



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 16, 2024, 6:31PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron

ROLL CALL: Mayor Eddie Noeman, Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron, Alderman Celia Chastain, Alderman Virginia Rivers, Alderman Mary Mason, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Alderman Alethea Harris and Alderman Shate' Toliver were absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Davis, Office Manager; Benitra Harvey, IT Consultant; Zachary Antle, MPD; Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief; and Terry Clayton, Esq. City Attorney

VISITORS: Elizabeth Hayes, Francis Gooden, Sylvester Harvey, and Robert Lomax

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2024

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Questions

Alderman Rivers questioned the signing of the contract for repairs to the Fire Station, Mayor Noeman said he had not received it, and Chief Jenkins said it has been submitted and he will take care of it. Alderman Rivers questioned repairs to the a/c unit at the Fire Station, Chief Jenkins said they are waiting for one (1) more quote to get three (3) quotes total.

Alderman Rivers questioned the fire hydrant in need of repair on Lucy Street. Chief Jenkins said it's on their priority list, because the street is a one way in and a one way out. The problem is with the isolation valve, and they are waiting on the repair list with quotes to make a determination. There are around seventy (70) fire hydrants in and around the city limits of Mason, and fifty-one (51) fire hydrants in the county. There are around seventeen (17) in total that are out of service. The fire hydrant on Wall Street and Highway 70 is out of service and is included on the priority list for repairs.

Alderman Chastain questioned the Public Meeting for the fluoride issue. Lureatha Harris shared the response from Mr. Romo with Alliance; Another notice will have to be sent to the customers, Tennessee State Health Commissioner, and TDEC Memphis. This notice must be sent out at least thirty (30) days prior to any discussion regarding fluoride. This would be like the notice that Ms. Davis sent to the constituents dated April 16, 2024. Lureatha Harris will submit the email received from Mr. Romo to the Board.



NEW BUSINESS:

1. ENGINEERING REPORT ABOUT WATER LEAKS

Ricky Oakley PE | *Principal*

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Ricky Oakley was unavailable to attend the meeting, however submitted an email including a graph regarding the water leaks.

The graph that is posted on the Mason Website titled “Water Trend Report for 2022 through 2024” is exactly what would be presented to the Board. It shows how the action taken by the Town to fix leaks after the January water crisis has turned the Water Loss into something more manageable. Water loss averaged 60 percent or more in 2022 and 2023. In 2024, it is averaging approximately 37 percent. The solid black line represents water produced in 2024. It is significantly lower than the solid lines representing 2022 and 2023. This is great news and Mayor; Board and staff should be extremely pleased; 37% is still very high. The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan will allow the Town to take necessary steps to further reduce it. Information was shared with the Board via an email from Mr. Oakley and read by Lureatha Harris.

Mayor Noeman reported finding two (2) more major leaks and hopefully getting the leaks down to nineteen (19) or twenty (20) percent. Mayor Noeman said 50K was spent from a grant for a company to find leaks inside and outside the city. Two (2) major leaks were found but Mayor Noeman stated he doesn't have the location, but he will get the address. Mayor Noeman said Mr. Oakley hired the company. Alderman Rivers requested that Mayor Noeman submit the report to the Board when he receive it.

Fire Department Report

Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

Chief Jenkins reported that, On August 27th, the Mason Fire Department was notified that it had been selected as a recipient of the 2024 Judy Housley Safety Partners Grant through Public Entity Partners. This grant in the amount of \$500.00 is a matching grant that will help the department to afford structural firefighting boots and hoods to keep our personnel safe. To receive funds, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen must vote and adopt a resolution to accept this grant opportunity.

Alderman Chastain made a motion to adopt a Resolution through the Judy Housley Safety Partners Grant through Public Entity Partners in the amount of \$500.00, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

There are six (6) staff working at the Fire Department including Chief Jenkins. Chief Jenkins is open for recruitment, and Lt. Mackey is currently attending paramedic school.

Parks & Public Works Department Report

Alderman Mary Mason submitted her report for Parks and Public Works via email...

Handicap signs have been delivered to the Public Works Department. One has been placed at the curb. The other one has not been placed as of today. Handicap parking signs should be placed close to the pavilion. Each parking space must be marked and maintained with the stylized wheelchair symbol. The park needs new pavement. Signs can be posted until the new pavement is approved by the Board.



Mayor Noeman said he will get with Mr. Irvin Taylor to put the signs in place. Mayor Noeman said the gentleman will begin on the electric wiring this weekend. Mayor Noeman will get the material from Lowes or Home Depot, and the gentleman doing the repair should not charge the Town too much.

Mayor Noeman reported that Alliance will submit reports to the state through the end of this month with no charge and will submit a final report. Alderman Rivers questioned Mason hiring for Public Works. Mayor Noeman said CWS was asking for 25K and there was another company with two (2) young black guys that were very smart, but Mayor Noeman couldn't remember their names, but stated they were certified. Mayor Noeman said he should have something finalized by the end of the month and stated that the state is on the same page. The state is looking for three things, good quality water, pressure, and price.

Alderman Rivers questioned the expectations from the state, and Mayor Noeman said we are still under the umbrella of Alliance. Alderman Rivers questioned if anything was received from the state, and Mayor Noeman said he's been speaking with the state by phone, and someone is needed with a license. Mayor Noeman said he's been dealing with Nicholas, Joellyn Brazile, and Ross Colona in Nashville. Mayor Noeman said he would like to choose from two (2) proposals, and Alderman Rivers questioned if a contract had been received. Mayor Noeman said he would bring the two (2) offers to the Board to make a decision and give the Board time to review the proposals/contracts. Alderman Rivers recommend that Attorney Clayton reviewed the proposals/contracts also.

Police Department Report

Chief Richard Jewell

Officer Daniel Carter is the new hire for the MPD and will be covering nights. This will allow (2) officers on morning shift and two (2) officers on night shift. Mayor Noeman will introduce Officer Carter to the Board at the next Board Meeting. Alderman Rivers questioned racing in the subdivision, and Officer Antle said they have a parked car over there and are patrolling the area. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the Police Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-0 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote)

Resignation

Attorney Terry Clayton said he will be resigning as of October 15, 2024, and he will write up a report and send it out.

Constituent Concern/Question

Sylvester Harvey said at the Special Call Meeting regarding the FY25 Budget, he asked a question and didn't hear the answer. "How are the bills being paid?" Mayor Noeman said Ms. Evans reviews and the state knows about it.

Alderman Rivers questioned the minutes from the Finance Meeting held on September 9, 2024. Mayor Noeman said he would get it from the CMFO, Ms. Lynn. Alderman Rivers said Ms. Lynn don't present the minutes, that Ms. Lureatha Harris presents them. Lureatha Harris informed the Board that Mayor Noeman presented the information for the agenda and those minutes were not requested on the agenda. Lureatha Harris said she had finished listening to the meeting and will do her diligence detailing the requests that were made by the Board for Ms. Lynn.



Request for Finance Meetings

Mayor Noeman made a request for Lureatha Harris to submit all Finance Meetings from March through July of 2024, to be submitted to both the Board and himself.

Alderman Rivers said her question was never answered about monies being transferred for payroll, and it needs to be reflected in the budget, and when it was replaced. Mayor Noeman said he reports to the state every week, and there is money in the accounts. Mayor Noeman said he has discovered bills from three (3) years ago and the state knows about it. Alderman Rivers said the Board is supposed to know what is going on financially.

*******NO OTHER BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED*******

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Virginia Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to adjourn the meeting and all agreed. Meeting adjourned at 7:17PM

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder