



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026, 6:34PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Attorney Carson Klepzig, Matalee Hall, PW Director; Richard Jewell, Chief of PD; Lt. Zachary Antle, MPD; Bobby Cannon, Fire Service Consultant; George “Buddy” Cantrell, Mason FD; Amanda Stone, MPD; and Robert Lomax MPD

VISITORS: Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Laloma Harris, and Michael Harris

AMEND THE AGENDA

Alderman Mason made a request to amend the agenda and add a merger with another utility district as a discussion after the Board Minutes are adopted.

MAYOR NOEMAN’S: Report

Mayor Noeman reported that a bank account was opened for a water project that the state requires, and everything was fine.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Meeting Minutes with TBOUR and the Comptrollers February 17, 2026

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Meeting Minutes with TBOUR and the Comptrollers on February 17, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 4-1 (Mayor Noeman voted no, and Vice Mayor Givhan abstained)

Questions

Alderman Rivers questioned if the Comptrollers had received information requested.

Mayor Noeman said he spoke with Ms. Pope, and Mr. Hearn has everything except for one thing from Ms. Evans and she’s working on it. Most of the report is done and the one item is a management report. Mayor Noeman said Vernetia sent everything to Ms. Evans.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2026

Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman: vote passed 6-0



Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Workshop Meeting Minutes for Finance March 5, 2026

Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Workshop Meeting Minutes for Finance March 5, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: The vote did not pass 3-2 (Mayor Noeman, Alderman Rivers, and Alderman Broadnax voted no)
Vice Mayor Givhan abstained

Questions

Alderman Mason questioned the invoices and receipts from Vernetia, and the invoice from Big Butch Services. Mayor Noeman said Vernetia was busy with the invoices for Ms. Evans and the State.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Workshop Meeting Minutes to Discuss Water and Sewer Finances with Ricky Oakley March 10, 2026

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Workshop Meeting Minutes to Discuss Water and Sewer Finances with Ricky Oakley March 10, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman: vote passed 4-0
(Vice Mayor Givhan and Alderman Broadnax abstained).

Adoption of the Town of Mason Beer Board Committee Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2026

Mayor Noeman request approval from the Board to remove Alderman Harris from the Beer Board Committee, and Alderman Harris said she resigned. Attorney Klepzig said he would look into the requirements. Alderman Rivers said the meeting was not legit, and no vote was taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. RJ YOUNG CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Attorney Klepzig said he spoke with Nathan Thompson regarding the RJ Young Contract Agreement, after much discussion regarding the contract agreement, Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Re-Lease all in for the 29 months, we can keep the equipment and the cost would be \$402 a month, and everything remains the same, this was the biggest cost saving, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Givhan: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Rivers voted no)

This is subject to review and approval of the attorney

NEW BUSINESS:

Amend the Agenda

Alderman Mason made a motion to amend the agenda on item #2, and a merger with Poplar Grove Utilities, the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 5-1

(Mayor Noeman voted no)



1. AMEND THE FY26 BUDGET TO REFLECT MONIES FROM CORE CIVIC FOR CAPITAL ASSETS

Some four or five items were requested by the Board members for a list of accounts on contracts from finance, and this was requested to be tabled for the next Board Meeting, since Ms. Boyd was unavailable. Alderman Harris made a motion to table the above discussion under New Business until the next Board Meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman: vote passed 6-0

2. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE WATER AND SEWER RATES AS MANDATED BY TBOUR

Attorney Klepzig will put the Ordinance together for the water and sewer rate increases. Alderman Rivers suggests making the public aware by April 1st, 2026. Attorney Klepzig recommends the first reading of the Ordinance, and a Public Hearing between the first and second reading of the Ordinance. Mayor Noeman said they would look for a date. Alderman Rivers made a motion to table the first reading of the Ordinance and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

2A. DISCUSSION OF A MERGER WITH POPLAR GROVE UTILITIES

Alderman Harris said to consider if it's going to be better for the Town for the water, at a reasonable rate. Examples were payroll, contracts, equipment etc. The Town is not supposed to make a profit but to take it into consideration. Alderman Mason mentioned being in the negative for two years and not being given an option. Alderman Rivers suggests not wanting to give up anything, stating that they spoke with Poplar Grove and they refused. Alderman Rivers said if we are forced to merge, look at the money that has been put in the system. We can raise the rates and see what we can do by keeping our system, and the only thing left would be the gas. Alderman Rivers said we are being forced to raise the rates, and by doing so we could take ourselves out of the rut.

Mayor Noeman mentioned the Town paying 10% for the 2-million-dollar grant funding, and if the Town loses their utilities we have nothing else and bringing everyone in-house to keep the utilities. Alderman Harris said the rates should have been increased yearly to keep up with the increase in cost. It was discussed that a Town our size needs 4 or 5 people; can we get out of this hole, the service is getting worse and the rates are increasing.



Alderman Harris suggests customers receiving the water they need at the best rates. The water rates have increased only twice, and they were supposed to increase three more times. Yearly rate increases were recommended by the state. Poplar Grove Utilities provide water but no sewer.

3. VOTE TO HIRE GEORGE “BUDDY” CANTRELL AS PART-TIME FIRE CHIEF

Bobby Cannon informed the Board that the application was placed through HR for Mr. Cantrell, and he passed the background check. Mr. Cannon recommendation was a proposal submitted for \$48K for the part-time Fire Chief. Another applicant is William Treadway which was a former volunteer fire fighter. Someone is needed in the system for requests, contingent with getting an emergency medical responder. Alderman Harris mentioned Mr. Cantrell doing the paperwork and inventory and having another person responding to calls. The motion would be contingent upon Mr. Cantrell getting his certifications. The \$48K would be split Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm, the Town has to meet FSLA Rules (Fair Labor Standards Act). Volunteers are paid \$15 per hour, and the Fire Chief would put out the roster. William Treadway would make \$18 per hour as a volunteer, since Mr. Treadway has both medical and fire experience. Mr. Cantrell can train Mr. Treadway for reports, meetings, etc., the options are operational and administrative skills. The department is not ready to start responding just yet, need both ladder test and hose test. Going through the recruiting process for volunteers and perform interviews.

Attorney Klepzig informed the Board that Mayor Noeman could appoint the Fire Chief with the ratification of the majority of the Board. Alderman Harris asked Mayor Noeman if he would consider William Treadway. Vice Mayor Givhan complemented Mr. Bobby Cannon on doing a fine job. Mayor Noeman made a request to appoint George “Buddy” Cantrell as the Acting Fire Chief and Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to hire Mr. Cantrell as the Part-Time Fire Chief, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

4. USG WATER AGREEMENT NON-RENEWAL *VOTING ITEM*

Mayor Noeman said Ricky Oakley stated that the Town don’t need the agreement. Alderman Rivers questioned the signed contract without the Board’s knowledge, stating that there is nothing in writing to state what they are doing and nothing seen, just stating that they are painting the tank. Mayor Noeman said USG worked with the town when there was a problem with the media, and they were continued from the previous administration, and there was no legal advice given. Mayor Noeman said he was looking for the original contract to cut expenses.



Alderman Rivers mentioned \$15K and \$18K and not sharing what was done and the Board should have seen the original contract. Alderman Harris had concerns about FY23 and increases.

Mr. Hall informed the Board that Tracey Fearnley is the vendor and the company was Suez, and they were responsible for the tank washouts, and maintenance. TDEC requires the tanks to be painted every 5 years, with a washout on the wells, and take care of the maintenance. Mr. Hall said he has an older contract, and has used USG this year, and the Town of Covington uses them also. Mr. Hall said the Town was paying \$2K monthly in 2015. Mr. Hall said the tanks were painted inside and out as a requirement by the state. Mr. Hall recommends keeping the contract with USG. **Merger with Poplar Grove-** Mr. Hall said this would aid with the supply of water. Attorney Klepzig recommended reviewing the original contract and his office can review the contract. Vice Mayor Givhan suggests gathering all data first. Alderman Mason made a motion to table the USG Water Agreement according to the attorneys' review, and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman: vote passed 6-0

REPORTS:

- **FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

(This report will be discussed when Ms. Boyd is available)

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mr. Cannon "Thanked" the Board for allowing Mr. Cantrell to come aboard. Concerns were fire apparatus status, ladder test, and pump test. The Fire Chief will handle the process for the Fire Department needs for prices, quotes, and po's (purchase orders). Mr. Cannon will share pictures of the rust under the aerial and whatever the Board chooses to do.

Interlocal Agreement- The proposed interlocal agreement remains under review and is currently awaiting approval from the Tipton County Mayor. Once approved, this agreement will formalize the cooperative fire protection arrangement and provide additional structure for fire service delivery to the Town of Mason. Seventy-nine percent of calls are medical for Mason. CPR and AED are of utmost importance. Over the next fifteen days, Mr. Cannon will be working on getting the Fire Department up and running with part-time employees and volunteers. Mr. Cannon contract ends March 31, 2026. Mr. Cannon will write something for phase 2, and get with Dr. Joseph Holley, and contact the state for inspections and approvals, and leave a plan for the Fire Chief, stating that William Treadway can assist with this.

- **PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Alderman Harris questioned Mr. Hall about flipping on the bypass pump on Charleston Mason Road. Mr. Hall said the pump needs fixing; the pump is lying on top of the ground on Charleston



Mason Road. Mr. Hall informed the Board that the USG Contracts will be provided by Mr. Fearnley.

• POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Jewell introduced the newly Certified Officers to the Board, Officer Amanda Stone, and Officer Robert Lomax. Officer Stone will cover the shift from 5am to 1pm. Days, nights and weekends are covered. Mayor Noeman questioned racing on Highway 59 at the substation.

Mayor Noeman mentioned giving Lt. Antle 2 cameras, and Lt. Antle said he’s having problems syncing with the devices, the cars are not syncing. Mayor Noeman questioned Lt. Antle about the GPS trackers, but Lt. Antle has been out of the office for personal reasons. Chief Jewell spoke on item #2 on his report for 6 Glock pistols for about \$500 each, and they can be purchased from the drug monies. Alderman Rivers suggests making certain the money is in the Budget. Chief Jewell said he spoke with Vernetia about it, even the GPS trackers. Alderman Harris recommends having an Officer on board when there is a Special Call Meeting.

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Michael Harris with the Mason Task Force commended Public Works, Mr. Hall the Police Department, Chief Jewell, and the Board. Mr. Harris said they are pushing for a cleanup which is done annually for the Town of Mason. Mr. Harris mentioned being invited by Tennessee Beautiful at Tom Lee Park by Mr. James Lewellen, this is a move to cleanup, and Mr. Harris recommends looking at the Ordinance from 2004. A Code Enforcer would call for a deeper cleanup of junk cars, litter, and moving in the right direction. Alderman Harris stated that we hired a Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Harris mentioned that the Fire Department is critical to the town, and he had an opportunity to train for CPR with the prior Fire Department to revive people, if possible, this is about the town overall.

Laloma Harris with the Mason Task Force presented a date of May 9, 2026, from 8am to 12pm for a cleanup. Mayor Noeman will provide the dumpster, and hazardous waste will be taken to Brighton. Tipton County Beautiful will assist with the cleanup, and Mayor Noeman will supply lunch for the volunteers. Mrs. Harris is encouraging both young and old for community involvement and show interest. Flyers will be presented.

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mayor Noeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: All agreed, Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder