

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
April 11, 2011

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, April 11th**, 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 G. B. Hall III**. The oral call was suspended, but the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Honorable Curtis W. McCoy, G. B. Hall III –District **A**, Mitchell L. Lewis – District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D** and Alvin R. Woodley –District **E**. **Absent**: Troy N. Terrell –District **B**. **Press Present**: John Blanchard (*The Enterprise*).

It was MOTIONED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **March 28, 2011 regular** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **G. B. HALL III** to pay current outstanding bills for this period. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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

Old Business: None

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to approve Budget Amendment No. 1 of 2011 as prepared by city accountant, Melony McCarty. The adjustments entailed proposed capital expenditures that impact a large percentage of various departments of the City, and amounted to an increase of **\$656,200**. These expenditures will be funded using revenue recently received from mineral leases entered into from the nomination of city-owned lands with the LA State Mineral Board. The expenditures include the purchase of vehicles for the Police and Water departments, computer equipment upgrades for City Hall, communications system upgrades for the Police and Fire departments, street and sidewalk improvements, the purchase of two pieces of large equipment for use in the Street department and several other large purchases. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation of Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, to offer full time employee to **George Peyton, Jr.** Mr. Peyton's hire date was January 3, 2011. He has successfully completed the mandatory 90-day probationary period. A recent employee evaluation conducted by Mr. Ruffin resulted in an overall *'very good'* performance rating. Mr. Peyton is currently assigned to work in the Street Department. The evaluation indicates that he takes initiative and has shown a willingness to work well with others. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to adopt a Proclamation declaring **April 2011** as *Fair Housing Month* in the City of Mansfield at the request of Governor Bobby Jindal. This year marks the 43rd Anniversary of the **National Fair Housing Law of 1968**, and is a law that guarantees each citizen the critical, personal element of freely choosing a home, thereby prohibiting housing discrimination. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full copy of Proclamation on display at City Hall).

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **G. B. HALL III** to approve a Resolution in support of the State of Louisiana's Horizontal Severance Tax Investment Incentive. To elaborate on the details and importance of continuing this tax incentive was Ms. Jennifer Voisin- Chesapeake Energy's Senior Coordinator of Public Affairs. Ms. Voisin explained that this tax investment incentive allows the suspension of severance taxes due on production from a "*Horizontal*" and "*Deep*" well from the date of first production until payout of qualified costs or twenty-four (24) months, whichever comes first. This incentive was enacted for the purpose of providing economic incentives to drill capital incentive oil and natural gas wells and to continue production of marginal wells. The utilization of this incentive has resulted in the creation of more than 60,000 jobs, the injection of over \$13 billion dollars in investment in the state, and nearly one (1) billion paid to local, parish and state governments between the years of 2008 – 2010. The City's support of this tax incentive will help to ensure that the state of Louisiana remains an attractive marketplace for exploring and developing deep oil and gas reserves and contributing significant economic impact to local and state governments. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full copy of Resolution on file at City Hall).

Item E: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a Proclamation declaring **April 25 – 30, 2011** as *National Community Development Week* in recognition of the positive impact the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has had on local communities over the past few decades. The Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has operated since 1982 to provide local governments with the resources required to meet the needs of persons of low and moderate-income. The program has had a significant impact on our local economy through either job creation or retention, public infrastructure improvements and/or improved housing. Given the federal deficit and budget climate, all federal programs are at risk of receiving less money in the coming year. CDBG program funding has been reduced significantly over the years. It is imperative that all CDBG grantees celebrate and recognize the good work of the program during the 2011 Community Development Week campaign to maintain funding for the program in year 2012. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full copy of Proclamation on display at City Hall).

Item F: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a Resolution referencing the benefits of the CDBG to local communities over the past

three decades. By adopting this Resolution, this community recognizes the strong sense of relationship developed between this local government and its residents, because of the more than three decades of CDBG funding. The City further recognizes that the CDBG is a partnership of federal, state, and local government and community and business efforts, and that the services funded by the CDBG program relies heavily on the dedication and goodwill of the combined efforts of these entities. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full copy of Resolution of file at City Hall).

Item G: At this time, a presentation was offered by Mr. **Max D. LeComte**, President and CEO of The Coordinating and Development Corporation (CDC). Mr. LeComte was present to request financial assistance from the City to refurbish the rapidly deteriorating old Nabors Trailers facility. Further, Mr. LeComte said that rehabilitation of the facility is needed to ready it for occupation. Several large industrial-type companies have expressed interest in purchasing the facility, but refuse to consummate a purchase in its present state. Approximately 1.2 million dollars is needed to substantially improve the condition of the facility. Mr. LeComte is requesting monetary assistance from both the City and the DeSoto Parish Police Jury. Specifically, he requested a loan from the City in the amount of \$250,000.00 and the remainder needed for the rehabilitation will be requested from the Police Jury. If this request is approved, all capital expended from both entities would be used to finance construction costs. No administrative costs would be satisfied with the 1.2 million dollars. Once the facility has been purchased, the City's \$250,000 loan would be repaid. Once back in operation, this facility would create between 50 to 100 high-paying jobs at an average annual salary of \$48,000 per year. In exchange for the City's contribution to this endeavor, the CDC would refurbish the Martin Rogers Recreational Park located across the street from the old Nabors Trailers facility. Additionally, the CDC would also assist the City with future proposed annexation plans at no cost to the City. Mayor McCoy stated that he would be in support of entering a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the CDC, but only on the condition that the DeSoto Parish Police Jury (DPPJ) would also consent to entering a similar such agreement. It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to partner with the CDC and DPPJ by entering into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement on the condition that the DPPJ would also enter into a similar such arrangement/agreement. Motion Passed Unanimously.

During the period for comments from the Mayor and Council Members, no comments were offered.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting **adjourned at 4:50 p.m.**, by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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

