

**MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING  
February 10, 2020**

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **February 10th**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor John H. Mayweather, Sr. called this 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 Joseph Hall, Jr.** Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. John H. Mayweather, Sr., -**Mayor**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: Mary J. Green –District **A** and Christopher S. Thomas – District **B**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Jim Ruffin (Public Works Director), and Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief – MPD). **Others Present**: Fran Norwood, Bethany May, Garland Spivey, Aaron Gates, Kim Jenkins, Belinda Lassiter (Hope Center Church), and A. J. Williams, Jr. **Press Present**: Martha Rivers (*The Enterprise*).

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **January 27, 2020 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** 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. 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. 1 of 2020**, drafted to amend the city's Annual Financial Budget for fiscal year **2020**. The budget amendments proposed were to increase the line items for capital expenditures in the areas of drainage and streets. Improvements are needed to the Jacobs Street, Vida Street and Johnson Street bridges. A total of \$20,000 was estimated to fund those improvements. Similarly, a total of \$35,000 is the proposed allocation to effect improvements to identified streets and sidewalks located with the City's corporate limits. When no comments were voiced on this proposition to adjust the Financial Budget for **2020** to underwrite these expenditures, the public hearing was then subsequently closed.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve adoption of **Ordinance No. 1 of 2020**, drafted to amend the city's Annual Financial Budget for fiscal year **2020**. Motion Passed Unanimously. (full Ordinance recited below):

**CITY of MANSFIELD**  
Budget Amendment Ordinance  
**ORDINANCE NO. 1 of 2020**

AN ORDINANCE **AMENDING** THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR  
THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 FOR THE CITY OF MANSFIELD, LOUISIANA IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Mansfield, Louisiana, in *regular* session convened in its usual meeting place in the Council Chambers at the Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street, on the 27th day of January, 2020 that:

SECTION 1: An amendment to the City of Mansfield's financial budget for fiscal year 2020 is hereby proposed to amend the amounts budgeted for unanticipated capital expenditures in the overall category of **CORPORATION**. More specifically, these amendments specifically impact capital expenditures in the line items for Drainage Improvements and Streets/Sidewalks Improvements.

SECTION 2: Budgeted capital expenditures in the Corporation for Drainage Improvements for **2020** was \$0.00, but was amended to \$20,000.00. Similarly, budgeted capital expenditures in the Corporation for Streets and Sidewalks was \$0.00, but was amended to \$35,000.00.

This Ordinance was introduced by Alderman Joseph Hall, Jr. on the 27th day of January, 2020, with second by Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis, and passed, to publish the Ordinance title on February 6, 2020 and present for adoption on February 10, 2020.

After introduction and publication of the Ordinance title, the above ordinance was adopted upon motion of Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis and seconded by Alderman Joseph Hall, Jr., and passed on the 10th day of February, 2020, with votes as follows:

Yeas: <u>3</u>	Nays: <u>0</u>	Absent: <u>2</u>	Abstain: <u>0</u>
M. Lewis		M. Green	
J. Hall, Jr.		C. Thomas	
K. Campbell			

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

Item C: No other old business.

At this time, the city clerk requested the agenda be amended to receive comments from Mansfield resident, Ms. **Kim Jenkins** regarding the inordinate amount of time traffic is sometimes detained, primarily at the Polk Street the KCS railroad crossing. With no opposition voiced from the Mayor, City Council or those in attendance, it was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve amendment of the agenda to hear comments from Ms. Jenkins relative to this matter. Ms. **Jenkins** was particularly concerned about how passage of emergency response vehicles would be hindered in the case of an emergency. Alderman's Joseph Hall and Mitchell Lewis recalled that this was also a concern of constituents during former Mayor Curtis McCoy's administration. They further commented that Mayor McCoy had at that time, arranged to meet with representatives from the *KCS Railway Company*. After meeting with those representatives, the repeated blockages of the trains seemed to improve. However, it was short-lived. Mayor Mayweather suggested that we again make contact with *KCS* to address this issue. He then requested that Ms. **Jenkins** be informed of the meeting date and time, and said that she would be invited to sit in on that session.

**New Business:**

Item A: The floor was opened to receive presentations by **Fran Norwood** and **Bethany May**, chairman and vice-chairman respectively, of the *Mansfield in Motion* organization on impending plans and on progress made related to the Mansfield Revitalization Initiative. First, Mrs. **Norwood** reported that the mural installed on the side of the old *Hibernia National Bank* building had been illuminated for visibility at night. Also, crepe myrtles had been planted on February 8<sup>th</sup> along the Polk Street extension. Further, three of the remaining buildings on Texas Street have been selected to have new awnings mounted. In addition, the new street signs mentioned at previous meetings, have all been installed in the downtown district. Finally, a muralist will be commissioned to paint another mural of professional athletes who were natives of Mansfield and who attended DeSoto Parish schools, on the side of a building yet to be announced. To-date, a total of 19 athletes are being named who were natives of Mansfield and who attended various schools in the parish. Next, Mrs. **May** stood to report that the Food Truck vendors now have definitive commencement dates to situate near the Courthouse on court days. They are slated to commence with their activities on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and will be present on all scheduled court dates. Finally, the Farmer's Market and Maker's Market discussed at previous meetings are tentatively scheduled to commence on the first Saturday I June at the Polk Street gazebo. The Markets will set up every Saturday thereafter, as long as they have wares to sell and there is interest in this activity. New trash receptacles and benches have been ordered and will be installed at the gazebo mini-park.

Item B: No other business discussed.

**Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members:** During this period, the Mayor expressed his excitement at the positive strides already realized in attempting to revitalize the city's aesthetic. The council members echoed his sentiment.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:55 p.m.** by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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