

**City of Mansfield**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**  
**August 26, 2013**

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, August 26th**, 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 G. B. Hall III**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis** in the absence of Alderman Joseph Hall, Jr. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended; however, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, G. B. Hall III –District **A**, Troy N. Terrell –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C** and Alderman Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **Other City Personnel Present**: James “*Jim*” Ruffin (Public Works Director), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Eboni Parker, (Public Relations Officer), Joseph Pratt (Chief of Police) and Fred Jones (police officer –MPD). **Others Present**: Dicie M. Gray, Vergie Ashton, Shirley W. Jones, Anthony Walker, and Todd Eppler (CEO –DeSoto Regional Health System). **Press Present**: Julie Morris (editor) –*The Enterprise*.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **G. B. HALL III** to approve the minutes of the **August 12, 2013 regular** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to pay 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. No comments were offered at this period. The **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

**Old Business:**

**Item A.** At this time, the floor was opened for a public hearing to receive comments related to the adoption of a Proposed Ordinance introduced at the Council’s August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, titled “*An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Weeds and Noxious Growths (to include Garbage and Trash)*”. When no comments/remarks were offered, the public hearing was then closed.

**Item B:** It was MOTIONED by **TROY N. TERRELL** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 7 of 2013 titled “*An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Weeds and Noxious Growths (to include Garbage and Trash)*”. This amendment to the existing Ordinance more clearly defines who is responsible for the maintenance of real estate located within the City’s corporate limits. It also replaces outdated Civil Code Article 2924 with Revised Statute 9:3500, as recited in Section 10-77 (Conditions of Lien) of Chapter 10, Art. II, Div. 3, of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full Ordinance recited below):

**ORDINANCE NO. 6 of 2013**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MANSFIELD PERTAINING TO WEEDS AND NOXIOUS GROWTH (TO INCLUDE GARBAGE AND TRASH)

SECTION 1.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Mansfield, Louisiana, Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mansfield, Louisiana, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 10-71 Duty to abate.

- (a) Every owner of real estate in the City of Mansfield is required to maintain his property, including sidewalks abutting same, in a sanitary condition, including grass cutting, weed abatement, and trash and garbage removal.
- (b) No owner, tenant or occupant of any leased, occupied or unoccupied lot, place, property or area shall permit any noxious weeds, grass, or deleterious, unhealthy or noxious growths over 12 inches in height to grow, stand or accumulate on a majority of any lot, place or area leased or occupied by the person, or on any abutting sidewalk; nor shall such person allow a lot, place or area of any abutting sidewalk to become a haven for rodents or other dangerous animals.

Sec. 10-77. Conditions of Lien.

Any costs incurred by the City and assessed to the owner of the property, together with all reasonable attorney fees and all costs incurred in the location of the owner, notification of the owner, and the enforcement and collection of the amount secured by the lien shall bear interest at the rate of legal interest as provided in R.S. 9:3500 and shall be computed from the date of recordation of the lien until paid or enforced.

SECTION 2.

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

The effective date of this Ordinance shall be September 15, 2013.

Upon motion of Alderman Troy N. Terrell, seconded by Alderman Kervin D. Campbell, the above foregoing Ordinance was adopted on the 26th day of August, 2013, with the vote as follows:

YEAS:       4   (G. Hall III, T. Terrell, M. Lewis, and K. Campbell)

NAYS:       0  

ABSENT:     1   (J. Hall, Jr.)

ABSTAIN:    0  

**New Business:**

**Item A:** It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation of the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission granting the request of Ms. **Shirley W. Jones** to place a mobile home on property municipally known as **215 Kings Highway**. The legal description for this property is: BEG 200FT N OF SE COR NE NE SEC 17 T12 R13, RUN 2 560 FT TO PT OF BEG, TH N 176.2 FT, W ALONG S/B/L OF KINGS HWY 100FT, S 176.2 FT, E 100 FT TO BEG (542-375)(606-519)(710-252)(806-260)(914-691). The Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> to deliberate this matter and voted unanimously in favor of granting the petitioners' request. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item B:** It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve **Change Order No. 4** as submitted by **Cecil D. Gassiot, L.L.C.** for the Water Treatment Facility Improvements project. This was an additive Change Order in the amount of **\$8,800.00** increasing the current contract price from \$1,827,282.00 to **\$1,836,082.00**. The construction activity specified by this Change Order involves the replacement of a 20" influent spool and the installation of a new injection corp stop with an injection quill. Finally, the time provided for completion of the contract increased by 21 calendar days. This document shall become an amendment to the contract and all provisions of the contract will apply hereto. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item C:** It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve a transfer of the **"Stratton Water Line,"** located on U.S. Hwy. 175 North, to DeSoto Waterworks District #1 and authorize the Mayor to execute appropriate transfer documents. Currently, there are four (4) active water customers serviced by this water line. This transaction will also include the transfer of each customer's water deposit as reflected in the City's records. With this transfer, the new owner (Waterworks District #1) pledges to provide potable water for existing customers on the **"Stratton Line"**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item D:** It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the acceptance of the water line located on Cotton Belt Road, including

five (5) water customers from DeSoto Waterworks District #1 and authorize the Mayor to execute appropriate transfer documents. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item E:** It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the introduction of a Proposed Ordinance to Declare Equipment as Surplus and to Dispose of Same by Private Sale after Public Notice and authorize the advertisement of the title of the proposed Ordinance in the September 5<sup>th</sup> edition of our local journal (*The Enterprise*). Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item F:** It was MOTIONED by **TROY N. TERRELL** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the recommendation of Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, to offer full-time employment to Mr. **Brian L. Crump** with the City of Mansfield. Mr. Crump was originally hired in a part-time capacity with the City on April 4, 2011 and assigned to work in the Street Department. However, on May 15, 2013 his job status changed to full-time, and he was transferred to the Sanitation Department. Since that time, Mr. Crump has demonstrated the capability and the willingness to complete tasks as assigned. Further, he has proven his ability to cooperate, work and communicate with his coworkers and supervisors. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item G:** It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of and in the name the City of Mansfield a contract for LCDBG grant **Engineering Services** for FY 2014/2015. **BALAR Associates, Inc.** ranked highest among the Statements of Qualifications received from firms desiring to perform engineering services for the City of Mansfield's FY 2014/2015 LCDBG Sewer System Improvements Project. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item H:** It was MOTIONED by **TROY N. TERRELL** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of and in the name of the City of Mansfield a contract for LCDBG grant **Administrative Services** for FY 2014/2015. **The Coordinating and Development Corporation** was the only firm who submitted a proposal for performing administrative services for the City of Mansfield's FY 2014/2015 LCDBG Sewer System Improvements Project. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item I:** At this time, Mr. **William E. Weatherford** (CPA, LLC) presented a summary of the City's Audit of Financial Statements for FYE ending 12/31/12. Mr. Weatherford presented a brief overview and analysis of financial highlights from his audit of the City's financial activities for the year ended 2012. He began by stating that as of December 31, 2012, the assets and deferred outflows of resources of the City exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$16,218,870. As of close of the fiscal year 2012, the City's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$5,415,501, and increase of \$643,680. The City

realized an increase in its property tax base of approximately 18% during the year ended December 31, 2012. Improvements to the water booster stations were substantially completed on August 16, 2012 at a cost of \$429,585, primarily funded by a Drinking Water Revolving Loan. A new operations building at the City's Water Treatment Facility was substantially completed on August 16, 2012 at a cost of \$231,596, primarily funded by a Drinking Water Revolving Loan. On November 15 2012, the City's program for the replacement of water meters was substantially completed at a cost of \$1,125,821, primarily funded by a Drinking Water Revolving Loan. The City retired the Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2003, on March 1, 2012 and retired the Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 1996, on May 11, 2012. During 2012, the City expended \$376,099 for improvements to the following streets: S. Kavanaugh, Hogan Alley, Georgia, S. Washington, Nancy, Monroe, Ford Lane, Kenneth, and Ruffin Alley. These street improvements were partially funded by a Louisiana Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$239,470. Mr. Weatherford continued his presentation by summarizing other data contained in his Audit Report. He also reviewed with the Mayor and City Council his Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs for the year ended December 31, 2012.

At this time, the City Clerk made a request to amend the agenda to include a presentation by Mr. **Todd Eppler**, who is the new CEO and hospital administrator of the DeSoto Regional Health System. With no objections voiced to amending the agenda, it was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to amend the agenda to accommodate a presentation by Mr. Eppler. Mr. Eppler formerly introduced himself to the Council and briefly commented on several drainage issues the hospital is experiencing at their location. The Mayor and Council assured Mr. Eppler that if the City could offer assistance in some way to help alleviate some of the drainage issues he cited, we would to the extent that we can.

**Item J:** No other new business discussed.

During the **Comments Period** for the Mayor and Council Members, no comments were offered.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at **5:06 p.m.**, by MOTION from **TROY N. TERRELL** and was SECONDED by **G. B. HALL III**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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