

Town of Mason Council
Regular Meeting
Sept. 14, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall

The regular meeting of the Mason Town Council was opened by Mayor Kristopher Clark with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Present were Mayor Kristopher Clark, Recorder Mindy Kearns, and council members Mike Zirkle, Sarah Stover, Steve Ohlinger and Becky Pearson. Absent was Jill Nelson.

Minutes from the regular meeting on Aug. 10, 2023 were read and approved upon motion by Zirkle and second by Stover. The motion passed. Bills were approved for payment following a motion by Ohlinger and second by Stover.

Personal appearances:

Tara Shilt thanked the council for the pothole work on First Street, and asked about the fire hydrants and the reason they are either black or red.

Lisa Crump discussed the walk/run/cycle grant and her disappointment that the bike racks have not been installed. She said the deadline had been in March.

Marty Yeager voiced concern over the Lew King property on Horton Street and its danger.

Mayor's Report:

Clark said he would like to recognize residents in some way who keep up and beautify their property. He added he would like to start showcasing some of the small businesses in town.

Building permits were submitted as follows: Paula Gregory for a new roof, Mason United Methodist Church to replace gutters and two sets of entry doors, Charles Zuspan, Jr. to repair porch, and Lucy Johnson to repair roof. Ohlinger made the motion to approve the permits, Pearson seconded, and the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Zirkle said the fire hydrants are in the process of being repainted. Red signifies the hydrant is working, black that it is not.

Unfinished Business:

There was no update on the new town sign.

Stover made the motion to repair the sink hole on Wyatt Street at a cost of \$1,445.99. Tennant's Lawn Care will do the work. Zirkle seconded, and the motion passed. The repair had previously been approved by telephone.

Ohlinger made a motion to accept an estimate from Myers Paving to pave the remainder of Third Street for \$31,800. Zirkle seconded, and the motion passed.

Pearson made a motion to allow Myers Paving to fix the potholes on First Street at a cost of \$3,700. Ohlinger seconded and the motion passed. This had previously been approved by telephone.

It was reported the new heating and cooling unit has been installed at the senior citizen center and is working well. Clark said the building needs a new thermostat.

Ohlinger made a motion to pledge \$5,000 to the Mason City Library's effort to purchase the St. Joseph Catholic Church. The check will be issued when it is needed for the purchase. Zirkle seconded and the motion passed. Kearns abstained from the vote.

The abandoned house/building ordinance was discussed, and Zirkle will check with the City of Nitro to see how they are razing buildings.

New Business:

Clark recommended the annual cost of living employee pay raises be capped at 3 percent. If there is no COLA increase for the year, employees will not receive a pay raise. Stover made the motion, Zirkle seconded, and the motion passed.

Upon motion by Ohlinger and second by Pearson, the council approved the purchase of five trash cans at \$2,540 and five benches (three 6-foot with backs and two player style) at \$2,595.03. Funds will come from American Rescue Plan money.

The Christmas lighting contest was discussed. There will be no registration this year and there will be three categories: traditional, festive, and business. Upon motion by Pearson and second by Ohlinger, the council agreed to give plaques to three place winners in business, and cash awards of \$75, \$50, and \$25 for both traditional and festive.

Ohlinger made a motion with a second by Zirkle to have Mitchell Construction renovate the town hall building, not to exceed \$9,000. It will include attic fans, a new outside door, and metal around the bottom of the building. The motion passed and money will come from the American Rescue Plan funds.

Stover made a motion with a second by Ohlinger to hire two Wahama workbase students at \$10 per hour. They are Sawyer VanMatre and Nathan Fields. The motion passed.

Ohlinger made a motion with a second by Zirkle to hire Jordan Stewart (retroactive) as a laborer at \$13 per hour. The motion passed.

Ohlinger made the motion to adjourn, with a second by Zirkle.