

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
April 8, 2019

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **April 8th**, 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 Kervin D. Campbell**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis**. 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**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: Christopher S. Thomas –District **B** and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Billy Locke (Asst. Chief –Mansfield Police Dept.), Fred Jones (Mansfield Police Dept), Za’Marceal Miles (Mansfield Police Dept.). **Others Present**: Bob Harris and Daphne Wells. **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **March 25, 2019 *regular*** City Council meeting (reading of minutes dispensed) with the following corrections noted. First, it was recorded that city attorney John Evans was present at the March 25th council meeting, but he was not. Secondly, for Item B under **New Business**, it was recorded that Alderman Joseph Hall offered a motion to that item; however, he was not present at the March 25th meeting. Alderman Christopher Thomas motioned for approval of Item B under **New Business**, with a second from Alderman Mitchell Lewis. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the payment of current outstanding bills for this period. 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 **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve a **Resolution** setting the 2019 property tax millage rates. The tax rates which will be levied on the assessment roll of DeSoto Parish for the year 2019 are **8.320 mills** for General Alimony and **8.730 mills** for General Expenses. The tax levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation in the parish of DeSoto. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve adoption of a **Resolution** authorizing the Mayor to enter into and execute a

Contract with *The Coordinating and Development Corporation (the CDC, Inc.)* for Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Administrative Services in application for LCDBG program funds for the 2020/2021 funding cycle. The City intends to apply for funds to effect rehabilitation to its Sewer Collection System. Administrative consulting services have been estimated to cost approximately \$36,400, and will only have to be paid to *CDC, Inc.* in the event the City's LCDBG application is selected for funding. In addition, if the specified project is funded, administrative costs may be paid out over a 3-year contract period. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve authorization for the Mayor to enter into and execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City and the *DeSoto Parish Police Jury* (DPPJ) to accept a donation from this entity for funding the purchase of outdated firefighting equipment and other apparatus for the Mansfield Fire Department. The equipment selected for purchase has been estimated to cost approximately \$70,000. The City must provide documentation to the DPPJ of all equipment purchased and must have the donation fully expended by December 31, 2019. In reciprocity for this donation, the DPPJ will receive improved fire protection services for the residents and businesses in Mansfield, and the City will receive assistance in replacement of outdated firefighting equipment. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: No other new business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor introduced Mr. **Bob Harris** of *Communities Unlimited, Inc.* Its corporate office is located in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and serves seven southern states one of which is Louisiana. *Communities Unlimited* is a non-profit lending institution providing under-resourced communities with fundamental infrastructure services and economic growth strategies. Mr. **Harris** can act as a liaison between the City and USDA Rural Development informing the City of various grants that are available to our municipality in promotion of economic growth and expansion. In closing, he remarked that Department Heads are encouraged to manage their respective departments with regard to daily operations. After these remarks, Assistant Chief of Police, **Billy Locke** was asked to introduce a new police officer present at this meeting. He introduced officer **Za'Marcea Miles** to the Mayor and Councilmen. It was officer **Miles**' 1st day on the job. Another officer (Jeffrey Walker) has been hired and will report to work at the Police Department on Wednesday, April 10th. That will be his 1st official day on the job. Officer **Walker** and officer **Miles** were both present on April 8th in Mayor's Court. Assistant Chief **Locke** further reported that three police dispatchers and another potential police officer had recently been interviewed. Interviews are being conducted internally, with recommendations offered to Police Chief **Annette Blue** at the conclusion of the interviews. In conclusion, Assistant Chief **Locke** informed the Mayor and Council that the Police Department works hand-

in-hand with the *DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office* (DPSO). The DPSO has been very accommodating to the Police Department whenever our Department is in need of assistance from them with regard to law enforcement services. Alderman Campbell complimented our Police Department on the good work they are doing in keeping the confidence of the public in the forefront in their daily charge of protecting our citizens. Alderwoman Green also commended the Police Department on the great job they are doing even in light of seemingly being understaffed on occasion. On a separate matter, she invited members of the Board and the Mayor to join the *Mansfield Civic Group* whenever they attempt to launch an initiative which they feel will be beneficial to the general public. She is a member and an officer of this organization. They are currently planning and organizing this year's *Juneteenth Parade and Festival*, scheduled to be held sometime in June. Their next monthly meeting will be held at the *DeSoto Training Agency and Driving School* facility (1308 McArthur Drive).

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:51 p.m.** by MOTION from **MARY J. GREEN** and was SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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