

## **Town of Mason Council**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Jan. 8, 2026, 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 in memory of Jane Chapman, former town clerk for 25 years.

Present were Clark, Recorder Mindy Kearns, and council members Mike Zirkle, James Pauley, Becky Pearson, Sarah Stover, and Mason Hicks.

Regular meeting minutes from Dec. 11, 2025 were approved upon motion by Pauley and second by Pearson. Bills were submitted and approved following a motion by Zirkle and second by Hicks.

Public Comment:

None

Mayor's Report:

Clark said he had met with Chapman Technical and the DNR regarding the riverfront. The mayor, splash pad committee members Darlene Roach and Michelle Pearson, and Kennon Chambers of Ghosh Engineers met earlier in the day and agreed splash pad bids should be obtained as soon as possible. Clark also told council members that the Town of Hartford is behind in police contract payments (3 quarters). Police Chief Colton McKinney said he had spoken with Hartford Mayor Gordon Spencer, who said a payment would be made soon. McKinney will send Hartford a letter stating the contract will be nullified as of April 1 if full payment is not received by then.

The mayor also reported a building permit had been issued to Jeff Tyo for a garage to be built on his property.

Council Reports:

Stover asked if contact had been made with Todd Swanson, attorney, concerning the loss of water customers when the PSD takes over its own lines. She was told no. She also asked about the snowplow and was told it had been ordered.

Kearns told council the employees had been given a 2.8 percent pay increase on Jan. 1, which was the COLA amount. The police received a larger pay raise as voted on in June 2025. The five-year plan will make police officers eligible for another increase as of Jan. 1, 2031 since it took effect Jan. 1, 2026. (A copy of the plan is included with the minutes.)

#### Unfinished Business:

Kennon Chambers reported there was no news on the Clifton water project, as the state has not approved the plans. He stated he had met with Famco Inc. of Huntington at the wastewater plant to discuss the critical needs project.

Clark said the town workers have been completing some projects at the senior citizen center and there is some general maintenance that needs done. All council members agreed the building needs additional utilization. Rental rates will be placed on the next agenda.

#### New Business:

A budget revision was approved following a motion by Pauley and second by Pearson. The revision added funding to the police department following payments from the highway safety program and the Mason County Board of Education.

Events were approved for 2026 following a motion by Hicks and second by Stover. Recreational events will include:

March 28 – Easter Egg Hunt;

June 27 – Bike rodeo and Music in the Park with 2 bands;

July 4 – Parade and park events;

July 25 – Music in the Park;

Sept. 5 – Movie Night in the Park;

Oct. 10 – Harvest Festival;

Oct. 17 – New Haven Road Angels Car Show;

Oct. 31 – Trick-or-Treat;

Dec. 5 – Breakfast With Santa; and,

Dec. 24 – Santa lighted parade.

The meeting was adjourned.