

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
December 12, 2016

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, December 12th** in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Curtis 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 **Alderwoman Brenda H. Hall.** Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present:** Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, **Mayor**, Brenda H. Hall –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E.** **Absent:** Mary L. Green –District **A.** **Absent due to suspension:** Roy R. Jones –District **B.** **Other City Personnel Present:** Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), James “**Jim**” Ruffin (Public Works Director), Gary D. Hobbs (Police Chief) and James Jones (MPD Officer/Patrolman). **Others Present:** A. J. Williams, Jr., Harmon “*Tripp*” Dungan, III, and Van Reech, Jr. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **November 28, 2016 *regular*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** 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. When no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was subsequently closed.

Old Business:

Item A: At this time, a discussion regarding a proposed subsidy to the Friends Board of the ***Clista A. Calhoun Center*** continued after first being introduced by Mrs. **Carolyn Huckabay** at the city council’s October 24th regular meeting. Mrs. **Huckabay** was not present at this meeting, but representing the ***Calhoun Center*** was Mr. Van Reech, Jr. At the October 24th meeting, Mrs. **Huckabay** asked if the Mayor and City Council would consider a monthly allocation to the ***Clista Center*** of approximately \$2,000.00. An equal amount had also been requested from the ***DeSoto Parish Police Jury*** to help remedy the shortfall they have been experiencing for the first three quarters of 2016. The revenue collected by this organization monthly has not been sufficient for them to satisfy the regular expenses incurred by the facility. Mrs. **Huckabay** informed the Mayor and Council at the October 24th meeting, that it takes roughly \$6,000.00 each month to satisfy all the regular expenses incurred by the ***Center*** on a monthly basis. Their remedy to this shortfall was to solicit an equal allocation of \$2,000 monthly from the City, the Police Jury and the Friends Board. Her proposal was taken under advisement at the October 24th meeting. In answer to her proposal, the city clerk was given the floor to further elaborate on the City’s financial position in this regard. He began by stating that the due to a sizable decrease in sales tax collections and a large increase in insurance premiums, the City only has revenue sufficient enough to operate necessary city functions. We do not have any funds available to

underwrite nonessential programs. He went on to state that unless the City can find new sources of revenue or the local economy changes, we cannot fund any increases in our budget. At this point, we are just trying to maintain the services that we currently provide. We have cut expenses as much as possible without sacrificing public safety, however; any spending increases may necessitate layoffs of some City employees. We are doing everything we can to avoid this. Therefore, conclusively, the City is fiscally unable to fund any programs outside of our normal, routine operations. Alderman Joseph Hall echoed the summary presented of the City's current financial status, and Mayor McCoy offered that it may be possible at some future date to reconsider this proposal. It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to, at this time, formally reject Mrs. **Huckabay's** proposal. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: No other old business discussed.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve the recommendation offered by Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, to accept the lowest responsible bidders for the chemicals **Aluminum Sulfate Solution** and **Caustic Soda Liquid 25% Diaphragm** for use at the city's Toledo Bend WATER Treatment Plant. The sealed, public bids received for these chemicals were opened and read aloud at the City Council's regular meeting on November 28th. The lowest responsible bidder for the chemical **Aluminum Sulfate Solution (Liquid Alum)** was **GEO Specialty Chemicals** at \$240.00/dry ton. The lowest bid received for the chemical **Caustic Soda Liquid** was submitted by **Harcros Chemicals** at \$635.00/dry ton. The purchase period for these chemicals is from 01/01/17 through 06/30/17. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation offered by Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, to accept the lowest responsible bidder for the chemical **Aluminum Sulfate Solution (Liquid Alum – TOTES)** for use at the city's WASTEWATER Treatment Plant. The sealed, public bids received for these chemicals were opened and read aloud at the City Council's regular meeting on November 28th. While the lowest bid received for this chemical was submitted by **Harcros Chemicals**, a conversation with their sales manager (Clay De Friend) revealed that they could not meet our specification requirements. For safety reasons, this chemical must be delivered directly to our sewer treatment facility and transferred from the delivery container into the City's holding tank. **Harcros** does not have the means or the equipment at their disposal to fulfill this requirement. Therefore, the bid submission of the only other bid received for this chemical (**Premier Chemicals & Services**) was accepted at \$0.43/pound delivered. The purchase period for this chemical is 01/01/17 through 06/30/17. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the recommendation offered by Police Chief, Gary D. Hobbs, to offer full-time employment to patrolman, **James Scott Jones** with the Mansfield Police Department. Officer **Jones** has been employed with the Police Department since August 10, 2016. Since his employment, he has performed exceptionally well in his assignment as a Patrol Officer. Further, he came to us as a POST (Peace Officer Standards & Training) certified police officer with several years of law enforcement experience. Finally, Officer **Jones** has attained an excellent attendance record, has proven his willingness to follow the instructions of his supervisors, and has demonstrated his ability to interact with public in a professional manner. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve the cancellation of the December 27th *special* city council meeting due to the impending Christmas holiday. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E. No other new business discussed.

During the period set aside to receive comments from the Mayor and Council members, Mayor McCoy thanked all the organizers of this year's annual city Christmas Parade and all the participants involved in this event. He deemed the parade a success as did the other Council members. In a final statement, he congratulated Alderman Lewis on his success at winning the recall election held on December 12th.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:44 p.m.** by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **BRENDA H. HALL**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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