

Town of Mason Council
Regular Meeting
July 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 Clark, Recorder Mindy Kearns, and council members Mike Zirkle, Sarah Stover, Jill Nelson, Steve Ohlinger and Becky Pearson.

Minutes from the regular meeting on June 13, 2024 were approved upon motion by Pearson and second by Ohlinger. The motion passed. Bills were approved for payment following a motion by Ohlinger and second by Zirkle.

Public forum:

Kennon Chambers of Ghosh Engineers was in attendance to update council members on the Clifton water project. He said things are moving forward and he should have actual rates at the next meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Clark gave a recap on recent recreation activities. He said there will be a grant meeting on Monday at 9 a.m., and he will be meeting with the DNR soon regarding the boat launch.

The mayor presented a trailer permit for Karl and Karen Kebler. The trailer will be a 2024 model and will be located in the Sarah Stover trailer park. Ohlinger made the motion to accept, with a second by Pearson. The motion passed.

A building permit for Rick Kearns for a beauty shop in the Stover trailer park was presented. Ohlinger made the motion to approve Nelson seconded, and the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Zirkle expressed appreciation for the sidewalk clean-up, flags, bridge cleaning, and flowers donated by Bob's Market.

Stover said she had received some complaints that the fire departments had not stopped blowing their sirens at the beginning of the no blast zone during the July 4 parade.

Clark said he had received a letter from Stephen Duncan of the New Haven Fire Department along with a check for water used during a training at the park. Clark said

he will contact Duncan and is not keeping the check. He said the town only wants the water monitored during trainings.

Unfinished Business:

The third and final reading of the building permit was read and passed. Zirkle made the motion, Stover seconded.

Stover made a motion to allow the Mason Metro Police to provide PRO services at Wahama High School for the coming year. Ohlinger seconded and the motion passed. This was following a report that memorandums of understanding were signed with the Mason County Board of Education, which will provide \$20,000, and the Mason County Commission, which will provide a second \$20,000.

Stephen Pearson was hired as an officer with the metro police following a motion by Ohlinger and second by Pearson. He will start at \$15 per hour with a raise to \$19 per hour after graduating the academy. His PT test is Aug. 6, with an academy start date of Aug. 12.

Police Chief McKinney said updating town ordinances as the council has been accomplishing is good, but people are not paying their fines. He said he would like to be able to arrest and jail repeat offenders. Also, he will begin placing municipal court news on Facebook monthly.

The purchase of a pump for the park lift station was tabled.

New Business:

The first reading of the Junk/Refuse/Weed Ordinance was read. Stover made the motion to approve the first reading, Zirkle seconded, and the motion passed.

Ohlinger made a motion to add Town Treasurer Darlene Roach to the bank accounts along with Clark, Kearns, and Stover. Nelson seconded and the motion passed.

Stover made a motion to set an 11 p.m. time limit on fireworks the week of July 4 and two days after, as specified in the noise and quiet time ordinance. Ohlinger seconded and the motion passed.

The first reading of the Dilapidated Structures Ordinance was read and accepted following a motion by Zirkle and second by Nelson.

The council agreed to purchase the property at 245 Horton Street from Randal Connolly at a cost of \$22,500 plus costs. The money will come from ARPA funds. The property adjoins the land recently purchased for the splash pad and pickleball court. Ohlinger made the motion, Pearson seconded, and the motion passed.

The first reading of the Zoning Ordinance amendment was held and approved following a motion by Stover and second by Zirkle.

A coal severance budget revision was approved following a motion by Ohlinger and second by Nelson. A general fund budget revision was approved following a motion by Ohlinger and second by Pearson. Treasurer Roach said it is the first time the town has finished the year in the black in five years.

Stover made the motion to accept the liability and worker's compensation insurance figures as presented at the June meeting. The item was not voted on in June due to not being on the agenda. Ohlinger seconded, and the motion passed.

Ohlinger made the motion to adjourn.