

**City of Mansfield**  
**MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING**  
**April 22, 2019**

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **April 22nd**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Mayweather called the meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an Invocation was offered by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Kervin D. Campbell** (Alderman Christopher Thomas was slated to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, but was tardy at the start of the meeting). Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. John Mayweather, Sr., -**Mayor**, Mary J. Green –District **A**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis – District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: None. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Annette Blue (Chief –Mansfield Police Dept.), Billy Locke (Asst. Chief – Mansfield Police Dept.), Fred Jones (Mansfield Police Dept.), Za’Marcea Miles (Mansfield Police Dept.) and Christopher Samuels (Mansfield Fire Dept.). **Others Present**: Deborah Richardson, Chris W. Robinette, and Andre’ Alexander. **Press Present**: Julie Morris (*The Enterprise*).

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **April 8, 2019 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

The City Clerk next opened the floor to hear public comments from those in attendance to any item outlined on the meeting agenda. Since no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a **Resolution** approving the **2018-2019 Revised** and the **2019-2020 *DeSoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission*** budgets. The total operating budget for fiscal year **2019-2020** is approximately **\$598,000**, which is a decrease of roughly \$7,000 under the current year budget. The Commission employs a total of five (5) employees, which includes the administrator, two (2) auditors, a bookkeeper and a secretary. The Commission operates annually on a July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year, and currently collects the local sales and use tax for a total of nine (9) taxing authorities (DeSoto Parish School Board, DeSoto Parish Police Jury, Law Enforcement District, City of Mansfield, Town of Logansport, Village of South Mansfield, Town of Stonewall, Village of Grand Cane and the Town of Keachi). Every tax district in the Parish pays the same fee for the ***DeSoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission*** to collect sales and use taxes regardless of how much tax is collected. The fee changes from month-to-month and is based on the ratio of expenses paid to collect the tax to the taxes collected for all jurisdictions. Collections next fiscal year for the parish-wide authorities are projected to increase and then begin to level off and follow the historical collection trends consistent with previous

years. All companies doing business within DeSoto Parish are required to register with the Commission for the collection of sales and use taxes. It should be noted that the collection of sales and use tax is different from other taxes in that it is a transaction tax and is based solely on the economy. When the economy is good, sales tax collections are good and when the economy slows down, sales tax collections are negatively impacted. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the recommendation offered by the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, **granting** the request of petitioners **James H. Jones, Jr.** and **Gloria S. Jones**, to situate a portable building for commercial use on property bearing a municipal address of **531 Louise Street** and located in a B-2 District (Neighborhood Business District). The petitioners plan to use the portable building for a beauty shop. There were no objections voiced at the Commission's regular meeting held on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation offered by the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, **granting** the request of petitioner **Andre' Alexander**, to situate a mobile home for residential use on property bearing a municipal address of **1507 Gibbs Street** and located in an R-2 District (Multi-Family Residence District). There were no objections voiced at the Commission's regular meeting held on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize the Mayor to enter into and execute a Maintenance Agreement between the City and the *Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development* (LA DOTD) for Mowing & Litter Pickup for the fiscal year ending **June 30, 2020**. Because the DOTD lacks sufficient personnel and equipment to perform mowing and litter collection on a routine and continuing basis, they desire to enter into an Agreement with the City to perform maintenance directly related to mowing and litter collection on the State Roadways located within the City's corporate limits. There are a total of thirteen (13) identified State Routes/Roadways of varying miles where this work is to be performed periodically, and is inclusive of all right-of-ways and roadway shoulders associated with the State Roadways. The total mileage to be maintained by the City pursuant to this Agreement and for which the City is entitled to reimbursement by DOTD is 8.26 miles. DOTD will reimburse the City on a semi-annual basis for work performed pursuant to this Agreement. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: A Statement of Revenue and Expenditures was presented for the period 01/01/19 through 03/31/19 for the Corporation General Fund, and any additional funds identified as major funds of the City. This Statement is presently once monthly to the Mayor and Council for perusal and as a matter of information. At a glance, this report reflects anticipated budgeted revenue against revenue collected to-date and similarly reflects anticipated budgeted expenditures

against expenses incurred to-date for the Corporation General Fund and all other major funds of the City. Also contained in each Alderman's agenda package was a Bank Account Balance report which reflected bank balances as of February 28<sup>th</sup> in all of the City's fund accounts. The Clerk stated that the funds in some of the accounts reflected may not be available for disbursement. Some fund accounts are restricted by loan covenant (a bond issue) and must be used for loan repayment and debt service. Some monies reflected in other funds are held in reserve to underwrite unforeseen emergency repairs to City equipment or to make emergency repairs to water, sewer, streets or drainage infrastructure.

Item F: No other new business discussed.

**Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members:** During this period, the Mayor allowed Police Chief Annette Blue and Assistant Police Chief Billy Locke to report on the overall condition of the Police Department since recently assuming their respective positions. Both officers were formally appointed to their positions in March 2019. Chief Blue began by reporting that since her appointment, she has hired four (4) new police officers. One of the four officers is P.O.S.T. certified and the remaining three will soon be enrolled in the police academy to attain the same status. Assistant Police Chief Billy Locke reported that the bulletproof vests they currently use have expired and will need to be replaced as soon as possible. Approximately \$13,000 is needed to replace the expired vests. Both Alderman Christopher Thomas and Alderwoman Mary Green commented that since the expired vests are a liability issue for the City, this replacement should be a high priority issue. Assistant Chief Locke stated that they have reached out to several companies and other entities to request monetary assistance to help underwrite the cost of new bulletproof vests for the officers in the Police Department. The City's Police Department will also be partnering with the *DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Department*, the *Louisiana State Police* and our local *E-911 Communications District* to purchase and install a new CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) system, also called Computer-Assisted Dispatch. This is a high-dollar item, hence the reason our Police Department favors partnering with the aforementioned agencies so that each can possibly share in the cost of purchasing and installing this new system. CAD is a method of dispatching emergency services assisted by computer. The central idea is that persons in a dispatch center are able to easily view and understand the status of all units being dispatched. CAD typically consists of a suite of software packages used to initiate public safety calls for service, dispatch the appropriate personnel, and maintain the status of responding resources in the field.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:05 p.m.** by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

**John H. Mayweather, Sr.,** *Mayor*  
**Marvin R. Jackson,** *Clerk*