

Town of Mason Council

Regular Meeting

January 16, 2025, 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 Dec. 12, 2024 were approved upon motion by Ohlinger and second by Pearson. Bills were approved for payment following a motion by Zirkle and second by Nelson.

Public forum:

Kennon Chambers of Ghosh Engineers attended to update council members on the Clifton project. He said the company is currently getting easements for the water upgrade and conducting GPS on the manholes for the sewer project.

Straud Little approached council alleging the company that won the bid to raze the house on the future splash pad property did not fill the basement with crusher run as stipulated in the bid document. The mayor will check and make sure crusher run or similar stone was used.

Tara Shilt informed council members that the barrier at First and Brown streets is down again.

Mayor's Report:

Clark said the trees are down on the future splash pad property. He also presented numbers from an estimate given by Oasis (Austin Cole) to clean and season the griddle at the senior center and seal pipes that are presently fixed with duct tape. The cost is within the \$500 the mayor is allowed to approve.

Committee Reports:

Stover asked the status of the state sales tax proposal. Clark said he is going to meet with Ravenswood's attorney to get information.

Kearns said the filing dates for the June election are continuing until Jan. 25. Only one person has signed up for council.

Zirkle presented a letter he received from Fullarton Co. regarding the trash on Bob's Market land beside Lydia Apartments. A market representative will be contacted.

Unfinished Business:

Upon motion by Ohlinger and second by Zirkle, the council agreed to lease/purchase a 2024 Dodge Durango for the police department at a cost of \$36,520.50. Payments will come from the police budget.

Upon motion by Stover and second by Nelson, it was agreed to repair the older police car at a cost of \$2,500. Upon motion by Pearson and second by Ohlinger, it was agreed to turn in the same car to the insurance company for the repair of the bumper at \$3,888.

Police Chief Colton McKinney told council members that Officer Stephen Pearson resigned from the police academy the first day. He is now running an advertisement for a new officer.

New Business:

The mayor will reach out to Nic Dalton to see if he would be interested in returning as the town's attorney.

Following an executive session for personnel (entering at 7:27 p.m. and returning at 7:35 p.m.), the council tabled hiring an officer cleaner until the two applicants can be interviewed. Ohlinger made the motion both to enter and exit, while Stover seconded.

Two auctions were held for surplus property. Devan VanMeter was the high bidder for the old police car at \$200. Ohlinger made the motion to accept, Zirkle seconded. Josh Lavender was the high bidder for the side-by-side at \$500. Pearson made the motion to accept the bid, with Nelson seconding.

Ohlinger made the motion to adjourn.