



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 21, 2023, 6:35PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Davis, Office Manager/HR; Ronda and Cortez Hughey, Financial Consultants; Elaine Allen, IT Consultant; Rick Jewell, Chief of Police; Lt. Marvin Norfolk, MPD; Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief; and Rudolph Middlebrooks Interim Public Works Director

VISITORS: Christopher Heath Sartain, Robert Lomax, Reuben Meyer, Linnie Waddell, Rosalie Waddell, Linnie Agnew, Ruby Kelly, Margaret Adams, Helen Kimble, Glenn Maclin, Tiwanda Murphy, Tamera Dowell, Ronnie Neill, April Patton, Zach Lapuh, Britt, T., Steve S., Paul Broughton, Michelle Broughton, Marcus Williams, Willie K. Henderson, Tyrone Gayden Jr., Faye H., Tom Emerson Jr., Delandus Dowell, Barbara Jones, Alfred Jones, L.C. McBride, and William Norvell

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2023

Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2023, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 4-2 (Vice Mayor Catron and Alderman Rivers voted no) Mayor Noeman voted yes but was asked by Alderman Toliver and Alderman Rivers to refrain from voting because there was a conflict of interest regarding his property at 578 Highway 70, included in the minutes.

Adoption of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2023

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2023, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-2 (Alderman Harris, and Alderman Rivers voted no) Mayor Noeman was included in the vote as yes

OLD BUSINESS:

TENNESSEE BOARD OF UTILITY REGULATION (ORDER)

Read by Ms. Lureatha Harris, and attached to the minutes. Mayor Noeman said he had (2) proposals that he would present to the Board for terms and conditions, VMS, and Alliance. Mayor Noeman said He will have a Special Call Meeting once the information has been received.

Mark Walker will resign at the end of August 2023.



**AMI METERS – BOARD TO RECANT PREVIOUS VOTE
(Finance Committee Meeting Minutes April 13, 2023)**

AMI Meter Readers – A third quote was not received, and Mrs. Hughey went back to each contractor to bid for the meters for the water and sewer. The two bids were Consolidated Pipe and Supply, and G & C Supply Co., Inc., which are attached with the minutes. Mayor Noeman, is looking for a report conducted by David Money, with TDEC. The recommendation was made to go with G & C Supply Company, and make certain that the software and meters will integrate.

Alderman Chastain made a motion to have Mrs. Hughey investigate the software to integrate, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 4-0

Alderman Chastain spoke about the Zener Meter with multi jet heads, opposed to Consolidated. Mayor Noeman spoke about saving money with Consolidated, with a good system and a cheaper price. Alderman Toliver mentioned comparable pricing, and for the Town to set the standards. Alderman Toliver made a motion to continue with G&C Supply proposal, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 5 -1 (Alderman Harris voted no)

NEW BUSINESS:

- **FY24 BUDGET 2ND READING**

Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the 2nd reading of the FY24 Budget, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Toliver: vote passed 6-0

- **APPLICANT FOR TOWN PLANNER**

Alderman Rivers requested to see a contract for payment on Mr. Brett Morgan which was not available. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to table the application on Mr. Morgan until a contract was received, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Toliver: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman voted)

- **VICKY WHITLEY'S CONTRACT**

Since this was a contract signed by Mayor Noeman and Ms. Whitley prior to the Boards approval, a motion was made by Alderman Toliver to discontinue the contract, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Harris voted no)

Mrs. Hughey suggested that the Board adhere to 2 months of the contract for work performed for June and July, \$1,600 for water and 1,600 for gas for a total of \$3,200. No vote was taken for the repayment only on the contract.

City Attorney: Terry Clayton, Esq. City Attorney

Mayor Noeman reported that Attorney Clayton was in a trial in Nashville and will respond to the court date on August 28th 2023.

Economic & Community Development and Office Manager

Norma Davis, Office Manager

Mayor Noeman read the numbers to the Board that the TOM would receive from the State for asset management and aging infrastructure improvements. The attachment is included in the minutes.



Ms. Davis reported on a Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program – In addition to the safety, community, and livability benefits that a new US 70 and Main Street intersection will bring to Mason, it also brings a larger economic benefit to the Town and region. Both US 70 and SR 59 provide access to Blue Oval City less than 5 miles away. This new facility will be economically transformative for the region, bringing more than 5,000 direct jobs, 20,000 indirect and induced jobs and more than \$5 billion in investment.

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the Economic & Community Development Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-1 (Mayor Noeman voted yes, and Alderman Toliver voted no)

HR Department

Norma Davis, HR

No report

Mrs. Hughey suggested an HR Networking Position

Finance and Administration Department

Ronda & Cortez Hughey Financial Consultants

Sealed Bids will come before the Board for requests for Sanitation Services once dates and processes are put in place for advertisement. The RFP (Request for Proposal) will be posted on the Towns' Website.

The Board requested to move the Public Works Directors pay from \$28.00 per hour to \$27.00 per hour and change the Public Works Lead/ pay from \$22.00 dollars per hour to \$23.00 per hour since there is no lead currently. The State requires certifications of the Public Works employees. Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the salary change and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Toliver: vote passed 6-0

June Financial Statements – Alderman Toliver made a motion to accept the June Financial Statements, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

July Financial Statements – Alderman Chastain made a motion to accept the July Financial Statements, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Mayor Eddie Noeman – Meeting with Mayor Huffman regarding the Water Plant

Attachment included in the minutes under the Economic & Community Development Report

Check received from CSX – Settlement and Release of Claims for Physical Property included in the minutes.

Gas prices – Mayor Noeman announced that these gas prices were locked in for the winter months with Symmetry Energy (Sept 23- 6,990) (Oct 23- 7,223) and (Nov 23- 6,990)

Fire Department

Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

The Town of Mason is in need of revising its currently adopted building and fire codes to remain compliant with minimum standards established by the State of Tennessee. The current codes are the International Building Code (IBC) and International Fire Code (IFC) 2015 edition and must remain within two adopted editions by the State of Tennessee. It is encouraged by the department to adopt the 2021 edition of both the IFC and IBC. This will be presented through the Planning Commission.



Alderman Toliver made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Information Technology/IT (Cyber Security Plan)

Elaine Allen

The three goals are the foundation of the Three-Year Cyber Strategic Plan for February 2024:

Goal 1: Build an architecture to protect city government information and protect from internal and external cyber-attacks.

The Plan will strengthen our organization by investing in innovative architectural improvements and preparing the organization for smooth integration and application. Ms. Elaine will check with the State. Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Cyber Security Plan and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Toliver voted no)

Parks & Public Works Department

Rudolph Middlebrooks, Interim Director (No report)

Letter from Water Well Solutions – Included in the minutes

Mayor Noeman mentioned repairs needed to the engine of the ditch witch costing \$16,000, and 3 bids will be required from other dealers per the Boards request.

Police Department

Chief Richard Jewell

Chief Jewell introduced Ms. Cochran as a newly hired Certified Police Officer

Chief Jewell reported that the department would receive a \$200,000 retention grant for 5 years at \$40,000 yearly for both current officers and new hires. Alderman Toliver made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote). Lt. Norfolk mentioned having 7 vehicles to patrol from that were donated to the department, and as maintenance and service is needed requesting a place to take them that's approved by the Board. Alderman Rivers recommended taking the vehicles to a company that is licensed and bonded. Mrs. Hughey suggested the preapproved vendor list for service repairs.

Mayor's Period:

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Glenn Maclin – Complained of no water and no pressure, stating this is about the 7th or 8th time the water has gone out. Mr. Maclin said he called Senator Paul Rose regarding health constraints and stated that he found out about the boil water alert 2 days later. Mr. Maclin said he's going to reactivate his well.

Tamera Dowell – Complained of ongoing water issues, and concerns for her mother with chronic illness Mayor Noeman questioned why now, speaking about the same problem, same system, and the same employees.

Chris Brent – Spoke about understanding policy procedures, and behavior. Mr. Brent stated that the Mayor is to execute and not dictate, and to quit pushing personal agendas and to do what's right and listen.

Alderman Toliver – Mentioned the water pressure concerns; permits and other things are put in place first, and the Board is to execute them. The Town has received a grant to update the infrastructure.

Paul Broughton – Would like to see everyone work as a team and stop bickering.



Alderman Rivers - Questioned the suspension of an employee with nothing to justify.

Mayor Noeman - Stated per MTAS this needs to be discussed with the Board Member Only.

Alderman Rivers – Stated that the truck for Public Works was not a city vehicle, and needs to be returned to Public Works.

William Norvell – Had concerns about a bottle of colored water that came from his outside hydrogen setting off filtration. Mr. Norvell said this is the 2nd or 3rd time receiving green water. Mayor Noeman will get with Mr. Middlebrooks to check into the situation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Alderman Chastain announced having a Christmas Parade this year. There will be flyers and applications but no animals.

Alderman Rivers announced a Town Hall Meeting concerning Blue Oval and Ford on Saturday August, 26th 2023, at Cedar Grove Baptist Church at 11am, for questions and concerns.

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Toliver made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm)

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder