

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
April 25, 2016

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, April 25th** in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor McCoy 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**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, **Mayor**, Mary L. Green –District **A**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr., –District **D**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent due to suspension**: Roy R. Jones –District **B**. **Other City Personnel Present**: Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Tommie Crawford (Public Relations Officer), James “Jim” Ruffin (Public Works Director), Gary Hobbs (Police Chief –MPD), Annette Blue (Captain –MPD), Rodney Christian, Jr. (Officer –MPD), and John S. Evans (City Attorney), **Others Present**: A. J. Williams, Jr. (Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission), Chris Robinette, Jean Edwards, Cheryl Thomas, Fred Lowery, Mary Stills, Latarsha Shelton, Rev. Earl Montgomery, and Jeff Heard. **Press Present**: Julie Morris and Billy Morris –*The Enterprise* and Vickie Welborn –*KTBS Channel 3*.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **April 11, 2016 *regular*** City Council meeting and to 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. Though not on this meeting’s published agenda, Mansfield resident, Ms. **Mary Stills**, rose to voice her opposition to the closure of an alley located directly behind a Louise Street facility (*Community of Faith Family Ministries*). This issue was first introduced at the City Council’s March 28th meeting where closure of the alley had been requested by petitioner, Rev. **George L. Thomas**. However, since that time, the Mayor and City Council decided not to pursue closure and abandonment of this alley after learning that motorists and pedestrians do use the unimproved thoroughfare to traverse between Mary Street and Shallowhorne Street. A Notice of Public Hearing regarding this issue was published in our local journal (*The Enterprise*) on April 7th and April 14th. Nevertheless, the Notice was retracted and would not be published in the April 21st edition of the newspaper. The petitioner (Rev. Thomas) was immediately notified of the Council’s decision not to proceed with this action. When no further comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to appoint Mrs. **Brenda H. Hall** as alderwoman for council District B to fill the vacancy left from suspended Alderman **Roy R. Jones**. Mrs. **Hall** was not present at this session. On January 28th of this year, Alderman **Jones** was formally charged with two felonies and upon those convictions, was automatically suspended from office. He can no longer be compensated nor can he perform any official act, duty, or function of his office as Alderman. While suspended, the

Mayor and Board of Aldermen can legally appoint a replacement for this position until the next election is called. In the interim, Mr. **Jones** has a right to appeal the conviction. Should his conviction be reversed on appeal, he will be reinstated to this position and shall receive full back pay retroactive from the date first suspended. Mayor McCoy stated that the City Clerk, who is also Louisiana notary public, will administer the Oath of Office to Mrs. **Hall**. She was formally introduced to the City Council by Mayor McCoy at their April 11th meeting. She will attend her first meeting as Alderwoman on May 9th, and will receive the same compensation as Mr. Jones was entitled, along with the authority to perform the same duties and functions. Mrs. Hall will however, not be eligible in the next election to run as a candidate for this office. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve the recommendation of the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Commission granting the request of petitioner, Mr. **Jeffrey L. Heard**, to situate a **modular home** on property located in an R-1 District (Single-Family Residence District) with a municipal address of **234 Ricks Drive**. Mr. Heard informed the Commission at their April 20th meeting that his intentions are to sell the home and property to a potential buyer, and also stated that there are other modular homes in the area. The property is more particularly described as: LOTS 18 & 19 OF MEADOW PARK ADDITION NO. 1, A SUBDV. IN THE SW SE SEC 16 & IN NW NE SEC 21, ALL IN T12 R13 (812-549) LESS LOT #23 (912-616) LESS LOT #28 (1214-486). Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation of the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Commission, granting the request of petitioner, Mr. **Jeffrey L. Heard**, to situate a **modular home** on property located in an R-1 District (Single-Family Residence District) with a municipal address of **101 Ricks Drive**. Similar to the property at 234 Ricks Drive, Mr. Heard plans to offer the home and property for sale to a potential buyer. The property is more particularly described as: LOTS 1 & 2 OF MEADOW PARK ADDITION NO. 1, A SUBDV. IN THE SW SE SEC 16 & IN NW NE SEC 21, ALL IN T12 R13 (812-549) LESS LOT #23 (912-616) LESS LOT #28 (1214-486). Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to adopt a **Resolution** approving the **2015-2016** Revised Budget and the **2016-2017** Sales & Use Tax Commission Budget. The city clerk reminded the Council that the Commission is the agency which collects the City's sales and use taxes and its hotel/motel occupancy taxes monthly. These taxes are a major source of revenue for the City and the other taxing authorities. Upon adoption of the **Resolution**, the City and the two other taxing authorities (DeSoto Parish School Board and DeSoto Parish Police Jury) will in effect enter into a contract with the Commission for another year to collect the taxes for them and forward same to the respective authorities. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to authorize the advertisement of sealed public bids for the purchase of **Caustic**

Soda Liquid 25% Diaphragm and Aluminum Sulfate Solution for use at the Toledo Bend Water Treatment Plant. A Request for Bids notice will be published in *The Enterprise* on May 5th, May 12th, and May 19th. All bids received will be publicly opened at the City Council's regular May 23rd meeting and taken under advisement. After the bids are tabulated, the proposal from the lowest responsible bidder will be accepted and announced at the Council's meeting scheduled for June 13th. The period of purchase for proposals shall be from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Specifications are available at Mansfield City Hall, with the City reserving the right to reject any and all bids received. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item F: At this time, the floor was surrendered to Police Chief **Gary D. Hobbs** who had two recommendations to offer to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The first was a recommendation to offer full-time employment to patrol officer, **Rodney D. Christian, Jr.** Officer Christian has been employed with the City since October 28, 2015. During that time, Mr. Christian has achieved an excellent attendance record, has proven his ability to follow the instructions given to him by his supervisors, and comes to the police force with approximately 17 years of previous law enforcement experience. He has also demonstrated his ability to interact with the public and conduct himself in a professional manner. Possessing these credentials and with the recommendation of Chief Hobbs, it was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve Officer Christian for full-time employment with the City of Mansfield. Motion Passed Unanimously. Conversely, Chief Hobbs also recommended the appointment of Captain **Annette Blue** to the rank of Assistant Chief of Police. Captain Blue has been employed with the City of Mansfield for better than 30 years. During her tenure with the Department, she has served in many different capacities and has performed very well in whatever position she was assigned. Captain Blue has achieved an outstanding attendance record and has often taken the initiative to perform other duties without being asked. Mayor McCoy remarked that this new position was a lateral move, as the duties of an Assistant Chief of Police mirror those of a Captain. Therefore, with the recommendation of Chief Hobbs, it was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to concur and approve Captain Blue's new assignment to Assistant Chief of Police, effective immediately. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item G: No other new business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:44 p.m.** by MOTION from **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and was SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

Curtis W. McCoy, *Mayor*
Marvin R. Jackson, *Clerk*