

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
August 12, 2019

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **August 12th**, 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 Mitchell L. Lewis**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Kervin D. Campbell**. 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, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District D and Kervin D. Campbell –District E. **Absent**: Christopher S. Thomas –District B. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Jim Ruffin (Public Works Director) and Annette Blue (Chief –Mansfield Police Dept.). **Others Present**: Junear LeShay, Bethany May, Fran Norwood, Martha Sayers, Brenda Fleniken, Julie Rogers, John Barr, Charlotte Miller, Brenda Hall, Rev. Arick Lassiter, Belinda Lassiter, Tonie Ford, Christo Lancaster and Arie Young. **Press Present**: Martha Rivers (*The Enterprise & Interstate Progress*).

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **July 22, 2019 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED BY **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve 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:

Item A: A public hearing was conducted to hear and discuss any comments related to the adoption of proposed **Ordinance No. 2 of 2019**, drafted to close and abandon approximately 200 feet, more or less, of the undeveloped portion of the North end of **Jackson Street**, located in Block 16 in the City of Mansfield, LA. When no comments or concerns were voiced regarding this matter, the public hearing was then subsequently closed.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt **Ordinance No. 2 of 2019**, drafted to close and abandon approximately 200 feet, more or less, of the undeveloped portion of the North end of **Jackson Street**, located in Block 16 in the City of Mansfield, LA. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full Ordinance recited below):

CITY of MANSFIELD
ORDINANCE NO. 2 OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING APPROXIMATELY 200 FEET M/L OF THE UNDEVELOPED PORTION OF THE NORTH END OF JACKSON STREET AND LOCATED IN BLOCK 16 IN THE CITY OF MANSFIELD, LA

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

SECTION 1.

The dedicated but undeveloped street located in Block 16 and measuring approximately 200 feet m/l at the North end of Jackson Street, located in the City of Mansfield has never been used for public purposes and is declared to be no longer needed for public purposes and is hereby closed and abandoned; subject to the rights herein reserved:

SECTION 2.

The City of Mansfield reserves unto itself the right to establish, improve, and maintain water and sewerage lines, and other public utilities on, over, under and across said street, and this abandonment is made subject to the rights and use of streets in the City of Mansfield, Louisiana, under franchise ordinances.

SECTION 3.

The City of Mansfield reserves unto itself, its heirs and assigns, all oil, gas and other fugacious minerals underlying the property herein described above and approved for closure and abandonment by the governing authority.

SECTION 4.

All ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

UPON MOTION OF ALDERWOMAN Mary J. Green and SECONDED by Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis, the above and foregoing ordinance was adopted on this the 26th day of August, 2019, with the vote as follows:

Yeas: 4 (M. Green, M. Lewis, J. Hall, Jr., K. Campbell)
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (C. Thomas)
Abstain: 0

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to authorize the Mayor to enter into and execute a Marketing Agreement between the City and *Utility Service Partners, Inc.* (USP) for the **National League of Cities' (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program**. Offered at no cost of liability to cities, this program educates homeowners about their service line responsibilities and offers protection for unanticipated and often costly repairs to broken, leaking or clogged water and sewer service lines. Repairs are dispatched to a call center, which then dispatches a licensed contractor to the homeowner's residence. Even if the homeowner decides not to purchase the warranty, they are still provided with useful information regarding their service line responsibilities. The products offered through this program and furnished and explained to the homeowner, and they can then select the plan that best fits their household budget. Motion Passed Unanimously.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MIARY J. GREEN** to authorize the advertisement for the receipt of sealed public bids by authorized dealers for the purchase of a new **2019 Heavy-Duty Single Axle Garbage Truck** with automatic transmission and a 20-cubic yard capacity refuse packer body. The garbage trucks currently owned by the City are showing signs of wear and have recently required more frequent maintenance. This truck is estimated to cost approximately \$175,000, and would be considered a capital expenditure. However, it bears mentioning that this expenditure was allocated in the City's 2019 Financial Budget when it was approved/adopted in December 2018. All bids received will be opened at the Council's regular meeting scheduled for Monday, September 9th and taken under advisement. The bids will then be tabulated, and the bid submission of the lowest responsible bidder will be accepted at the Council's meeting to be held on September 23rd. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: At this time, presentations were offered by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to four (4) Mansfield Elementary-Middle School female students who placed first at the **2019 USATF Hershey National Junior Olympics** Track & Field Championships held at Hornet Stadium in Sacramento, California from July 22nd to July 28th. The four-member team was coached by Mr. Mychal Word and included **LaBrasia Ross, LaJordan Boykins, Aailyah Brown, and Kendalyn Duncan**. The girls competed and won in the 4X100 meter relay of the 13-14 age division. The students were accompanied by their parents and/or guardians, their coach Mr. Word, and a host of other family members and friends. After the presentations were distributed, photographs were taken of the students standing alongside the Mayor and Aldermen by one of the editors of our local journal (*The Enterprise*). The citizenry is very proud of the accomplishments attained by these young ladies at this year's National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships. Accolades were extolled to the students by all members of the Board of Aldermen for a job well done. The community has been very supportive of their achievements.

Item C: At this time, another presentation was offered. This time, representatives from the newly formed organization, "***Mansfield in Motion***" rose to inform the Mayor, Board and attendees of the goals and mission of this newly organized coalition. Representing the organization was two of its members, Benda Hall and Charlotte Miller. The City and the ***DeSoto Parish Chamber of Commerce*** have partnered for the purpose of assisting with the revitalization of Mansfield. The ***Chamber*** has recently acquired state enterprise funds from Louisiana Main Street to aid in this project. This is a program designed to assist municipalities in preserving historic properties, stimulating economic development and business retention for our community by creating an environment to attract new businesses and to promote tourism. To further assist in such a revitalization project, an application for grant funds can be submitted to the LA State Historic Preservation Office. The local government becomes eligible to apply for these funds by becoming a "Certified Local Government" or "CLG." One of the requirements of becoming a "CLG" is to adopt an Ordinance which would seek to strengthen the economy of the City by stabilizing and improving property values in historic areas like Mansfield and Desoto Parish. A model Ordinance was provided to the City Clerk, Mayor and Council for their perusal. To further elaborate on the process and the funding available to communities in this respect, a regional conference sponsored by Louisiana Main Street and other related associations, has been scheduled for September 11th – September 13th to be held at the Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts in Hammond, LA. At the conclusion of this presentation, it was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to take the information disseminated under advisement and to have the City Clerk confer with the city's attorney regarding any legalities the City must comply with if we are to further pursue our participation in this program. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: No other new business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: In keeping with the spirit and goals intimated by representatives of "***Mansfield in Motion***," the Mayor stated that he will meet soon with the Chief and Assistant Chief of Police to mandate the issuance of citations to anyone seen littering in the City's corporate limits. In this vain, a city-wide cleanup initiative has been scheduled for Saturday, August 17th beginning at 8:30 a.m. All interested citizens desiring to join this effort are to assemble at Mansfield City Hall on the morning of August 17th. No other comments were offered from any of the City Council members.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:59 p.m.** by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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