Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 21, 2026, 6:33PM

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited by all

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Vernetia Boyd, CMFO; Matalee Hall, Public Works Director; Carl Stevenson and Christopher Luss, S&L Environmental; Richard Jewell, Chief of MPD; Zachary Antle, Lt. MPD; Darryl Hartfield, Fire Chief, Robert Lomax, MPD; Bettye Kirk, Utility Clerk; Katrecia Miller, Utility Clerk/Billing Clerk; Adam Tschida, Data Analyst for the Division of Local Government and Finance, Comptroller's Office; and Benetra Harvey

VISITORS: Shannon Whitfield, Gicela Guerrero, Liana V., Antionette Lacy, Sarah R., Jessi Hartfield, Kevin Worm, Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Laloma Harris, and Michael Harris

MAYOR NOEMAN'S: Report- No report

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Report- Terry Leggett
Mr. Leggett opened the floor to Adam Tschida with the Comptroller's Office

Mr. Tschida spoke about interfund balances, transferring money, and improper borrowing. During COVID, ARPA Grant monies were used to repay funds, and the interfund balances have grown. There is no ARPA monies left, and this must be taken care of. The Water Grant was through the end of September. The County Grant affected three municipalities, and the water bids came in $400K over estimated. Documentation and closeouts need to be submitted, National Water Service sent the paperwork out Friday, and a check was submitted via FED-X and everything was straightened out. Mr. Tschida informed the Board that you cannot use utility money to fund government operations, and he was unaware of any other utilities doing so. Some rate payers versus taxpayers do not live within the city. Examples are payroll, office supplies, and using ratepayers' monies creating financial concerns. Accountability is to safeguard the rate payers' monies.

The Tax Anticipation Note must be authorized by the Comptroller's and must be paid in the same fiscal year. The town cannot continue to allow payroll from the Water Fund Account. The water and sewer rates are high due to mismanagement. The last four payrolls; General Funds have not reimbursed the Water Fund Account. There is a temporary cash flow issue, and this creates red flags for a Tax Anticipation Note. A cash flow plan is needed to see if the funds can be afforded. Mr. Tschida said the issues are serious and not resolved. The town will spend a day with MTAS for funds and balances. Mr. Tschida recommends having a Special Call Meeting to come up with a plan. The date will be October 13, 2026, the General Fund Account owes the Water Fund Account $80K.
A cash flow statement plan needs to be put in place, with a true financial position, and procedures are needed to be put in place. The Special Call Meeting will be held to ensure the General Fund Account is balanced. A Corrective Action Plan might be required.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2026
Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 5-1 (Mayor Noeman voted no)

Questions
Alderman Rivers questioned the repairs of the fire hydrants; the fire hydrants will be repaired in house. Upon receiving the Tax Anticipation Loan, the first order of business will be to repay the Water Fund Account. Alderman Harris questioned the $125K for the insurance with Public Entity Partners. Mr. Leggett recommends working out a payment plan with PEP. Alderman Rivers questioned transferring monies and CDs' and only purchasing what's necessary, which requires proper management. The cashflow analysis will allow us to plan better. Alderman Mason recommends receiving monthly expenditure reports.

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2026
Vice Mayor Givhan made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason, Alderman Mason mentioned that **accrued** benefits were left out of the minutes when referencing to Mr. Leggett's paid benefits. Lureatha Harris reviewed the language and will make the change. The vote passed 4-2 (Mayor Noeman and Alderman Catron voted no)

Adoption of the Beer Board Committee Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026
Mayor Noeman made a motion to adopt the Beer Board Committee Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **INTRODUCTION OF KATRECIA MILLER AS THE NEW HIRE FOR THE BILLING CLERK**

Katrecia Miller was introduced to the Board as the new billing/utility clerk. Bettye Kirk was in attendance and she's worked as a utility clerk for about a year.
The Board agreed to waving the late fees on the utility bills since the bills will be sent out later for the September billing.

- **VOTE TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATORS CARL STEVENSON AND CHRISTOPHER LUSS**

Alderman Harris made a motion to APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATORS CARL STEVENSON AND CHRISTOPHER LUSS with a contingency of providing an insurance rider and an Attorney's review, the motion was 2nd by Alderman Noeman: vote passed 6-0 (An amount will be required to put in for the insurance) A payment of $4K monthly will be required as a whole for Carl and Chris. Mr. Vern Braswell works with Carl and Chris and will be coming daily to monitor the water and wastewater operations. Allen Smith and Johnnie Douglas are currently in the TAUD program.

VOTE TO PAY ELAINE ALLEN FOR PAST DUE INVOICES FOR $10K

Alderman Mason made a motion to PAY ELAINE ALLEN FOR PAST DUE INVOICES FOR $10K, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers. Mayor Noeman said he never got the green light from the state to pay Ms. Elaine, and he cannot pay the bill without an invoice. Mr. Leggett recommended tabling the conversation until the next Board Meeting to allow him an opportunity to negotiate a settlement with Ms. Elaine. Alderman Rivers said the town owes Ms. Elaine. Alderman Mason rescinded her motion, and made a motion to table the past due invoices of $10K, to Ms. Elaine to the next Board Meeting on October 19th and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote to table passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote and Alderman Catron left the meeting at 7:36pm)

- **DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A TOWN ATTORNEY**

Mr. Leggett will speak with Tom Minor, the attorney for Oakland, Fayette, and Hardeman County Tennessee. Attorney Kevin Snider works for Bolivar Tennessee and will attend court for the Town if needed, however Attorney Minor does not. This will be addressed in the Board Meeting in October.

- **VOTE TO DETERMINE A DATE FOR A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD MONTHLY**

The Board agreed upon a date of Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:30pm for a Finance Committee Workshop Meeting.

- **DISCUSSION TO VOTE TO MOVE FUNDS FROM THE MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT INTO THE GENERAL FUNDS ACCOUNT**

Alderman Harris made a motion to move $41K from the Money Market Account to the General Fund Account until the next payroll, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 4-1 (Mayor Noeman voted no) United Systems only attach one fund for payroll. The General Fund Account will repay the Water Fund Account back for future payrolls.

**Mr. Leggett mentioned an invoice dated for "2024" with a bill date of June "24" and March of "2025." The invoice was from Ms. Lynn Evans, and Vernetia said Ms. Evans caught it while closing her books as an oversight. Mr. Leggett said that's a rule of latches by not making a timely request for payment.
**Mr. Leggett mentioned receiving an invoice from Hot Rods Maintenance and Tire Shop for $75 for an idle pully, from Ephriam Collier. Mr. Leggett said he got his mechanic to put the part on for free, and he will do what the Board instructs him to do. Alderman Rivers said the town was not to use that shop, and the town will not pay the invoice.

REPORTS:

- **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mr. Joyner was unavailable however the Code Enforcement Officer report was presented by Mr. Leggett. Demolition fees if not paid will be added to the property owner's property tax.

- **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The Finance Department Report will be discussed at the Finance Workshop Meeting on October 6, 2026

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Hartfield reported that the First Due software for the Fire Department would cost $7,900 dollars in total and $6,900 dollars yearly. This is a command program for basics, and it reports Fire and EMS to the state. Mr. Hartfield said he attempts to get in service sometimes in October. Mr. Hartfield is making some calls that come out in Mason. Alderman Rivers mentioned that $103K was showing in the Budget and it was not supposed to be there. Mr. Leggett recommends a Budget for each Department Head and stated that $103K was not in the Budget. Selling vehicles on Gov Deals should bring in enough money for the Fire software. Elisah Cox and Timothy Depoe will be coming on as volunteers. The truck will go on Gov Deals tomorrow 9-22-26. Mr. Leggett said the Fire software will help set up an inventory system for asset control. Mr. Leggett reported (2) surplus trucks at Public Works and requested the Board permission to put them on Gov Deals. The Board agreed.

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Jewell reported a grant writer in Hardeman County that will not charge the Town, and we can get whatever we can. This is a medical doctor by the name of Matt Tipton. Body cameras are critical and Chief Jewell spoke with the Shelby County Sherriff Department, and the department was able to receive about $40K in body cameras and electrical clip on's for uniforms and body worn cameras. All data will go to the clouds, Lt. Antle said body cameras consisting of (5) were around $65K. All the vehicles were gifts from other departments. Margaret Adams questioned Chief Jewell about timing among shifts, Tipton County dispatches all shifts. Tipton County 911 was not contacted regarding a situation that occurred.

- **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Alderman Mason questioned the water leaks. Mr. Hall informed the Board that the guys at Public Works saved the city lots of money and would like to keep the guys on board right now. Allen Smith and Johnnie Douglas are in training for TAUD, and requires being in the field for a year, all areas are covered for the water. Mr. Hall will start on the fire plugs, and the one at Harmony East will have to be repaired. Mr. Leggett recommends getting rebuilt ones. The water leak was repaired on Gin Street.

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Margaret Adams reported that the date for the Mason Jubilee is Saturday, October 24, 2026, and the setup is from 8am to 10am. The time of the Jubilee is set for 11am to 4pm, and the fee for the food truck vendors is $65, and other vendor fees are $35.

A constituent questioned having a Public Hearing regarding Core Civic. Mayor Noeman said he was waiting for clearance from ICE, stating that he got the okay from Core Civic but not from ICE. The constituent wants to see how this benefits the city and opinions, they're requesting a Public Hearing before the meeting with ICE, wanting what's best for Mason. Mr. Leggett suggested getting questions from the public. A date was decided for Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 1 pm to be held at Public Works. The constituents that voiced concerns were with West Tennessee for the People-Shannon Whitfield, Sarah, and Liana. They reported that on August 30, 2026, ICE conducted the highest immigration raid of (120) people. Concerns were the mistreatment of people and moving them, by requesting what's best for democracy.

CLOSING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mayor Noeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Givhan: All agreed, The Meeting adjourned at 9:16PM

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Eddie Noeman, Mayor Date Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder

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Terry Leggett, Interim Town Administrator