

**Town of Mason Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 10, 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 meeting on Sept. 12, 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:**

Tara Shilt said there needs to be a sign saying the railroad track is closed to traffic on both sides of Brown Street. Marty Yeager reported there is a water leak on Second Street near Sue Stone's. Kathy VanMeter expressed her concern about the number of cats in her neighborhood.

**Committee Reports:**

Zirkle said several improvements have been made at the senior center, including plumbing issues addressed.

Kearns told council members the lead and copper reports being conducted by the town workers are due on Wednesday. While they are not going to be completed fully, Aaron Woolard will send in what has been done. She expressed concern over the railroad crossing on Anderson Street and said Darlene Roach will be attending a state auditor's training in South Charleston on Oct. 28.

The recorder also received approval from council members to proceed in making an ordinance for a one-time three year term for the next administration to get the town elections in line with the county elections.

**Unfinished Business:**

The mayor reported the Clifton water project in now with the funding agencies.

Stover said she received a text from Attorney Rob Bright saying he is working on the Rt. 62 annexation.

Pearson made a motion to get a pump for the lift station, with a second by Ohlinger. Money will come from ARPA funds.

Stover made a motion to purchase two handheld radios for the police department. Nelson seconded, and the motion passed.

Upon recommendation by the mayor, Ohlinger made a motion to hire Ghosh as engineers for the storm drain/sewer project. Stover seconded, and the motion passed.

### **New Business:**

There were two bids for new flooring in the town hall. Hysell's bid was for \$8,991.43, with Main Street Furniture bidding \$11,670.20. Ohlinger made the motion to hire Hysell's, with a second by Zirkle. Stover abstained from the vote.

Three bids were received for the house demolition on Horton Street. They included Little's Excavating for \$24,899; Lett Excavating of Poca for \$61,000; and Tennant's Lawn Care for \$19,500. Stover made the motion to hire Tennant's, with a second by Ohlinger. Motion passed.

Only one bid was received for the sidewalk repair on Second Street near Dr. Henry's. Pearson made the motion to hire Little's Excavating at a bid of \$4,300. Zirkle seconded and the motion passed.

There were no bids received to replace the roof at the sewer plant.

Upon motion by Zirkle and second by Ohlinger, the council voted to allow the county commission to proceed with obtaining ownership of the Mason County Veterans Memorial, located in Mason.

Upon motion by Stover and second by Nelson, the council approved adding \$19,994 to the land and water conservation grant application for the pickleball court. Stover also made the motion, with a second by Ohlinger, to allow Clark to sign the resolution associated with the recreation park.

The employee Christmas party was set for Dec. 18 with up to \$25 per person being spent for the meal (as allowed by the state). Ohlinger made the motion with a second by Zirkle.

End-of-year employee incentives were approved following a motion by Ohlinger and second by Zirkle. They will be the same as the past three years - \$325 for full time employees, \$162.50 for part-time employees. Employees with more than one job/position will receive the highest incentive rather than two. The mayor and recorder will receive the full-time incentive, and council members will receive \$50 each.

The Christmas lighting contest will be held with Stover as chairperson. It will be residential only this year with two divisions – festive and traditional. Prizes will be \$75 for first place in each division, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third. There will be no sign-up, all houses within the municipality will be eligible.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Clark brought up the dilapidated properties letters that were to be mailed and said there had been some discussion. Zirkle said he did not want his name to appear on the letters as a committee member. More discussion followed but no action was taken.

Ohlinger made the motion to adjourn the meeting.