



**Town of Mason**  
**Mayor & Board of Alderman**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday November 27, 2023, 6:42PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Eddie Noeman

**OPENING PRAYER:** Vice Mayor Carolyn Catron

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Norma Davis, Office Manager; Ronda & Cortez Hughey, Financial Consultants; Elaine Allen, IT Consultant; Rick Jewell, Chief of Police; Officer Dennis Freeman; Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief; Rudolph Middlebrooks, Public Works; and Jeff Perry, Local Manager with Alliance

**VISITORS:** Margaret Adams, Ruby Kelly, Micky Johnson, Robert Lomax, Michael Harris, Laloma Harris, Tom Emerson, and Sylvester Harvey

Adoption of the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2023  
Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt the Mayor and Board of Alderman Board Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2023, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-1  
(Alderman Toliver voted no)

Adoption of the Town of Mason Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2023  
Alderman Mason made a motion to adopt the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2023, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Harris: vote passed 4-3 (Mayor Noeman was included in the vote as yes) and (Alderman Rivers, Alderman Chastain, and Alderman Toliver voted no)  
Alderman Chastain requested a correction in the minutes regarding the vehicle maintenance records keeper. Alderman Chastain mentioned the vehicle maintenance records, informing that Chief Jenkins volunteered for the Towns' maintenance records keeper not the Board. \*\*Lureatha Harris will make the corrections...

The Board had concerns regarding the submittal of a letter regarding a Feasibility Study, that was presented by Mr. Evans. Alderman Rivers said the Board requested that the letter be placed on the Towns' letterhead and be resubmitted to the Board to be proofed. Ms. Lureatha Harris submitted the letter at the request of Mayor Noeman. Mayor Noeman said he took full responsibility. Board members are requesting out of respect that Mayor Noeman carry out decisions made by the Board. Alderman Toliver had concerns that some of the information in the letter needed to be removed before submitting the letter to the Wastewater Board.

**Mayor Noeman Report:**

Mayor Noeman reported that the sub-station on Mason Charleston Rd. had been fixed, meaning the lines and the pumps. Alliance did a great job! The Thanksgiving turkey give-away was very nice with the help



of Blue Oval, over 100 turkeys were passed out to the constituents. Thanks to everyone that made this a successful event!

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Gas Contract**

Alderman Rivers questioned the reading of the meter books for on-time billing.

Mr. Perry mentioned the meters being difficult to locate and not being uniformed.

Alderman Toliver had concerns about paying out lucrative amounts of money, and Alliance hiring former employees that were terminated.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to not accept the gas contract with Alliance, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 4-3 (Alderman Toliver voted no, and Vice Mayor Catron, Alderman Harris, and Alderman Mason voted yes; there was a tie vote and Mayor Noeman voted yes to break the tie vote).

#### **Discussions**

Alderman Toliver questioned plans for the remainder of the Public Works Department, the parks, and grass cutting. Alderman Toliver said gas has never been an issue. Mayor Noeman said he has a plan for hiring in the streets. Alderman Rivers questioned Mr. Perry about gas certifications, and Mr. Perry said it should not be a long process possibly six months to a year. Alderman Rivers said the Town needed to see what Alliance would be doing first. Alderman Rivers mentioned a fire that took place on Lucy Street and not having a certified person to cut the gas off. Alderman Rivers mentioned putting people in positions that shouldn't be. Mayor Noeman said he has a back-up plan. Alderman Rivers said she had concerns about giving everything to one individual.

#### **Changing vote**

Alderman Mason said since this information was all new to her, she wanted to change her vote to no.

Chief Tanner Jenkins questioned having a plan tonight for emergencies, for whom to call 24/7, and said he needed someone certified. Mayor Noeman said he has someone and has it covered, and will do right by the Town. Chief Jenkins said the utility provider is obligated to respond to emergencies, and Alderman Toliver questioned who. Mayor Noeman informed Alderman Toliver that "I will get you too." Alderman Mason questioned the safety of the citizens and the taxpayers. Mayor Noeman asked Lureatha Harris what was the final vote and Ms. Lureatha Harris said there were 4 no's and 3 yes since Alderman Mason changed her vote.

#### **Chemicals and Water Loss**

Alderman Harris questioned chemicals being in dangerous levels. Mr. Middlebrooks said he had to reset the service pumps. Mayor Noeman asked Lureatha Harris did Mr. Middlebrooks tell him that he Mayor Noeman had nothing to do with the water pressure, and Lureatha Harris answered yes.

Alderman Rivers read off a report of finished water and raw water loss on October 12, 2023, due to the water being left in hand mode. Alderman Rivers said she had both pictures and documentation of the water loss. Mayor Noeman said he fixed over forty leaks and for eight years the Board has sucked the Town dry with unqualified people.



- **Sanitation Contract**

Alderman Rivers made a motion to not accept the sanitation contract with Sanders Waste due to the non-receipt of a performance bond, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Chastain vote passed 4-2 (Mayor Noeman stated that Alderman Toliver could not vote due to a conflict of interest) (Alderman Harris voted yes and Mayor Noeman voted yes) Alderman Toliver was not included in the vote

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Street Paving** (Not discussed)

**City Attorney:** Terry Clayton, Esq. City Attorney (Not available)

**Economic & Community Development and Office Manager**

Norma Davis, Office Manager

Alderman Chastain made a motion to accept the Economic & Community Development Report, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Mason: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Toliver voted no)

**HR Department**

Norma Davis, HR

Alderman Harris made a motion to accept the HR Department Report, and the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 5-1 (Alderman Toliver voted no)

**Finance and Administration Department**

Ronda & Cortez Hughey Financial Consultants

Mrs. Hughey gave a follow-up regarding the software analysis; three companies were contacted for quotes. United Systems support ends December 31, 2023. After contacting United Systems, the Town has one year to go with their system, or upgrade to their system. Once Mrs. Hughey receives all three quotes, they will be submitted to Ms. Lureatha Harris to present to the Board. Mrs. Hughey would like to have everything integrated, meaning utilities, court fees, taxes etc. Mrs. Hughey would like to have everything pulled by April 1, 2024.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to keep Rudolph Middlebrooks as a full-time employee in the Gas Department, with \$21.00 per hour and one part time employee at \$15.00 per hour working 20 hours per week. Mayor Noeman replied that the "Board cannot hire, and they keep doing the same shit".

Alderman Toliver verified with Mrs. Hughey that the \$43,000, was in the budget for the Gas Department, and it was confirmed as yes from November to June. Alderman Toliver 2<sup>nd</sup> the vote made by Alderman Rivers, and there were lots of back-and-forth discussions. Mayor Noeman said the Board needed to vote on the Finance Report however the vote passed 4-1 (Vice Mayor Catron abstained and Alderman Harris left early due to not feeling well. (Alderman Harris left the meeting at 7:58pm before the vote).



**Fire Department** (Not presented)  
Tanner Jenkins, Fire Chief

**Parks & Public Works Department** (Not presented)  
Alliance

**Police Department** (Not presented)  
Chief Richard Jewell

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

**CONSTITUENTS/CONCERNS:** (2 minutes)

**Mayor's Period:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Mason Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> 2023  
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Alderman Rivers

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** There was lots of yelling back and forth among Mayor Noeman and Alderman Toliver. Mayor Noeman left the meeting at 8:00pm, and Vice Mayor Catron adjourned the meeting stating it was out of control. All members agreed to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03pm

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Eddie Noeman, Mayor

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Date

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Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder