

Town of Mason Council
Regular Meeting
February 8, 2024, 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, Jill Nelson, Steve Ohlinger and Becky Pearson.

Minutes from the regular meeting on Jan. 11, 2024 were approved upon motion by Zirkle and second by Pearson. The motion passed. Bills were approved for payment following a motion by Ohlinger and second by Nelson. Two groups of invoices were held for discussion, including those from the water leak on Rt. 62, and Tennant's Lawn Care for assistance with other water leaks.

Public forum:

Treasurer Darlene Roach spoke to the council regarding her discussion with the auditor. He said the town overspent by \$5,000 last year and cannot continue in the same manner without dire consequences. She suggested a soft spending freeze until June 30.

Committee reports:

Stover said she had received two complaints about the new town sign being too bright. She suggested the water office workers learn to use the sign in case of emergencies and messages needing to be placed on it immediately. Stover also said the town attorney will look at the Rt. 62 annexation in the spring.

Zirkle reported the library contents had been moved to the new location.

Mayor's Report:

Clark said a meeting will be held Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. with the grant writers. He presented a lease agreement with the DNR that would allow the agency to construct a new boat launch. Corrections to the lease will be made and presented to council later.

Unfinished Business:

A revised building permit ordinance was discussed. Work on it will continue and no action was taken.

A zoning ordinance was also discussed with no action taken.

Council members set the recreation calendar for the year as follows:

Easter Egg Hunt – March 23, rain date March 30, with Ohio Valley Bank paying for the event;

Bike Rodeo – June 15;

Independence Day celebration – July 4, parade at noon, foam cannon, water slide, food trucks, possible fireworks;

Harvest Festival – Oct. 12, noon to 4 p.m., carnival rides have already been secured;

Trick-or-treat – Oct. 26 from 4 to 5 p.m.;

Christmas – Either Nov. 30 or Dec. 7, Christmas in the Park, followed by Santa meet-and-greet at the senior center; and evening lighted parade.

Police Chief Colton McKinney reported on the opioid settlement money the town received and said he would like to do a preventive project at both New Haven Elementary and Wahama High School. He also reported that the Town of Hartford will have a council meeting on Feb. 15 and will decide on the proposed agreement with the Mason Police Department.

New Business:

Clark reported on his reasoning behind hiring contractors for the major water leak on Rt. 62 and hiring Tennant's Lawn Care to repair the other smaller leaks in town. At the conclusion, the council agreed to pay both sets of invoices, \$23,237.24 and \$1,300 from the Water Renewal and Replacement account. Ohlinger made the motion with Zirkle seconding. It was also suggested the town contact contractors in the area to see who would be available in emergencies and what the approximate cost would be.

The water and sewer rate increases were tabled due to no information being available. An increase to the police fee was also mentioned as a possibility.

Ohlinger made the motion to adjourn.