation

The Local Officers Compensation Commission (LOCC) meets every odd-numbered year to determine the compensation of all elected officials of the city. Doug Cripps, LOCC member, stated that in the 30 years he has served on the LOCC, Council has accepted the Commission's recommendation one time - ten years ago. Representing the Commission, he stated that the compensation recommendation is always thoroughly discussed and considered by the members. The LOCC considered the amount of time elected officials spend preparing and attending Council meetings and work sessions, as well as additional responsibilities such as attendance at various board and commission meetings, community events, and associated travel expenses. It is the feeling of the Commission that the efforts councilmembers put forth for the City should be rewarded. The compensation survey shows that the Mason Council is paid much less than councilmembers in similar communities. Mr. Cripps encouraged Council to accept the recommended per meeting increase for Mayor, \$60.00 to \$70.00, and for Council Members, \$50.00 to \$60.00.

Council expressed appreciation for the LOCC members' time and recommendation as well as recognition of councilmembers' efforts to this community as elected officials. However, they could not accept an increase in pay while state, county, and municipal employees in Michigan are, or may soon be, experiencing cuts in pay and/or hours.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Bruno,
to refuse the LOCC recommendation to increase the Mayor's compensation rate to
\$70.00 and Councilmembers' compensation rate to \$60.00 per meeting
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion – Directory of Charges

The Directory of Charges is reviewed periodically and updated by staff. A draft document was reviewed by Council.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Waltz,
to approve the Directory of Charges dated December 7, 2009.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion – Rules of Order for the City Council and for City Boards and Commissions.

Clark informed the Council regarding the proposed changes to the Rules of Order, specifically establishing a Consent Agenda. A brief discussion ensued. It was the consensus of Council to set a work session Monday, December 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Johnson informed Council regarding the Middlebury and Foxview Lane neighborhood meeting held with city staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Ferris informed Council that she has received positive comments about the new holiday lights in the downtown area.

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. He added that he is expecting to hear from Ingham County regarding Rayner Park in the next seven to ten days.

PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel – City Administrator's Evaluation

Clark stated that an executive session will not be held tonight regarding the City Administrator's Evaluation. It will be held at the next regular meeting, December 21, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Martin A. Colburn, City Clerk

Leon Clark, Mayor