



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 20, 2026, 6:44PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Interim Town Administrator, Terry Leggett

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited by all

ROLL CALL: Mayor Eddie Noeman, Interim Town Administrator, Terry Leggett; Alderman Trowanna Broadnax, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Mary Mason, Alderman Alethea Harris, Attorney Carson Klepzig, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris
(Alderman Carolyn Catron arrived at 6:46pm, and Vice Mayor Givhan arrived at 7:05pm)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Matalee Hall, PW Director; Darryl Hartfield, Chief of MFD; Richard Jewell, Chief of MPD, Frank Joyner, Code Enforcement Officer; Vernetia Boyd; CMFO and Benetra Harvey

VISITORS: Timothy Depoe, Cheyenne Touchet, Robert Maxcy, Ruby Kelly, Margaret Adams, Jessi Hartfield, Laloma Harris, and Michael Harris

MAYOR NOEMAN'S: Report (There was no report)

INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Report- Terry Leggett

Mr. Leggett reported that we had been very busy and the Board had a good workshop session meeting that was well attended. Mr. Lewellen shared some good points about the budget. Mr. Leggett encouraged everyone to be careful with spending, and Mr. Leggett will speak with the Comptroller's about borrowing money if needed or borrowing our own money that hopefully the Comptroller's will allow. There is presently \$48K in General Funds as of today. Payroll is getting close to \$40K. There's money in the bank to carry us through August and maybe September. Sales tax came in today for about \$15K, and court for July 21st is anticipated to be about \$15K. Mr. Leggett said he looks to receive from \$12K to \$14K a month from the interest in the Core Civic Account, and this might get us through until the property taxes come in. Mr. Leggett again encouraged everyone not to purchase anything that's not absolutely needed.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026

Mayor Noeman made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0
(Vice Mayor Givhan abstained)

**Questions/Concerns:**

Alderman Harris questioned if the interfund transfers are still being done. Mr. Leggett said all payroll comes out of the water funds, and we repay the water funds. Sanitation and gas transfers, Vernetia said sometimes sanitation cannot cover their expense. Mr. Leggett said he would contact Davina about the \$450K grant funds because the contractors are not being paid. The money is not flowing from the state to the county. Mayor Noeman said he opened an account six weeks ago with Simmons Bank and no payment has been received for the account. Mayor Noeman said he spoke with Ricky Oakley and called Davina but has not heard back from Davina.

The account is a Construction Account, and the bank closed the account due to no activity, while the town is waiting on the state. Alderman Harris mentioned the \$55K that never got deposited. Alderman Rivers questioned the \$800K that belonged to Mason. Mr. Leggett made the Board aware that a half of a million dollars well is sitting behind the Fire Department. There is \$10-million dollars that are out in grant receivables, and Mr. Leggett said he's trying to get the money to the gentleman for water quality and water improvement. Alderman Rivers questioned the \$60K that Public Entity Partners was checking into due to the ACH fraudulent transfer. Mr. Leggett has not heard back from Debbie Yeager with Public Entity Partners (PEP). The money was sent to Minnesota instead of Pennsylvania.

Alderman Rivers questioned the disconnected wires at the Police Department, and Mr. Leggett said they're connected now. Margaret Adams had concerns about the potholes in the Subdivision, Mayor Noeman said he's waiting for FEMA to give the money for the repairs. Mr. Leggett said he would get with Public Works to put in limestone and mentioned putting in gravel until the funds comes in from FEMA.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2026

Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason:

Vote passed 6-1 (Alderman Catron voted no) (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote as yes)

Concerns:

Mr. Leggett informed the Board that he would make certain that the interest in water, gas, and sanitation funds is put back into their accounts. This was an error that was made by the bank, and the funds would be replaced with the appropriate enterprise fund because the minutes were provided to the bank providing the request made by the Board.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Workshop Training Session Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2026

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Finance Workshop Training Session Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



Questions/Concerns:

Alderman Rivers questioned the software vendor (United Systems) accommodating the system for what we're looking to stop the transferring of money, by taking money from the water funds to do what needs to be done to avoid money from other funds. Mr. Leggett said he would check into it by getting prices/quotes and allow the Board to decide on changes.

Alderman Harris had concerns of getting ourselves out of the hole, by putting somethings in writing and ideas in conjunction. Alderman Harris said Chief Jewell is willing to forgo his raise for the next two to three months, and the Mr. Joyner the Code Enforcer is willing to cut his hours to thirty-two hours weekly, and Alderman Harris said she was willing to give up her pay for two months.

Mr. Leggett thinks that cutting salaries would not be enough and stated that there's \$92K in the bank to transfer over, and there's \$15K in sales tax expected and mentioned monies from court, and there might be enough monies with property taxes coming in. Alderman Harris doesn't want to remove the Core Civic money into the payroll but use it for the Town's needs. Mr. Leggett is interested in revenue ideas, the Money Market Account has \$41,900 and there's \$51,618 in the Core Civic Capital Account. Mr. Leggett said he's leaving \$10K in the Core Civic Account as a floor. Alderman Rivers had concerns about draining the CDs with no reserve funds and owing \$40K to the water fund account. There is \$215K in the water fund account and \$172K in the gas fund account. Alderman Rivers was concerned about keep borrowing money will be putting ourselves into the hole because we were \$250K over budgeted in 2026 and not paying back what we already got. Mr. Leggett mentioned paying payroll from the water account, and by laying off people the citizens would not be getting service.

Alderman Rivers spoke of pay cuts and meeting with the employees because we're digging a hole for ourselves. Mr. Leggett suggested a Workshop and acting with payroll cuts etc., with a Workshop Session.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Leggett requested **Amending the Agenda** to include adding a.....

Long-Term Funding Plan - Rate Evaluation

Operating Procedure – Evaluation of Water and Sewer Rates

The wording was recommended by Ricky Oakley for the future. Alderman Harris made a motion to amend the agenda with the yearly water rates agreeing to review for a possible 4% water rate increase yearly, and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman: vote passed 7-0. There was no operating procedure plan in place, and Mr. Oakley recommended that this Long-Term Funding Plan, Rate Evaluation, be placed on the agenda tonight. Alderman Harris made a motion to approve the Long-Term Funding Plan, Rate Evaluation Operating Procedure Evaluation of Water and Sewer Rates, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: Vote passed 6-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote as yes, and (Alderman Rivers didn't vote)



Mr. Oakley will notify TBOUR (Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation) that the Rate Evaluation Plan was adopted. Vice Mayor Givhan wanted clarity that the rates would not be raised.

Mayor Noeman suggested **Amending the Agenda** to have a Training Meeting to make cuts and request that the Board come up with a date for the meeting.

- **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ALLOW THE MONEY MARKET BANK ACCOUNT ENDING IN 4899 FOR \$41,812.36 AND THE CAPITAL CC ACCOUNT ENDING IN 0445 FOR \$50,618.64 TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE GENERAL FUND ACCCOUNT**

Alderman Mason made a motion to **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ALLOW THE MONEY MARKET BANK ACCOUNT ENDING IN 4899 FOR \$41,812.36 AND THE CAPITAL CC ACCOUNT ENDING IN 0445 FOR \$50,618.64 TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE GENERAL FUND ACCCOUNT**, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris...

Discussion:

Mr. Leggett said he cut the use of the Credit Card from \$2K to \$3K monthly and this has not impacted the city and cut several thousands of dollars. Alderman Harris suggested holding off until a plan is in writing and take a closer look at the Budget. Examples were payroll, the auditors, and knowing what's paid and what's coming in. Mr. Leggett said the Capital CC would be the only thing moved for now. There was \$60K in the Capital CC account and \$50K was pulled which left \$10K as a floor/cushion. Mr. Leggett informed the Board that the Comptroller's gave the okay to use the money in the Capital CC Account for payroll. The \$10K Core Civic Account Fund grows, and there's \$50K in the Capital CC Account. After much discussion all Board members voted **no** to transferring the above funds in the General Fund Account:

Alderman Mason **no**, Alderman Harris **no**, Mayor Noeman **no**, Vice Mayor Givhan **no**, Alderman Rivers **no**, Alderman Catron **no**, and Alderman Broadnax **no**.

Mr. Leggett said currently there's \$48K in the General Fund Account and requested Board permission to remove it as needed.

- **REQUEST BOARD PERMISSION TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE AND DISPOSAL OF ITEMS THAT WILL BE EXHIBITED ONCE RECEIVED AS SURPLUS ITEMS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO POST THESE ITEMS TO THE HIGHEST AND BEST BIDDER**

Alderman Harris made a motion to approve and read **Resolution R- 0720 -2026-1** Declaring Certain Municipal Items Surplus and Authorizing the Sale and Disposal, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Broadnax: vote passed 7-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)



Discussion:

Mr. Leggett said the brush truck is useless, and Mr. Hartfield said he's in the process of speaking with Ford about the purchase of a brush truck. Ladder truck 73 has a buildup of rust on it.

- **REQUEST BOARD PERMISSION FOR THE DISPOSAL OF OUT-OF-DATE FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT BY GIFTING IT TO OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS ONCE THE LIST IS EXHIBITED**

Mr. Leggett said the out-of-date fire equipment is not certified for a live fire. Alderman Mason made a motion to allow **PERMISSION FOR THE DISPOSAL OF OUT-OF-DATE FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT BY GIFTING IT TO OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS ONCE THE LIST IS EXHIBITED, CONTINGENT UPON BEING EVALUATED BY THE BOARD**, and the motion was 2nd by Mayor Noeman: vote passed 7-0 Mr. Leggett will forward the list to the Board.

****Alderman Catron left the Meeting at 8:43PM****

REPORTS:

- **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mr. Joyner reported the cutting of grass at the Old School property, and the grass was cleaned up at the gas station. Environmental Court begins in August.

- **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Alderman Rivers request a meeting to go over the Budget for FY27. There are lots of things left off and some things should be listed and need to be fixed. Alderman Harris questioned fiscal receipts, Ms. Vernetia said it's open to the public and Mrs. Harris can come by to review them. Alderman Mason questioned a PO Policy; Mr. Leggett purchased a PO Book to list things before purchases are made. Alderman Mason had concerns of things being over budgeted and being in the negative. Alderman Rivers spoke of things that were not in the budget and are continually being paid. Mayor Noeman gave examples of oil or equipment needed for Public Works. Alderman Rivers warned if something is not in the line-item, it cannot be spent and we are going further in the hole in debt for \$250K or \$260K.

Alderman Harris said it's exactly more \$156K negative in the water, \$86K negative in gas, \$60K for a wire and other things has been spent. There's \$20K in the water fund budget for equipment and this might have to forgo for something else. A date was agreed upon by the Board for a Finance Workshop Meeting on August 11, 2026, at 6:30PM



- **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

There are nine fire hydrants out of service, Mr. Hartfield spoke with Rogers Hydrant Service and asked him to fix the ones that are out of service in Town. Prices will be given for service price, and Mayor Noeman suggested that Mr. Hartfield get with Mr. Hall, or Johnnie for the location of the hydrants. Alderman Rivers would like to get information for the Fire Department Grants by the end of this month.

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Report reviewed, Alderman Rivers requested a list of the schedules per officer.

- **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Alderman Rivers questioned the number of meters left to be installed, Mr. Hall said he's hoping around two hundred but will get the numbers. Alderman Harris questioned marking poles for streetlights, because it's pitch black on Transou Lane, a tree came down and broke the pole.

Alderman Rivers suggests that the money left over from the Sewer Rehab be used to fix the pump station in Richland Hills. Mr. Leggett said the generator behind City Hall is not running and it's been neglected. There's nothing to maintain the pressure for the water tower. A technician said a battery is required. Mr. Leggett recommends calling professional people in for the service. Mayor Noeman said there was a warranty on the battery with Auto Zone. Mr. Hall stated that he left in "2015" and the generators were on an automatic testing system, and Mr. Hall said he left in "2022" and the generator has not run since he's been back and that's about four years. Mr. Leggett recommends professional people to be contacted as a Municipality.

Johnnie Douglas and Irvin Taylor are on call for emergencies. DOT Drug Testing is required per State requirement. Since the town had 22% gas loss, Mr. Leggett said he's checking into another gas company.

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Michael Harris with the Mason Task Force stated that the Board was taking care of business. Organizations concerned about the Town-The Mason Task Force and the Dwelling Church are putting together programs considering love, positivity, and doing things for the citizens. They have collaborated on a Senior Living Day, Thursday, July 30, 2026, from 12PM to 2PM, for all seniors coming together. This is a diverse town, and they're looking to unite and put this event on, via a weekly basis. Lunch and dinners will be served at the above-mentioned times, games will be held, bingo etc. All churches are encouraged to participate and donate their services.

Margaret Adams with the Mason Task Force announced a Food Give-Away Wednesday, July 29, 2026, from 12PM until at the Dwelling Place.



Laloma Harris with the Mason Task Force spoke about the amenities that we have, the Medical Clinic, Pharmacy, and suggested supporting our own to grow.

August 1, 2026, there will be a Backpack Giveaway for the Children at Zodiac Park, 3953 Charleston Mason Rd. Mason TN There will be fun, food, and fellowship and encouraging....

“Working Together as a Team” — Social and Economic Support is needed.

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: All agreed, Meeting adjourned at 9:03PM

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder

Terry Leggett, Interim Town Administrator