



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 23, 2025, 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Atty. Carson Klepzig; Lt. Z. Antle, MPD; Lt. Reuben Meyer, MFD; Hannah DeCesare, MFD; Elaine Allen, I/T; Benetra Harvey, I/T; and R. Lomax (Ricky Oakley attended via a conference call)

VISITORS: Linnie Agnew, Reuben Meyer Sr., Will Treadway, Queisha Hennings, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Laloma Harris, and Michael Harris

MAYOR NOEMAN'S: Report

-Fourteen streetlights are out, and Southwest has been contacted, some of the areas include the Subdivisions, Washington St., and Finde Naifeh Drive.

-Street paving/patching holes on Charleston Mason Rd., and Gainesville Lane until next month.

-Mayor Noeman said he has not heard anything yet regarding CCA. There will be a Grand-Opening at the Marathon Gas Station in July, however no date was given and all are invited.

-Speed bumps will be installed in two Subdivisions, due to the complaints about speeding.

-Permit Fees, Mayor Noeman will have a meeting with Alderman Alethea Harris, and Lureatha Harris, to get the numbers from different cities for fees, and increases as a proposal and compare permit fees, burn permits, etc. and present them to the Board.

Questions

Alderman Mason questioned Mayor Noeman if there was any correspondence from Core Civic. Mayor Noeman said when he receives something it will be submitted to the Board.

Alderman Rivers questioned street patching, stating that the Board voted to fix the streets.

Mayor Noeman said this would be done once the Audit and the Budget is passed. Alderman Rivers suggested fixing the streets that were voted for, or fix Charleston Mason Rd., and Gainesville Lane, and go back to the three bidders and request for those two streets. Patching has not worked, look at the bids to cover those streets.



Questions cont'd

Mayor Noeman said the Town have the money for the repairs. Alderman Rivers said there is a waste of money patching the streets and requested getting bids for the two streets.

Lureatha Harris informed the Board that no decision was made with the bids until the finances could be approved. Alderman Rivers requesting narrowing it down for the two streets via sealed bids and bring it back before the Board. Mayor Noeman requested Lureatha Harris to advertise for the two streets and advertise it in the newspaper. Ms. Elaine Allen will post the advertisement for the street bids on the Towns' website.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2025

Alderman Catron made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Givhan: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Questions

Alderman Mason questioned if fluoride was put back into the water, and Mayor Noeman replied that it would be coming back in a small percentage, and Carl would give the report. Alderman Mason mentioned the Health Department attending the meeting a couple of months ago.

Alderman Mason suggested that the department heads attend the meetings. Alderman Rivers suggested interviewing for a Code Enforcement Officer and not Chief Jewell but look into getting one.

Adoption of the Town of Mason Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Committee Meeting Workshop Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2025

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Town of Mason Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Committee Meeting Workshop Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Adoption of the Town of Mason Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Committee Meeting Workshop Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2025

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

OLD BUSINESS: THERE WAS NONE



NEW BUSINESS:

- **RICKY OAKLEY/CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.
CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

Alderman Rivers had questions throughout the contract. Attorney Klepzig mentioned indemnity provisions and will get legal counsel information regarding the contract. Alderman Mason made a motion to accept/approve the contract with amendments by the Towns' Attorney, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) Ricky Oakley will provide the contact information of his Attorney with CEC, for Attorney Klepzig.

- **APPLYING FOR A NEW CREDIT CARD WITH POINTS AND CASH BACK ON PURCHASES**

Mayor Noeman mentioned having a credit card since 2016 or 2017, with no cash back, or no points stating the card was useless, and requested to cancel the credit card because it was wasteful. Alderman Mason questioned if the credit card was in the safe, and Mayor Noeman replied no. Alderman Mason asked if the card was being signed in and out, and Mayor Noeman said sometimes it is and sometimes it's not. Alderman Rivers said the financial statements received shows what purchases are made. Mayor Noeman said the State came in three or four months ago and he presented everything that we have. Mayor Noeman said the credit card that we have is not benefiting the Town for anything. Alderman Mason mentioned not following the policies that we have with the credit card and Mayor Noeman keeping the card in his personal possession. Vice Mayor Givhan questioned who's authorized for use of the credit card, and Mayor Noeman said finance can provide any information regarding invoices.

Alderman Rivers said there's no need to purchase another card, to get the purchase policies and procedures followed and put in place. Mayor Noeman said the State requested invoices, and no one is using the credit card for personal use. Alderman Rivers said policies are not being followed and the card need to be signed in and out for whoever uses it. Alderman Rivers said Lureatha Harris is the one authorized to sign out the card and give the person permission to use it or someone else that she designates to sign it out. Alderman Rivers made a motion to not apply for a new credit card, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason.

Attorney Klepzig asked the Board to comply with the open meetings act, and refrain from cancelling the card. Alderman Rivers rescinded her motion, and Alderman Mason rescinded her motion also. Attorney Klepzig requested reading the motion as it was presented on the agenda for a first and a second, afterwards everyone could present their vote.

Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to apply for a new credit card with points and cash back on purchases and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman, Mayor Noeman asked if there were any questions and there were none: The vote did not pass, Alderman Rivers, Alderman Mason, Alderman Broadnax, Alderman Catron, and Vice Mayor Givhan voted no: vote 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was not included in the vote)



- **VOTE TO INCREASE THE CMFO SALARY BETWEEN \$25 TO \$30 PER HOUR**

Mayor Noeman said the Town paid \$1200 for classes for the CMFO, and she's making \$15 per hour. Mayor Noeman said he checked with the State and Ms. Evans and the average salary for a CMFO is \$25 to \$30 per hour. Mayor Noeman said the State requested to bring the finances in house, and Ms. Evans will be out by the end of this month. Mayor Noeman requested being fair with salary and positions. Vice Mayor Givhan said Vernetia is doing a wonderful job and questioned if this was a good time with a Budget that has not been approved. Mayor Noeman said Ms. Evans will be out by the end of June, and Vernetia will take over by July 1, 2025.

Mayor Noeman said Ms. Lynn will complete her job with the Audit with Chris, and stated that Ms. Lynn will work as a consultant for \$1,000 a month if the Town needs her. Vice Mayor Givhan questioned if the Board would be supplementing Vernetia salary for Ms. Evans salary.

Alderman Rivers said you cannot take money from one fund and use it for another, and this cannot be done until the Audit is approved, you cannot add or subtract until the Budget is approved. Mayor Noeman said the State wanted to bring the finance in house and the Budget could be amended afterwards. Attorney Klepzig reminded the Board about the open meetings act and to be as transparent as possible. Alderman Rivers would like to table this until the Budget and Audit is approved. Attorney Klepzig mentioned that the Board could reschedule this until the next Board meeting.

Alderman Mason made a motion to increase the CMFO salary between \$25 to \$30 per hour, and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman: Alderman Catron voted yes, Alderman Rivers, Alderman Mason, and Alderman Broadnax voted no: (Vice Mayor Givhan abstained, and there was no vote made by Mayor Noeman vote passed 4-1

- **RJ YOUNG SOLUTION PRICING OPTIONS 1 & 2 FOR OFFICE COPIERS (VOTING ITEM)**

Mayor Noeman mentioned a 5-year contract with RJ Young, and it's time to renew or not renew the contract. No contract was submitted by RJ Young, and it cost too much money to break the contract. Mayor Noeman said once the contract has been received it will be passed on to the City Attorney, and Mayor Noeman doesn't want to confirm until the contract is received for options of 3-5 years, or the Town can purchase their own. Alderman Mason questioned when do the contract expire, and Mayor Noeman responded that the contract expired last Friday.

Mayor Noeman said the company is giving the Town to the end of the month, and he's been speaking with Angela. Alderman Mason questioned who was keeping up with the contract H/R or the Office Manager, stating that she wasn't saying anything negative, but we need better record keeping. Alderman Rivers requested sending the contract to the Board once received.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to wait on the contract with RJ Young until it's reviewed by the City Attorney, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0

(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



REPORTS:

• FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Alderman Rivers made a motion to table the Finance Department Report until the next Board meeting since the report was just received today 6-23-25, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Givhan: vote to table passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

• FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Lt. Meyer reported that he's going straight to EMT Training, and introduced Hannah Decesare, as the new EMT and stated that she was doing a great job. Alderman Rivers informed Lt. Meyer that the new employee was supposed to come before the Board mentioning bringing folks in and putting them on payroll. Alderman Rivers said the Board set the salaries and vote for them. Mayor Noeman said he checked around for the salary of an EMT. Alderman Rivers explained to Ms. Decesare that this was not personal and that all salaries come before the Board. Mayor Noeman said Alderman Rivers and her group gave the former Fire Chief a blank check for repairs buying this and that. Chief Wideman will take his EMR Test. Lt. Meyer wants to better assist the citizens. Alderman Rivers asked Lt. Meyer that moving forward to bring the person before the Board, Lt. Meyer will check with Chief Wideman. Alderman Rivers mentioned that all positions are supposed to be posted, and Mayor Noeman replied that all positions were advertised, and there is a stack of applications.

Alderman Catron made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 4-1 (Alderman Broadnax abstained, and there was no vote made by Mayor Noeman).

• PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Alderman Mason suggests that the department heads really need to be in attendance. Mayor Noeman said there was a bad experience with the former Board and if anything is needed to ask him. Alderman Rivers questioned the handicap signs in the park and mentioned being sued due to not having the signs. Alderman Mason purchased the signs. Mayor Noeman suggests the Board bring money to the Town. Alderman Rivers spoke about grass growing around the fence in the park, and the grass needs to be cut that's growing up in the fence. Alderman Broadnax questioned cleaning the ditches, and Mayor Noeman said there was too much water, and the guys are working to clean the drains. Vice Mayor Givhan questioned water leaks on Keeling Rd., and Charleston Mason Rd. Mayor Noeman reported that on Hwy 59 they cannot find the leak and used a leak detector, but the guys are working on it.

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



- **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Lt. Antle presented the Police Department Report. Vice Mayor Givhan questioned Lt. Antle about how to alleviate the problem of leaning on Tipton County for support at night and over the weekends. The question was what else would we require because we have a lack of coverage. Officer Antle answers were state retirement, affordable insurance, and pay. It's hard to get applicants either they are restarting or retiring. The officers off days are staggered.

Vice Mayor Givhan said he appreciates the Police Department.

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

Mayor Noeman announced that there will be a Town Hall Meeting held on June 28, 2025

The time is 1pm and the location is Mason Public Works

Mayor Noeman said he would speak on Plans, Progress, and What's Coming Up!!

Alderman Mason request receiving HR Reports, and who's being hired.

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Margaret Adams- Questioned when would they be getting speed bumps

Mayor Noeman said they would be getting the speed bumps after the meters are read, and they will clean the drains and gutters. They will work on the speed bumps and the drains afterwards.

Laloma Harris -Mentioned being at an event in the park and the bench leaned, questioning handicap signs in the park. Mrs. Harris said the Town was sued for 10K, for not having handicap signs for someone that doesn't live here. Mayor Noeman said he would be working on it.

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mayor Noeman made a motion to adjourn the Meeting, and all agreed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder