



**Town of Mason Mayor & Board of Alderman Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday April 13, 2023 @ 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Eddie Noeman

OPENING PRAYER: Alderman Celia Chastain

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Davis, Office Manager; Ronda and Cortez Hughey, Financial Consultants; Terry Clayton, City Attorney; and Richard Jewell, Chief of Police Department

VISITORS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Comptroller's Office Financial Oversight**
The Audit for FY22 is finished, and past due requirements were satisfied. Mayor Noeman and the Board of Alderman reviewed the Engagement Letter submitted from the CPA, Jones & Tuggle dated November 1, 2022, and revised March 27, 2023, due to concerns about the wording. The Comptroller's letter dated April 6, 2023, with an updated Corrective Action Plan was discussed and reviewed. A copy of the letter is attached in these minutes. Attorney Clayton's response letter to the Attorney General, dated April 11, 2023, was discussed, and reviewed; it is also attached in the minutes.

The Letter

Alderman Rivers had a concern about Mayor Noeman coming against the letter that Attorney Clayton submitted to the Attorney General. Mayor Noeman said he knew nothing about the letter that was submitted. Concerns involved the Comptroller's adding to the Corrective Plan. Attorney Clayton, recommend getting the Budget approved, and do the only things necessary to remain in compliance. Alderman Rivers would like for the Board to vote for the Legal Attorney, Terry Clayton, handle the affairs of the Town. The Town need the 2023, Budget approved, to focus on a Balanced Budget, Fines & Forfeitures, and getting a Realistic Budget Amendment back as soon as possible.

Communication

Attorney Clayton requested communication from Mayor Noeman, and Mayor Noeman agreed to communicate. Alderman Rivers made a motion to allow Attorney Clayton, to deal with the legal portion to the Attorney General for the Town of Mason, and the motion was 2nd by Vice Mayor Catron: vote passed 4-0



Mrs. Hughey reported that the copy of the Audit Draft was completed. The Financial Statement for the General Fund increased to \$278,000 dollars.

- **Financial Department Updates**

Twenty-two water leaks were discovered, fifteen water leaks were fixed, and there are six water leaks remaining. Blue Oval hit a gas line costing the Town \$30,000 dollars, and these funds need to be recouped from the Town.

AMI Meter Readers – A third quote was not received, and Mrs. Hughey went back to each contractor to bid for the meters for the water and sewer. The two bids were Consolidated Pipe and Supply, and G & C Supply Co., Inc., which are attached with the minutes. Mayor Noeman, is looking for a report conducted by David Money, with TDEC. The recommendation was made to go with G & C Supply Company, and make certain that the software and meters will integrate together. Alderman Chastain made a motion to have Mrs. Hughey investigate the software to integrate, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Rivers: vote passed 4-0

Grants

Mayor Noeman said Ricky Oakley is applying for a Grant for a new Substation on Highway 59. Alderman Rivers spoke about a call with TDEC, regarding Regionalization, Reuse, and Protection. The Multi-Media Access Grant goes in steps of a five percent Grant to help with the water and safe streets for all.

Lawsuit

Barnett Restoration filed a Lawsuit against the Town of Mason

Fire Truck

There has been no finalization on the fire truck. Mayor Noeman wants to compare the Grants. The \$72,000 dollars must be spent on, line items, and the Auxiliary Grant was for equipment. Alderman Rivers made a motion to approve a purchase for a fire truck, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 3-1 (Alderman Harris voted no)

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Collateral Options**

The Bank of Mason and Truist Bank have the highest interest rates
Alderman Rivers made a motion to request that Mrs. Hughey check out Money Market Accounts for an analysis, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 4-0



- **March's Financial Reports**

Fines and Forfeitures are less, and Other Income consists of Property Tax.

The Franchise Tax is \$5,000 dollars more than anticipated. Fund Expenditures, brought in more than what was spent out.

The Water expenses are over \$5,000 dollars due to repairing water leaks. The expenses in Gas Is \$43,000 dollars less in wages, bills were received of \$38,000 and \$40,000 dollars due to gas loss from an incident. Sanitation and Street Funds have a net income of \$10,000 dollars each. All Financials were reviewed and presented to Mayor Noeman and the Board.

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to accept the March Financial Report, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Chastain: vote passed 4-0

Upcoming Board Meeting: April 17, 2023

Upcoming Board Meeting: May 15, 2023

Upcoming Board Meeting: June 26, 2023

Upcoming Finance Meeting: May 11, 2023

Upcoming Finance Meeting: June 22, 2023

Upcoming Finance Meeting: July 13, 2023

DOCUMENTS

Resources: March's 2023 Financial Statements

NOTES FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS: There will be a sales tax cut August through October 2023

CLOSING PRAYER: Alderman Harris

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alderman Chastain made a motion to adjourn, and the motion was 2nd by Alderman Harris: vote passed 4-0 (Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM)

Eddie Noeman, Mayor

Date

Lureatha Harris, Town Recorder