



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 18, 2024, 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron

OPENING PRAYER: Alderman Aleatha Harris

ROLL CALL: Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron, Alderman Alethea Harris, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Celia Chastain, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Alderman Shate' Toliver arrived at 6:33pm and Mayor Eddie Noeman was absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Tanner Jenkins; Attorney Terry Clayton; Officer Daniel Carter; and Benetra Harvey

VISITORS: Sylvester Harvey, Elizabeth Hayes, Barbara Mitchell, Yolanda Anthony West, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, and Michael Harris

Alderman Chastain made a motion to add an amendment to the agenda, to include the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of November 4th, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers, vote passed 5-1 (Vice Mayor Catron abstained)

Questions

Vice Mayor Catron questioned the Board if this could be added to the next meeting, because some of the people were not present for discussion. The answer was no because this was a legitimate meeting held on November 4th, 2024.

Alderman Toliver made a motion to adopt the Special Call Mayor and Board of Alderman Meeting Minutes of November 4th, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 6-0

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024
Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0

Questions

Alderman Mason said she never got a finance report from Ms. Evans. Alderman Toliver stated that the Board requested the financial statement, and it was never received, but it was submitted to Mayor Noeman. Alderman Rivers informed the Board that it's gone on too long, and there's no way to make a conscious decision. Finances are needed to govern the Town; monies are being



spent and people are being hired. Alderman Rivers said there's been no finance report received since May, and Mayor Noeman said at the last Board Meeting, that he would submit the report. Ms. Lynn is not supposed to be doing all the work of finance but is only doing what she's been asked to do. Alderman Toliver said Mayor Noeman cannot over-ride a contract, speaking of the Hughey's contract. Alderman Rivers stated that Vice Mayor Catron should help in navigating the process. Vice Mayor Catron said Mayor Noeman and Ms. Lynn were not present, and she could not answer those questions. Alderman Toliver questioned next steps and suggestions for the constituents, because we're at a pivotal point in finance. Whether bills are getting paid, the Board or Ms. Lureatha Harris cannot answer any questions regarding open records in finance.

Alderman Mason questioned Vice Mayor Catron if she had any information regarding the finances, and Vice Mayor stated that she knows what they know, and that is what Mayor Noeman has said. Alderman Harris, wanted to confirm that Ms. Lynn would not be attending the meeting. Alderman Rivers questioned Vice Mayor Catron about how did she feel about not receiving a finance report, and no email received to back up whomever has concerns. Vice Mayor Catron stated that Mayor Noeman said the finances are fine, and the bills are getting paid but Ms. Lynn has not submitted the report. Alderman Rivers questioned Vice Mayor Catron if she had been in conversations with the Comptrollers or seen any information. Alderman Rivers said Ms. Lynn stated that she sent a financial report to Mayor Noeman for review, and to submit it to Lureatha Harris which never happened. Alderman Rivers said Mayor Noeman has put the Town in jeopardy.

Alderman Chastain informed the Board that local officials are to ensure that the budget is balanced throughout the year. Alderman Harris stated that through her training with the State, they are obligated to report in thirty days regarding the finances. Alderman Toliver said the Town had a contracted finance officer in place, and Ms. Lynn is to look over finances for approval, and stated that the Board needs to take a stand and work with the Comptrollers request that was put in place. Alderman Rivers thinks we are letting our constituents down.

Alderman Harris questioned how many employees are employed with Public Works, because Ms. Davis said nine, and Alderman Rivers said the Board should know what they are being paid and agreed upon, through the Board. Alderman Rivers questioned the fluoride in the water stating that the notice should have gone out in this month's billing. Alderman Rivers mentioned about the State/Department of Health spoke about the fluoride in the water in a previous meeting. Alderman Rivers questioned the handicap signs and the wiring in the park. The handicap signs were placed in the curve, but Mayor Noeman informed the Board that Mr. Taylor would take care of it. Alderman Rivers made a motion to post these minutes on the Towns' website. Alderman Harris said there might be thirty days before the website is up. The Town of Mason is the only Town that the Charter is not posted and does not have a Master Plan.



NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR \$9,000,000 FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWER SYSTEM

Alderman Harris asked who was applying for the \$9 million-dollar federal assistance for capital improvements for the sewer system, and how much would be received for grant paperwork and commission. Alderman Toliver said the Resolution should state that the Board and Mayor Noeman is hereby authorized and empowered to take all action necessary or appropriate in the execution of all written instruments as may be required in regard to as evidence of such financial assistance; and to operate the facilities under the terms offered by the government. Alderman Rivers said that Ricky Oakley knows nothing about this and has nothing to do with it. Alderman Toliver suggests, to stick with the lead of the engineer who has outlined the plan. Alderman Toliver made a motion to not accept the Resolution, due to a lack of limited information, and documentation, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason, vote passed 4-2 (Vice Mayor Catron and Alderman Harris abstained)

Vice Mayor Catron suggested letting the person come to explain where the money is coming from, and the stipulations. Alderman Toliver said the Board don't know whether it's a grant or a loan, and things should've been provided prior opposed to later.

Finance Report

Ms. Lynn Evans CMFO

No report presented- Ms. Lynn was absent

Fire Department Report

Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

Alderman Rivers said the Town was grateful for the Fire Department upgrading themselves, educating themselves, and protecting the citizens, including getting grants in place, saving lives, and homes. Chief Jenkins said Rogers Hydrant service will be back in the spring for hydrant painting. Lucy Street hydrant repairs are awaiting scheduling. Updated on-call information and certification verification is needed for both the Fire Department and Tipton County Central Dispatch. Gas verification and certification is required on Johnnie Douglas.

Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Toliver: vote passed 6-0

Parks & Public Works Department Report

Alderman Chastain questioned who was responsible for the Public Works Department Report, Lureatha Harris said Mr. Hall emailed the report, and Alderman Rivers questioned the number of employees at Public Works. Alderman Rivers questioned why Ms. Davis is not attending the meetings. Alderman Harris mentioned that Ms. Davis spoke about a lot of emergencies at Public Works. Alderman Harris made a motion to dissent and protest the Public Works Department Report, and will submit in writing at the next Board Meeting the reason, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-1 (Vice Mayor Catron abstained)



Police Department Report

Chief Richard Jewell

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Toliver: vote passed 6-0

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Barbara Mitchell mentioned a pipe broke in the ground and everything is stopped up, and water is flooding her property at 34 Harmony East. Ms. Mitchell had concerns about not knowing when the meetings are scheduled. Lureatha Harris apologized and will work on getting the agenda out timelier, once it has been approved by Mayor Noeman. Ms. Mitchell mentioned the judgement on her home regarding the payment to Barnett Restoration, and her home is not completely repaired after two years.

Alderman Alethea Harris questioned Lureatha Harris about what farm animals are not allowed in the city. Lureatha Harris responded that possibly pigs and goats, but there's no Ordinance in place for it. Alderman Rivers said the state law takes place of that.

Sylvester Harvey questioned why did the Board show up for the meeting, and no questions were answered. Alderman Toliver said she showed up and was here for the Town because the constituents had faith in her to govern the Town. Mr. Harvey said he's never seen the Town run as badly as it is now, and violating all over the place. There's no finance report, and he cannot understand why it's being held. Alderman Rivers replied that the Board has no idea of what's being paid to employees, drug testing or nothing. Alderman Toliver said maybe it's time for the citizens to speak out about the finances, because it's their money.

Attorney Clayton advised going to the Comptrollers site, under request reports, and file a complaint for fraud, waste, and abuse.

Ms. Ruby Kelly complained about the Public Works Department taking three weeks to get rid of sewer in her driveway.

Dr. Yolanda Anthony- West inquired about the end results regarding the vote on the fluoride in the water. In the last meeting regarding the fluoride in the water, Mayor Noeman said it was not enough people to vote on the issue, and a Special Call Meeting would be held, however the meeting has not been held, and there is no fluoride in the water. Awareness to the constituents was not mailed out in this month's billing.

Alderman Rivers said Mayor Noeman is not carrying out what the Board voted for, and the Health Department and the citizens needs to know. Alderman Rivers recommends setting a meeting for the Health Department to come out, and get this paperwork out to the citizens, along with a Robo Call.



Alderman Toliver suggested putting some urgency on the matter of the fluoride in the water, making certain the citizens are healthy and safe.

ANOUNCEMENTS:

SANTA & S'MORES

DECEMBER 7TH, 2024, 4-6 P.M.

COME WATCH FORD LIGHT UP THE TOWN OF MASON'S CHRISTMAS TREE, ENJOY SMORES WITH SANTA AND A WARM FIRE DOWNTOWN.

Alderman Harris questioned the turkey-give-away and Alderman Rivers said Blue Oval was sponsoring the turkeys for the Town through Pastor Greer last year. No answer was provided for this year.

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Alderman Chastain made a motion to adjourn the Meeting and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0 (Meeting adjourned at 8:04PM)

******NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS******

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder

Carolyn Catron, Vice Mayor