



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 20, 2023, 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, Alderman Alethea Harris, and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris (Alderman Shate' Toliver arrived at 6:37PM)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Davis, Office Manager; Ronda & Cortez Hughey, Financial Consultants; Elaine Allen, IT Consultant; Rick Jewell, Chief of Police; Lt. Marvin Norfolk, MPD; Jordan McKenzie, Town Planner; April Adams, Utility Clerk; Shanika Reliford, Utility Billing Specialist; Rudolph Middlebrooks, Interim Public Works Director; Tyrone Gayden, Utility Worker for PW; Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief; and Attorney Terry Clayton

VISITORS: Jennifer Donaldson, April Patton, Zach Lapuh, Barbara Mitchell, Roosevelt Poindexter, and Richard Marbry

Lt. Marvin Norfolk made a brief statement regarding a conversation that he had with Tipton County's Assistant District Attorney, Johnnie Glen, about concerns of safety and respect for those serving on the Board while holding Meetings for the Town. Chief Jewell said he spoke with District Attorney Mark Davidson, which stated that he had received calls regarding the misconduct at the Board Meetings. Moving forward there will be consequences for those showing disrespect to others while governing Towns' Business.

Adoption of the Board Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2023

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to adopt the Board Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2023, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Toliver voted no)

Adoption of the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2023

Alderman Alethea Harris made a motion to adopt the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2023, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 4-2 (Alderman Chastain and Alderman Toliver voted no)



**Adoption of the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2023
(This does not mean that any revisions have been made to the Charter)**

Alderman Rivers made a motion to adopt the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2023, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: Alderman Rivers had a concern about the improper closing of the Special Call Board Meeting of March 14, 2023, and after deliberation for clarity, a motion was made by Alderman Harris to close the Meeting properly and adopt the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2023, with no revisions made to the Charter, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Toliver voted no)

OLD BUSINESS:

- **A ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE MASON MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCE FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND CAMPER ACCESSORY USE ALLOWANCE IN THE TOWN WHEREAS, Section 13-7-201 through 13-7-211 as well as 13-4-310 as per Public Chapter (2nd Reading)**

Alderman Chastain made a motion to accept **A ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE MASON MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCE FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND CAMPER ACCESSORY USE ALLOWANCE IN THE TOWN WHEREAS, Section 13-7-201 through 13-7-211 as well as 13-4-310 as per Public Chapter (2nd Reading)**, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0

- **A PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT REGARDING THE PHARMACY AND MEDICAL USES IN THE B-2 DISTRICT (2nd Reading)**
- Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept **A PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT REGARDING THE PHARMACY AND MEDICAL USES IN THE B-2 DISTRICT (2nd Reading)**, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 6-0

- **RICHARD MARBRY/J & R CONSTRUCTION CO. TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT WITH THE TOWN OF MASON, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Alderman Rivers said the State of TN. states that Mr. Marbry cannot perform water sewer and gas repairs until his license is recertified. Alderman Chastain spoke about Mr. Marbry signing a release of liability form to clear the Town from any liabilities. Mr. Middlebrooks would like to see more talk about the positives versus the negatives of Public Works, and speaking on other duties required in the department rather than just speaking about repairing water leaks.



Mr. Marbry is concerned about repairing and fixing the water leaks around the Town and using two employees from Public Works to do so.

Alderman Harris made a motion that the Town hire Mr. Marbry with the conditions that Mr. Marbry signs a liability release form, for the Town and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: Mr. Marbry will need to get his license out of retirement, and present proper documentation before moving forward. Mrs. Hughey said Mr. Marbry would require a pay of minimum wage opposed to \$5.00 per hour. No vote was passed with Mayor Noeman, and the Board of Alderman until Mr. Marbry provides proper documentation and has cleared everything for employment.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Attorney: Terry Clayton, Esq. City Attorney

Attorney Clayton spoke about the lawsuit with Mr. Dowell regarding the Park and stated that the lawyer will submit a settlement offer. The lawsuit regarding the accident at the Regulator Station in Richland Hills, the defendant Mr. Lark filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, therefore Attorney Clayton will seek after the owner of the vehicle. The lawsuit involving the \$30,000 dollars for Barnett Restoration has a court date scheduled for April 13, 2023, and will be turned in to the FBI for investigation. A judgement was filed by Barnett Restoration against Ms. Mitchell's home.

Economic & Community Development and Office Manager

Norma Davis, Office Manager

On Thursday, March 23, TDEC will conduct its third West TN Wastewater Regionalization Meeting as they formalize the Final Plan for all wastewater utilities in Fayette, Haywood, and Tipton Counties. We plan to attend and make certain our plan for our Town as well as southeast Tipton County is recognized as the best solution for the area. Our Engineers are in the process of rewriting the 2021 CDBG Engineering Report to help with the much needed water system improvements. We will need to postpone the Sanford Road Water Line Extension until we improve service in the northern part of our water system. The current water system cannot add additional customers or expand its service area until the Water Loss and the Pressure Problems are corrected and the Hill Street Tank becomes usable. The revised project will include replacement and relocation of the Hwy 59 Booster Station as a critical component of a major water system rehabilitation project. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the Economic & Community Development and Office Manager Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris, vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Toliver vote no)

Alderman Rivers said the Board has already voted and passed to hire a Code Enforcement Officer. There are two candidates interested in the position, and Mayor Noeman said he would need to look at their resumes, assuring the Board that he was going to hire someone for the position.

No response has been received from the NAACP regarding funding for the Town.



HR Department

No report

Finance and Administration Department

Ronda & Cortez Hughey Financial Consultants

Discussed and reviewed revenues and expenses for each Fund - General, Water, Gas, Drug, Sanitation and Street. The Water Fund Account is losing money due to major water leaks, and the gas account is losing money due to the time of year that gas is required. The THDA Grant and COVID Grants were discussed in the report. The \$227,000 dollars was not reflected in the income statement. Bank balances were read aloud by Mrs. Hughey and will be emailed to the Mayor and Board for review.

Waste Pro

The contract with Waste Pro expires in September of 2023, and a letter will need to be submitted to Waste Pro by April of 2023, to inform them about the termination of services.

Monies Spent for Repairing Potholes

Alderman Rivers questioned the amount of monies that has been spent for repairs, maybe taking one street at a time and making repairs in sections. Mrs. Hughey will get with Public Works to perform some type of analysis. Mrs. Hughey would like to develop strategies to fix the problem.

2022 Audit Draft

Mrs. Hughey will present the 2022 Audit Draft to Mayor Noeman and the Board, at the Special Call Finance Administrative Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

Alderman Chastain made a motion to accept the Finance and Administration Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 6-0

Fire Department

Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

Alderman Rivers questioned the purchase of two fire engines needed for the Fire Department in the amount of \$33,000 dollars. A motion was made and passed by the Board for the purchase of the Fire Engines. Mrs. Hughey said she was on a call with Mayor Noeman and the Comptrollers, and a request was made about the purchase of the fire engines. Mayor Noeman would need to write a letter to the Comptrollers, and state why this is an emergency purchase. The Comptrollers were concerned about the payments required in two years and considering extending the length of the years for repayment. The total cost has been stretched as far as it can go. Mayor Noeman has a meeting scheduled to meet with Chief Jenkins, tomorrow March 21, 2023.



Alderman Chastain made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 6-0

Parks & Public Works Department

Rudolph Middlebrooks, Interim Director

There was no report available, however Mr. Middlebrooks presented a report the next day or so after the meeting. Mayor Noeman asked Ms. Lureatha Harris to get with Mr. Middlebrooks about a report.

Police Department

Chief Richard Jewell

Chief Jewell reported that three police cars were donated by Sheriff Bonner around 11:00am, this morning. Alderman Chastain suggested sending a Thank you card to Sherriff Bonner. Alderman Rivers and Alderman Toliver reported shooting in the Subdivision. Chief Jewell said Officer James Frazier would be coming on board in April. Alderman Rivers made a motion to accept the Police Department Report and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Toliver: vote passed 6-0

Mayor's Period:

Mayor Noeman will meet with Southwest Electric, making an analysis for savings for the Town

Alderman Toliver read a letter to the Constituents, Mayor Noeman, and the Board of Alderman constituting negative behavior that she has received from Mayor Noeman. Alderman Toliver apologized for her actions.

Constituents Comments/Concerns: (2 minutes)

ANOUNCEMENTS:

Town Hall Meeting scheduled for April 1, 2023, from 1:00PM to 3:00PM

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Celia Chastain

Motion To ADJOURN: Alderman Mason made a motion to adjourn, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0 (Meeting adjourned at 8:41PM)

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder