

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
April 28, 2014

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, April 28th**, 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 Joseph Hall, Jr.** 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. Curtis W. McCoy, Mitchell L. Lewis – District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E.** **Absent:** G. B. Hall III –District **A** and Troy N. Terrell –District **B.** **Other City Personnel Present:** James “Jim” Ruffin (Public Works Director), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Richard Johnson, Jr. (City Attorney), Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), and Fred Jones (Police Officer –MPD and Code Enforcement Officer). **Others Present:** Chris Robinette, Rita Myles and Demetria Preston. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the minutes of the **April 14, 2014 *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. When no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

Old Business:

Item A: At this time, a public hearing was conducted to hear any comments related to the adoption of a Proposed Ordinance introduced at the City Council’s regular meeting on April 14th to amend Ordinance No. 22 of 2011, Section I-9, titled, “***General Penalties and Court Costs***”, of Chapter 1 of the City of Mansfield’s Code of Ordinances. A recent internal audit revealed that the latest revision to the City’s Bond/Fine Schedule would put the current Ordinance in conflict with the revised Fine Schedule. When no comments were offered, the public hearing was closed.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to adopt proposed **Ordinance No. 3 of 2014** which amends Ordinance No. 22 of 2011, Section I-9, titled, “***General Penalties and Court Costs***”, of Chapter 1 of the City of Mansfield’s Code of Ordinances. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full Ordinance recited below):

ORDINANCE NO. 3 OF 2014

TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 22 OF 2011, SECTION 1-9
TITLED “GENERAL PENALTIES AND COURT COSTS”
OF CHAPTER ONE OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY
THE CITY OF MANSFIELD, LOUISIANA, AND TO PRO-
VIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Mansfield, Louisiana, in regular session convened, Section 1-9 of Chapter One of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mansfield, Louisiana, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1-9 General penalty and court costs

- (d) Section 1-9 (a): The phrase “*and where no specific penalty is provided*” is hereby repealed and removed.
- (e) All ordinances in which a specific penalty is provided that is in conflict herewith, is hereby repealed.
- (f) Fines shall not exceed the fines established in this code and shall be levied as set forth in the “Fine Schedule” of the City of Mansfield, as amended from time to time.

Ordinance was introduced on April 14, 2014 , legal notice published on April 24, 2014 , as required by law.

UPON MOTION OF Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis, seconded by Alderman Joseph Hall, Jr., the above and foregoing ordinance was adopted on this the 28th day of April, 2014 with the votes as follows:

AYES: 3 (M. Lewis, J. Hall, and K. Campbell)
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2 (G. Hall and T. Terrell)

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

Item C: At this time, a public hearing was conducted to hear any comments related to the adoption of a Proposed Ordinance introduced at the City Council’s regular meeting on April 14th to amend Chapter 5 titled, “*Animals and Fowl*”, Article I titled “*In General*”, Section 5-7 titled, “*Horse Riding After Dark Prohibited*”, of the City of Mansfield’s Code of Ordinances. Adoption of this Ordinance makes it unlawful, at any time of the day or night, to ride horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, cows, or to drive carriages or wagons drawn by such animals, upon any public property, public street, sidewalk or alleyway located within the corporate limits of the City of Mansfield. The only exception would be when permission to ride such animals has been permitted by the City in a parade, circus, festival, carnival or some similar event. When no comments were voiced, the public hearing was then closed.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to adopt proposed **Ordinance No. 4 of 2014** to amend Chapter 5 titled, "*Animals and Fowl*", Article I titled "*In General*", Section 5-7 titled, "*Horse Riding After Dark Prohibited*", of the City of Mansfield's Code of Ordinances. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full Ordinance recited below):

ORDINANCE NO. 4 OF 2014

TO AMEND CHAPTER 5, ENTITLED "ANIMALS AND FOWLS", ARTICLE I, ENTITLED "IN GENERAL", SECTION 5-7, ENTITLED "HORSE RIDING AFTER DARK PROHIBITED" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY THE CITY OF MANSFIELD, LOUISIANA, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Mansfield, Parish of DeSoto, State of Louisiana, in regular session convened:

SECTION I.

It shall be unlawful, at any time of the day or night, to ride horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, cows, or to drive carriages or wagons drawn by such animals, upon any public property, public street, sidewalk or alleyway located within the corporate limits of the City of Mansfield.

SECTION II.

The City reserves the right to grant permission for said riding of horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, cows, or for the driving of carriages or wagons drawn by such animals upon public property and public streets when such action is directly related to an authorized parade and the participants have permission to participate in said parade.

SECTION III.

It shall be unlawful to lead or drive horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, cows, or to lead such animals that are drawing carriages or wagons, upon public property and public streets within the corporate limits of the City of Mansfield.

SECTION IV.

Whosoever shall violate the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or up to sixty (60) days jail as listed in the "Fine Schedule" of the City of Mansfield.

SECTION V.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Introduced on April 14, 2014; legal notice published on April 24, 2014; as required by law.

UPON MOTION OF ALDERMAN Mitchell L. Lewis, seconded by Alderman Joseph Hall, Jr., the above and foregoing ordinance was adopted on this the 28th day of April, 2014, with the votes as follows:

AYES: 3 (M. Lewis, J. Hall and K. Campbell)
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2 (G. Hall and T. Terrell)

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

Item E. No other old business

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the recommendation of the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission granting the request of Ms. **Demetria Preston** to place a mobile home on property located in an R-1 District (Single-Family Residence District) municipally known as **156 Tommy Johnson Street**. The petitioner, Ms. Preston, was present at this meeting and stated that she intends to situate an above average condition mobile home on this property. The property bears a legal description of: Lot 6, Blk 1, Wilson Place Subdivision (1182-316)(1195-691). Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to adopt a Resolution approving the 2013-2014 revised and the 2014-2015 Sales & Use Tax Commission's Budget and effect a contract for the ensuing fiscal year. Present at this meeting was the Commission's administrator, Mr. **Chris Robinette**, to field any inquiries from

the Mayor and/or City Council, regarding these documents. At this time, the Mayor inquired about the Commission's process for ensuring that each business owner pays the correct amount of sales taxes. Mr. Robinette stated that all business owners/clients are required to submit either a monthly, quarterly or "occasional" tax return to his office, depending on the volume and frequency of their respective sales activity. The returns are reviewed for accuracy and the amount of sales taxes assessed is calculated using the gross receipts reported on that return. Additionally, each taxpayer is audited by this office every two years. If any discrepancies are revealed as a result of this biennial audit, those clients are then invoiced for any shortages that may exist. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: No other new business discussed.

During the **Comments Period** for the Mayor and Council Members, Mayor McCoy asked if the Alderman present had any concerns they'd like to voice from the constituents in their respective districts. Alderman Lewis read off a list of items in his district that needed addressing. The list consisted primarily of drainage issues, issues of grass and weed abatement, and the demolition and subsequent cleanup of abandoned and burned houses. These concerns were disseminated to the appropriate department head so that corrective action could be initiated. The Mayor stated that each Alderman will be expected to periodically present a report of concerns, and city personnel will seek to resolve those issues as expeditiously as feasible.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at **4:53 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*