



**Town of Mason  
Mayor & Board of Alderman  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 19, 2024, 6:30PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Eddie Noeman

**OPENING PRAYER:** Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Eddie Noeman, Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Shate' Toliver, Alderman Celia Chastain, Alderman Alethea Harris, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Alderman Mary Mason arrived at 6:34pm)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Norma Davis, Office Manager; Benitra Harvey, IT Consultant; Rick Jewell, Chief of Police; Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief; Ricky Oakley, Engineer with Civil & Environmental Consultants; Lynn Evans, CMFO; and Christopher Hearn, Banks Finley and White

**VISITORS:** Crystal Manners, Shelley Hayes, Chelsey Lomax, Tina Boam, Yolanda A., Patricia Powers, Sylvester Harvey, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kely, John T., Francis Gooden, Elizabeth Hayes, S. Conner, Laloma Harris, Michael Harris, Lauren Welland, and Barbara Mitchell

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2024

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of July, 15, 2024, but the motion was never seconded. No vote was taken

Alderman Rivers questioned Mayor Noeman about quotes that were received for repairs of the wire fixtures in the park. Mayor Noeman said the electrician is a local guy from Mason and will charge the Town \$50 because he is trying to help the Town. Alderman Toliver questioned if the gentleman was licensed and bonded but never received a definite answer. Mayor Noeman said maybe they meaning the Board could put the repair up for bid.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **TINA BOAM WITH THE TN DEPT. OF HEALTH, MS PUBLIC HEALTH COUNTY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Boam presented handouts to Mayor Noeman and the Board of Alderman including reading the literature in the presentation. Eighty eight percent of the state is on fluoridated water. Mayor Noeman said he's looking for the best interest of the citizens. TN Code Annotated



requires that the state be notified regarding the removal of fluoride from the water.

Mayor Noeman suggests having a Public Hearing/Meeting for awareness. Alderman Toliver made a motion to keep the fluoride in the water and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason, vote passed 4-2 (Vice Mayor Catron abstained, and Alderman Harris voted no)

Five of the constituents raised their hands to keep the fluoride in the water. Mayor Noeman recommends notifying TDEC and the Department of Health. Alderman Rivers asked if an email can be submitted to the constituents, and Mayor Noeman request that Lureatha Harris follow up with Mr. Romo regarding the conversation. Alderman Toliver recommends putting the fluoride back into the water until we have a Public Meeting, and Mayor Noeman suggests leaving everything as is until we have a Public Meeting. Alderman Rivers suggests having a Public Meeting and bringing the state to that meeting to speak with the citizens. The TN Dept. of Health recommends notifying TDEC, a public bill, and make the constituents aware. Alderman Mason mentioned that Alliance kept stating that we were medicating people against their will. Alderman Rivers request that an email be submitted to Alliance regarding this. Lureatha Harris will follow-up with Alliance.

- **PRESENTATION OF THE FY2023 AUDIT REPORT – CHRIS HEARN, CPA, BANKS, FINLEY, WHITE & CO., V. LYNN EVANS, CPA, CMFO**

Chris Hearn reviewed the FY23 Audit Report with the Board as a high assignment level. Reviewed findings, corrections and reasons. The independent audit report ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Basis for opinions were provided under government auditing standards. Reviewed management discussion and analysis, supplementary information, and gave an unmodified opinion. There were no new findings. Reviewed the prior year of what was corrected and what was not corrected. The fund balance is the difference in assets and liabilities. Material journal entries were a repeat finding, several journal entries were corrected. Closing accounting records was a repeat finding. Internal controls were corrected, debt covenant remains uncorrected. Employees working other jobs were corrected and are no longer employed with the Town. FDIC insured \$250K amounts in bank corrected in local government.

Ms. Lynn Evans “Thanked” the primary auditors, Chris Hearn and Bianca Cooper with Banks, Finley, White & Co., including Ronda Hughey and her firm, Vernetia Boyd, Norma Davis, and Lureatha Harris. This was an expression of appreciation for working through the audit, performing engagement on the behalf of the Town of Mason though the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Lynn wanted to bring the findings to a zero-perspective standpoint.



The findings for the end of FY21 were seventeen (17), of which nine (9) were material weakness, six (6) were significant deficiencies, and two (2) were matters of non-compliance. FY22 there were eleven (11) findings of which two (2) were material weakness, and eight (8) were significant deficiencies and issues of non-compliance and one (1) compliance matter/debt covenance. This year there are zero (0) material weaknesses, and the goal for 2024 is to show zero (0) findings; Need to submit the management corrective action plan. The 2023 Audit was not done in the six (6) month period. Ms. Lynn informed the Board that a vote would be required to accept the report and the engagement letter. Alderman Rivers suggests putting the proper people in place to provide information for Ms. Lynn and Mr. Hearn.

- **ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY2023 AUDIT REPORT – (VOTING ITEM)**

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the FY2023 Audit Report, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **APPROVAL OF BANKS, FINLEY, WHITE & CO., AS TOWN AUDITORS FOR FY2024 AUDIT (VOTING ITEM)**

Alderman Toliver made a motion to approve Banks, Finley, White & Co., as the Town Auditors for FY 2024 Audit and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **RESOLUTION FOR \$321,000 FOR A PLANNING & DESIGN STATE REVOLVING LOAN INCREASING WATER RATES AT 25%**

Alderman Toliver made a motion to accept the Resolution for \$321,000 for a Planning & Design State Revolving Loan Increasing Water Rates at 25%, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Harris: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 1.225 MILLION DOLLAR DRA GRANT FOR WTP IMPROVEMENT**

Alderman Rivers questioned the signed contract for the 1.225-million-dollar DRA Grant and Mayor Noeman said he signed it but had misplaced it. Mr. Oakley said the Resolution makes it official and this would be contingent upon the Board reviewing the original signed contract. Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Resolution accepting the 1.225-million-dollar DRA Grant for WTP Improvement contingent upon the Board reviewing the original signed contract and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason.

After reviewing the Resolution that Mayor Noeman would be designated and appointed to



perform on behalf of the Town, Alderman Mason said she wanted to rescind her vote. Lureatha Harris asked that the motion be reread, and Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Resolution accepting the 1.225-million-dollar DRA Grant for WTP Improvement contingent upon the Board reviewing the original signed contract, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 4-3 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) (Alderman Rivers, Alderman Toliver, and Alderman Mason voted no)

- **ENGINEERING TASK ORDER TO DESIGN THE CHARLESTON MASON LIFT STATION**

Mr. Oakley made a correction that this would be an Engineering Task Order and not a Task Force Order to Design the Charleston Mason Lift Station. Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Engineering Task Order to Design the Charleston Mason Lift Station, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) This would be a 20K cost paying for a pump station, and Mr. Oakley said paperwork was originally submitted in May.

- **ENGINEERING AMENDMENT ARPA TO BEGIN THE SEWER SYSTEM**

Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the Engineering Amendment ARPA to Begin the Sewer System, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Toliver: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) Mr. Oakley said the monies don't change.

### **Fire Department**

Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

Chief Jenkins has not received the signed copy of the contract for repairs at the Fire Station. Alderman Rivers questioned repairs to the air conditioner, and Chief Jenkins said he had adjusted schedules and will work on getting quotes for the repair. Chief Jenkins mentioned the grant received was from the accumulation of time that Chief Jenkins has worked for the department and being competitive. The Board would need to vote to accept the award grant of one hundred twenty-four thousand-eight hundred dollars (124,800.00) and there is a five percent (5%) match on funds that will be the Town of Mason's responsibility totaling six thousand two-hundred and forty dollars (\$6,240.00). Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the award grant, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

### **Parks & Public Works Department**

Alliance

Alderman Rivers had concerns about Public Works reading the meters, Mayor Noeman said he would check with April Adams. Mayor Noeman said he was not happy with Alliance service. Mayor Noeman is looking for a legal way to break the contract with Alliance. Alderman Rivers mentioned not having a finance report in three (3) months, nor a budget, and not knowing where the Town is financially. Mayor Noeman said he couldn't report until after the court date.



Alderman Rivers said we need a finance team. Mayor Noeman said he's working with the State, Ms. Evans, and Ricky Oakley. Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the Parks & Public Works Department Report, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Harris: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

### **Police Department**

Chief Richard Jewell

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

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

#### **MICHAEL HARRIS- MASON TASK FORCE**

Michael Harris with the Mason Task Force would like to partner with the Town of Mason to present a Jubilee. This would be designed to bring families back to the city. The Jubilee was a great success last year, and Ford/Blue Oval is pushing for more activities in Mason and encourages involvement from local people. The Mason Jubilee is scheduled for October 26, 2024, from 11am to 4pm. Mr. Harris want to get the Town involved, and bring excitement while building morale. The Mason Jubilee makes very little from profits, and Mr. Harris is requesting physical and financial assistance. Mayor Noeman assisted last year with porta-potties, trash pick-up, and security. Mayor Noeman said he gave two hundred dollars (\$200) last year and the Town will support the Jubilee. Flyers will be posted for the Jubilee, and the booths are thirty-five dollars (\$35).

#### **Mayor's Period:**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Alderman Harris read the announcement for the Unity in The Community Festival

#### **UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

COLLABORATORS: KEYS TO LIFE CDC, FORD BLUE OVAL CITY, BLUE OVAL SK, AND GEL PARTNERS CONSULTING

WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, FROM 10AM TO 2PM

WHERE: DOWNTOWN MASON

Mayor Noeman announced a Drive-In-Movie coming to Mason in about a month

Margaret Adams complained of potholes getting worse in Beaver Creek. Mayor Noeman said he's working on it. Mrs. Adams mentioned racing in Richland Hills.

Barbara Mitchell complained that her drain needs to be cleaned out, and high grass and weeds.



Elizabeth Hayes was concerned about a fire hydrogen with an out of order sign on it in front of her property. Chief Jenkins said there is a problem with the valve, and the issue is on the city side, and they are aware. Mayor Noeman mentioned that a gentleman will be here for three (3) days regarding the issue.

Norma Davis read the Robo Call that was going out to the constituents. Rye Engineering, a water leak detection specialist, will be conducting a water leak survey from Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, through Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Alderman Virginia Rivers

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Alderman Toliver made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

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Eddie Noeman, Mayor

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Date

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Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder