

**City of Mansfield**  
**MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING**  
**February 13, 2017**

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** 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 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. Curtis W. McCoy, **Mayor**, Mary L. Green –District **A**, Brenda H. Hall –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: None. **Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Tommie Crawford (Public Relations Officer), and James “**Jim**” Ruffin (Public Works Director). **Press Present**: Bennie Hall (*Mansfield Enterprise*).

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **January 23, 2017 *regular*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **BRENDA H. HALL** 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:**

None.

**New Business:**

**Item A:** It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 as submitted by **BALAR Associates, inc.** for contractor **Bayou Country Contractors & Irrigation, L.L.C.** for the 2014-2015 LCDBG Wastewater Collection System Improvements project. This was a deductive change order in the amount of -\$20,500.00. Of this amount, -\$12,500 was due to the deletion of sales taxes that would have been paid from the purchase of the materials, supplies and/or equipment needed for this work. The remaining amount of -\$8,000 resulted from the deletion of fiberglass control panels not needed to complete this construction activity. The sum of -\$20,500 for this Change Order reduced the original contract price of \$703,496.10 down to **\$682,996.10**. The time provided for completion of this contract remained unchanged. This Change Order will become an amendment to the contract with all other provisions of same remaining intact and enforceable. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item B:** It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **BRENDA H. HALL** to approve a CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION as submitted by **BALAR Associates, Inc.** for contractor **Agape' Construction, L.L.C.** for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements project being performed at the city's Toledo Bend Water Treatment Plant. The Certificate bears a substantial completion date of January 30, 2017. This date is also the date of commencement of applicable warranties required by the Contract Documents. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item C:** It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the request submitted by **Waterworks District No. 1** to allow connectivity to the City of Mansfield's water system for Mr. **Jonathan Howard** for a residence (mobile home) bearing a municipal address of **14453 Highway 175**. This District has no water line in that area, and thus has no objection to the City providing water service to the aforementioned physical address. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item D:** At this time, awards were presented to two local area musicians and one vocalist. Local contestants **Gary Charles "Jeter" Jones**, **Crystal Thomas** and **Julius Walton** were recognized as three of several winners in various categories at the 2016 ZBT (Zydeco, Blues & Trailride) Awards held in December 2016 in Houston, Texas. **"Jeter" Jones** won a dual award as Southern Soul Artist of the Year and as a Video of the Year award winner. **Crystal Thomas** won New Artist of the Year, and **Julius Walton** walked away with a Guitarist of the Year win. Certificates of Achievement were presented to each winner from Mayor McCoy and the Board of Aldermen for their wins, and a group photo taken by Bennie Hall (**Mansfield Enterprise**) and by the city's Public Relations Officer, Tommie Crawford. After the presentations and group photo, before taking their seats, **Crystal Thomas** led the three winners in an impromptu rendition of **"Lord I Know You Been So Good"** written and recorded by the late gospel singer Willie Banks.

**Item E:** At this time, police juror Mrs. **Jeri Burrell** (Dist.#4-B) was invited to the floor to offer her presentation. She was present to petition the Council to donate city-owned property (two water storage tanks) situated directly behind the old parish jail, to the DeSoto Parish Police Jury. The Police Jury has plans to expand their parking lot and need this parcel to effect the expansion. Mayor McCoy and the Council intimated that they were amenable to this donation in exchange for assistance from the Police Jury to perform improvements on Forest Avenue. A large portion of this street is in dire need of rehabilitation. The proposal from the Mayor and Aldermen was that if the Police Jury would provide labor to rehab this street, the City would furnish the materials for this project. To this proposition, it was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve donation of this property to the Police Jury in exchange for the Police Jury's assistance in improving Forest Avenue. This transaction will be achieved by execution of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the two entities. In addition, Mrs. **Burrell** would like to have improvements performed on both Meadow Drive and

Francine Avenue, with assistance from the City. These streets are in her political district. Similarly, Mayor McCoy suggested that a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement be drafted and entered into by the Police Jury and the City. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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

At this time, a request to amend the agenda was voiced by the city clerk to include a presentation from Mrs. **Betty Carter** regarding the implementation of measures to prohibit the setting up of firework tents with the city's corporate limits. Mrs. **Carter** is one of the sponsors of the Mansfield High School Booster Club. She stated that this organization sets up firework booths at least twice annually (4<sup>th</sup> of July and Christmas), with the proceeds collected used to award academic scholarships to deserving, eligible seniors. She proposed drafting an Ordinance that only allows the setting up of firework stands in the city's corporate limits in lieu of tents. In her opinion, it could limit the number of firework stations set up in Mansfield, which in effect may increase the profits of the MHS Booster Club. The Mayor and all members of the city council were opposed to this proposal for various reasons. Alderwoman **Mary Green** voiced concerns over the legality of implementing such a measure. Alderman **Joseph Hall** remarked that this issue could become very convoluted in that we would have to define what constitutes a tent and what constitutes a stand, since neither is a permanent structure. Alderwoman **Brenda Hall** suggested that Mrs. **Carter** and the Booster Club members try to organize other fundraisers to supplement the money raised from the sale of fireworks. It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to disapprove Mrs. **Carter's** proposal of only allowing the setting up of firework stands over firework tents in the city limits. Motion Passed Unanimously.

During the period set aside for reception of any comments from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, none were offered. However, Mrs. **Carter** commented that perhaps signs are needed to prohibit horse riding on city sidewalks. The owners are not cleaning up after the animals. Mayor McCoy suggested that when she witnesses such acts, she should take a picture and then contact the Mansfield Police Department and request that they follow-up on her complaint.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:04 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*