



**Town of Mason
Mayor & Board of Alderman
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday February 26, 2024, 6:37PM**

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 Alethea Harris, Alderman Shate' Toliver, Alderman Mary Mason and Town Recorder Lureatha Harris

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Davis, Office Manager; Ronda & Cortez Hughey, Financial Consultants; Benitra Harvey, IT Consultant; Rick Jewell, Chief of Police; Lt. Marvin Norfolk MPD; and Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

VISITORS: Sylvester Harvey, Calvin Blade, Mary Frances Gooden, Ruby Kelly, Margaret Adams, Elizabeth Hayes, Bernice Humphrey, Laloma Harris, Michael Harris, and Chris Wolf

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024
Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 6-0

Mayor Noeman questioned the Board about the sale of the Old Courthouse located at 12224 Main St. Alderman Toliver made a motion to get/advertise for a bid on the property and afterwards bet on the bid and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 6-0

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of
February 16, 2024

Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Special Call Board Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 5-2 (Alderman Chastain and Alderman Toliver voted no) (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote as yes)

Adoption of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to adopt the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-2 (Alderman Rivers and Alderman Toliver voted no) ((Mayor Noeman was included in the vote as yes)

Mayor Noeman Report: No report

OLD BUSINESS: None



NEW BUSINESS:

- **Sanitation Contract Bid**

Waste Pro was the only bid received for the Sanitation Contract. Waste Pro fees for residential service would be \$23.95 monthly. Mayor Noeman and the Board agreed to charge the residents an increase of a \$2.00 fee, which would charge the residents \$25.95 monthly. Alderman Chastain made a motion to accept the Sanitation Bid with Waste Pro and increase the monthly amount of \$25.95 per residential service, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Rivers voted no)

- **Justice-One Contract/Court Fees Discussion – Lureatha Harris
Adding April Adams as a backup with Justice-One as a User**

Ms. Lureatha Harris presented the Justice- One Contract for review requesting to add April Adams as a backup with Justice-One as a User. The contract would consist of \$20.00 per user with (2) user licenses. The license would include Azure Data Hosting, Data Conversion Court, and Learning Management System (Online Training) This would include \$20.00 per violation or \$500.00 minimum monthly billing, whichever is greater. The prices would include installation, training, maintenance, upgrades, and non-customized modifications related to the products. The agreement would commence on May 1, 2024, and shall continue to and including April 30, 2025. Ms. Lureatha Harris recommends increasing court fees to offset the amount of the contract since court fees has not increased in the past 5 years or longer. Local municipalities court fees were reviewed for comparison. The contract will be reviewed by Attorney Clayton before proceeding.

- **TAUD Discussion** - Mrs. Hughey has not heard back from TAUD

- **Gas Certification Follow-up**

Mayor Noeman hasn't received any gas certifications, but the certifications will be presented via email by Mr. Lyndsey with Alliance. Once the information is received, Ms. Lureatha Harris will submit the information to the Board via email.

There were concerns regarding the water and gas meters not being read on-time, high bills, and bills going out late. Inclement weather had a lot to do with the problem and broken water lines. Mayor Noeman called Mr. Evans with Alliance, and he will attempt to get the meters read on-time for proper billing moving forward.

JD is the certified gas person with Alliance and is second in command per Mayor Noeman.

- **Voting to Reallocate Wages to the Mason Police Department – Alderman Harris** (VCIF Funding) Violent Crime Intervention Funding, this would require a grant revision for the wages of the police officers. The amount is \$34,000 plus \$9,000 for the end of the fiscal year.



Possibly leave the 2 officers in the Budget or remove the second officer. Mrs. Hughey will contact the lady with the grant at VCIF, and Chief Jewell will provide the information to Mrs. Hughey. Mrs. Hughey will notify the Mayor and Board of the grant revisions.

City Attorney: Terry Clayton, Esq. City Attorney (absent)

Mayor Noeman reported that Attorney Clayton submitted the release of information regarding the accident case that occurred at Richland Hills, this would be a payment to the city of \$15,000 for a case that is 4 to 5 years old.

Economic & Community Development and Office Manager

Norma Davis, Office Manager

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Economic & Community Development and Office Manager Report, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 6-0

HR Department

Norma Davis, HR

Ms. Davis passed out the Employees' Handbook and asked if the Board would type out and address any concerns that they might have. These items would be addressed in a Special Call Board Meeting.

Alderman Mason made a motion to accept the HR Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 6-0

Finance and Administration Department

Ronda & Cortez Hughey Financial Consultants

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the Finance and Administration Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 4-2 (Alderman Rivers and Alderman Toliver voted no)

Fire Department

Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

Alderman Toliver made a motion to approve the repair of the door/wall at the Fire Department, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 6-0

The fire truck that was posted for sale closes on February 29, 2024.

Mayor Noeman would like to meet with Chief Jenkins for further discussion, and options for increasing overall staffing coverage at the Fire Department next week.

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

Parks & Public Works Department

Alliance

A memorandum was presented by Alliance to remove fluoride from the water treatment plan.

Alderman Toliver made a motion to **not** accept the removal of fluoride from the water treatment plan, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Harris voted no)

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the Parks & Public Works Department Report, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Toliver voted no)



Police Department

Chief Richard Jewell

Chief Jewell reported that another vehicle was donated to the Police Department. Officers are needed for the night shift. Chief Jewell is requesting salary increases for the officers.

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

Mayor Noeman is requesting that all Board Members have (2 minutes to speak) and recognize one another by their titles

CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS: (2 minutes)

Alderman Harvey request that Waste Pro place the canisters where they belong opposed to placing them in the driveway after dumping the canisters. Ms. Lureatha Harris will notify Waste Pro

Elizabeth Hayes requests the date of pickup for sanitation service. Ms. Lureatha Harris gave the days of Friday and Saturday.

Margaret Adams was concerned about parking at the Liquor Store and blocking traffic view. Mayor Noeman will get with Chief Jewell, and Lt. Norfolk to speak with the owner.

Laloma Harris questioned if the Porter House could be sold. Mayor Noeman would like to repair or rent the house for steady income for the Town. Mayor Noeman spoke with the CMFO, Ms. Evans, regarding the situation. This would be an investment for the city.

Ms. Harris had concerns regarding a house on the corner of Front Street as to who owns the property.

Michael Harris questioned his mothers' gas bill which was 2 or 3 times higher than normal. Mayor Noeman recommends getting a copy of the gas bill and re-reading the gas meter.

Mr. Harris commended the Mayor and Board for moving in a positive direction.

Mayor's Period:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Rivers

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Toliver made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris, vote passed 6-0 (Meeting adjourned at 8:27PM)

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder