

Town of Mason Council

Regular Meeting

June 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 May 8, 2025 were approved upon motion by Stover and second by Zirkle. Bills were submitted and approved following a motion by Zirkle and second by Nelson.

Public Forum:

Kelley Stanton, daughter of Deloris Hutzel and the late Wilbur Hutzel, attended to express concern over the property next to her mother's. She said she was told by the appraiser that the condition of the residence depreciated Mrs. Hutzel's property by \$5,000 to \$10,000. The council agreed a letter will be sent to Paul and Brenda Nollge.

Tara Shilt discussed the holes in the street on Anderson, as well as the stop sign that is down on Front and Brown. Marty Yeager said there is a hole on Dogwood that needs addressed.

Election Canvass

Upon motion by Stover and second by Zirkle, the council voted to make the bond for election recounts \$300. Stover made the motion with a second by Zirkle to choose the tied council member by drawing from a hat, following the withdraw of the third tie candidate, Steve Ohlinger. The lone provisional ballot was not counted due to not being a registered voter within the county, following a motion by Zirkle and second by Stover.

The canvass was completed and results declared, all but in the tied race between Ohlinger, Nelson and William Mason Hicks. Nelson stated she would not request a recount. Hicks was not present. The names of Nelson and Hicks were placed in a hat with Hicks' name being drawn. If not recount is requested within the 48 hour period, the election will be certified with Hicks as the fifth council member.

Mayor's Report:

Clark reported on the recent bike rodeo and music in the park. He said Walmart has scheduled its grand reopening on June 27 at 9 a.m. Clark added the light at the basketball court has been repaired, two sidewalk spots fix, and letters were sent to various state officials.

Committee Reports:

Stover discussed the park pavilions and who is responsible for emptying the trash when they are rented. It was agreed that the park attendant should remove the trash on the weekends prior to a rented pavilion.

Zirkle said the lease for the veterans memorial is close to being signed, which will transfer responsibility from the town to the county.

Kearns said a resident had complained about the junk cars on Short Fifth Street, which led to a discussion about the number of people living in the house with no utilities.

Unfinished Business:

There were no updates on the Clifton project. Clark gave an update on grant applications that have been submitted.

New Business:

It was announced that a parade will be held on July 4 at noon, beginning at Wahama and ending at the park. Activities from noon to 3 p.m. will include a foam pit and water slide, as well as bingo and children's contests. Broken Bread Catering will be at the park that day. A joint fireworks display with Middleport will take place that night.

The mayor said he met with both the Department of Highways regarding paving through Mason, as well as the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources regarding the park and dock. Plans should be completed on the latter project this fall.

Upon motion by Ohlinger and second by Nelson, the police were given permission to purchase body cameras at a cost of \$4,832, and a yearly fee of \$1,632. Also upon motion by Ohlinger and second by Nelson, a police pay increase was approved with the next pay increase being eligible in 2030.

Bids for two projects were opened, including a tree removal at the park, and gravel for all alleyways.

Five bids were received for the tree removal. Stover made a motion, with a second by Pearson, to accept the low bid submitted by Fetty's Tree Service for \$1,475.

Two bids were received for the alleyways. Upon motion by Zirkle and second by Ohlinger, the council approved the low bid by Tennant's Lawn Care at \$12,500.

Ohlinger made a motion, with a second by Zirkle, to keep 20 of the old community room chairs to rent to the public. The remainder will be sold for \$5 each, with employees to have first chance at purchasing.

Water and sewer budgets were approved. Ohlinger made the motion to accept the water budget, with Nelson seconding. Pearson made the motion for the sewer budget, with Nelson seconding.

A budget revision was approved following a motion by Ohlinger and second by Nelson.

Stover and Zirkle said they had been approached by a resident concerned that two fences are encroaching the alleyway next to the town hall. Letters will be sent to those residents that if they replace the fences, they will need to be on their respective properties.

Ohlinger made the motion to adjourn.