



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 21, 2025, 6:35PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan

ROLL CALL: Mayor Eddie Noeman, Alderman Alethea Harris, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Carolyn Catron, Alderman Trowanna Broadnax, Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Officer Zachary Antle, MPD; Reuben Meyer, Lt. MFD; Elaine Allen/IT; Benetra Harvey I/T; and Attorney Terry Clayton

VISITORS: Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Elizabeth Hayes, Sylvester Harvey, Michael Harris, Laloma Harris, Queisha Hennings, Wynde Ross, Linnie Agnew, Reuben Meyer Sr., Robert Maxcy, James Lewellen, MTAS; and William Norvell

MAYOR NOEMAN'S: Report

1. Mayor Noeman reported that Byrd Tree Service took care of the fallen trees after the storm, and Mayor Noeman *Thanked* Byrd Tree Service and everyone for their service.
2. The Town got approved for the water wells, and they're being changed out to the new ones. Results should be seen in about a week, the approval was made through the State, and the County.
3. Core Civic contract between the Town of Mason, and Core Civic contract between Ice and the Town of Mason process was delayed. There were calls made back and forth, and the reviewing of the language in the contract. There are thirty facilities nationwide, and the Town of Mason will need to wait and get back in line.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2025
Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Questions- Alderman Mason questioned the street bids, which would be opened later in the meeting, and questioned the certifications of Lt. Reuben Meyer. Lt. Meyer said he's taking classes and working on his certifications. Lt. Meyer said he could email the roster with names and certifications. Alderman Rivers questioned the fluoride in the water, and Mayor Noeman said Carl Stevenson is still working on it.



Alderman Rivers questioned how much would be paid per inmate because it was not in the contract. Mayor Noeman replied \$1.00, and the contract is on hold due to the language. Mayor Noeman will bring everyone up to date when an agreement is received.

Alderman Rivers questioned where are we with a Feasibility Study. Mayor Noeman said Ricky Oakley is working on it to meet the deadline. Alderman Harris questioned TBOUR (Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation), if the Town was going to merge with another company. Mayor Noeman said Mr. Oakley, Vice Mayor Givhan, and himself would need to attend the next TBOUR meeting in Nashville. Mr. Oakley is working closely with Ross Colona with TBOUR.

Alderman Rivers questioned the pricing with United Systems. Mayor Noeman said a representative came to meet with April, Vernetia, and himself with the new upgrade system which would be a 5g. Ms. Elaine Allen said it would be in the cloud, meaning you would have internet access and could log-in from anywhere. Alderman Rivers requested any contracts, or funds required, to be submitted to the Board. Mayor Noeman said he would submit it to Lureatha Harris, to submit it to the Board. Alderman Harris questioned publishing the minutes back to the website, and Alderman Rivers mentioned the minutes are public records. Ms. Elaine Allen said she would like to because they are public records, and Mayor Noeman agreed to have them published. Vice Mayor Givhan had concerns about the publishing of the minutes, and the live screenings. Mayor Noeman said he would begin at the Finance Meeting on April 24, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none

NEW BUSINESS:

- **RESOLUTION REGARDING THE OFFICE OF MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF MASON, TENNESSEE (VOTING ITEM)**

Mayor Noeman said the Board decided they wanted to fire the Mayor, and a letter was received from the Comptrollers' Office regarding the matter. Mayor Noeman attorney put together a Resolution, the Board cannot fire the Mayor, and the Mayor cannot fire an Alderman. Alderman Mason said the last time they met, the Judge said to let the new Board members decide. Alderman Rivers said things are not quoted right in the Resolution, and their attorney has not seen the Resolution. Mayor Noeman said his attorney explained to the Board that what they were doing was illegal. Alderman Harris questioned why was the Town responsible for paying the bill on one end and not the other. Alderman Harris questioned Mr. Lewellen with MTAS for his input and Mr. Lewellen said he was not familiar with the details, and this was a conflict of interest. Mayor Noeman, Alderman Rivers, and Alderman Mason would not be able to vote on the Resolution. Alderman Catron stated that this matter needs to stay in the courts, and everyone is on different pages and to table it.

Alderman Harris made a motion to have the Judge to determine the case, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Catron: vote passed 4-0

(Mayor Noeman, Alderman Rivers, and Alderman Mason were not included in the vote due to a conflict of interest.)



- **LANNOM CORONADO HAIGHT PLLC ATTORNEY AT LAW (VOTING ITEM)**

Mayor Noeman said Mr. Bicks refused the offer as the attorney for the Town. Alderman Rivers questioned the resume, fees, etc. of Lannom Coronado Haight PLLC Attorney at Law. The attorney mentioned was not present, and Vice Mayor Givhan said it would be fair to speak with the attorney to ask questions. Mayor Noeman said he would table this until the attorney is present, whether it would be further discussed in the Finance Meeting or the Board Meeting. Mayor Noeman “Thanked” Mr. James Lewellen with MTAS for attending the meeting.

- **REQUEST TO ADVERTISE SANITATION SERVICES FOR A LOWER PRICE/QUOTE**

Mayor Noeman reported that he received a letter from Waste Pro regarding the increases with the sanitation services, and stated that the Town is not making any money after the new rate increase. Alderman Harris mentioned being in the hole already with the sanitation services. Mayor Noeman suggests passing on the increase to the customer every year, stating this was not fair to the constituents. Alderman Rivers had concerns about needing to know what the Town would be faced with by breaking the contract and having an attorney to review the contract. Alderman Rivers said errors were on the Town’s part by not raising the fees. Mayor Noeman said the Board refused one vendor because the gentleman did not have a surety bond, questioning deadlines and liability. Alderman Harris said the residential fees were \$23.95, the first year and now the fees are \$25.95, there needs to be enough to cover the cost. Mayor Noeman suggests looking at other companies to see what they are charging. Alderman Rivers suggests reviewing the contract and discuss how much to raise the fees to cover the expense, and when the contract is up to look for another vendor and doing it all at once. Alderman Harris said the Town should have put a cushion on it. Mayor Noeman said the Town is losing money every month.

REPORTS:

- **FINANCE RPT. WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE FINANCE COMM. MTG. WORKSHOP 4-24-25**

Mayor Noeman reported that Ms. Evans will email the finance reports for the meeting on April 24, 2025. Alderman Rivers questioned the reconciliation reports, stating that she requested employee pay rates etc. Mayor Noeman said Ms. Evans will email everything tomorrow April 22, 2025. Alderman Harris said the Board creates the Budget and information needs to be shared, because there’s going to be a hard time making the deadline. Mayor Noeman reported that Ms. Evans, Dominique, Dora, and Vernetia will be meeting with the Comptrollers tomorrow April 22, 2025, at 12pm. Two readings are required to pass the Budget by July 1, 2025. Alderman Rivers said the Board will need to make the decisions about pay raises, the Board is responsible for making the decisions handling the finances. Alderman Rivers suggests a Budget workshop for all departments. Alderman Catron said everyone needs to come together as a Board. Mayor Noeman said the former Budget was not approved, requesting Alderman Rivers to not speak on the behalf of the Board, only for herself. Alderman Broadnax mentioned being new to the Board receiving reconciliation reports as requested and being transparent for both her and Vice Mayor Givhan. Alderman Broadnax questioned where and how is the money being spent.



Alderman Harris said the Board cannot make accurate projections without a Budget and the budget being behind.

Alderman Catron suggests getting with HR, if the Board request information on someone salary.

Budget Workshop Meeting – Mr. Lewellen suggested having one or two workshop meetings.

Alderman Rivers, Alderman Mason, and Alderman Harris were all in agreement ASAP. Vice Mayor Givhan spoke about structure. Mr. Lewellen advised that the departments need to look at what needs to be included. Look at the sources of revenues going up or down and agree on assumptions. Understand all the things that need to be budgeted for, and assign numbers going through all details. This gives a Draft Budget, the process of rethinking priorities, there are lots of expenses to operate the Town, afterwards there would be another Budget for approval. Vice Mayor Givhan questioned the format of the budget line items, and drop boxes comparable to other Towns, it's hard to read. Mr. Lewellen will bring examples for the fire department, police department, and other departments details of which department needs more money. Alderman Harris spoke with the police department about a Budget and stated that the Chief said he was never told to present one. Mr. Lewellen can attend the Finance Workshop Meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025, and Thursday, May 1, 2025, at City Hall. FY25 and FY26 are due.

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Lt. Meyers informed the Board that he was serving the department with accountability, transparency, and safety. The trucks are unable to respond and pass inspections. Vehicles were repaired with lights and sirens and the wires that were hanging from one of the trucks were repaired. There are issues with the ladder truck missing radios, and they're not properly equipped to be notified. The department just got with I AM RESPONDING, and are slowly getting things fixed the air compressor, safety cage for extra cylinders, electrical problems, and missing equipment. Mayor Noeman said the Town spent a lot of money on travel, bringing in the truck, and there were problems with the chassis and rust built up on one of the trucks. Mayor Noeman said it was in the best interest of the Town to sell one of the new trucks from California.

A certified mechanic looked at the truck and the best interest is to sell it. The repair fees could cost 12K to 15K, and this would cost too much money. Alderman Harris said 12K was spent last year for repairs to the ladder truck. Lt. Meyer said the Town need a brush truck and a boat stating that the trucks are just oversized toys for show, mentioning invoices from Safe Industries and they are still having the same problems. Alderman Harris questioned applying for the 20K Grant. Lt. Meyer said he was looking into a Fema Grant for hiring 3 people for 3 years. Lt. Meyer said he works at night, and Chief Wideman works the day shift. There are some individuals lined up for training, and Lt. Meyer said he would get the names of the individuals.

Alderman Rivers questioned Lt. Meyer's report and Alderman Harris called for a point of order suggesting being innocent until proven guilty. Vice Mayor Givhan mentioned the report being a lot of hearsay, and questioned Lt. Meyer about the number of EMS calls, without being qualified. It was mentioned that this is an open investigation, and it opens the Town up for liabilities by boldly making threats. Lt. Meyer apologized for the report and spoke about health concerns,



family situations and broken missing radios. Mayor Noeman asked that Lt. Meyer focus on his job and get with him before issuing his report.

Vice Mayor Givhan said the report sounded personal, and litigation is going on between the Mayor and the Board.

Alderman Mason questioned the number of calls etc. Lt. Meyer said they had not missed a call. Alderman Rivers said we actually don't have a Fire Chief, because the Board did not vote him in, informing the Board that the State is aware of the department running calls that they are not qualified for. Alderman Rivers said the Board is held accountable and liable, stating this should have never been put in place without coming before the Board. Mayor Noeman informed the Board that the Fire Chief is the acting Chief. Alderman Rivers spoke of the latest certifications dating back to 1997. Alderman Broadnax said she reviewed the certificates and stated that they were out of date. Mr. Wideman might be qualified but his certifications are not up to date.

- **PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Alderman Harris questioned Mayor Noeman if he was still looking for a backhoe. Mayor Noeman said he was using Mr. Hall's excavator for 3 days and has Mr. Marbury as backup. Alderman Broadnax had concerns about cleaning the gutters at Richland Hills, and Mayor Noeman said he cleaned it, and the big pipe sticking out is a drainpipe. Alderman Harris questioned the AMI Meters to be installed. Mayor Noeman said they have 300K to install the new meters in six months and everything will come to the office. Mayor Noeman said the State sent the money to the County and the Town will put some money in. There was a meeting held at Mayor Huffman office with Davina Jones regarding the AMI meters. Mr. Oakley Co. will put in a bid. Alderman Rivers questioned the money that the city paid a portion, if this was different money, because all cities had to put monies in for the grant of \$1.7 million dollars, if this was a different situation. The funds were allocated for three phases. Mayor Noeman will check with Mr. Oakley. Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Parks and Public Works Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0 (Vice Mayor Givhan stepped out) (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Alderman Rivers questioned body cams not working properly, and Officer Antle mentioned unreliable cameras, and the officers needing to be wearing them. Officer Antle said he was getting quotes for body cams. Alderman Rivers said they're waiting to hear from the 20K Grant from Blue Oval. Officer Antle mentioned a 10K TSO Grant for overtime, and the other 10K for equipment. When questioned about the cost, Officer Antle said it was hard to say what the body cams would cost. The cameras are old and outdated, and don't hold a charge, Officer Antle mentioned getting the body cam combo. There are vehicles that are not running with high mileage, could possibly look into striping the vehicles and put the money back into the drug funds. Mayor Noeman requests an inventory from the department. Alderman Rivers had concerns about who's patrolling the Subdivision when people are racing. The department will patrol the area. Alderman Mason was concerned if the tornado sirens work, and the answer was yes.



Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Wynde Ross-Spoke about revitalization, demolition, and lack of infrastructure. Mayor Noeman said Joe McDonald is the current inspector for both residential and commercial property.

Mrs. Ross mentioned why investors are not drawing to Mason, Core Civic mentioned a contract referencing to adults or minors, this needs to be focused on. The Town needs to focus on trying to get the Charter in line as to where Mason want to go. The Town is paying higher taxes, not enforcing fees for sidewalks, parks, and etc. Money will go elsewhere to get profits, there is a need of an updated fee schedule. The Town is not following through and there are constant liabilities. Mayor Noeman requests that Mrs. Ross submit plans. Alderman Harris mentioned demolition. Mayor Noeman recommends calling 811. Mayor Noeman said all employees at Public Works are qualified with gas certifications. Mrs. Ross *Thanked* Mayor Noeman for the tree repairs on her property. Alderman Harris said the cost of the demolition should be shared.

Michael Harris Mason Task Force- Mr. Harris said they had a successful clean-up campaign, stating that Mayor Noeman saw to having a dumpster in place. The issues with cleanup is about coming together collectively. The Task Force is here to assist Mason, and they had twenty-five volunteers including the Board, staff and volunteers. Mr. Harris said some of the people asked for Mayor Noeman requesting proper support and taking pride by taking care of what we have. New leaders will impose new rules. Mr. Harris said they picked up about 720 pounds of liter. This is a mission and Love your Town. Mr. Harris suggested pulling Ordinances and getting rid of junked cars. Junk is not who we are.

Robert Maxcy- Mentioned that L&N Rd., is washed out and it runs all the way through Keeling. Public Works are putting barrels out and removing them. Mr. Maxcy said four wheelers are running 60 to 65 mph in his neighborhood. When calling 911 it takes about thirty minutes for someone to get there. Mayor Noeman suggests taking pictures and pulling the cameras for dates and times. Vice Mayor Givhan said an officer did respond and mentioned being short staffed. Mayor Noeman said he placed speed bumps and cameras in the subdivision. Mr. Maxcy gave permission that the officers could park a police car in his driveway.

William Norvell- Mr. Norvell said people are drag racing in front of his house. Mayor Noeman suggests taking pictures. Mr. Norvell complained about high water in the ditch area by his home.

Sealed Bids for Street Paving were opened by Lureatha Harris before the Board, and copies were made and presented to Mayor Noeman and the Board. Lureatha Harris will email the bids to Mayor Noeman and the Board for further review Tuesday, April, 22, 2025.

****Mr. Lewellen said the Budget is about setting goals, and to bring a list of things***



CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Catron 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 9:26pm

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder