

**CITY OF MASON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2013**

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

Present: Councilmembers: Brown, Bruno, Clark, Droscha, Ferris, Mulvany, Naeyaert
Absent: Councilmember: None
Also present: Martin A. Colburn City Administrator
Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kiwanis Open House and Ribbon Cutting – April 28, 2013 – Celebrating 90 Years

PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR

None.

PRESENTATION

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Council Meeting: April 1, 2013
- B. Approval of Bills: \$29,867.54

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

REGULAR BUSINESS

Motion – Farmland Development Rights Agreement Application

Colburn stated that David and Laura Cheney submitted a Farmland Agreement application to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) under the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program. The local governing body is required to provide approval or rejection of the application. As required by the MDA, a copy of the application was forwarded to the Ingham Conservation District for review. The Conservation District met Wednesday, March 27, 2013, and had no comment on the application. Council approval permits the 40 acres of land cited in the application into the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program for an initial period of 10 years.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Droscha,
to approve the application of David and Laura Cheney to enter into the
Development Rights Agreement to participate in the Farmland and Open Space
Preservation Program with the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion – Agreement for Exchange of Services between the City of Mason and Bruce Johnston

Bruce Johnston recently retired from the Ingham County Housing Commission where he worked on matching grants for downtown lofts and a neighborhood stabilization program on behalf of the City. Pursuing a private career, Mr. Johnston is a partner of Revitalize LLC and is currently seeking office space. Revitalize LLC is a consulting firm which specializes in grant writing, community development, housing endeavors with special purpose needs, community based public service projects, consulting for the purpose of finding funds through government funding, and funding through foundations and endowments. Staff recommended entering into an agreement that would provide furnished office space, access to city facilities, and utilities in exchange for Mr. Johnson spending at least five hours per week on promoting and representing the City of Mason in community re-development and economic development activities.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Brown,
to authorize the City Administrator to sign the Agreement for Exchange of
Services between Revitalize LLC and the City of Mason.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayoral Proclamation – Arbor Day

Clark commented on the City of Mason being named a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service; this is the 22nd year Mason has received this national recognition. The city of Mason has made a commitment to further the health and welfare of the community forestry program by becoming a Tree City USA. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Officially recognizing Arbor Day meets one of the criterions set by the Foundation to maintain “Tree City” status.

The Mason Tree Commission selected Deborah Ide as the 2013 Arbor Day honoree. Ms. Ide has chosen a Red Sunset Maple tree for placement at the Pink School House for the Arbor Day Celebration.

Discussion – American Legion Statue Placement

Council discussed placement of the American Legion statues. Bruno stated that the position of American Legion Post 148 is that the statues be placed where they were originally approved, on the berm in front of city hall. Also, the Legion proposes to improve the landscape for visual appreciation of the statues by removing the current landscape on the front of the berm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held to set a third Budget work session prior to considering approval. No action was taken.

It was brought to the attention of Council that a planning commissioner is interested in establishing smoke-free city parks.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was distributed.

LIAISON REPORTS

- Ferris informed Council regarding Tree Commission business.
- Naeyaert informed Council regarding Planning Commission business

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Ferris reported on the MML Conference she attended.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Colburn informed Council regarding City business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk

Leon R. Clark, Mayor