

Town of Mason Council

Regular Meeting

July 24, 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, James Pauley, Becky Pearson, and Mason Hicks.

Minutes from the meeting on July 1, 2025 were approved upon motion by Stover and second by Pauley. Bills were submitted and approved following a motion by Pauley and second by Pearson.

Public Forum:

Kennon Chambers of Ghosh Engineers attended to update the council on the Clifton water project. He said Ron Flora, who prepared the easements, had passed away, but he obtained Flora's files. Todd Swanson of Steptoe and Johnson will now help, and construction should start in the spring.

Kristina Clark attended to counsel members on time management and accountability for workers.

Tara Shilt informed the council about some places that need mowing by town workers.

Larry Daniel was concerned that the town side-by-side is not licensed.

Mayor's Report:

Clark said he had spoken with the grant writers concerning the splash pad. Because of a change in leadership in Land and Water Conservation, the plan had to be resubmitted due to the parking area.

A building permit for Chris and Mindy Kearns for an outbuilding on Brown Street was signed by the mayor and council member Stover.

Council Reports:

Pauley said the town needs to take care of its own weeds and trash before any other properties are cited.

Stover asked if the town can limit trash companies to one to avoid numerous heavy trucks damaging our roadways. She will check on the legality of this.

Pearson said there is a person whose house burned that has been living in a camper on First Street for quite some time. Plans need to be made since there is an ordinance against campers as residences.

Hicks said he had checked on getting the side-by-side licensed and got the form. Darlene Roach is now checking on insurance.

Zirkle said the lease agreement has been completed and the county commission is now in charge of the Mason County Veterans Memorial.

Kearns asked if the council is going to purchase ads/signs, etc. from Wahama High School this year. The council agreed that providing and paying overtime for the PRO Officer to attend sporting events would be the town's contribution to the school.

Unfinished Business:

Clark announced the remaining recreation events for the year as Oct. 11, the Harvest Festival; Oct. 18, New Haven Road Angels Car Show; Nov. 1, Trick-or-Treat; Dec. 6, Breakfast with Santa; and Dec. 24, Santa visit and lighted parade. He asked council members' opinions on the Christmas parade, and it was decided due to lack of participants and viewers, the parade would be cancelled this year.

Stover reported on a clogged storm drain on Kebler Lane that is flooding Brown Street during heavy rains. There is also a bad drain at Anderson and Front that is slow to drain.

The mayor went over the revised employee handbook. A few changes were made and will be presented at the next meeting for a vote.

Ideas were discussed regarding the town property on Brown Street but was tabled until members could see what money is available. The paving of Fourth Street was also tabled until members see what funds are in the streets line item.

New Business:

Upon motion by Stover and second by Hicks, the council agreed to hire Nic Dalton as the town attorney.

Upon motion by Pearson and second by Hicks, Rick Lavender was hired as a seasonal worker at a rate of \$10 per hour.

Pauley made a motion with a second by Hicks to hire the grant writers at \$1,250 to submit a grant for an energy efficiency program.

Police Chief Colton McKinney discussed revisions to the weeds, trash and debris ordinance to include jail time for those not complying. Upon motion by Zirkle and second by Stover, the first reading was completed.

Upon motion by Pauley and second by Zirkle, council agreed to enter a three year contract with Patrolman Todd Hannah, which includes a \$10,000 bonus.

Hicks made the motion, with a second by Pearson, to allow the Stewart-Johnson V.F.W. Post 9926 to place video lottery machines in the building.

Upon motion by Stover and second by Pauley, council members approved a budget revision to the general fund.

The meeting was adjourned.