



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 24, 6:34PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Alderman Mary Mason

ROLL CALL: Mayor Eddie Noeman, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Alethea Harris, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Trowanna Broadnax, Alderman Carolyn Catron, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Alderman Reynaldo Givhan arrived at 6:35pm)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Vernetia Boyd, Accounting; Richard Jewell, Chief of MPD; Lt. Marvin Norfolk, MPD; Sgt. Zachary Antle, MPD; Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief; Lt. Rose Mackey, Fire Dept.; Elaine Allen, IT; Benitra Harvey, IT; and (Lynn Evans, CMFO attended via a conference call)

VISITORS: Sylvester Harvey, Elizabeth Hayes, Francis Gooden, April Patton, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Robert Maxcy, Marcie Phelps, Barbara Mitchell, Wynde Ross, Queisha Hennings, Laloma Harris, Michael Harris, Chris Wolfe, and Greg Gruthoff

- **Financial Report** – Lynn Evans

FY2024 Financial Statements and Audit

Finalizing the annual June 30, 2024, financial statements, and other documents requested by the external Auditors are currently underway.

FY2025 Finance Reports

Financial statements through September 30, 2024, have been submitted. The remaining FY2025 monthly finance reports will be submitted as completed until all are current in the coming weeks.

Cash Balances

On January 31, 2025, the Town had \$1,334,519 in its various checking, savings, and money market accounts, and certificates of deposit.

Ms. Evans reported that she has been in contact with Chris Hearn, which is an external partner with Banks Finley and White, and they're working to ensure that June 30th, 2024, financials are completed. As soon as possible, they will move to the current year. Ms. Evans hope to be up to date by the next Board Meeting. Ms. Evans commended Ms. Vernetia on doing a great job working through the process. Ms. Evans presented a financial overview of the financials through September 30th, 2024, of each fund. July and August financials will be submitted to view the progression for each month. Ms. Evans would like to have the Board come up with a date to discuss just the



finances, through a Virtual, Microsoft Teams, or Zoom Meeting/training. Ms. Evans stated that based on the finance reports, in the next thirty days everything should be caught up. October, November, and December. Mayor Noeman reviews the reports, and the reports are submitted by Ms. Lureatha to the Board. Alderman Catron suggests tabling the finance report, and all agreed.

Check Signers- Alderman Mason made a motion to take off the table, Vice Mayor Givhan as a check signer and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris, all agreed. Vice Mayor Givhan declined to be a check signer. Afterwards, Alderman Mason motioned to add Alderman Harris, as a check signer, and Alderman Harris declined. Alderman Rivers said the protocol for check signers per the Charter is Mayor Noeman, and Lureatha Harris, unless Lureatha Harris is absent. Mayor Noeman said he will keep the same check signers as is, and a motion was made by Alderman Mason, and 2nd by Alderman Harris to keep the same check signers as is, vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Mayor Noeman will provide proof to the Board that fluoride is in the water from the report from Christopher Luss, and Karl Stevenson. One is responsible for the sewer and the other one is responsible for the water. Mayor Noeman said both gentlemen are directors through the state.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025

Alderman Catron made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-2 (Alderman Rivers and Alderman Broadnax voted no) (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Adoption of the Beer Board Committee Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2025

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Beer Board Committee Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Mayor Report

Mayor Noeman reported on streets in need of repair, Charleston Mason Rd., Gainesville Lane, and School Street. Mayor Noeman said Public Works is doing a great job. Alderman Rivers questioned funds left for street repairs, and patching. Alderman Harris said about 65K was unspent. Mayor Noeman recommends making bids, and advertising it in the newspaper for repairs. Mayor Noeman said he would provide a copy of the contract with Climer Paving to the Board.

*Southwest will be going around cutting trees through April

*Core Civic will be opening by the end of February, or sometime in March. Mr. Nathan Bicks will be reviewing the contract. The City of Mason will get 0.34 cents or 0.50 cents per person/ inmate, coming to the Town. Alderman Harris questioned the requirements, and Mayor Noeman replied that everything would be the same as before, transportation and security. Mr. Nathan Bicks, is communicating with Ice and Core Civic. Vice Mayor Givhan mentioned this must come back before the Board for approval.

Mayor Noeman said he would provide information to the Board once received.



Approval of the contract to hire Municipal Attorney Nathan Bicks

Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to table the contract with Mr. Bicks, until the Board review the contract, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason, the contract would be reviewed at the Meeting on February 27, 2025, vote passed 7-0 to table the contract.

(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote to table)

Ordinance Section 1 Increase the salary of the Alderman to \$200.00 monthly

Alderman Harris read the Charter, to state that you cannot increase the salary of the Alderman while in the seat, this would take about 2 years. Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to table the \$200.00, dollar monthly salary increase, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: motion to table passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote to table)

Amendment to the Charter giving any citizen that owns property inside the city limits the right to vote for city election

Alderman Harris questioned the amount of property required, and people voting in more than one place, stating that most people vote where they reside. Alderman Mason would like to see stipulations. Vice Mayor Givhan would like to increase rooftops and residents. Mayor Noeman said he's trying to annex property inside the city limits. Alderman Mason made a motion to not accept an amendment to the Charter giving any citizen that owns property inside the city limits the right to vote for city election, because there are no stipulations, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 7-0 to table and not accept

(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote to table/not accept)

Police Department Report

Alderman Rivers questioned a Mason Police Officer about being indicted and working for the department. Alderman Rivers said the officer should have been suspended, and Chief Jewell said he's suspended with pay, and stated that Tipton and Lauderdale County are paying their employees for administrative duties. The officer that was indicted said he could request the recordings of the incident. The Lt. of the department said the indictment came down and is in full effect, questioning why the officer is coming to work and driving a patrol car with his weapon and badge removed. Chief Jewell mentioned the 4th Amendment and due process, stating that there was no assault or oppression, and encouraged the Board to watch the video. Alderman Harris suggested following protocol until proven guilty. The Lt. suggested seeing what the final judgement would be. Alderman Mason questioned the disciplinary actions taken; Chief Jewell informed the Board that the office is not enforcing anything. Alderman Rivers had concerns about why the officer is driving the police vehicle home and the Town is paying for his gas.

Alderman Rivers requested a meeting with Chief Jewell, Mayor Noeman, Lt. Norfolk, Sgt. Antle, Officer Carter, and Vice Mayor Givhan ASAP. Vice Mayor Givhan said he did review the tape, and this is not the time nor place. Mayor Noeman will get with Chief Jewell to schedule a meeting.

Chief Jewell mentioned a statement that he received from Mr. Marquis Jackson.

Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Alderman Catron left the meeting before the vote was taken.



Public Works Department Report

Alderman Mason mentioned ditches that needs to be cleaned out, and Alderman Broadnax complained about the entrances to the subdivision, and Charleston Mason Rd. Mayor Noeman said he would have the guys work on it. Alderman Broadnax questioned what Alderman were over the different departments. Mayor Noeman said this could be discussed at the next Board Meeting. Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to accept the Public Works Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Harris voted no) and (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Fire Department Report

Alderman Rivers questioned the Fire Department Report since it was not included on the agenda. Alderman Rivers said it was voted that Chief Jenkins remain the Chief of the Fire Department, until the Board go to court. Chief Jenkins mentioned that locks were changed without notification to the Fire Department. Alderman Rivers mentioned putting the Town in jeopardy without a Fire Department. Mayor Noeman said a volunteer from the Fire Department was given a key. Chief Jenkins mentioned working around the availability of the volunteers. Alderman Mason questioned certifications of volunteers for life saving measures. Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and to add the Resolution for Public Entity Partners, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 5-1 (Mayor Noeman voted no)

Visitors Comments/Concerns

Laloma Harris with the Mason Task Force (Activities)

The Task force is organizing a clean-up campaign and needs the grass cut. The date is scheduled for April 12th, 2025, and the Task Force will be partnering with Tipton County Beautiful headquarters to meet at the Mason Fire Department. The Town of Mason is asked to supply the dumpsters and include a memo on the utility bills, to solicit volunteers. The Task Force had assistance from the Public Works Department, and they are asking The Town of Mason for assistance. Mrs. Harris said they are asking the city to provide lunch. The time of the clean-up is scheduled from 8:00am to 12:00pm. Mayor Noeman said he will order 35 containers for trash pickup. Michael Harris with the Mason Task Force said he would like to include in the cleanup the Ordinance for junked cars.

The Farmers' Market

Will be bringing in fresh vegetables, and there will be some food vendors. The vendor fees are \$12.00 every two weeks, which would be \$24.00 monthly. The food vendors will be the same. The Farmers' Market will begin on May 10th, 2025. More information will be coming for the Mason Jubilee. Mrs. Harris questioned the electric poles for use, and mentioned putting up signs for awareness.



Mr. Greg Gruthoff

Requests a refund of \$260.43 for property taxes that were unpaid in Tipton County Chancery Court for tax year “2017” which were omitted by the city, due to turnover in the office staff. Ms. Lureatha Harris submitted an email to Mayor Noeman and the Board explaining the situation. Mr. Gruthoff’s brother-in-law purchased the property from Mr. Stanley Harwell. Mayor Noeman requested Mr. Gruthoff’s contact information and will follow up with him.

Barbara Mitchell

Questioned, when will Barnett Restoration finish the repairs to her home. The light fell, there were problems with the garage doors, and there is a gap in the door. Mayor Noeman said he will make some calls.

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Alethea Harris

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mayor Noeman made a motion to adjourn the Meeting, and all agreed Meeting adjourned around 8:57PM

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder