

**Town of Mason Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 11, 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 Dec. 14, 2023 were read and approved upon motion by Ohlinger and second by Nelson. The motion passed. Bills were approved for payment following a motion by Zirkle and second by Ohlinger. This was following a question from Zirkle as to why the town makes purchases from Baum Lumber in Chester, Ohio.

**Public forum:**

Tara Shilt attended and said her family has placed logs along the property line to keep people out of the driveway while they are remodeling and not residing there. She said her husband had seen a suspected drug deal in the driveway.

**Mayor's Report:**

Clark reported the town had been awarded the DEP grant of \$27,550 to raze the building purchased by the town from Lew King.

The mayor presented a new building permit that was discussed. Changes were suggested and the ordinance will be ready for reading at the next meeting.

Clark said he had received responses from the surveys he had been posting on Facebook. One was to allow any new economic development to be exempt from taxes the first year.

**Unfinished Business:**

After learning the process of selling the town-owned property on Brown Street, it was determined the town would lose money. It was decided to keep the property.

There was no update on the Clifton water project.

Stover said she had had no response after calling attorneys regarding working on the Rt. 62 annexation for police patrol. She is to meet with the new town judge to discuss the matter.

The council voted to hire Laura Cox Planning and Design as grant writers for the town at a cost of \$80 per hour plus a \$2,000 contingency fee. The hire will be on a six-month trial basis. The motion was made by Ohlinger, seconded by Zirkle, and passed.

Street sweeping was discussed but it was agreed not to hire anyone at this time.

**New Business:**

Stover made a motion with a second by Ohlinger to use ARPA funds to purchase the following items: 10 wall cabinets at \$1,251; blueprint storage including four cabinets and two bases at an approximate cost of \$3,450; and a welding machine up to \$1,500.

The recreation calendar for 2024 was tabled with the understanding that council members would look over events that might need eliminated or cut back in order to pay for the new grant writers.

Upon motion by Ohlinger and second by Nelson, the council entered executive session for personnel at 7:39. Upon motion by Ohlinger and second by Zirkle, the council returned to regular session at 8:06 p.m.

Clark, along with Police Chief Colton McKinney and Sgt. Tyler Doss, presented the council with a plan to help Hartford with police protection. More details will be presented at a later meeting.

Ohlinger made the motion to adjourn.