



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025, 6:34PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Alderman Carolyn Catron

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Atty. Carson Klepzig; Lt. Reuben Meyer, MFD; Richard Jewell, Chief of MPD; Lt. Zachary Antle, MPD; and Matallee Hall, Public Works Director

VISITORS: Tim Joyce, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Laloma Harris, Michael Harris, and Queisha Hennings

MAYOR NOEMAN'S: Report

Mayor Noeman informed the Board that the Comptrollers postponed the meeting until the next Board Meeting.

Mayor Noeman said he had (2) things to report. The citizens are happy with the street pavement. Tipton County officials, Jeff Huffman and David, with Public Works called to inquire about assistance with help cleaning the ditches to assist the Town. They cleaned around Finde Naifeh.

TCRS (Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System) presented by Tim Joyce

Mr. Joyce informed the Board that the Comptrollers gave approval for considering and adopting the retirement plan through TCRS. The Towns of Arlington, Brighton, Covington, Munford, and Stanton already have this plan in place for their employees, about ¾ of all municipalities have it.

This would be for all full-time employees, and the benefits would include hiring, recruiting, and retaining employees. Benefits for becoming eligible would be turning 65 years old or by providing 30 years of service to draw benefits, it's like social security in terms of eligibility. This would be a fixed amount of monies to receive for the rest of your life with built in cola increases. State employees and teachers have it. Mr. Joyce mentioned knowing the cost and how the program works, the most affordable plan for the city would be plan 3. This would be pre-taxed monies and the cost for the employees to pay cannot be more than 5 percent. The Town would pay 2.3 percent for the employees that would be participating, and this would begin in January 2026. The employees have options, and no one is forced to join. If anyone chooses now, once you're in you're in and cannot say no 6 months later. This would be 2.3% of the payroll of the employees participating. This would require budgeting for, and it takes 5 years to get vested.



An incentive would be that an employee who's already in the plan could pick up where they left off. The employee would pay their portion, and the Town would pay their portion.

The Budget would have to be amended after January. Mr. Joyce said he have the Resolution to adopt and can get it to the State Treasury Board next month; however, it will require the adoption of the Resolution. Alderman Rivers request that the Resolution reflect the most affordable plan. Attorney Klepzig advised approving the Resolution as amended to include the most affordable plan, plan 3. Mr. Joyce stated that if an employee leaves, they can refund the money plus interest, but this would forgo any benefits. This could go to the Treasury next month, and an employee can join 6 months later. Funds can be transferred to another job, and the plan requires the city to have a 401K. This will not be voted on tonight, and it's voluntarily for the employees. The 401K plan is for the Alderman and part-time employees that want to participate, and this don't have to be included in the Budget. Mr. Joyce said he would come back later to explain further. Mayor Noeman said the Board would vote on this tonight because he's trying to get good, qualified employees and help the Town, because we're doing the right thing financially.

Questions

Alderman Harris questioned the total amount/invoice of the street pavement work, and the amount was \$131,500. Alderman Rivers mentioned an area on Gainesville Road next to the Subdivision, that was filled in but not black topped. Mayor Noeman said he would contact Climer Paving to have them come out and look at the area and mark it down. Alderman Mason mentioned no passing with double yellow lines on Charleston Mason Rd. Mayor Noeman recommends possibly placing signs to slow down. Alderman Harris mentioned a hole on Transou Ln. and Mayor Noeman said he was working to have FEMA make the repairs.

Alderman Rivers questioned the 20K Grant through Tennessee Highway Safety, and Lt. Antle said the 15K would be for overtime and the 5K would be for equipment for the department. Time sheets will be submitted, and the Town fronts the cost, and the State will reimburse. Alderman Rivers questioned Lt. Antle about step pay and Lt. replied that it's based on experience. Alderman Rivers had concerns about people on probation, and Lt. Antle stated that non-certified personnel would make less and recommends looking for certified Police Officers. No pay has been set for non-certified Officers. Chief Jewell commented that lesser pay would be for non-certified personnel.

Fire Department Concerns

Alderman Mason had concerns of people being qualified on call 24/7 and available on weekends. Lt. Meyer said he's on call on weekends. Alderman Mason reported a medical emergency call late Saturday night between 1:30am and 2:30am. She stated that Officer Foster came, and stated that she was lying on the floor, having chest pains, and stopped breathing. Alderman Mason said she laid on the floor for about 30 minutes before Covington came. Alderman Mason stated that Mason Fire Department did not respond and she called twice. Mayor Noeman said he experienced problems with his blood sugar spiking up and they were there in less than 7 minutes. The ambulance came, Mayor Noeman said he called 911. Mayor Noeman questioned Lt. Meyer about the scanners and radios.



Lt. Meyer said there are times when they just don't get the call.

Radios and scanners are at the station on the charger. Mayor Noeman said we need the tools because every second counts and asked Lt. Meyer to let him know what he needs. Lt. Meyer mentioned needing more manpower and volunteers. Alderman Harris questioned the volunteers, Lt. Meyer said they live outside the city limits. Medical training is needed and they have fire training.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2025

Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2025, and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman: vote passed 6-0

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution to close a CD in the amount of \$19,491.97 and transfer the funds to the General Account. The CD matures on October 18, 2025**

Mayor Noeman said we have 8 CD's and recommends using the money for something else.

Alderman Harris said the CD from the Gas Fund account would need to go back to the Gas Fund account because it cannot go to the General Fund account. Alderman Harris said the interest from the account shows that it went into the Gas Funds and stated that she didn't want to get into any trouble. Attorney Klepzig said his office could check into it. Alderman Rivers questioned the amount of monies that were in each CD in each account and requested the paperwork. Mayor Noeman said the total was around 380K to 390K. Attorney Klepzig spoke about the amended Resolution process. Alderman Harris questioned the information in transferring money in the State fund. Mayor Noeman said he would have additional information at the next Board Meeting of the Comptrollers to put the money in the Government fund.

Alderman Harris mentioned that the backhoe money will come from the water CD, Mayor Noeman said it would come from both the water and gas CD.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to amend the Resolution to include \$19,491.97 to go to the Gas Fund Account opposed to the General Fund Account, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Alderman Rivers made a motion to approve the Resolution as amended and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **Resolution to open an interest-bearing account for water infrastructure for water meter procurement and sewer system rehabilitation TDEC ARP Funding**

Mayor Noeman mentioned a meeting with Ricky Oakley and Davina and signing contracts with the contractors. Mr. Oakley said funds from the grant will be used to pay for the project.

Alderman Harris mentioned that the meters bid out for \$299K.

Mayor Noeman said the Town would receive 6 pallets of meters this month by the end of October. The Town will be providing the labor, and the Town will receive interest.



The project is to be finished by August of 2026. Mayor Noeman mentioned that ROBO calls will be going out to inform the citizens, and the Town is looking to install 10 meters per day. Mayor Noeman said United Systems will assist in showing us how to hook up the meters, and everything will be going through the office. Mayor Noeman mentioned a Town Hall Meeting to let the public know about the meters.

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept a Resolution to open an interest-bearing account for water infrastructure for water meter procurement and sewer system rehabilitation TDEC ARP Funding, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote).

Resolution to transfer 14K from the General Fund Account to the Street Fund Account

Alderman Rivers questioned the money received from CSX. Mayor Noeman said the amount received was 183K and the money was used to fix the streets, and 35K was used to fix the leak when the pipe was hit in the curve. Alderman Rivers mentioned not having finance budgets and knowing what's in the accounts. Mayor Noeman encouraged the Board to get together and come up with a date to discuss the finances with Ms. Lynn and Vernetia. Mayor Noeman said there is over 1.3 million in the account. Mayor Noeman said he was making sure that the money was in the account to cover the expense. Alderman Rivers had concerns about not having the information before them to decide, and Mayor Noeman said the money is there to transfer the funds. Mayor Noeman made a motion to accept a Resolution to transfer 14K from the General Fund Account to the Street Fund Account, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Catron: vote passed 4-2 (Alderman Rivers and Alderman Broadnax voted no)

- **Resolution of a sealed bid opening and award for backhoe equipment for Public Works**

Lureatha Harris announced that she only received one bid for a mini size excavator and a full-size backhoe. The bidder was Josh Oliver with Case Construction, Mr. Oliver explained to the Board that there are different uses for each, because there were multiple specs marked for the bids. Mr. Oliver said he provided four different numbers for the specs that were needed. Mayor Noeman said he spoke with Johnny Douglas and Mr. Hall about the specs needed and stated that he received another bid from another company, but it was after the deadline. Attorney Klepzig informed the Board that they could make a motion to table for review but it's up to the Board. Mr. Hall mentioned that the mini excavator could be transported, and it's on a track, and it makes getting around easier and it's more compact. The track hoe is bigger, and Mr. Hall said the city needs both. Alderman Rivers said the Board was only made aware of the backhoe. Mr. Oliver stated that they both have their own distinct functions. Attorney Klepzig said the Board could accept or rebid.



Mayor Noeman mentioned knowing exactly what the Town is buying because we have a lot of projects. The Town just spent 4K on a fuel filter. Alderman Mason questioned assistance from Covington, and Mr. Hall said Munford and Poplar Grove have been very kind. Attorney Klepzig said the reviewing deadline has already passed. Alderman Harris made a motion to table the discussion, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Catron: vote to table passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote to table)

- **Resolution of a pension plan for the Town of Mason through TCRS (Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System)**

Alderman Harris made a motion to amend the Resolution of a pension plan using Plan #3 as indicated through TCRS and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

- **First Reading of an Amendment to the FY26 Budget Ordinance, to accept the compensation of the CMFO salary, passed in the Board Meeting on August 18, 2025, and the compensation increase for the Police Department passed in the Board Meeting on September 22, 2025, including an adjustment in payment to Climer Paving LLC., which passed in the Board Meeting on September 22, 2025.**

Alderman Harris questioned when the pay raise would become effective after the 2nd reading. Lureatha Harris responded that the CMFO salary went into effect September 1, 2025. Mayor Noeman said the State mentioned that we have the BEST of the BEST in the CMFO. Alderman Harris questioned if the salary for the Police Department had gone into effect. Attorney Klepzig said this reflects what was passed, and this would be the first reading of the Amended Budget. Alderman Harris made a motion for the First Reading of an Amendment to the FY26 Budget Ordinance, to accept the compensation of the CMFO salary, passed in the Board Meeting on August 18, 2025, and the compensation increase for the Police Department passed in the Board Meeting on September 22, 2025, including an adjustment in payment to Climer Paving LLC., which passed in the Board Meeting on September 22, 2025, with a pay period start date of October 18th for the Police Department, and the CMFO salary began in September, the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

REPORTS:

- **Finance Department Report**

Mayor Noeman asked the Board to review the finance reports and go with Ms. Lynn for anything before July and go with Vernetia for anything after July. The Board will need to determine a date.



Mayor Noeman suggested using Ms. Evans if needed as a consultant. Alderman Harris had concerns of not paying Ms. Evans without a contract and questioned finishing of work from Ms. Ms. Evans.

- **Fire Department Report**

Reuben Meyer informed the Board that they are in the process of getting people medically trained and offered an apology to Alderman Mason. Alderman Mason was concerned about missing calls on a regular basis. Lt. Meyers spoke about getting more radios.

Alderman Harris questioned the volunteers for EMT's; Hannah is on call 7 days a week, Lt. Meyer said there are 2 additional EMT's and getting them scheduled has been difficult. Lt. Meyer is in the process of getting EMT training.

Tips for Halloween

Flashlights, sidewalks, stay alert, and avoid distractions. The hours for the event would be from 5:30pm-9:30pm

- **Parks & Public Works Department Report**

Alderman Mason questioned the handicap parking signs in the curve and wheelchair emblems. Mr. Hall said he would check with Carl Stevenson. Alderman Harris was concerned about the amount of water leaks fixed; Mayor Noeman said the backhoe quit in the middle of the repair.

Alderman Rivers questioned digging out the ditches on Gainesville Lane. Mr. Hall suggests that a dump truck is needed also.

- **Police Department Report**

Chief Jewell introduced Officer Foster to the Board as the new hire with 15 years of experience.

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Michael Harris with the Mason Task Force announced the scheduled event for the Mason Jubilee on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 11am to 4pm. Mr. Harris would like to recognize the Board members for their services at the event. Mr. Harris "Thanked" Mayor Noeman for the repair of the light poles, getting the porta potties and assisting with the cleanup. They're expecting between 400 to 500 people but not at one given time. There are several activities scheduled for the event. Mr. Christmas has agreed to allow parking on his property. There will be assistance from both the Fire Department and the Police Department. The website is up for the Mason Task Force.

Michael Harris said he appreciates Mayor Noeman and the Board, and everyone is welcome if they would like to participate. Mayor Noeman will be one of the judges. Mr. Harris would like to start on time and end on time, so everyone can be home before dark. Mayor Noeman said they appreciate the Mason Task Force. If it's raining everyone will be notified and look into scheduling a rainy date if necessary.



CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Catron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: All agreed, Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder