



TOWN OF MASON MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN SPECIAL CALL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026, 6:32PM

Call To Order: Mayor Eddie Noeman

Opening Prayer: Alderman Alethea Harris

Roll Call: Mayor Eddie Noeman, Alderman Trowanna Broadnax, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Alethea Harris and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan arrived at 6:56pm and Alderman Carolyn Catron was absent)

Others In Attendance: Vernetia Boyd, Accountant/CMFO; Richard Jewell, Chief of MPD; and Zachary Antle, Lt. MPD

At the beginning of the meeting Alderman Mason made a motion to remove #5 and #6 on the agenda, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 4-1 (Mayor Noeman voted no) Alderman Mason said the Board members called for the meeting and the items removed could be discussed at the regular Board meeting. Mayor Noeman said he accepted the agenda and requested to add #5 and #6 to the agenda.

Alderman Harris made a motion to amend the Budget ending June 2026, by reallocating funds currently in the Budget, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 4-1 (Mayor Noeman voted no) Alderman Harris said this could be addressed as the last item on the agenda.

**1. Review of a contract between the Town of Mason and the Consultant, Fire Chief Bobby Cannon, for the purpose of rebuilding the department.
(Voting item)**

Mayor Noeman said at the last meeting there was a discussion with Bobby Cannon as being a fire consultant for \$65 per hour. Mayor Noeman said Mr. Lewellen sent Buddy Cantrell, and submitted a copy of his resume, which was emailed to the Board by Lureatha Harris. Mr. Cantrell introduced himself to the Board as serving as the Fire Chief for Grand Junction for 10 years, and worked in fire prevention at Shelby County, but not as the Fire Chief. Mr. Cantrell worked as a part-time volunteer employee for Grand Junction, and raised their ISO rating to a 6, wrote grants, and assisted with a records training program.



He was released for financial reasons. Mr. Cantrell voiced concerns that a Volunteer Fire Department needs a part-time Fire Chief, and not a full-time Fire Chief working administratively.

Alderman Harris said they are looking for someone on a part-time basis to assess the department, but the Board will take time to look over the application and information submitted by Mr. Cantrell and contact him if there are any questions. Mr. Cantrell was Thanked for coming to the meeting. Mayor Noeman informed the Board that Mr. Bobby Cannon was asking for too much money. Alderman Harris said the Ordinance shows where the money is coming from, and Mayor Noeman said Mr. Cantrell was recommended through MTAS.

Mayor Noeman spoke about the Charter and the Mayor responsibilities having the right to hire and fire. Alderman Harris stated that the Towns' attorney went over the Charter with Mayor Noeman, and the Board does not agree with the attorney. The mayor can abolish and merge positions and he fired someone. Alderman Harris read from the Charter, that the mayor with ratification of the board can hire the department heads, and we need to go by what is written in the law. People are being hired and fired without the Board's approval and breaking the Municipal Budget Law of 1982, giving authority that the Board controls the purse strings.

Mayor Noeman said the city attorney and his personal attorney gave him the rights, and the Board didn't know what was going on, and asked that the Board read his book because he's working with his legal team. Mayor Noeman said we could go to court; Alderman Broadnax had concerns of charging the Town by going to court. Alderman Broadnax said she requested forms from the CMFO and has not received a response.

Grant funds

Alderman Rivers stated that Mayor Noeman spent \$1400 from the Police Department grant money. Mayor Noeman said he spoke with the Comptrollers about it, the amount spent was \$1,454.00 and turkeys were purchased. Mayor Noeman said one receipt was for candy, and there was a receipt for the turkeys. Mayor Noeman said they received donations, and they have the receipts. Alderman Rivers said the receipts should have been given to the Chief, and the violation was that the money was not put in the Budget.

Alderman Broadnax said the \$103K in the Ordinance is showing where the money is coming from and Alderman Harris read the Ordinance to the Board, which will be attached in the minutes. Alderman Harris said the mayor over spent the money in the training Budget, and money was found for the Code Enforcement Officer, and Bobby Cannon.



Mayor Noeman said the Board was wasting money and time. Alderman Harris said the money need to be reallocated. Alderman Mason made a motion to accept a contract with the Town of Mason and Consultant Bobby Cannon to rebuild the Fire Department and accept the Ordinance that reads An Ordinance to amend the budget ending June 2026, by reallocating funds currently in the budget, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 5-0
Vice Mayor said he would have no problem with it if the monies were there, because funds must be earmarked, and this was contingent upon the facts being there.
(Mayor Noeman said he was not recognizing it).

2. Review of terms, job description and enumeration of a potential contract with Frank Joyner, applicant for the Code Enforcer (Voting item)

Mayor Noeman said he has already hired a Code Enforcement Officer Darryl Smith. Alderman Rivers said the mayor don't have the authority to do so. Alderman Harris questioned where was the money coming from. Alderman Rivers mentioned 15 employees working at Public Works. Mayor Noeman said he was working on the repairs of a truck for a Code Enforcement Officer. Alderman Broadnax mentioned a white truck that sits in an employee's yard, and the truck has been seen going across the track at 11 and 12 o'clock at night by the lagoon. Alderman Harris had concerns of business licenses, certificates of occupancy, rodents etc. and people not receiving revenue, an example was sidewalks and Christmas lights and hiring someone to get this done. There is an animal control problem, and the town has been waiting for 2 or 3 years or so for a Code Enforcement Officer. Mayor Noeman said he's already hired Darryl Smith and wants to be out of contracts. Alderman Mason said this was discussed at the last Board meeting, that Special Call Meeting was held on December 11, 2025. Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the contract with Frank Joyner to be the Code Enforcement Officer, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-0
(Mayor Noeman said he was not recognizing it meaning the vote) Vice Mayor Givhan spoke of the Board not being united.

Alderman Rivers said it's not our job to give/supply employees with transportation. Alderman Rivers made a motion to remove all locks off the gas tanks, because Mayor Noeman is being called to unlock the gas tanks and being out of pocket, and officers are being told to get the gas from the Marathon Gas Station. Alderman Mason 2nd the motion made by Alderman Rivers. Mayor Noeman said he give the truck for emergencies and reading meters, Alderman Mason said the police asked for gas and Mayor Noeman refused to give the gas, and this could be an emergency or anything going on. The motion passed 5-0 Alderman Rivers said locks could be cut off and Mayor Noeman said he would replace it with another lock.



(Mayor Noeman said he was not recognizing it meaning the vote)

Alderman Mason mentioned the Budget Law of 1982 and not trying to take the Town down by law and not wanting to go to jail. Alderman Harris suggested introducing things and vote on them.

Auditors

Alderman Rivers questioned information being sent to the Auditors. Mayor Noeman said he spoke to them today and will call the Comptrollers tomorrow, and an extension was given to the end of the month. Alderman Rivers questioned sending everything to the Auditors, Mayor Noeman said Vernetia and Ms. Evans sent everything to them in August or September. Alderman Rivers said she called the Auditors and stated that she was told that they have not started the audit and spoke of not receiving things for the audit. Mayor Noeman called Ms. Evans on the phone and requested information regarding the audit, but Ms. Evans had shut down her computer and stated that she could get the information first thing tomorrow.

Ms. Evans said she believed information was submitted to the Auditors back in October. Alderman Rivers said she called the Auditors, and the things are due by December 31st, and this has not been completed, questioning how long of an extension was given. Ms. Lynn said the audit is to be completed 6 months after year end, and by the time the information was received an extension was requested by January 31st, 2026, which she just learned about today. Alderman Rivers said she was told the extension would be through March, because she called Banks Finley and White. Ms. Evans mentioned the holidays and other obligations, and working to get the audit done as soon as possible. Alderman Rivers said she spoke with Curtis Carpenter not Christopher Hearn and stated that he was waiting on the return of the other Auditor. Alderman Rivers mentioned the Board not being in the loop and the Town not being able to qualify for grants. Ms. Evans said she would check this out for a response by tomorrow. Ms. Evans mentioned a date of February 28th but will follow up and stated that this would be a report that would be included in the Finance Report. Alderman Mason Thanked Ms. Evans for volunteering her time after Ms. Evans contract expired.

3. Discussion of scheduling a workshop meeting for completion of the Comptroller's assignment for January 16th, 2025, and a date for a Finance meeting. (Voting item)

Alderman Rivers made a motion to request a copy of all revenue and expenditures every month and request that Vernetia attend all Board meetings, starting in January, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



Alderman Rivers said the Comptrollers gave a list of items needed by January 16, 2026, and are being nice but not playing with us. Alderman Rivers request finance information being sent to the Board, and Alderman Mason said the Comptrollers are not receiving information requested. Alderman Mason said Mayor Noeman is not caring about the laws.

Town Hall Community Meeting

Mayor Noeman announced a Town Hall Community Meeting
Saturday, January 17, 2026, at 1PM

4. Determination of actions to be considered in resolving legal actions between the Mayor, the Town, and the Police Chief, Rick Jewell. (Voting item)

Alderman Harris mentioned a meeting held on November 6th and Chief Jewell not being paid for 4 pay periods. Alderman Harris said the Town does not give unilateral right, and Mayor Noeman told Chief Jewell he could get paid if he quit, and that is unlawful refusing to pay Chief Jewell. Alderman Harris read Section 13 of the Charter, and the mayor not signing checks and recommends temporarily removing Mayor Noeman authority to sign checks. Mayor Noeman said Chief Jewell was a fine man as a person, but he needs to be an example for the department. Mayor Noeman said the Police Department is in the red, and Chief Jewell is not doing what he is supposed to do, and he was given a raise. Mayor Noeman said Chief Jewell is not giving anything to the Town, and he called Sherriff Bonner about the vehicles, and was told that they give vehicles to small municipalities. Mayor Noeman said Chief Jewell was driving the vehicle everywhere for his personal use.

Communication with Elected Officials

Alderman Mason asked that Mayor Noeman read the Personnel Policy Manual, page 15, speaking about no employee should be threatened or disciplined by speaking with elected officials. Two people were assigned to the Police Department, Alderman Harris, and Alderman Rivers. Alderman Harris said Mayor Noeman is withholding the Chief's pay using the Town for his own personal gain and stated that the Town will have to pay \$300K for a lawsuit.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to pay Chief Jewell all back pay immediately, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason. Mayor Noeman said he was not recognizing it, and Alderman Harris motioned to remove Mayor Noeman temporarily as a check signer and pay Chief Jewell his salary and back pay.



Vice Mayor Givhan spoke of an employee evaluation, and Mayor Noeman mentioned past meetings with Chief Jewell. Mayor Noeman said he would speak with the city attorney and his personal attorney, because he needs a working chief.

Alderman Broadnax said the problem came when Chief Jewell did not want to be a Code Enforcement Officer. Vice Mayor Givhan mentioned the lack of citations issued and overtime, afterwards it snowballed/escalated. Chief Jewell spoke about what you don't see, stating that he was called and hired by Emmitt Gooden in 2020, due to shootings, gang bangers, throwing of firebombs, and he hired good people. Chief Jewell said he's working when he's on duty, and worked dayshift by himself applying for grants, getting cars, and being post compliant.

Chief Jewell said he attends court and federal court. Chief Jewell stated that Mayor Noeman said what bothered him the most was him speaking with Alderman Harris.

Mayor Noeman requested a meeting with Chief Jewell in his office on tomorrow January 7, 2026, at 9am. Alderman Rivers made a motion to pay Chief Jewell all back pay immediately, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason. Mayor Noeman said he was not recognizing it, and Alderman Harris motioned to remove Mayor Noeman temporarily as a check signer and pay Chief Jewell his salary and back pay: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman said he was not voting)

Chief Jewell requested a few more officers and asked if he was still the chief. Alderman Rivers said Chief Jewell was acting as the Chief of Police for the Mason Police Department.

5. Request to hire Zachary Antle as Chief of Police (Not Discussed)

6. Discussion of SAM's Account (Not Discussed)

7. Discussion about Board members' behavior

Alderman Mason requests a full internal investigation of the Towns' finances.

Mayor Noeman made a motion to request a full investigation of the Towns' finances, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0

Alderman Harris asked Mayor Noeman if he has hired any other people since the last Board Meeting in December, Mayor Noeman said the Code Enforcement Officer Darryl Smith.



Letter to the Board

Alderman Mason read a letter to the Board dated January 6, 2026

I have significant concerns regarding the recent financial activities and their adherence to established protocols. It has come to my attention that certain expenditures may not align with our approved budget allocations.

Such deviations from the budget lead to non-compliance with the municipal budget laws of 1982. I have observed instances where the purchasing policies which were formally adopted at our recent meeting appear to have not been fully implemented or adhered to.

I must express my disagreement with these actions and practices. My paramount concern is to ensure that all operations rigorously comply with every law, regulation, and policy established by federal state and local governments, as well as those detailed in our town's charter. Upholding these standards is crucial for maintaining accountability and good governance within our community.

It is my firm belief that these matters require immediate and thorough review to ensure full compliance with all applicable laws and internal policies.

Alderman, Mary Mason

****NO OTHER BUSINESS WILL BE DISCUSSED****

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Noeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: All agreed, Meeting adjourned at 8:31PM

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder