



**Town of Mason  
Mayor & Board of Alderman  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 20, 2026, 6:32PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Eddie Noeman

**OPENING PRAYER:** Alderman Virginia Rivers

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Eddie Noeman, Alderman Carolyn Catron, Alderman Trowanna Broadnax, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Alethea Harris, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris  
(Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan arrived at 7:17pm)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Atty. Carson Klepzig, Richard Jewell, MPD; Zachary Antle, MPD; Matallee Hall, PW Director; April Adams, Billing Clerk; Bobby Cannon, George “Buddy” Cantrell, Acting Fire Chief; and Ricky Oakley attended via a conference call

**VISITORS:** Terry Leggett, Brett Giannini, Maria Giannini, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Laloma Harris, Michael Harris, T Ray Greer, and William Norvell

**MAYOR NOEMAN’S: Report**

Mayor Noeman informed the Board that the Retainage Account/Interest Bearing Account, the account grant for water was applied for at the Bank of Mason but it didn’t go through. Mayor Noeman said he went to Simmons Bank in Arlington, TN and they agreed with the terms and conditions. The information was submitted to Davina Gurschick to deposit money for the wells.

The FY25 Audit was received from Ms. Evans, and Lureatha Harris submitted it to the Board. Mayor Noeman said Ms. Evans worked hard to complete everything. The Town of Mason Audit Trend Analysis Report was presented to all, and Mayor Noeman read the findings from FY2021-FY2025. FY21 there were 17 findings, FY22 there were 11 findings, FY23 there were 3 findings, and FY24 and FY25 there were 2 findings. Mayor Noeman wanted to show the accomplishments that have been made and asked the Board to get in touch with Ms. Evans or Vernetia for any questions or concerns.

**Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026**

Mayor Noeman made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 5-0 (Alderman Catron abstained) and Vice Mayor Givhan had not arrived at the meeting.



### **Questions/Concerns**

Alderman Rivers questioned the Water and Sewer Ordinances with the increases, the First reading would take place in this meeting, and there would be a meeting for Public Awareness after the First Reading before the Second Reading. Alderman Harris said the 15 days would be May 5<sup>th</sup> but prefer May 6<sup>th</sup> due to scheduling conflicts and prefer to follow the requirements of TBOUR (Tennessee Board of Utility Regulations). Alderman Mason mentioned ROBO calls, and the Facebook website for public awareness. Mayor Noeman suggested having a Town Hall Meeting on May 9, 2026. Alderman Catron and Alderman Rivers suggested placing inserts in the utility bills and sending out ROBO calls. Mayor Noeman suggests placing flyers at churches, businesses, and by word of mouth. Attorney Klepzig will look into the 15-day requirement and follow-up with the Board and suggested that the Board have both meetings on the same day. This would include both the Public Hearing Meeting and the Second Reading of the Water and Sewer Rate Increases. The Board agreed on a tentative date of May 6, 2026, at 6:30pm. Alderman Rivers questioned if the cameras were synching to the vehicles and Mayor Noeman said he would give access to Lt. Antle and the pay would be \$6 monthly.

**OLD BUSINESS: There was none**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **1. REHABILITATION OF THE CHARLESTON MASON WETWELL AND INSTALLATION OF THE 4-INCH FORCE MAIN. SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REHAB (DISCUSSION)**

Mr. Oakley was on a conference call and was included in the conversation. Mr. Oakley said he recently sent a change order proposal from Vortex for \$38K. Mr. Oakley said he asked the administrator for a change order which expires in January 2026, and it was approved in January of 2025. Mr. Oakley shared this information with Mr. Hall and Mr. Hall's preference was to spend money on a pump replacement and was concerned that the town doesn't have enough money. Mr. Oakley asked Lureatha Harris to change the item on the agenda for a discussion. Mr. Hall is correct that the pump needs to be replaced to build the workstation and the force main. Charleston Mason has a \$300K Budget. When water meters and sewer projects were bid there were zero bids received. Mayor Noeman said Barry with Cottrell Electric want to know exactly where the pump well is located.

Mr. Oakley suggests looking at how much water is billed each month, because he was told that the water is pouring in around the manholes. Alderman Rivers was concerned if this would help if the pump is not working and suggest pricing a pump. Mr. Oakley said he currently has a portable pump for usage. Mr. Hall suggested to the Board that they could get with Cottrell Electric and if the issue is not completed by June 1<sup>st</sup> the Board could be subpoenaed, and this was submitted by the Comptrollers. Some of the Alderman said they were unaware of the letter submitted by the Comptrollers, and this was their first time hearing about it.



Mr. Hall will submit the information to be presented to the Board. Mr. Oakley suggests checking the water billing records, that would help to size a pump.

TDEC requires 2 pumps, we can seal the wet well with grant money and use the existing force main. This can be done as an emergency and the deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the change order is sealing the manhole. Mr. Hall said the station is designed for one pump, and it was originally a private pump station. TDEC can only reach out to an incorporated city, it must be a duplex station.

Alderman Rivers questioned how soon Mr. Hall and Mr. Oakley would be able to get the pump. The pump costing \$6K would not be in compliance with TDEC standards. There's one pump that's new and it's not in compliance. Mr. Hall said the problem would be the debris coming from the pump and was uncertain what happened when he was gone. The pump would work if it's properly maintained.

Mayor Noeman said it was a problem because the pump is not working. Mayor Noeman recommends making a 3-way call on 4-21-26, with Barry/Cottrell Electric, Mr. Hall, Ricky Oakley and himself to speak about the situation around 11am.

## **2. AMEND THE FY26 BUDGET TO REFLECT MONIES FROM CORE CIVIC FOR CAPITAL ASSETS**

Attorney Klepzig recommends having a corresponding Ordinance, and he will reach out to Ms. Boyd. Alderman Rivers suggests reflecting all monies, and Alderman Harris stated that the funds would be restricted funds. Attorney Klepzig recommends tabling this to the next Board Meeting. Alderman Rivers made a motion to table Amending the FY26 Budget to Reflect Monies from Core Civic for Capital Assets, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

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

Alderman Harris made a motion for the First Reading OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MASON, TENNESSEE AMENDING MASON MUNICIPAL CODE 18-106 AND 18-127 TO REVISE CERTAIN WATER TAP CHARGES AND TO ESTABLISH WATER RATES, and a First Reading OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MASON, TENNESSEE AMENDING MASON MUNICIPAL CODE 18-203 AND 18-205 TO REVISE CERTAIN SEWER CONNECTION CHARGES AND TO ESTABLISH SEWER RATES and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote) May 6, 2026, at 6:30pm, there will be a Public Hearing and the Second Reading of both Ordinances.



#### **4. SANITATION RATE INCREASE (DISCUSSION)**

Lureatha Harris informed the Board that the contract that was signed with Waste Pro was a four-year contract/**correction** this was a three-year contract that expires in February of 2027. The Board will receive copies of the new rates, and this will be discussed in the Special Call Meeting on May 6, 2026.

#### **5. USG WATER AGREEMENT NON-RENEWAL \*VOTING ITEM\***

Mr. Tracy Fearnley presented his contract in writing which will benefit the town. Attorney Klepzig said he thinks this was a savings to the town and copies were presented to the Board for review. Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the USG Water Agreement, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Givhan: vote passed 7-0  
(Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

#### **6. REQUEST SALARY INCREASES FOR THE FRONT OFFICE & PUBLIC WORKS (DISCUSSION)**

Concerns from the Board were waiting to July 1<sup>st</sup> due to the end of the fiscal year prior to making a new Budget. **Questions** were asked about the number of employees at Public Works. When are the water meters to be installed and doing things properly. Review a plan per department and Budget accordingly, raises are based on merits, and evaluations. The Board requests seeing what the employees are paid. **(Alderman Catron left the meeting at 8:17pm)**

#### **7. CHRISTOPHER HEARN CONTRACT WITH BANKS FINLEY AND WHITE (DISCUSSION)**

Alderman Harris said she never received the Audit from anyone. Mayor Noeman said he doesn't want excuses for the next Audit and recommends moving forward with Banks Finley and White as the Auditors for the town.

#### **8. ELAINE ALLEN - EBC CONSULTING CONTRACT (DISCUSSION)**

Mayor Noeman said Ms. Elaine is doing a good job, and would like for her to assist with Face Book, record meetings, and work with the security system. Ms. Elaine said she would meet with Mayor Noeman and Vernetia and stated that she incorporated the balance due of \$10K for incremental payments.



Alderman Harris requests the money for the months that are missing with dates to find out what was cleared. Alderman Rivers want to make sure everything is legal including the pass due monies, and making certain everything is legal and binding.

#### **REPORTS:**

- **FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The Board is waiting for a Budget Draft from Mayor Noeman and Vernetia. Alderman Rivers questioned finance sending out the reconciliation statement without the Budget.

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

George “Buddy Cantrell” presented his report to the Board stating that he has attempted to find fire service companies to perform annual tests for a pump test on the engine and tanker. A ladder test on the ground ladders required on the engine; and a hose test on the hose on the engine and tanker. Alderman Harris mentioned a company that didn’t get paid from two years ago.

Alderman Mason questioned the volunteers and Mr. Cantrell said he has three applications. The volunteers need to be vetted to respond as fire fighters. September of 2025, Tipton County covered 150 calls for medical and brush fires. The minimum inventory required process is to go through May and June, which are the first available dates to secure. Alderman Mason questioned the Interlocal Agreement with Tipton County, and Mr. Cannon said Mayor Huffman has not gotten around to it but there’s no problem in providing the service.

Alderman Mason questioned Mr. Cannon about the process of interviewing and Mason residents being a part of the process. The amount budgeted for was \$48K to include a part-time Fire Chief and paying \$18 per hour for a part-time position Mon. through Fri. from 8am to 6pm. Mr. Cantrell will work 25 hours if the additional amount can be added to the Budget, and secure funding for the next Budget. Alderman Harris mentioned William Treadway coming in and Mr. Cannon said it depends on the funding, or if paying per diem Mr. Treadway would need to be paid \$18 per call, and he would be the only volunteer paid \$18 per call. Mr. Cannon needs to figure out something to do with the aerial, and Alderman Harris questioned something to post for volunteers.

- **PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Alderman Rivers questioned Mr. Hall about the number of water meters to be installed. Mr. Hall said 500 meters have been installed, and the deadline for installing the meters is August 31, 2026. Mr. Hall said item number 4 on his report, the Highway 59 Booster Station running on one motor was installed today 4-20-26. Vice Mayor Givhan questioned the status of the backhoe.

Mr. Hall said he found one for \$75K brand new. Mr. Hall mentioned to the Board to consider employee raises and putting public safety at risk, stating that good employees were lost due to the rejection of raises. Mr. Hall said the guys work hard and respond to calls, and Mayor Noeman



said the workers deserve the raises. There were concerns from the Aldermen about not knowing the employee salaries, having the funds, and being more conscious. Additionally, paying people for non-holidays and not following the handbook.

• **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Jewell presented the report and recommended cutting down on liability in the department. There is \$20K in the Drug Funds, and Chief Jewell would like to add to the Special Call Board Meeting May 6, 2026, item #1 to the report which reads below...

**We have received bids from 3 FFL gun dealers for bids on 6 Glock model 45 9mm pistols with red dot scopes. They are: (1) 51 Pawn in Covington-\$5000 (2) Tipton Tactical \$5423 (3) Master Class Firearms in Braden-\$5875. This would be pending approval by the Board, and monies from the Drug Fund would be used to purchase these weapons.**

**CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)**

Brett Giannini introduced himself to the Board giving some background on himself and presented flyers. Mr. Giannini was elected to the Atoka Board of Aldermen in 2008 and the Tipton County Commission in 2022. He served 10 years on the Tipton County Emergency Communications Board and is a former Chairman of the Tipton County Republican Party. Mr. Giannini is currently employed with the Memphis Police Department as a full-time Officer and Lieutenant, supervising crime scene investigations. Mr. Giannini is running as a State Representative for TN House 81 and would be replacing Representative Debra Moody.

Michael Harris, with the Mason Task Force, spoke about the Mason Cleanup on behalf of Tipton County Beautiful and Tennessee Beautiful. Mr. Harris encouraged support from the Fire Department, Police Department, and the Board. Lunch will be served for the participants, and the clean-up is essential for the town. Mr. Lewellen invited the Mason Task Force to Tom Lee Park, and the people were very excited about coming from other cities to participate. Mr. Harris encouraged all to volunteer and participate. The volunteers will be putting together the lunches, and Mayor Noeman has committed to participate. The Police Officers are encouraged to escort the traffic in the event of accidentals, and a waiver will be presented from the Mason Task Force.

Mr. Harris encouraged Public Works to cut the grass, and Laloma Harris suggest setting up by 7:30am on May 9, 2026, for the event.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Vice Mayor Givhan

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Mayor Noeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Broadnax: All agreed (Meeting adjourned at 8:59PM)

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Eddie Noeman, Mayor

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Date

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Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder