



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 15, 2024, 6:44PM**

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 Mary Mason, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Alderman Shate' Toliver, Alderman Celia Chastain, and Alderman Alethea Harris were absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Davis, Office Manager; Benitra Harvey, IT Consultant; Rick Jewell, Chief of Police; Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief; and Ricky Oakley, Engineer with Civil & Environmental Consultants

VISITORS: Mickey Johnson, Harold (Poochie) Twisdale, Ruby Kelly, Margaret Adams, Michael Harris, William Norvell, and Billy Dunlap

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Ricky Oakley Report- Mason Charleston Road Substation**

Mr. Oakley presented information to the Board regarding the Description Modifications for Charleston Mason Road. The Charleston Mason Sewer Pump Station Replacement needs immediate pump Replacement. Design and construction are proposed to be deleted from the ARP Funded Project. It is recommended that the city pay for the design and construction of pump and electrical service replacement and upsizing approximately 400ft. of 2-inch force main with 4- inch force main. The anticipated savings are \$300K. The pumping station equipment may cost \$75K (Goods & Services Agreement). It will be the Town's responsibility to secure the services of a contractor to install the new equipment and the 4-inch force main. The engineering fee is not part of the pumping station equipment budget.

- **Ricky Oakley Report- Grants for the TOM**

The sewer system evaluation work was originally funded for \$103K. CEC received a proposal from a qualified and preferred sub-contractor for the work. The Sewer System Evaluation cost is \$135K or \$32K higher than originally budgeted. The revised scope recommends using \$268K (\$18K for engineering and \$250K for construction of rehabilitation of major defects identified in the Sewer System Evaluation.



The ARP Grant is \$1.9 million, these funds must be spent by September of 2026. The sewer plant operator was asked by Mr. Oakley to present the influent flow with years' worth of information, but Mr. Oakley ended up with 8 months of information instead. The graph shows 100K daily at 91% of permit rating to discharge. Mr. Oakley said it would be irresponsible of him to say that we can approve new development.

No Finance Meeting

Alderman Rivers spoke about not having a Finance Meeting in 2 months, and monies being spent not knowing where the Town stands financially. Mr. Oakley suggests following the city rules, and for everyone to be comfortable. No decision was made by the Board due to the uncertainty of the finances. Mayor Noeman said the State and Ms. Evans know what the Town has, and there will be a Finance Meeting on August 15th 2024, after court.

- **Street Report- Climer Paving Company**

Mayor Noeman signed the contract with Climer Paving Company for the street repairs, and the proposal served as the signed contract. Front Street was not included in the signed contract, and the Board informed Mayor Noeman that they voted for Front Street to be included in the contract for repairs. The conversation surrounded whatever CSX tore up on Front Street, it needs to be included in the contract for repairs. Mayor Noeman was requested by the Board to speak with Mr. Climer about the streets that the Board approved for repairs. Alderman Rivers wants the streets fixed and not patched, and stated that Mayor Noeman signed something that the Board did not vote for. Lureatha Harris will submit a copy of the minutes that includes the streets that the Board voted for, including the bid packet. Alderman Rivers request that Mayor Noeman **hold** on this before doing anything, and wait for the Boards' approval. Mayor Noeman said he would speak with Mr. Climer and get with the Board before doing anything. Mayor Noeman previously reported that Climer Paving, was going to begin street repairs on July 22, 2024.

- **Town Lease Agreement – Rural Connect LLC**

The Tower Lease Agreement with Rural Connect LLC was approved with the date of July 15, 2024. Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the Tower Lease Agreement with Rural Connect LLC., and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 4-0

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Department

Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

The I Am Responding annual subscription of \$810.00 dollars, for the software was signed on July 15, 2024. Chief Jenkins would like to add ARG Construction, as a vendor.



The Rescue Squad Grants received were \$18,996.00 dollars and this would allow ARG Construction to be added as a vendor to the city for equipment and stay locked into what was awarded. ARG Construction was approved several times by the Board for repairs of the wall at the Fire Department, but the contract was never signed by Mayor Noeman. Mayor Noeman said he would sign the contract tomorrow because he's working closely with Ms. Evans. Alderman Rivers requested that an email be submitted when this is taken care of. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 4-0

Parks & Public Works Department

Alliance

Mayor Noeman reported that wires were hanging from the panel/light fixtures in the park and needs approval from the Board to get an electrician out for repairs. Alderman Rivers request a quote from Mayor Noeman for the repair. Mayor Noeman said he would get a quote for the repairs. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the Parks & Public Works Department Report, but no one 2nd the motion and there was no vote. Alderman Rivers said nothing could be justified regarding the budget with the Operating Report that was presented by Alliance.

Hughey's Contract

Alderman Rivers said Mayor Noeman went against the Board to **not** renew the Hughey's contract, and (5) Alderman voted for it. Mayor Noeman said he cannot discuss anything from finance until after court, stating that MTAS, Ronnie Neill, and his Legal Team knows about it.

Police Department

Chief Richard Jewell

Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 4-0

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Mr. Harold (Poochie) Twisdale complained of no water pressure on Pickens Store Rd., and the problem has been ongoing for almost 6 months. Mr. Twisdale reported not being able to get the soap out of clothing being washed and removing the soap from his hair upon bathing. Mayor Noeman said they don't know what the problem is. Mayor Noeman said he was going to contact David Gray, the Director of the Covington Public Works Department, and should have an answer by Friday.

Mr. Twisdale said two guys were looking in the wrong ditch when he was showing them where the problem was.

Mr. Mickey Johnson mentioned low water pressure with only 20lbs. of pressure.

Mr. Billy Dunlap suggested that a water engineer is needed and stated that nothing is getting done. The pumps are not full at the end of Pickens Store Rd. and Salem Rd., and Mr. Dunlap stated that the Town is not in accordance with what needs to be done.

Michael Harris mentioned the meeting being disappointing, and serving on the Mason Task Force, as president. Mr. Harris said finances must be discussed in a meeting for an operating budget and the Board makes the decisions. Mayor Noeman said he's in touch with Ms. Lynn and the State about the finances.



Alderman Rivers said the TOM is paying Alliance too much money for not receiving proper service, and paying 33K to Alliance to figure out the problem. Alderman Rivers reported that a gentleman's wife called about not getting water and stated that the employee with Alliance said if the problem was not at the road it's not his business. Alderman Rivers mentioned that it was Mr. Romo with Alliance but quickly corrected the name, by stating it was Mr. Michael Apperson with Alliance.

Mayor's Period:

Mayor Noeman was included in the votes during this meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS: THERE WILL BE A TOWN HALL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

TIME: 1:00PM

LOCATION: INSIDE THE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING, LOCATED AT 6391 FINDE NAIFEH DR. MASON, TN

DISCUSSION: TDOT REPORT WITH KIMLEY-HORN

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Mason made a motion to adjourn the meeting and all agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM (Vice Mayor Catron left the meeting around 8:27PM)

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder