



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2024, 6:34PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron

ROLL CALL: Mayor Eddie Noeman, Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron, Alderman Celia Chastain, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Alethea Harris, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Alderman Shate' Toliver and Alderman Mary Mason were absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Davis, Office Manager; Elaine Allen, IT Consultant; Benitra Harvey, IT Consultant; Rick Jewell, Chief of Police; Michael Apperson, Alliance; Terry Clayton, Esq. City Attorney; and Ronda & Cortez Hughey

VISITORS: Sylvester Harvey, Brian Pieper, Ruby Kelly, Margaret Adams, Josephine Kimble, Martha Rogers, John Whitaker, Scott Whitaker, Zachary Brazelton, Wynde Ross, Kevin Ross, and Willie Lacey

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2024
Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Questions: Alderman Rivers questioned the purchasing of the littering signs for the Town Mayor Noeman mentioned a company in Memphis, and Alderman Rivers suggested shopping around for them. Alderman Rivers questioned the purchasing of the multi gas meters for Alliance and the Fire Department, Mayor Noeman said they were already purchased.

Adoption of the Beer Board Committee Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024
Alderman Harris suggests re-tabling this until a Certificate of Occupancy is received or the next Board Meeting and all agreed.

Questions: Alderman Rivers questioned if the Fire Department had issued a Certificate of Occupancy for DEM GROWN FOLKS, the business is located at 42 Front St. Ms. Lureatha Harris reported that no Certificate of Occupancy has been received. Alderman Rivers recommends postponing on the Business License, until a Certificate of Occupancy is received. Ms. Lureatha Harris called the customer but received no answer however, this will be followed up via an email by Ms. Lureatha Harris. A Certificate of Occupancy is a requirement of **All** businesses.

Adoption of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024
Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 3-2 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) (Alderman Rivers and Alderman Chastain voted no)



Questions: Alderman Rivers questioned the Tower Lease Agreement with Rural Connect. Ms. Nowell and Mr. Figenbaum said this would be for internet service and not a cell tower. After much discussion, Rural Connect would change the language in the contract and pay a monthly fee of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) for the rental of the two (2) cell towers, which would be two hundred dollars (\$200.00 dollars) per tower payable to the Town of Mason. This would include free internet service, that was requested by Mayor Noeman. Above is the information that was received from Rural Connect at the Finance Committee Meeting on May 16, 2024. Alderman Rivers made a motion to stay where we are and allow Rural Connect to pay the above stated fees to the Town of Mason, for internet service and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Adoption of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2024

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to adopt the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris however Alderman Harris immediately withdrew her vote, because this was the Meeting that she left early due to feeling ill; Mayor Noeman voted yes, and (Alderman Harris, Alderman Rivers, and Alderman Chastain voted no) vote failed 3-2 Alderman Rivers said she voted no because too many things were being double paid for, and due to the budget.

Questions: Alderman Rivers questioned Mayor Noeman about where the Town stands with Climer Paving, and Mayor Noeman replied that he will meet with the gentleman on tomorrow May 21, 2024, at 10:00am. Alderman Rivers said the Board agreed to accept Climer Paving with conditions and needed this information before May 24th. Alderman Rivers suggested that Ms. Lureatha Harris submit an email to the Board after Mayor Noeman meets with Mr. Climer. This would require a Special Call Meeting if not agreed upon.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS REGARDING FLUORIDE IN THE WATER**

Michael Apperson with Alliance informed the Board that the vote that was previously taken by the Board was not legal because the constituents were not notified, and this is a state requirement to get the mailers out. Examples given by Mr. Apperson to remove fluoride in the water included, The National Institute of Health, science changing, the dosage is changing, fluoride is an outdated chemical, and it reduces operator error. Brushing your teeth is a way of treatment. Alderman Harris said that fluoride affects seniors in a negative way. Alderman Harris made a motion to **not** add fluoride back in the water and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) Eight (8) constituents were included in the vote for **no** fluoride in the water and the vote was unanimous.



NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO: 05202024-1

- **A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SCOPE OF SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE CREATION AND ADOPTION OF A MASTER PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF MASON**

Alderman Chastain made a motion to accept Resolution No. 05202024-1, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

ORDINANCE NO: 06172024-01

- **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE MASON MUNICIPAL ZONNG ORDINANCE BY ADDING LANGUAGE TO CREATE A MIXED USE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (MUPD) OVERLAY DISTRICT**

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 06172024-01, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

This was the First Reading

- **TIPTON COUNTY E911
INERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR DISPATCHING SERVICES**

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept Tipton County E911 Interlocal Agreement for Dispatching Services, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

City Attorney: Terry Clayton, Esq. City Attorney

Attorney Clayton, reported on the Building Inspectors report that was presented to him by Lureatha Harris. Attorney Clayton informed the Board that anyone can obtain a Business License, however, the Certified State Engineer must be approved by the Code Inspector with the City. Mayor Noeman said he was told by the State, the Comptroller, and Ronnie Neill, that the person licensed by the State could provide a Certificate of Occupancy. Attorney Clayton informed Mayor Noeman that the engineers work must be approved by the Code Inspector.

Mayor Noeman said the “rules and regulations don’t make sense”. The Engineer is higher than the Code Inspector. Attorney Clayton asked Mayor Noeman “is someone else telling you how to run the city”? Attorney Clayton stated that the Inspector approves the work, and Mayor Noeman stated that the State gives approval for the electric. Mayor Noeman stated that someone is trying to stop the progress of the Town and need to follow the rules. Attorney Clayton said he was not going to rubber stamp anything and informed Mayor Noeman that you cannot put citizens at risk with unsafe businesses. Mayor Noeman said the Town has a bad reputation.



Conflict of Interest

Lureatha Harris mentioned a conflict of interest, stating that Mayor Noeman wanted to turn on the utilities at a business located at 578 Highway 70, and receive a Business License for the business.

Lureatha Harris said she reminded Mayor Noeman of the Building Inspectors report, and the business was not to be occupied until some major issues were addressed. Mayor Noeman said he has all the paperwork for the business, and Attorney Clayton said the gentleman must be approved through Code.

Mayor Noeman said some of the Inspectors pick and choose different businesses for opening, and stated that he has all the paperwork for the business, but the gentleman has not opened the business currently. Attorney Clayton stated that the Engineer does not run the Town. Mayor Noeman said the State of Tennessee is coming here because everything is backwards. Mayor Noeman asked Lureatha Harris to go to the office and give him the Certificate of Occupancies for Bozo's, Gus's, Dollar General, and all the businesses. Lureatha Harris stated "**Well**" the Town must be paying the Building Inspector for free service. Mayor Noeman repeated several times no more one man shows.

Alderman Chastain read to the Board the below statement....

On Wednesday May 8th, Mayor Noeman verbally attacked Ms. Lureatha Harris regarding a conversation about turning on utilities and issuing a Business License at one of his properties located at 578 Highway 70. The Mason Charter addresses this in Section 17-No member of the Board or Officers of the Town shall be interested either directly or indirectly in any contract or any work of any kind whatever under the control and direction under penalty of forfeiture of office. Alderman Chastain also mentioned this in the Mason Municipal Code Chapter located in Chapter 3, title 4, paragraph 306 – use of position.

Rules and Regulations

Alderman Rivers informed Mayor Noeman that rules and regulations are in place, and he must follow them. Alderman Rivers told Mayor Noeman that he verbally attacked Ms. Lureatha.

Ms. Lureatha said Mayor Noeman called a Meeting shortly after his request with Ms. April, Ms. Verneita, Ms. Norma and herself, to put Ms. Lureatha in her place and threatened her job.

Mayor Noeman spoke about disrespect and said if you don't like it quit. Mayor Noeman said when he ask any of us for anything that we need to do it because he takes full responsibility, and he's already spoke with the Comptrollers about it. Mayor Noeman said some people stopped the business of the Town.

Alderman Rivers spoke about the violations of Mayor Noeman and said what Attorney Clayton strictly stated. Mayor Noeman said if anyone tries to open a business they would be given "HELL".

Alderman Rivers said Mayor Noeman has **VIOLATED** the Charter and disrespected Ms. Lureatha.

Alderman Rivers said the Board needs to take a stand. Mayor Noeman said the Board and Ms. Lureatha were holding the Town back from progress. Alderman Rivers said it's time to let everyone know that the Board is not holding the Town back.

Leadership Examples

Mayor Noeman questioned the Board about what he was doing wrong. Alderman Chastain questioned leadership examples, and training. Alderman Rivers mentioned that Mayor Noeman don't allow the department heads to run their departments, and stated that Mayor Noeman won't approve headlights, batteries or nothing for the Fire Department. Alderman Harris mentioned the hesitation of Ms. Lureatha in generating a Business License for 578 Hwy 70. You can obtain a Business License but cannot run the business without a Certificate of Occupancy.



Mason Small Engines Located at 190 Highway 70 West

Zachery Brazelton reported that he received both his City and County License for his business, and received a sign permit. The business passed inspection. Mr. Brazelton stated that he followed all the rules. Mayor Noeman asked if he had running water and electricity.

Alderman Chastain informed Mayor Noeman that he violated the conflict-of-interest rules. Violations included the Charter and Mason Municipal Codes

Mayor Noeman recommends tabling the discussion until the next Board Meeting.

Economic & Community Development and Office Manager

Norma Davis, Office Manager

Ms. Davis reported on IVR Services for ROBO Calls, after much discussion a decision was made by the Board to continue the use of IVR Services for Robo Calls. Alderman Rivers made the motion to continue the use of IVR Service for ROBO calls, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Economic & Community Development and Office Manager Report, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

HR Department

Norma Davis, HR

Ms. Davis reported that she's in the process of getting ready for employee evaluations.

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the HR Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Finance and Administration Department

Ronda & Cortez Hughey Financial Consultants

Mrs. Hughey informed the Board that the Finance Report had already been voted on

Fire Department

Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief (absent)

Alderman Rivers presented a Volunteer Firefighter Stipend Pay Policy to the Board for review, and changes. Corrections will be made at the next Board Meeting, Alderman Rivers said she copied the Policy from an MTAS model inputting necessary changes. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Parks & Public Works Department

Alliance

Mr. Apperson stated that the chlorine gas alarm was not working, and it is a requirement by the State. The cost is thirty- five hundred dollars (\$3,500), and Mr. Apperson recommends tabling this for further discussion. Alliance operations report was presented to the Board for review.



Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Public Works Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Police Department

Chief Richard Jewell

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Mayor Noeman is requesting that all Board Members have (2 minutes to speak) and recognize one another by their titles

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Sylvester Harvey complained of a strong odor of sewer coming from his home located at 11591 Main St. Mr. Apperson said the odor could possibly be coming from an old system, but he will check it out.

Margaret Adams requested the cutting of grass and trees when coming out of the Beaver Creek Subdivision. Mayor Noeman informed Mrs. Adams that Mr. Taylor who work with the Parks Department, Is looking for a chainsaw to clean around the area and take care of a big hole in front of her property.

Alderman Rivers complained of high grass across from her home and stated that the wastewater plant needs to be mowed.

Mayor's Period:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to adjourn the Meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder

Carolyn Catron, Vice Mayor