

**CITY OF MASON  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2014**

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 7:30 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, Bruno, Clark, Droscha, Ferris, Mulvany, Naeyaert  
Absent: Councilmember: None  
Also present: Martin A. Colburn, City Administrator  
Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk  
Eric Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer  
John Stressman, Chief of Police  
Mark Howe, Assistant Fire Chief

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**PRESENTATION**

**Proclamation – Danielle Rustem, Girl Scout Gold Award**

Mayor Clark, with City Council, presented Danielle Rustem with a Mayoral Proclamation in honor of achieving the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

**Cynthia Stump, ITC Area Manager**

Cynthia Stump, ITC Area Manager, presented Council with a portfolio informing them on the upgrade of two transmission lines that serve parts of Ingham and Jackson counties. The older wood structures will be replaced with new steel monopoles.

**Arts Initiative, Mason (AIM)**

Stewart Powell, AIM Chairperson, and Jeff Mills, AIM Vice Chairperson, presented AIM's vision of place-making for the City of Mason and requested that funds be included in the FY 2014-2015 Budget.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget**

Colburn spoke regarding the proposed budget for FY 2014-2015.

Clark opened the public hearing at 8:03 p.m.

Norm Austin, City of Mason Retired Finance Director/Treasurer stated that he is opposed to the elimination of the Human Resource Director position.

Kathy Revels, City of Mason Human Resource Director, gave her history as a City of Mason employee for the past 20 years. She stated that she was promoted to Project Manager for the new City Hall in 2010 with a \$71,548 salary. Following the building of the new City Hall, an audit was initiated, of which she was not given concluding results. She stated that the City Administrator suggested hiring Central Solutions as the telecommunications company various times, but because they were not her preferred company, she would put their name aside. Eventually, the City Administrator directed her to hire Central Solutions to provide the

telecommunications for the new building. Ms. Revels stated that in 2011, she was demoted to Human Resource Director with a salary of \$53,000. In 2012 she was made an 80% employee and her salary was reduced to \$42,400. In 2013, she learned that her job was in jeopardy through the newspaper. The proposed FY 2014-2015 Budget eliminates the Human Resource Director position. She stated that she would be eligible to retire in sixteen months; however, the elimination of her position would reduce her benefits. She commented that common practices for reducing the budget were not used; but a pattern emerged by reducing one position consistently for three out of four years.

Virginia Kenny-Sweet, City of Mason Administrative Assistant, stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position and stated she is resigning her part-time position at the reception desk.

Don Keith of 101 Avon Drive commented on the City Administrator. He stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position.

Jennifer Armstrong of 428 Raging River Street stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position.

Loretta Kraus of 252 Kiwanis Drive, Apr. 4 stated that she is Ms. Revels' mother-in-law. She stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position and asked Council to reconsider.

Patrick Price, City of Mason Retired City Administrator, stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position. He added that the City Council has a duty to investigate the ethics and the legalities of what has occurred over the last two years, because the reduction of pay and work hours, and no reduction of duties, is ethically wrong. Lastly, he stated that the budget could be balanced through the prior year's surplus funds.

Brian Revels, City of Mason Volunteer Fire Fighter, stated that he is Ms. Revels' husband. He stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position.

Heidi Berridge of 4545 South Green Gables stated that she is Ms. Revels' daughter. She stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position.

Ryan Berridge of 4545 South Green Gables stated that he is Ms. Revels' son-in-law. He stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position.

Allison Revels of 4510 Toles Road stated that she is Ms. Revels' daughter-in-law. She stated opposition to eliminating the Human Resource Director position and asked Council to consider the statements made by Ms. Revels.

Clark closed the public hearing at 8:37 p.m.

MOTION by Mulvany, second by Naeyaert  
to recess the meeting for five minutes.  
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed at 8:37 p.m. and reconvened at 8:54 p.m.

**Resolution 2014-25—Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget**

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Droscha,  
to consider Resolution No. 2014-25 read.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution No. 2014-25 was introduced by Ferris and seconded by Mulvany.

MOTION by Brown, second by Droscha,  
to amend the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year budget, currently on file in the  
office of the City Clerk as follows:

1. Dept. 316 – Police Patrolling: Eliminate funding for the proposed officer position and adjusting all other line items containing costs associated with this position.
2. Dept. 272 – Administrative Services: Reinstate funding for the Human Resources Coordinator position and adjusting all other line items containing costs associated with this position. Funding for this position shall be consistent with the FY 2014-2015 requested budget.
3. Adjust the surplus to fund balance, all subtotals, all totals, and Resolution No. 2014-25 accordingly.

Discussion ensued regarding the effect of the proposed budget amendment on balancing the budget. Also, the necessity of a Department of Public Works (DPW) Director position was discussed.

MOTION by Droscha, second by Mulvany,  
to amend the motion to amend by making the Human Resource  
Director position a 40 hour position with full salaried benefits.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND:  
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Bruno, second by Naeyaert,  
to amend the Budget by removing the Department of Public Works Director position.

Yes (3) Bruno, Clark, Naeyaert

No (4) Brown, Ferris, Droscha, Mulvany

MOTION FAILED

It was discussed to recess the meeting to allow the Finance Director/Treasurer to calculate the financial changes made to the budget.

The meeting recessed at 9:43 p.m. and reconvened at 9:54 p.m.

Smith reported the amended budget amounts are as follows:

- Department 316:           Decrease       \$ 997,765
- Department 272:        Increase       \$ 276,435
- Fund Balance Surplus: Increase       \$ 86,110

Council commended those who worked on the Budget and those in attendance for the public hearing. The vote was called on Resolution No. 2014-25.

**CITY OF MASON  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2014-25  
ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 BUDGET  
May 19, 2014**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Mason did hold a public hearing on the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year budget on Monday, May 19, 2014 as prescribed by law; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the proposed 2014-2015 Operating Budget is filed with the City Clerk, providing for the sums of \$14,240,820 to expend for municipal purposes of the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, Trust and Agency Funds, Enterprise Funds, Intergovernmental funds, and Special Assessment Funds for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, and the said amount of \$2,825,880 shall be raised by taxes, or a levy of 13.25 mills, upon real and personal property of the City of Mason.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that whereas the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) budget for 2014-2015 is forwarded to the City Council for its approval, and whereas the captured State Taxable Valuation for the DDA District is 1,885,749 the sum of \$25,290 shall be placed in the DDA Fund along with other taxing jurisdictions' appropriate tax dollar amounts, and together this money will be used for future public improvements within the District, and bond payments.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that whereas the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) budget for 2014-2015 is forwarded to the City Council for its approval, and whereas the captured State Taxable Valuation for the LDFA District is 49,640,079; the sum of \$139,445 shall be placed in the LDFA Fund along with other taxing jurisdictions' appropriate tax dollar amounts, and together this money will be used for future public improvements within the District, and bond payments.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the 2014-2015 Governmental Fund Budgets shall be automatically amended on July 1, 2014 to re-appropriate encumbrances outstanding and reserved on June 30, 2014.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Mason hereby adopts the 2014-2015 proposed fiscal year budget which is currently on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Yes (6) Brown, Clark, Droscha, Ferris, Mulvany, Naeyaert

No (1) Bruno

RESOLUTION APPROVED

**CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Droscha, to amend the consent agenda by moving Regular Business Item No. 9(A) Resolution No. 2014-26 – Appointment to the Tree Commission by the Mayor, to Consent Agenda Item No. 8(C).

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Council Meeting: May 5, 2014
- B. Approval of Bills: \$41,040.84
- C. Resolution No. 2014-26 – Appointment to the Tree Commission by the Mayor

**CITY OF MASON  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2014-26  
APPOINTMENT TO THE TREE COMMISSION BY THE MAYOR  
May 19, 2014**

**WHEREAS**, the resignation of Jane Eckhardt created a vacancy on the Tree Commission; now

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Mason does hereby appoint Jason Darling to the Tree Commission to fill the remainder of the unexpired term, commencing May 19, 2014 and expiring on December 31, 2015.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **Motion – Streets Closure - 2014 Relay for Life**

Sherry Haueter, Event Chair for Relay for Life of Mason, requested Council to allow the closure of Maple Street between Jefferson and Barnes Streets to permit holding the annual Relay for Life of Mason event, Friday, June 13, 3:00 p.m. - Saturday, June 14, 3:00 p.m.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Droscha, to approve the request of Relay for Life, to close Maple Street between Jefferson and Barnes Streets, Friday, June 13, at 12:00 noon – Saturday, June 14, at 3:30 p.m., as well as granting an extension of the Mason Code Section 22-36(2), from 10:00 p.m., Friday, June 13 – 10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 14.

**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Discussion—Memo from City Attorney Regarding Opening Prayer**

McGinty elaborated on his submitted memorandum regarding City Council opening its meeting with an invocation or a prayer based on a recent Supreme Court ruling. The facts as presented, allow individuals to speak their own faith when they lead the invocation. He referred Council to guidelines provided in the memorandum.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Discussion was held regarding the current progress on the request to see if the company that installed the system at the Water Plant five years ago would be able to do anything about the humidity issue.

Bruno reported that all eight statues have been installed in front of City Hall. Nine granite blocks will be placed in front of each statue indicating the war each soldier represents; the granite block placed in front of the flag will have an inscription and the dedication date, which will be held in June, 2014. He commended those who worked with him to complete the project: Commander Bruce Anderson, Melvin Brown, Bernard Brown, and Jerry Wilcox.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion was held regarding a code enforcement issue in the 400 block of Ash Street. Also, cemetery rules for placement of items on grave sites as well as cemetery maintenance was discussed. Staff was asked to make the cemetery a priority this week prior to Memorial Day. Discussion was held to amend the Budget to include funding for Arts Initiative, Mason (AIM). Colburn stated Council should amend the agenda to add an item before they could take action.

MOTION by Naeyaert, second by Droscha, to amend the agenda by inserting Item 11(A) Discussion – Funding for Arts Initiative, Mason (AIM).

**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Discussion – Funding for Arts Initiative, Mason (AIM)**

Discussion was held regarding funding the \$8,000-\$15,000 art sculpture project that will be created by Mason Artist, Doug DeLind.

MOTION by Droscha, second by Naeyaert, to approve a \$5,000 expenditure from the current budget to go to AIM to pay for the completion of a sculpture design being considered for placement at a Hayhoe Riverwalk trailhead.

Yes (2) Brown, Ferris  
No (5) Bruno, Clark, Droscha, Mulvany, Naeyaert  
MOTION FAILED

It was discussed to have the Water Quality Report included as an annual report to Council. Also, discussion was held to place the FY 2014-2015 Budget on the city website.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was distributed.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

- Naeyaert informed Council regarding Planning Commission business
- Brown informed Council regarding the Sesquicentennial Committee business
- Clark informed Council regarding Downtown Development Authority business

### **COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

No report at this time.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Colburn informed Council regarding city business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

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Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk

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Leon R. Clark, Mayor