



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2024, 6:31PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron

ROLL CALL: Mayor Eddie Noeman, Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Alethea Harris, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Trowanna Broadnax, Alderman Reynaldo Givhan, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Alderman Celia Chastain, and Alderman Shate' Toliver were absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: BreeAnna Harper, Norma Davis, Attorney Terry Clayton, Ricky Oakley, Chief Richard Jewell, Officer Daniel Carter, Lt. Rose Mackey, Chief Tanner Jenkins, and Elaine Allen

VISITORS: Dr. Stueart Hudsmith DDS, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Alfred Jones, Barbara Jones, Flassie William, Mary Wright, Dorothy Powers, Lauren Welland, Tina Boah, Robert Maxcy, Anthony Woodland, Crystal Manners, Michael Harris, Laloma Harris, Vicky Whitley, T. Ray Greer Jr., Brooklin Byrd DDS, Craig Junhs, Buddy Byrd, Dana Rice, Trisha Goodman, Sandra Yarbrow, Charles Yarbrow, William D. Rice, Karl Rice, Chris Wolfe, Zach Brazelton, Calvin Blade, and Queisha Hennings

MAYOR NOEMAN's: Report

Mayor Noeman announced that a meeting would be held with the constituents on January 4th, 2024, at 1:00pm, located at the Mason Police Department.

A Special Call Meeting will be held on December 23rd, 2024, at 6:30pm, to finalize the items that were not included on the agenda. Alderman Rivers had concerns about the holiday, and as a courtesy to the Board questioned Mayor Noeman if there would be enough Board members in attendance to generate a quorum for the meeting.

New Rules Include the city council raising their hands to speak, no side talking, and citizens speaking out will not be recognized.

Mayor Noeman said he will enforce it, and request that Chief Jewell send the constituents out/escort them out if the problem continues.

Vote for Vice Mayor Alderman Broadnax requested amending the agenda to add the new Vice Mayor since it was not included on the agenda, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers, vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) Alderman Mason made a motion to nominate Alderman Givhan as Vice Mayor, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2024
Mayor Noeman said the meeting minutes of November 4th which were included in the November 18th, Special Call Meeting was not recognized because he was absent. The Board informed Mayor Noeman that it was a legitimate meeting and Vice Mayor Catron accepted the minutes.
Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Board Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 4-3 (Vice Mayor Givhan, and Alderman Broadnax did not vote because they were not a part of the Board at that time) Mayor Noeman did not vote.

Adoption of the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2025
Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 4-3 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) Alderman Rivers, Vice Mayor Givhan, and Alderman Broadnax did not vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Resolution for a Grant from USDA for Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000) to improve the sewer system for the Town of Mason

Alderman Rivers made a motion to not accept the Resolution for a grant from USDA for Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000), and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason, vote passed 7-0
Mayor Noeman was included in the vote

2. Approval of CEC Engineering under the direction of Mr. Ricky Oakley to apply for a Delta Regional Authority Emergency Grant for Water Improvement.

Mr. Oakley submitted information to the Board and explained in detail the proposal for Engineering Services, DRA Emergency Grant for Water Treatment Plant Improvements. Attorney Clayton would like to look at the contract before signing off on it, and Mr. Oakley agreed, informing Mayor Noeman and the Board that this was of importance. Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the proposal for Engineering Services for DRA contingent upon Attorney Clayton's review, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote.

3. Resolution Regarding Termination of the Current Attorney for the Town of Mason, TN

Alderman Rivers made a motion to not accept the Resolution Regarding the Termination of Attorney Clayton, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason, Alderman Harris said the Resolution was not a part of the package that was submitted, and she wants to do what is legal and right. Alderman Rivers and Alderman Mason motioned to rescind their votes. Mayor Noeman recommended tabling this until next week.



Health Department

There were people from the Health Department regarding the fluoride in the water that stated they were trying to get on the agenda for two months and had been rescheduled three times. The President of the Tennessee Dental Association, Dr. Stueart Hudsmith, and Ms. Tina Boah emphasized the importance of why fluoride needs to be added to the water. Dr. Hudsmith spoke about being a witness to attest to what he has seen and knows about the benefits of adding fluoride in the water. Examples were, prevents tooth decay, equitable protection for all, safe and effective, cost savings, its natural. The Tennessee Dental Association (TDA) strongly urges you to continue supporting community water fluoridation, one of the most equitable and impactful public health initiatives available today. Since the early 1950's residents of Tennessee have benefited from this proven measure to prevent tooth decay and promote oral health. Handouts were presented to Mayor Noeman and the Board regarding the benefits of adding fluoride to the water. Vice Mayor Givhan questioned the issue of money or health referencing to the quality of life regarding the fluoride issue. Alderman Harris mentioned the constituents that were present in a prior meeting that voted not to have the fluoride in the water, and Alderman Mason said the Town was going to send out Notices and there were plenty constituents available at this meeting. Alderman Rivers made a motion to put fluoride back into the water, Mayor Noeman said Alderman Rivers request was not recognized; Alderman Mason 2nd the motion to place fluoride back into the water, and the vote passed 5-2 (Mayor Noeman and Alderman Harris did not vote to put fluoride in the water).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Beer License Application for 30 Hwy. 70, Mason, TN for BABA Food Mart

Mayor Noeman reported that the business is supposed to open the middle of January 2025. Chief Jenkins questioned opening a business with no inspections. Mayor Noeman said Chief Jenkins have no right to talk about anything. Alderman Rivers questioned the building inspection, fire inspection, and the certificate of occupancy. Alderman Harris said the engineer drew up the site plan and it was stamped. Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Beer License Application for 30 Hwy 70, BABA Food Mart, with a certificate of occupancy, and Alderman Mason 2nd the motion adding the request for a building inspection, and fire inspection: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) Vice Mayor Givhan questioned the processes for opening a business, informing the Board that we represent the people.

2. Approval of Rezoning Property from Residential to Commercial for Kevin Ward

This would be the First Reading of the Rezoning of the Property from Residential to Commercial for Kevin Ward, which was passed from the Planning Commission to the Board of Alderman. The Secord Reading would be recognized in the January Board Meeting to accompany an Ordinance. Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the Approval of Rezoning Property from Residential to Commercial for Kevin Ward, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Givhan, vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



Fire Chief Jenkins

Alderman Rivers informed Mayor Noeman that the Fire Chief has to come before the Board and stated that it's in the Charter, informing that Department Heads must come before the Board. Alderman Rivers said the Town is governed by the Charter, and the Comptrollers Investigator said that appointed officials must come before the Board. Vice Mayor Givhan said the Town has a bad name, and it's okay to agree to disagree, and put personal issues aside.

Lt. Rose Mackey asked the Board and the constituents if there were any questions...

The question was asked "who would cover the citizens without services."

Lt. Mackey said she was there by herself, and the reason Chief Jenkins was provided regarding his termination was cutting expenses and wasting resources. Lt. Mackey said they have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and a history of building rapport.

Mayor Noeman said other departments are saying they don't want to do business with Chief Jenkins. Two or three fire trucks were purchased from California, and Mayor Noeman said he's trying to stop the bleeding of the Town. Lt. Mackey said citizens insurance will be sky rocketing.

Alderman Broadnax questioned what was going to happen without a Fire Chief, because she was concerned about public safety. Alderman Rivers said Chief Jenkins has done a Great Job, and he needs to be acknowledged for what he does for the department.

Trish Goodman spoke about how Chief Jenkins and Lt. Mackey assisted her when she was down on the ground. Mayor Noeman said Chief Jenkins is wasting too much money. Chief Jenkins mentioned maintaining OSHA Standards for the first time in three years and being able to apply for FEMA Grants. Chief Jenkins mentioned Mayor Noeman not wanting to pay for the \$8K matching grant, and not being allowed to make a budget, see a budget, and not being allowed to run efficiently. Inspections are coming up, and insurance rates. Chief Jenkins said Mayor Noeman has circumvented him from doing his job. Vice Mayor Givhan questioned a contingency plan and expenditures, speaking of liabilities to the Town. Alderman Givhan voiced concerns of the welfare of the Town. The recommendation from Mayor Noeman and the Board was to table everything until the Board Meeting on December 23, 2024, all agreed.

Michael Harris informed Mayor Noeman that the Town has not moved one bit in about six (6) years, and Mayor Noeman needs to give up his seat.

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Mason made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) (Meeting adjourned at 8:29PM)

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder