



**Town of Mason Mayor and Board of Alderman Special Call Board Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 7:12PM**

**Call To Order:** Mayor Eddie Noeman

**Prayer:** Alderman Virginia Rivers

**Roll Call:** Mayor Eddie Noeman, Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan, Alderman Carolyn Catron, Alderman Trowanna Broadnax, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Alethea Harris, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris

**Others in Attendance:** Atty. Carson Klepzig, Atty. Will Patterson, James Lewellen, MTAS; Richard Jewell, Chief of MPD; Zachary Antle, Lt. MPD, and George (Buddy) Cantrell, MFD

**Visitors:** Michael Harris

**1. Introduction of Logan Stafford, of US Congressman David Kustoff, Office**

Alderman Harris said Mr. Kustoff would attend the meeting on February 17, 2026, with the Comptrollers and TBOUR.

**2. NEW BUSINESS & OLD BUSINESS**

**Alderman Harris suggests speaking on the NEW BUSINESS first and OLD BUSINESS afterwards.**

**3. READING OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE TOWN CHARTER THAT WILL ALLOW A TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO BE HIRED TO MANAGE DUTIES STIPULATED IN THOSE REVISIONS**

Alderman Harris gave a brief background of the Charter and presented handouts to the Board. In answer to the question several have asked about the Charter Resolution Draft, I am including a brief history and origin of the Charter Revisions in your packet.



Several years ago, Isa Reeb (Gresham & Smith) came to a town meeting and spoke of a review that was being written for the town of Mason. It was called the “West TN Planning, Government Administrative Review.” The final result of this review was submitted in January of 2024. It was made up of demographic numbers and facts about Mason but also an assessment on how well the town of Mason was functioning as a municipality. You will recall that one of the mandates in it was to end outside contract influence by moving Finance and other Departments in house. It also looked into the trending differences in different types of municipalities, i.e.: Private Acts Charter (as in Mason) versus a town with a Public Administrator type. It was recommended that we look into the Public Administrator style to become more efficient and streamlined to plan for upcoming urban growth with Ford’s arrival.

Given our track record at the time, we were told that switching to a Town Administrative style would more likely benefit Mason in receiving grant funds available. It was for this reason that the issue came before the Board as an ultimate goal of the town and was voted on twice. It passed unanimously both times.

Fast forward to the Spring of 2025, the Mason Charter underwent a revision of the language to hire an Administrator and proceed with a transition to this style of government. The bill passed through the Legal Legislative Department and was on its way to the House but was pulled from a final vote at the last moment. This was due to some issues needing to undergo change. It would have to be worked on and submitted again in 2026.

What you have just received (Resolution) is the result of that two-year effort to move forward with what the Board and Mayor elected to do twice in 2025. The rewritten Charter was again given to the Legal Department of the Legislature and reviewed by the State of the Comptrollers. It closely resembles the language of other towns (such as Atoka) in their Charter as well. The bill is being sponsored by State Representative Deborah Moody and Senator Paul Rose (TN).

Feel free to look at other towns Charters of this type, and if you have any questions before it comes up for a vote, please contact MTAS or the TN Comptrollers office for clarification.

Alderman Harris informed the Board that this was not a get even type of thing.



## Questions

Mayor Noeman mentioned bringing Public Works in-house, and stating that in 2022, the Comptrollers tried to pull the Charter and spoke about paying a Town Administrator 65K. Mayor Noeman said he was against it and stated that Mason was founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and recommends having a Public Hearing Meeting to let the people know what's going on behind the scenes. Mayor Noeman said he makes \$500 monthly and the Board makes \$100 monthly, and giving an Administrator \$65K and the Town is only 2 miles; Mayor Noeman said the Town is not ready yet.

Alderman Harris stated that an Administrator have a degree and experience in managing business, and public relations that comes with managing the Town. Alderman Harris said Mayor Noeman is working hard but the Board is being left out with lawsuits, disagreements on policies, not following budget policies, and by continually going this way we will not exist as a town.

Mayor Noeman suggests looking at the records that he's preventing waste and theft and stated that Alderman Harris supported him in getting rid of the bad apples. Mayor Noeman said he see this as personal and stated that Alderman Harris supported him back then. Alderman Harris said Mayor Noeman told her that he would support the State Law, Business Certifications, etc., and stated that he lied to her.

Alderman Rivers said the Lawyer and MTAS has reviewed the Charter, and the Town will still own the Charter, we're just trying to make corrections and move forward.

Alderman Catron said she read the Charter, and the mayor don't have any power, stating that it's all about change. Alderman Catron said this is the people's town and they need to be explained to about the changes and suggested having a Town Hall Meeting to explain the Charter revisions. Alderman Harris mentioned seeing the same language in other cities, stating that the information in the current Charter is conflicting. Alderman Harris said Mayor Noeman can hire and fire department heads with the ratification of the Board and stated that no one wants to do business with the Town.

Attorney Klepzig said the notice went out with a 48-hour notice without vague language. Alderman Harris said people are not coming out to the meetings. Mayor Noeman said the issue was personal. Alderman Broadnax said the mayor would be cutting ribbons and shaking hands.



Alderman Catron stated that the Town is paying for this. Alderman Harris mentioned the Town of Gallaway, bringing in Helen of Troy, and Buc-ee's and everything was done with a Town Administrator not the mayor. Alderman Rivers said Mayor Noeman has a job by bringing people into the Town and can no longer hire and fire without the ratification of the Board. Alderman Broadnax suggests putting in the Charter that the mayor cannot hire and fire.

James Lewellen informed the Board that Representative Moody and Senator Paul Rose are not advocating for this, but this goes before the Senator and Representative to introduce a bill for you. The bill was not approved last year due to too many inconsistencies and that has been changed. The Comptrollers office sent the proposed revisions of the Charter to the Legal Department to draft the bill, and Representative Moody is ready to introduce the bill, but the Board hadn't passed the Drafted Resolution. The bill passes in the House, then it's passed in the Senate and signed in the government, and ratified with a 2/3 majority vote, then it becomes law. The Town Administrator understands the finances of the Town and answers to the entire Town. The Board is responsible for the Town Administrator; this would be hiring someone to help with the responsibility by delegating authority, however the Board still decides.

#### **Duties of the Administrator**

Alderman Harris asked Mr. Lewellen what are the duties that the Administrator brings. Answer) Making certain to be in compliance, following policies, managing the town and managing other departments meaning managing finances of the town by coordinating with the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, Audits, and managing HR. Tying all functions together and answering to the Board. Alderman Harris had concerns of how many policies and procedures that are not being followed. Mayor Noeman spoke about previous mayors that worked without a Town Administrator. Mayor Noeman said he would like to have his record looked at as a small town of 2 miles and bringing in more businesses, and meeting with the Comptrollers weekly. Mr. Lewellen questioned what happens with the next mayor and the form of government. Mayor Noeman spoke of consulting with Vice Mayor Givhan, Alderman Harris, Ronnie Neill, and the Comptrollers. Mayor Noeman mentioned being in the red \$16K every month in the Police Department, and currently we're close to \$1million dollars, and headed in the right direction and the state supports him and he's doing a great job. Vice Mayor Givhan had concerns about questionable language in the Charter, and the Administrator needing to help and assistant.



### **Deadline for the Proposed Revisions to the Charter**

Mr. Lewellen informed the Board that the deadline is rapidly approaching, and the deadline was last Friday and that date has already passed. The proposed Charter revisions are needed by the first week of February.

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Proposed Revisions to the Town Charter that will Allow a Town Administrator to be Hired to Manage Duties Stipulated in those Revisions, by reading the below statement, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: **vote passed 4-3 (Alderman Harris, Alderman Mason, Alderman Rivers and Alderman Broadnax voted yes)**  
**(Mayor Noeman, Vice Mayor Givhan, and Alderman Catron voted no)**

A resolution requesting Senator Paul Rose and Representative Debra Moody sponsor legislation before the General Assembly that amends Sections 3,4,6,7,9,12,15 and adding Section 16 of Chapter 120 of the Private Acts of 1915; as amended and rewritten by Chapter 21 of the Private Acts of 2009; Chapter 44 of the Private Acts of 2018; and any other acts amendatory thereto, relative to the Town of Mason.

WHEREAS, The Town of Mason was incorporated under Chapter 120 of the Private Acts of 1915; and,

WHEREAS, The Town of Mason has periodically requested the General Assembly change portions of its charter to fit the needs of the Town; and,

WHEREAS, The Town of Mason wishes to make changes to Sections 3,4,6,7,9,12,15 and adding Section 16 in its charter.

#### **4. THE SECOND READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET OF FY26 TO ALLOW FOR REALLOCATION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDS TO PAY FOR A CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND A FIRE DEPARTMENT REVIEW**

Mayor Noeman recommends not going into a contract, and Alderman Rivers and Alderman Harris stated that a Code Enforcement Officer is hired by the Board.

**Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the Second reading of the Ordinance to Amend the Budget of FY26 to Allow for Reallocation of Fire Department Funds to Pay for a Code Enforcement Officer and a Fire Department Review, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Harris: vote passed 5-1**  
**(Mayor Noeman voted no and Alderman Catron abstained)**



**Closing Prayer: Alderman Broadnax**

There was no adjournment and all Board members left the meeting around 8:14PM

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Eddie Noeman, Mayor

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Date

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Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder