

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
April 26, 2021

In-Person Council Meeting

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **April 26th**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor John H. Mayweather, Sr. called this meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an Invocation was offered by **Alderman Christopher S. Thomas**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderwoman Mary J. Green**. Following the pledge, the clerk called the roll to record those council members in attendance. The following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. John H. 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 (Police Chief), Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief), Bryan Ross (Capt. -Fire Dept.), and Christopher Samuels (Firefighter –Fire Dept.). Others Present: Ulysses Humphries, James Michael, Nettie Whitaker, Lynda Spivey and Rita Myles). **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **April 12, 2021 *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. When no public comments were offered from any of the participants in this meeting, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: -None.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a **Resolution** approving the **2020-2021 Revised** Budget and the **2021-2022** Budget of the *DeSoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission*. The Clerk reminded the Mayor and Council that this is the agency that not only collects the City’s sales taxes, but also its water sales taxes and its hotel/motel occupancy taxes. He went further by reading an excerpt from page 3 of the Commission’s 2021-2022 budget. It stated that through February of this year, there had been a decrease in collections of about \$4.9 million or -15.5% as compared to last year. The decrease was mainly attributed to a decrease in the collections of the top 5 business classifications as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Total collections for next year are expected to slightly increase as we recover from the pandemic. The budget narrative went on to state that the collection of sales & use tax is different from other taxes in that it is a transaction tax and is based solely on the economy. In a good economy, sales tax collections are good and when the economy slows down, sales tax collections slow down. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It should be noted that the next 9 agenda items (**Items B through J**) were petitions that were first presented to the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Commission at their April 21st regular meeting. All the petitions were requests to situate mobile homes for residential use in various zoning districts throughout the City. Nearly all of the petitioners brought more than one petition

before the Commission for consideration, and ALL of the requests submitted were **granted**. Because that was true, it was the unanimous consensus of the City Council to **grant** ALL of the petitions described on the meeting agenda, as was recommended by the Zoning Commission. The petitioner's requests are more particularly described as follows: **Rodriguez Ross**' had requests to situate mobile homes for residential use on **26 Head Street** and **24 Head Street**, **Shedrick** and **Joann Adkins** had requests to situate mobile homes for residential use on **2157 S. Washington Street**, **Kavanaugh Street**, **115 Church Street**, and **111 Church Street**, **Billy Green** submitted one request to situate a mobile home for residential use on **1200 Georgia Street**, and finally **Lynda Spivey** had requests to situate mobile homes for residential use on **207 Huson Street** and **510 Willard Street**. It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendations of the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission **granting** the requests of ALL the petitions submitted. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item K: At this time, a presentation was heard by Mrs. **Nettie Whitaker**, secretary of the organization *Mansfield Civic Group* regarding planned activities for the upcoming Juneteenth Festival event. This event was cancelled in **2020**, due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this year the group has reconvened and have begun planning a list of attractions for the enjoyment of the community at large. It has been tentatively scheduled for June 25th, 26th and 27th. Admission will be charged to gain entry and fess will be assessed to vendors desiring to set up a booth around the Courthouse Square in the downtown district. Event costs are estimated to total \$20,000. Mrs. **Whitaker** requested a donation from the City, if possible. More details regarding this event will be announced on all advertising platforms available to this group (newspaper, flyers, word-of-mouth, and all social media platforms).

Item L: No other new business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor and Council members requested additional details regarding the reimbursement received last year from the LA Cares Act Fund. Specifically, they would like to be informed of the exact amount received from this Act and then provided with a breakdown of which expense line items the reimbursement funded. This is a matter that has been discussed to some degree at previous Council meetings.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:14 p.m.** by MOTION from **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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