



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 17, 2025, 6:36PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

ROLL CALL: Mayor Eddie Noeman, Alderman Alethea Harris, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Carolyn Catron, (Alderman Trowanna Broadnax arrived at 6:37pm) and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan was absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Vernetia Boyd, Accounting; Richard Jewell, Chief of MPD; Sgt. Marquis Jackson, MPD; Officer Daniel Carter, MPD; Officer Zachary Antle, MPD; David Wideman, Chief of MFD; Reubyn Meyer, Lt. MFD; Elaine Allen/IT; and Benetra Harvey I/T (Ms. Lynn Evans, CMFO; and Ricky Oakley PE | *Principal* Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. attended via a conference call)

VISITORS: Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Elizabeth Hayes, Sylvester Harvey, Barbara Mitchell, Michael Harris, Laloma Harris, Chris Wolfe, Rose Mackey, and Queisha Hennings

MAYOR NOEMAN'S: Report

Each Individual Board Member Will Speak on Behalf of Himself, Herself During All Meetings

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2025
Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Catron: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Question- Alderman Rivers questioned proof of fluoride in the water, Mr. Karl Stevenson with Mason Water Department, replied that they are in the process of getting the system back together to put fluoride in the water. They are speaking with Hawkins Chemicals to look at the system and verify it.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Work-Shop Agenda Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025

Alderman Catron made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Workshop Agenda Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

OLD BUSINESS: NONE



NEW BUSINESS:

- **CITY ATTORNEY CONTRACT-NATHAN BICKS**
POINT OF CONTACT FOR ATTORNEY BICKS

Questions- Alderman Harris had concerns if Attorney Bicks would be appointed as the City Attorney, or working on a case-to-case basis. Mayor Noeman said Attorney Bicks would work under a contract, and we could contact him as needed or his assistant. Alderman Rivers had concerns about missing pages of the contract, pages 10-13 were missing, and the Board only received pages 1-9. The Board requested reviewing the missing pages of the contract. (Alderman Harris made a motion to table the contract with Attorney Nathan Bicks, and the motion to table the contract was 2nd by Alderman Mason: All agreed to table the contract, vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote to table)

Attorney Bicks was not present

- **CORE CIVIC AND TOWN OF MASON CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

Questions- Alderman Rivers said she had the same questions that were expressed at the workshop committee meeting on March 11, 2025, whether Core Civic would be housing federal inmates or not. Mayor Noeman said he spoke with the headquarters at Core Civic, and the TOM is not responsible nor at risk of anything. Two things Attorney Bicks is negotiating the rate increase per inmate, either \$1.25 or \$1.50. Mayor Noeman suggests making the Towns' insurance aware, to cover the Town just in case something should happen. Alderman Mason suggested getting Attorney Bicks on the phone for questions. Mayor Noeman called Attorney Bicks during the meeting but there was no answer, Mayor Noeman said everything was clear, and legal, the Town was protected. Alderman Harris made a motion to accept Core Civic and Town of Mason Contract Agreement, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Catron:

vote passed 4-2 (Alderman Rivers and Alderman Broadnax voted no)
(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote to accept the contract agreement)

- **PARLIMENTARY RULES RESOLUTION**

This would be a set of rules to govern the Board by putting something in place and used in addition to Roberts Rules of Order. Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Parliamentary Rules Resolution in addition to Roberts Rules of Order, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **REQUEST ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR STREET REPAIRS/PAVING**
Charleston Mason Rd., Gainesville Lane, Gin Street, Beaver Creek Subdivision, and Transou Lane

Questions- Alderman Mason questioned the amount of monies in the street funds account, and Mayor Noeman said it was \$134,333.21, in the account and copies were presented to the Board. Alderman Rivers said the paperwork that they were provided from the finance reports show 10K, under street funds, stating the budget should match what's in the bank. Ms. Vernetia said she's never seen under 100K in the street funds account, and she works off the bank statements.



Mayor Noeman called Ms. Evans via a conference call, and Alderman Rivers questioned the difference of the street funds. Alderman Rivers said from July and up that amount is not shown.

Ms. Evans said the bank statement reflects the cash balance in the account. The incoming budget statement shows revenues collected and spent in the current fiscal year. The origination of the money came from CSX as a reimbursement to the Town from a train derailment, which was received prior to June 30th, 2024. The money is being designated to the Board for street repairs. Money deposited into the account is not restricted by the donor. The money deposited into the street funds is reported from two different statements, the 1.5 million dollars at the end of February, includes monies in all accounts. Ms. Evans said the Board should be able to see how monies were spent and deposited into the street funds account. The street funds owe monies to the general funds, and the December 2024, statements will be coming out in a couple of days. Alderman Rivers questioned the COVID funds showing up in the June Budget, requesting a budget training for a clearer understanding, because the 227K was spent over three years ago. Ms. Evans attempted to have a Board Meeting to amend the budget, but it never happened. Alderman Rivers suggests having a budget training, to get the finances caught up. Ms. Evans recommends in short order to schedule a finance committee meeting for FY25 budget, amending prior to June 30th, and the FY26 audit be approved by June 30th, so Board members can understand the budget. Alderman Harris mentioned a street income statement of 148K. Ms. Evans said some amounts were added for repairs, and monies were received in one fiscal year and spent in another fiscal year. Board members want to ensure that the funds are spent on street repairs and request the balance. Alderman Rivers requests receiving the bank reconciliations reports of what's coming in and going out.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the advertisement for bids for street repairs/paving of Charleston Mason Road, Gainesville Lane, Gin Street, Beaver Creek Subdivision, and Transou Lane, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0
(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) The bidding process would be open through the middle of April.

- **VOTE FOR CHAIRPERSON PER DEPARTMENTS**

Mayor Noeman- Public Works

Alderman Mason- Request Parks and Public Works, Mayor Noeman advised Parks but not Public Works. Mayor Noeman said he would take care of Public Works himself, and Alderman Mason voiced concerns that the departments coincide together.

Alderman Rivers- Fire Department, and Police Department

Alderman Harris- Police Department

Alderman Catron- Finance Department

Mayor Noeman and the Board will check with Vice Mayor Givhan



Follow-up Report from Rick Oakley Regarding TBOUR Meeting

Mayor Noeman conferenced Mr. Oakley in on a call with the Board for a follow-up of the Utility Board Meeting. The water loss report was shared with Ross Colona, along with the water produced versus water sold reports. Improvements were made in 2024, and its recommended to keep working for further reductions.

Administrative Review- Alliance resources are asking Mason to do the same thing about merging with another utility. Alliance was given an opportunity, then they parted ways.

Need another study with a local utility by providing SL Environmental an opportunity. The “23” audit looked terrible, sixty-one thousand dollars (61K), being considered as revenue and the depreciation was adjusted. The Town of Mason need to provide a Feasibility Study and compare it with SL Environmental Contract, Ross Colona suggests pushing for a Feasibility Study. The fees for the Feasibility Study could be five thousand dollars or less (5K) or less. Mr. Oakley mentioned receiving an Infrastructure Planning Grant. The developing standards would be the cost of study services, examples include impact fees, and capacity fees. The Infrastructure Planning Grant is three-hundred five thousand dollars (305K).

REPORTS:

• FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

There are 2 CD's with a maturity date of April 8th, 2025 & April 19th, 2025

The one on April 8th has \$52,780.63 in the account, and the one on April 19th has \$25,418.00 in the account. The interest rate is 3.5%, and Mayor Noeman would like to combine both amounts to generate a better interest rate.

Questions- Alderman Harris questioned bills accruing interest, late fees, and a judgement.

Alderman Rivers suggested renewing the CD's individually, and if the Town require money, they could work with one. Alderman Harris questioned how long would the Board prefer to leave the funds in the bank, and the answer was to leave it as is for nine months.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to leave both the CD's as is for nine months, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Mayor Noeman mentioned four-thousand five hundred eighty-one dollars and thirty-seven cents (4,581.37) that was in a dormant account. Alderman Rivers suggested closing the account and putting the funds in the general account. Alderman Harris mentioned that there were higher expenses than revenues and recommended dividing the funds between the police department and the fire department. The final decision was to close the dormant account and place the funds in the general account and divide the funds between the fire department and the public works department. Alderman Harris made the motion with the final decision of closing the account of (4,581.37), and placing the funds in the general account to be divided between the fire department and the public works department and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



United Systems Pricing Module Schedule

This was motioned to be tabled until the next Board Meeting, which was motioned by Alderman Mason and 2nd by Alderman Harris: motion to table passed 6-0
(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Questions/Concerns

Alderman Mason shared a recording of a 911 call on Finde Naifeh Dr.

There were no radios and no way to respond, equipment should have been provided. Mayor Noeman said it was a false alarm. Alderman Harris questioned how many trucks were not operational and maintenance records. There are two trucks inoperable. David Wideman introduced himself to the Board as the Fire Chief of Mason, with a hire date of about two weeks ago. Reuben Meyers introduced himself as Lt. of the fire department with fifteen years of service as a fireman. Alderman Harris had concerns of responding to medical calls, Lt. Meyers said they have coverage from Tipton County. Lt. Meyers is working on renewing his licenses, but has CPR license. Alderman Rivers questioned if they should have had these credentials before being put in position. Mayor Noeman said he has someone from Shelby County, and he will meet with them, stating that he wants to start fresh. Mayor Noeman said the fire department is supposed to be a volunteer department. Alderman Rivers said Chief Jenkins provided them with all the reports from the fire department. Lureatha Harris mentioned that Chief Jenkins informed her that he emailed all reports/records to Mayor Noeman and Vernetia Boyd. Mayor Noeman provided a picture of one of the trucks with wires hanging. Alderman Rivers stated that was because Chief Jenkins was going to be working on the trucks. Alderman Rivers questioned salaries for the fire department. Mayor Noeman said the Fire Chief would be making the same as Chief Jenkins, and Lt. Meyers makes \$16.50 per hour. Alderman Harris wants to be assured that someone has EMT requirements. Alderman Rivers suggested bringing Lt. Mackey back, and Mayor Noeman said we're not going back, because he has the right to hire employees. Alderman Rivers questioned the use of Mason fire equipment to respond to calls.

- **PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Questions- Alderman Broadnax mentioned high water and gas bills ranging from \$300 to \$400 dollars. Alderman Mason mentioned the handicap parking sign being in the curve for a year, and the handicap stencil needs to be painted. Alderman Rivers questioned the location of the white truck that was purchased by the TOM for the director to drive. Alderman Broadnax said the truck was parked at one of the public works employees' house.
(Alderman Broadnax left the meeting at 8:52pm)

Lureatha Harris read a letter of resignation to Mayor Noeman and the Board from Chris Wolfe to resign his position immediately from the Mason Fire Department.
(Alderman Catron left the meeting at 8:55pm)



- **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Jewell introduced the new officer Marquis Jackson, to the Board stating that he worked for the Police Department in Somerville, TN and has worked in law enforcement for ten years. Officer Jackson will back up the city and leadership.

Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 4-0
(Alderman Catron and Alderman Broadnax left the meeting before the vote was taken)
(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

**MASON TASKFORCE PRESENTS
COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY!
SATURDAY, APRIL, 19TH, 2025 8AM – NOON
MEET AT MASON FIRE DEPT. 12162 MAIN ST**

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Alderman Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 4-0 Meeting adjourned at 9:01PM
(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder