



**Town of Mason  
Mayor & Board of Alderman  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 19, 2025, 6:33PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Eddie Noeman

**OPENING PRAYER:** Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Richard Jewell, MPD; Chief David Wideman, MFD; Lt. Reuben Meyer, MFD; Elaine Allen/IT; Benetra Harvey I/T; and Attorney Terry Clayton

**VISITORS:** Chris Patterson, Will Patterson, Carson Klepzig, Elizabeth Hayes, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Sylvester Harvey, David W. Michael Harris, and Laqueisha Hennings

**MAYOR NOEMAN'S:** Report

Mayor Noeman reported that the contract with Core Civic was on hold until we hear something from ICE. Alderman Mason requested a copy of the email as to why we were declined the contract. Mayor Noeman will get the information from Atty. Bicks and submit it to Lureatha Harris for submission. Mayor Noeman said fees have not been changed since 2018, and this was discussed at the Planning Commission Meeting. Once the updated fee numbers are received, they will be submitted to the Board at the next Board Meeting, some examples were permit fees, and burn permit fees to match the fees of other towns. Alderman Harris mentioned that the law states that fees must be posted on the website for the public to see, and Mayor Noeman agreed. The street repair bids were received but there will be no decision made until the finances are completed.

**Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2025**

Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2025, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

**Questions:**

Alderman Mason questioned if Lt. Meyer received his certification. Mayor Noeman said he should get all his certifications by the end or the middle of next month, and he's taking classes. There was also a concern for the Fire Department Report with the number of accidents/responses. Chief Wideman will submit the report.

Alderman Rivers questioned the status of the fluoride in the water. Mayor Noeman said Carl and Chris are working on it and an email would be sent to everyone to let them know.

**Questions cont'd:**

Alderman Rivers had concerns about the status of United Systems; Mayor Noeman said a representative from the company was supposed to come last week but never did. Mayor Noeman will send the information to Lureatha Harris once received.

Alderman Rivers questioned putting the meetings and videos on the website so the constituents would be able to see the meetings. Mayor Noeman said the video would be made available by the next Board Meeting. Alderman Harris mentioned the law passed on May 5<sup>th</sup> states that **all** meetings require an agenda and must be posted forty-eight hours on the website.

Alderman Mason questioned the March financial statements that were never received, Mayor Noeman said he didn't receive them either and Alderman Harris said they were finished.

**Adoption of the Town of Mason Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Committee Meeting Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2025**

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Town of Mason Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Committee Meeting Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2025, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

**Questions:**

Alderman Rivers questioned how much money was owed from one fund to another because it must be paid back in thirty-days. Alderman Rivers said they were told that they would receive this Information but have not seen anything. Mayor Noeman mentioned needing to get with Ms. Evans to finish everything by the end of this month. Alderman Rivers spoke about the amended 24 Budget to include Alliance which was never seen to put it in action. The numbers for FY25 need to be as close as possible, questioning getting the FY26 Budget numbers in a proper way.

Alderman Harris said she spoke with Ms. Evans regarding Alliance being in the Budget. Alliance was not here long enough and were not included in the 2024 Budget. Ms. Evans is working on the FY25 Amended Budget and will be able to see what was actually spent in 2024 and 2025 for 2026.

Alderman Harris said by looking at the figures in the columns, there will need to be a lot of cleanups. Alderman Mason questioned the financial reports from all departments Fire, Police and Public Works. Mayor Noeman suggested setting up a date for a Special Call Meeting on Tuesday, May, 27<sup>th</sup> and requested that Lureatha Harris get it together with the Board members. Alderman Harris said Ms. Evans will have the information available for the Meeting.

**Adoption of the Town of Mason Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Committee Meeting Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2025**

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Town of Mason Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Committee Meeting Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2025, with an **amendment** that Chief Jewell would be the Code Enforcement Officer, for issuing citations for property dwellings, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Harris: vote passed 4-2 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) and (Alderman Rivers & Alderman Broadnax voted no)



### **Questions:**

Alderman Rivers said the Charter states the Board can use Chief Jewell, but he cannot be paid for two positions. Vice Mayor Givhan was concerned about the duties and how they would be done. Mayor Noeman said he was trying to keep from spending money elsewhere. Examples would include warnings to clean up property, tall grass, and vehicles. Alderman Mason questioned interviewing a Code Enforcement Officer and not wanting someone in the position that would be bias. Mayor Noeman said he would be the first one to have his properties looked at.

Alderman Harris questioned Chief Jewell about the copies of the codes. Chief Jewell accepted the position as Code Enforcement Officer, and he has the copies of the codes.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIS PATTERSON/PATTERSONBRAY AS THE CITY ATTORNEY**

Alderman Harris and Chief Jewell mentioned positive feedback on Attorney Chris Patterson. Attorney Patterson would like to represent the Town to inform, answer questions, resolutions, and give the best way to address issues by giving advice and wanting everyone to feel comfortable. This would **exclude** litigation, litigation would be billed separately. Mayor Noeman mentioned that the Attorney would attend all meetings. The Board reviewed the engagement letter that was presented by Attorney Chris Patterson. They could begin serving as Town Attorney, attending the monthly Town meetings, reviewing contracts, and providing counsel and guidance for each department along with the Board on a flat fee basis. The monthly fee would be \$4,750. The fee would include all routine work arising out of the typical government function. This would **exclude** any litigation or large capital projects which would be billed separately and typically paid for out of the project itself. Services could be provided at an hourly rate of \$325/hr.

Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion for an hourly rate on a 90-day trial period at \$325/hourly rate because it's easier to do a good job when they are involved by being at the meetings. Mayor Noeman mentioned paying extra to get the right advice and paying for good quality service.

Alderman Harris mentioned that hourly is the way to go, and this is the municipal rate.

Alderman Mason suggests adding one contact Mayor Noeman and Vice Mayor Givhan.

Alderman Rivers mentioned going through the finances to see if the Town could afford them.

Attorney Patterson said he could submit the contract tomorrow 5-20-25, and Mayor Noeman would be the contact person. Attorney Patterson recommends making certain that it's not so restrictive, any city work/city business the Town will be billed. Can retain on an hourly basis, communication and the open meetings act goes from conversation to illegal. Vice Mayor Givhan said he would like to **rescind** his original motion. Chief Jewell mentioned Attorney Patterson being a great Attorney. Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to accept Attorney PattersonBray as City Attorney under a flat rate \$4,750 and not restricted to one contact under a 90-day trial period, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0

(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



## **REPORTS:**

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

### **UPDATE ON WATER & SEWER**

Mr. Oakley shared updates of the ARP projects submitted to TDEC- sewer system rehab. and water meter replacement. They are cellular type Ami meters; performed a leak detection study and loss water for about two weeks. In 2024, the leak detection was better, and it went from 60% to 40% water loss. Leaks were not the problem, it sounded as though water was going through the meters, and the revenue was not being collected for the water being sold and those are our cash registers.

Mayor Noeman said the meters will be installed by the Towns' personnel. Well evaluation #1 is not repairable, and \$300K was budgeted for repairs. An identical well would cost ½ of a million dollars. Monies were shifted around in the ARP funds for well design and making certain the water system has the money to construct the new well approved through Davina Gurschick and EY by August 30<sup>th</sup> for sewer rehab, we want the grant to pay for all three.

Alderman Harris questioned if this would increase the capacity of the water and not having the redundancy, needing all the water that can be supplied. Mr. Oakley said they would drill a twelve-inch pole to support, and two pumps would run at the same time. Replace the filter media because the operators don't have information coming to them. Alarms can be set in place knowing the status of the system, to be finished in July. Mayor Noeman questioned what about outside the Town, the plant can treat 500 gallons per minute. One well can produce 400 gallons in a minute, and another well can produce the same. They're designing a well to run 200 gallons per minute. This will make certain we have water to produce and improve the ability to oxidize water. Replace filter media, operators don't have the information to know what has failed, the tank levels, what pumps are running, and knowing the status of the system.

Alderman Mason questioned the warranty on the meters although our people will install them. Mr. Oakley said yes there would be a warranty. An example would be if there is a broken meter box it could be replaced, and this should be compatible with the software. Beginning new will pay for what is used. The infrastructure planning grant is \$305K-develop standards, developers cost, and the cost of study service. The \$175K is remote telemetry work, water booster station, construction installation of telemetry units. Alderman Rivers suggests Policy and Procedures need to be backed up with an Ordinance. Mr. Oakley will assist with logic and guidance.

Alderman Rivers had questions regarding the contract presented. Mayor Noeman will review the contract and present it to the Attorney to review it.

**The Block Grant**-Build Highway 59 Booster Station makes certain we are getting water from the Hill Street tank.



- **FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mayor Noeman informed the Board that they would need to make a decision by the end of this month regarding the Budget. Alderman Harris mentioned the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> to have all the financial documents. Lureatha Harris will resend the email to the Board members to present a quorum and advertisement for the meeting. Mr. Lewellen suggest submitting the information to Eric Spencer.

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief David Wideman presented the Fire Department Report and stated that both he and Lt. Meyer are attending ER Training. Alderman Rivers questioned how are they being trained by who and where. They're being trained by Brian Schumaker in Fayette County. Camron Reed and Zach Hayes introduced themselves as the two volunteer fire fighters. Alderman Mason questioned having enough money to pay the salaries. Chief Wideman said the guys are volunteers and he's getting grants for three employees. There is a new sign put up at the Fire Department, and a phone will be installed tomorrow 5-20-25. Mayor Noeman mentioned communication, and the website, any citizen can obtain information through the website for fundraisers etc. Lt. Meyer will speak with Ms. Elaine about the website.

Alderman Rivers questioned the stipends funds, stating that the State said the funds were here and they belong to the people that were here. Mayor Noeman said he would check with Vernetia, and Vice Mayor Givhan said he got the information from Vernetia and the money is here. Alderman Harris questioned listing any trucks for sale, needs lots of money to repair the aerial truck.

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mayor Noeman reported installing a culvert for the park on Highway 59 for the Church of Christ. Pastor Somerville needs a culvert installed to get in and out. Alderman Rivers had concerns about cutting grass on Finde Naifeh, the workers need to cut the grass beside the fence which is very tall on Gainesville Lane by the park. Alderman Harris questioned Mayor Noeman if they would be spraying for mosquitoes, and the answer was yes. Alderman Mason had concerns about emptying the trash container on Front Street from the cleanup, Mayor Noeman said he would contact the gentleman. Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to accept the Parks & Public Works Department Report, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Alderman Rivers questioned the HR Reports because Ms. Davis is a department head. Mayor Noeman will speak with Ms. Davis.



- **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Board members spoke about speeding, drag racing, and removing speed bumps in the Subdivision.

Mayor Noeman said he will put up more cameras and asked if you see something to say something. Chief Jewell mentioned that Walmart has a free program where they give out large amounts of candy to local Police Departments for the holidays.

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

**CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)**

Margaret Adams would like to have speed bumps set up.

Elizabeth Hayes questioned when would the Code Enforcement Officer start to work, Mayor Noeman said maybe tomorrow 5-20-25.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Alderman Rivers announced that Ford was having a Community/City Cookout on Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 1PM to 4PM at Fredonia Baptist Church

Alderman Mason announced a Blues Festival at Exit 56 Memorial Day Weekend, and there will be a booth set up for unclaimed money. There will be free admission, and Ms. Allen said she would post the information on the Towns' Website

A Blues Festival will be held at the Zodiac Park Memorial Day Weekend!

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Alderman Virginia Rivers

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Mayor Noeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0  
Meeting adjourned at 8:31PM

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Eddie Noeman, Mayor

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Date

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Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder