



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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Jewell, Chief of MPD; Lt. Zachary Antle MPD; Officer William Nelson, MPD; David Wideman, Acting Chief MFD; Lt. Reuben Meyer, MFD; Karl Stevenson, Public Works Dept.; Vernetia Boyd, CMFO; Elaine Allen, IT; and Benetra Harvey I/T

VISITORS: James Lewellen, Grant Jenkins, Sarah Vallejo, Adam Tschida, Sheila Reed, Echo Day, Robert Rose, Elizabeth Hayes, Laloma Harris, Michael Harris, Michael Adams, and Ronnie Neill

Mayor Noeman opened the meeting by introducing the special guests from the State, Sheila Reed and Adam Tschida. Ms. Reed was happy to be in attendance and spoke about opportunities, and the history of the Town of Mason with their office. Handouts were presented to the Board and Ms. Reed introduced Sarah Vallejo, and Grant Jenkins, who are assisting with the finance team.

Discussions presented in the handouts by Sheila Reed

Budget History, Late Audits (Audits should be filed by July 31st) Invite the CPA Clerk to attend meetings, reviewed the Audit History, and the Findings from the 2023 Audit, learning and developing, Investigations History, setting types of accountability, Corrective Action Plan, use of restricted utility money to pay for costs of the general government. Corrective Action Plan Today, **Remaining Areas**-Policies and Procedures, Audit Findings, Budget Practices, Training for Finance Staff. **Current Oversight**-Monthly meetings, monthly bank statements, monthly budget to actual statements and annual general ledger, Interfund Borrowings reviewed the Source: 2023 Audit **The anticipation is for 2024 to be lower and 2025 to be even lower.**

Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation, Source: 2023 Audit, there was a decrease in gas funds

Financial Health Metrics were presented by Adam Tschida

Mr. Tschida spoke about the number of years the Town ran a structurally unbalanced budget. Metrics trending with finance being in-house, Cash Less Due to Utility, Interfund Borrowing Graph represents Net Cash, Fund Balance Relative to Expenditures -The blue line on the graph represents the state medium with a target of 15% and Mason shows 17%. Liabilities to Cash



Mason has 50% and the target is below 25%. Fund Balance Change Relative to Expenditures, in 2022 and 2023 there was a good surplus for Mason by watching every dollar to increase financial accountability by adding to or subtracting from. Mr. Tschida mentioned that Mayor Noeman has been cautious about spending and suggests keeping up the good work.

Ms. Reed mentioned looking ahead and wanting to see Mason succeed, suggesting a Town Administrator, the Board to exercise oversight, solidify policies and procedures, budget calendars, audit findings, and budget practices.

Ms. Reed suggests training in finance and coming by every other month and suggests having the audit staff. Someone from Open-Records will attend the meeting from the Comptrollers' office. Ms. Reed "Thanked" everyone for allowing them to attend the meeting with their presentations.

Up to Date Regarding the Audit-Mayor Noeman

Mayor Noeman spoke with Mr. Curtis from the Audit Team and stated that he presented all the information, and everything should be good by the end of this month. With the next audit there should be no delays and everything will be in-house.

Mayor Noeman said in 2022 the State tried to take the Charter of the TOM, and for the first time in the history of Mason, he was giving the key to the Town to Ms. Reed, and "Thanked" the Comptrollers' for their help.

Certificates of Appreciation Awarded by Mayor Noeman for Help and Assistance

Ronnie Neill, Kaye Stegall was unavailable in training, her certificate would be sent, and James Lewellen.

MAYOR NOEMAN'S: Report

Mayor Noeman reported that there was no up-to-date information about United Systems, and they are working closely with Ms. Elaine to update the system. Mayor Noeman will keep the Board informed of further information.

The 14 streetlights that were out on Washington St., and the Subdivision are fixed and working fine. Lureatha Harris reported that the advertisement for street paving/repairs was advertised in the Covington Leader for Gainesville Lane, and Charleston Mason Rd., today July 21, 2025.

Alderman Harris mentioned several things that are being worked on by the Planning Commission, Increasing Fees on the Fee Schedule, and putting Rules and Regulations in place for an Ordinance regarding Food Trucks, and the changes will be presented to Mr. Lewellen regarding placement, local restrictions, and the hours of operation. Alderman Rivers would like to see the Ordinance, and Alderman Harris will send it to Lureatha Harris to submit to the Board for review.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2025

Alderman Catron made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-1 (Alderman Harris voted no stating she was absent) (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



Questions

Alderman Mason questioned the status of Core Civic. Mayor Noeman said Core Civic has 32 facilities and Mason was in the top but now we are number 29. Mayor Noeman spoke with Jere, and they are still working on it. No location has been chosen at this time, and information will be passed on once it has been received. Alderman Rivers questioned the patching of Charleston Mason Rd., and Gainesville Lane, Mayor Noeman said they have 11 weeks and are almost finished.

Alderman Rivers questioned putting fluoride in the water and what percentage would be put in. Karl Stevenson informed the Board that they are working on getting a whole manifold replaced and the cost is \$3,500 dollars along with a new container. The future water rate study is to reconsider fluoride in the water; with the water rate study there would be extra fees for the citizens. Florida, Gallaway, Moscow, Oakland, and Utah have taken fluoride from the water, and this is a chemical that must be purchased. This is a hazardous chemical that the utility guys will have to mess with. Fluoride is a product lobbied by the American Dental Association, and the EPA states that it's a choice. Mr. Stevenson said fluoride is in the foods and can be put in the minimum radius according to State standards to feed or not use at all determined by primary drinking water standards, it could possibly be 2 milligrams per liter. There can be a maximum contamination level that may brittle teeth and bones, and we need to inform the constituents.

Alderman Mason questioned a notice and a public forum allowing the citizens an opportunity to speak. Alderman Harris mentioned that the constituents voted to take the fluoride out of the water and it's up to the citizens and the Board. Mr. Stevenson said the Health Department doesn't have any bearing on the water system. Vice Mayor Givhan had concerns about elevated risks for children and the elderly and needed to reconsider. Mr. Stevenson mentioned that fluoride is a byproduct of aluminum industrial waste product unless it's purchased for reuse. Fluoride is found in the ground.

Alderman Mason had concerns about the department heads not attending the meetings and questioned Mr. Lewellen about the Organizational Chart. Mr. Lewellen mentioned positions and responsibilities, the Board creates the Organizational Chart, and the department heads are usually appointed, looking at those that are appointed vs. hired and paid hourly. Alderman Mason questioned the handicap signs in the park. Mayor Noeman said the handicap signs are in the park on the concrete.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none

NEW BUSINESS: There was none

REPORTS:

• FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Alderman Rivers mentioned that the finance person needs to be present, and they haven't been over March and just received the April report. Mayor Noeman said he would schedule a Special Call Meeting to discuss finance. Alderman Harris made a motion to table the Finance Department



Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: The motion to table the report passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Alderman Rivers spoke of not having a Chief at the Fire Department, because Mr. Wideman and Mr. Meyer doesn't have their certificates, and the Board was supposed to vote them in, into their positions. Mayor Noeman said Mr. Wideman was the Acting Fire Chief. Mayor Noeman accused Alderman Rivers of giving a blank check to the Fire Department and to look at how much money was being lost with the Fire Department. Alderman Rivers voiced concerns of accusations about giving out a blank check. Vice Mayor Givhan spoke about policies and procedures and doing things the right way. Mayor Noeman suggested postponing the report and coming back to it later. Mr. Wideman said during the week the female firefighter Ms. De Cesare works 5 days per week. Mr. Wideman wife will come to Mason to work as a volunteer. Around 3:35am, Hannah and Reuben were on duty, and someone came by requesting assistance. A female was passed out, unresponsive, and turning blue. Vitals were taken and there was a low pulse possibly a fentanyl overdose. Narcan was administered and the ambulance showed up in about 14 minutes. The constituent was just passing through. Alderman Catron made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0 (Alderman Rivers abstained and Mayor Noeman voted yes)

- **PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Alderman Mason questioned the leaning picnic table in the park. Mayor Noeman sent the utility guys to check it out.

Mr. Stevenson mentioned a Blue Cross Blue Shield Grant Initiative where the grant for the park is 35% and the city pays, and the grant pays the rest. Alderman Rivers mentioned the guys cutting the middle of the park but needs to cut the grass growing in the fence. Vice Mayor Givhan had concerns about the fence lines falling over on Gainesville Lane, and overgrown ditches. Mayor Noeman said the fence is with the property owners and requested Lureatha Harris provide him with a list of names of the property owners, this needs to be maintained on a regular basis. Alderman Harris had concerns of high grass, and Mayor Noeman said people are letting it grow for hay. Alderman Rivers reported a tree and limb blinding traffic on Gainesville Rd.

Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the Parks & Public Works Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Givhan: vote passed 6-1 (Alderman Harris voted no) (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Jewell introduced Officer William Nelson as the new hire to the Board.

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)

Elizabeth Hayes complained about a fire hydrant that has been out of service for a year and needs to be repaired. Mr. Wideman will get Mrs. Hayes address and phone number to check it out. Mayor Noeman said 4 or 5 hydrants are out of order. Mrs. Hayes reported a gas leak that was



on the Town of Mason side, and Public Works made the repair, afterwards it rained, and all the dirt washed into the ditch.

Mrs. Hayes is requesting dirt to replace the area, and request cones to be put out to prevent people from parking there. Mayor Noeman will check with Mr. Hall.

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mayor Noeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: All agreed, and the Meeting adjourned at 8:06PM

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder