

Town of Mason Council

Regular Meeting

Feb. 12, 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.

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

Regular meeting minutes from Jan. 8, 2026 were approved upon motion by Pauley and second by Pearson. Bills were submitted and approved following a motion by Zirkle and second by Stover.

Public Comment:

Josh Waybright, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, attended to request permission for the church to install a sewer line to a new building being constructed. Contractors will install the line and it will be turned over to the town upon completion. The council gave verbal permission and will place an official vote on the next agenda.

Mayor's Report:

The mayor said he had met with the bad buildings state program and will set up a meeting for the council to hear more about the program.

Clark said he received an estimate from Roush Renovations for \$3,175 to move and renovate the rear interior doors of the senior citizen building to be placed on the exterior. The council gave verbal approval to be placed on the schedule and will take an official vote at the next meeting.

Council Member Reports:

Zirkle expressed concern over the U-Haul business that has been placed in a residential area, and the salvage/scrap yard that has been placed on the business lot owned by J.W. and Jenny Howard. It was noted that the mayor will speak with the Howards. No action was taken on the U-Haul business.

Unfinished Business:

Kennon Chambers of Ghosh Engineers reported the Clifton water project paperwork has been submitted is waiting on a binding commitment letter from various state agencies. New policy dictates that it also must go before the governor to be signed.

Chambers presented the budget for the critical needs grant project that was approved and includes a new UV system at the wastewater plant. Upon motion by Pauley and second by Stover, the council agreed to write a purchase order in the amount of \$133,400 to

WEDECO for the UV system. Upon motion by Hicks and second by Zirkle, the council approved an agreement with FAMCO for system installation in the amount of \$118,653. Upon motion by Pauley and second by Pearson, the council approved Task Order 2 for Ghosh Engineers in the amount of \$18,500. Upon motion by Stover and second by Hicks, the council approved an administration fee of \$10,000 to Region II Planning and Development. Upon motion by Pearson and second by Zirkle, the council approved a resolution for IJDC #2025S-2708 in the amount of \$12,500.

Chambers also reported the wastewater plant received seven violations during a recent inspection by the DEP. He strongly recommended the town get an attorney to help with the reply. A special meeting will be called to make a decision.

Pauley made a motion, with a second by Hicks, to purchase a furnace for the senior center from Foreman and Abbott, which submitted the lowest estimate. The furnace has already been installed following an unofficial telephone vote.

Events at the senior center were discussed, with Clark stating for the record that the town is not asking the community action council to remove the nutrition program. A public hearing has been set for Friday, Feb. 13 by the community action council.

Rental rates for the senior center were established by the council members upon motion by Hicks and second by Zirkle. They include:

Dining room/kitchen	\$100 a day plus a \$50 deposit (returned upon inspection)
Front room	\$40 a day plus a \$20 deposit (returned upon inspection)
Office	\$20 a day (no deposit)

New Business:

Upon motion by Stover and second by Pauley, the council hired Justin Kinneman of Pomeroy, OH, as a laborer at \$15 per hour.

A business incubator lease for a period of one year was approved for Abram Pauley and Brayden Davenport to place a golf simulator in the back classroom of the senior center. Upon motion by Pearson and second by Hicks, the lease will be \$250 a month for the first three months, and \$500 a month for the remainder of the lease. Pauley and Kearns abstained from the vote.

Both computers and printers for the office, as well as a new tractor, were tabled until prices can be obtained.

Clark briefly mentioned a vacant property program ordinance that would make owners of vacant buildings pay a fee each year. The purpose is to encourage owners not to let the buildings remain empty for a long period of time.

A four-day work week was discussed but was tabled. It was suggested that employees vote if they would like to work four 10-hour days. The town would continue to operate five days a week with employees alternating days off.

A town sales tax was discussed, with Stover to contact Attorney John Stump to see if he would be willing to work on the concept.

Clark announced an energy efficiency grant was approved for the town that will replace some doors and windows at both the town office and senior center.

The meeting was adjourned.