

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
February 25, 2019

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **February 25th**, 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 **Alderwoman Mary J. Green**. 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**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis – District **C**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **City Hall Personnel & Dept. Heads Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), James “Jim” Ruffin (Public Works Director), and Billy Locke (Detective –Mansfield Police Dept.). **Press Present**: Julie Morris (*The Enterprise & Interstate Progress*).

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** to approve the minutes of the **February 11, 2019 *regular*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. 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. Though no comments were offered, Mayor Mayweather did inform those in attendance of the expected decorum at our Aldermen’s council meetings. He remarked that attendees are expected to be respectful of others present at the meetings. He further voiced that if any attendee exhibited disruptive behavior at a meeting, they would be asked to leave, and if they refused to vacate the premises, would be physically escorted from the building by a uniformed police officer. This, he said, also applied to him. Since no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: A petition was presented to the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission at their February 20th by **Isaac Cooper**, to situate a mobile home for **residential use** on property located in an R-1 District (Single-Family Residence District) on property bearing a municipal address of **205 Huson Street**. Mr. Cooper’s (petitioner) request was met with opposition from two (2) residents (Sharon McKinney and Erica Mayweather) living within 300 feet of the site where the mobile home would be situated. One objection was voiced by Ms. Shenkia McKinney on behalf her mother Sharon McKinney, who could not attend the Commissioner’s meeting. Ms. McKinney (Shenkia) stated that due to the mobile home’s poor condition, it home would likely have a negative impact on her mother’s property value and on the value of properties near the petitioner’s address. She also stated that the mobile home had been placed on the property prior to the petitioner adhering to the zoning process. Mr. **Cooper** responded to Ms. McKinney’s comments by stating that other dwellings near the mobile home site were in similar or worst condition than his mobile home. The Commission took no action on the petitioner’s request, but

instead deferred it to the City Council to deliberate the matter and make a determination. At this meeting of the City Council, the petitioner's (**Isaac Cooper**) request was again met with objections from those residents in close proximity to the site of Mr. **Cooper's** mobile home. Present at this meeting was **Sharon McKinney** (2122 Whaley St.) who voiced her opposition to allowing Mr. **Cooper** to situate his mobile home at **205 Huson Street**. Also present was **Julia Marshall** who stated that she has plans to construct a new brick veneer home in this neighborhood and felt the poor condition of the mobile home would devalue other real estate in the area. Ms. **Marshall** further stated that Mr. **Cooper** may even possibly be encroaching on a portion of her land. To this, Alderwoman Green stated that the validity of that claim was not for this Council to deliberate. Mr. **Cooper** at this meeting, again remarked that other homes in similar condition as his were already situated in the neighborhood, and felt that his mobile home would not further depreciate the properties near the mobile home site. Alderman Lewis MOTIONED for approval on Mr. **Cooper's** request; however, his motion did not receive a second. Therefore, Mayor Mayweather asked that all the information shared be taken under advisement and that definitive action on this request would be determined at the March 11th regular meeting of the City Council.

Item B: A request from petitioners, **Derrick and Willisa Street**, was presented to the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, to place a mobile home for commercial use on property located in a B-3 District (Community and Central Business District), bearing a municipal address of **203 First Street**. Mrs. **Street** informed the Commission that the single-wide mobile home's occupancy would be for a beauty shop. She further stated that in 2011 the property had already been zoned for a beauty shop. Therefore, on this petition, no action was required.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the recommendation offered by the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, **granting** the request of petitioner, **Steve Belton**, to situate a mobile home for residential use on property located in an R-2 District (Multi-Family Residence District), bearing a municipal address of **1002 Georgia Street**. There were no objections voiced at the Commission's meeting held on February 20th. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve adoption of a Resolution as requested by the *Office of Community Development* (State of LA) proclaiming **April 22-26, 2019** as National Community Development Week in support of the LA Community Development Block Grant Program (LCDBG). This program has operated since 1974, providing local governments with the resources required to primarily meet the needs of low and moderate income persons residing within their jurisdictions. The LCDBG Program provides funding for sewer, water, street improvements, and economic development projects, allowing local governments within the State of Louisiana to address infrastructure issues within their boundaries. These projects improve the

quality of life for low and moderate citizens, which would otherwise not be possible without this Program. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve adoption of a Resolution adopting procedures to be utilized for the procurement of LA Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) funds. These procedures are intended to serve as guidelines for the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction services and professional services for the LCDBG Program. The next application cycle for potential funding is for fiscal year 2020-2021. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item F: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** to approve adoption of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to request Administrative Consultant's Proposal for Services for the 2020/2021 LCDBG Program. The City intends to apply for funding under this Program in order to make public facility improvements. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item G: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve adoption of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to request Engineer's Qualification Services for the 2020/2021 LCDBG Program. The City intends to apply for funding under this Program in order to make public facility improvements. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item H: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the recommendation offered by Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, to offer full-time employment to **Joseph Lee Ross** with the City of Mansfield. Mr. **Ross** was hired on November 26, 2018, and assigned to work in the Sanitation Department. He has satisfactorily met our expectations while working in his current capacity. Further, he has adequately demonstrated the ability to cooperate, work and communicate effectively with his coworkers and supervisors. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item I: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation offered by Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, to offer full-time employment to **Justin Colby Smith** with the City of Mansfield. Mr. **Smith** was hired on November 7, 2018, and has thus successfully completed the mandatory probationary period. Further, Mr. **Smith** was assigned to work at the city's Toledo Bend Water Treatment Plant as one of our water plant operators, and has to-date performed very well in this position. Finally, earlier in this month, he attained Level I Operator certifications in the categories of Water Treatment I, Water Production I, and Water Distribution I through the LA Department of Health & Hospitals. Presently, he is pursuing his next certification levels in these categories. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor informed the attendees that the City had installed a metal display cabinet on the exterior wall of the City Hall building, near the front entrance. The display cabinet will be used for posting City Council meeting agendas, flyers and posters announcing upcoming events and for a host of other matters that might be of interest to the public. Alderman Christopher Thomas stated that he had held a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, March 20th at 4:30 p.m., utilizing the *DeSoto Parish Chamber of Commerce*'s meeting room as the venue for the assembly. At the close of the meeting, he distributed surveys to those in attendance to provide information on their issues and concerns for the City. He then mentioned that he will possibly hold another meeting in approximately six (6) months. Alderwoman Green announced her plans to partner with Alderman Campbell to host a similar meeting in the near future. They have tentatively set the date of their meeting for some time in May. A definitive date and time will be announced in the near future. Similarly, Alderman Lewis announced his intention to partner with Alderman Hall to hold a combined Town Hall Meeting for constituents in their respective districts. No date and time was set. Finally, Alderman Campbell expressed his apologies to the Mayor and other Aldermen for his confrontation and vocal outburst aimed at Alderman Hall at the February 11th council meeting. He asked that the Mayor and City Council forgive his behavior. He said that it was unprofessional and vowed that, speaking on his behalf, it would never happen again.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:11 p.m.** by MOTION from **MARY J. GREEN** and was **SECONDED** by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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