

**City of Mansfield**  
**MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING**  
**April 27, 2020**

**Via Teleconference**

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **April 27th**, via *teleconference* due to the current State of Emergency as a result of the **COVID-19** pandemic. Mayor John H. Mayweather, Sr. called this meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an Invocation was offered by **Alderman Joseph Hall, Jr.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Christopher S. Thomas.** Following the pledge, the clerk called the roll to record those council members in attendance. Following the pledge, the clerk asked each council member on the *teleconference* to confirm their participation by signifying a verbal ‘present’ as their names were called aloud. 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** (attended meeting in person in Clerk’s office at City Hall), Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E.** **Absent:** None. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present/Participating:** Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Annette Blue (Police Chief –MPD), Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief –MPD), and LaTarsha Shelton (Fire Chief –MFD). **Others Present:** None. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **CHRISTOPHER** to approve the minutes of the **April 13, 2020 *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. Constituents had been invited to participate in the meeting with regard to public comments using the method of either email, faxing or phoning in any public comments they wanted to offer during the Public Comments Period. Since no comments were received by any of the methods outlined above, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt the **Resolution** approving the **2019-2020 *Revised*** and the **2020-2021** Budgets of the ***DeSoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission.*** The total operating budget for fiscal year **2020-2021** is approximately **\$610,000**, which is a decrease of \$18,500 or 2.9% 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. Through February of 2020, there has been a marked decline in collections of about 2.4 million as compared to last year. It should be noted that as a result of the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission anticipates total collections for next year to continue to decrease for a period of time and then at some point should level off. 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 **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a **Resolution** in opposition of all proposed legislation that permits the Legislature to remove the authority of local governments to administer and collect their local sales and use taxes. Efforts introduced in the **2019 Regular Legislative Session**, if passed, would transfer the responsibility of all local sales and use taxes levies to the state Department of Revenue or some other entity/collector. With the Department of Revenue possibly having limited resource to provide the necessary taxpayer assistance and enforcement mechanisms in place, the impact to local governments would inevitably result in the loss of local tax receipts. Further, since the secretary of the Department of Revenue is an appointee of the Governor, there exists great uncertainty as to who in the Department would be accountable to local taxing authorities for the performance of such critical local tax administration. This adopted **Resolution** was forwarded to **Karen White**, executive counsel of the *Louisiana Municipal Association* and to the legislative delegation for this district (Sen. Barry S. Milligan –Dist. 38 and Rep. Kenny R. Cox –Dist. 23). Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: At this time, **Ordinance No. 2 of 2020** was introduced to the Council, drafted to amend the city Annual Financial Budget for fiscal year **2020**. The amendment included an \$85,000 allocation for the records management component of a C.A.D. (Computer-Assisted Dispatch) system for the Police, a \$15,000 allocation to perform some repair and modification to three (3) used police units donated to the Police Department from the *DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office*, and finally a \$3,300 allocation to purchase a radar unit for the Department. The total budget amendment amounted to \$103,300. With regard to the C.A.D. system component, Fire Chief Latarsha Shelton stated that the Fire Department would also need a similar upgrade. Should it become necessary to purchase additional equipment for the Fire Department, the budget amendment proposed may need to be increased. To allow time for the management to determine if sufficient capital resources are available in the budget to increase the proposed amendment amount, it was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to table

discussion and passage of the **Ordinance** until a near future meeting, after more information is gathered. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: No other business discussed.

**Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members:** None offered.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:57 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*