

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
January 13, 2020

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **January 13th**, 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), Joshua Ryals (Water Operator), Annette Blue (Police Chief –MPD), Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief –MPD), Captain Bryan Ross (MFD). **Others Present**: Fran Norwood, Bethany May, Aaron Gates, Garland Spivey, and Fletcher Carter. **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **December 23, 2019 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and **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: None.

New Business:

Item A: At this time, a presentation was offered by Mrs. **Fran Norwood** and Mrs. **Bethany May** of the organization '**Mansfield in Motion**' apprising the Mayor, Aldermen and the constituents present of the progress made with regard to the Mansfield Revitalization initiative. Mrs. **Norwood** reported that the mural on the side of the old Hibernia National Bank building is now complete and plans are to soon illuminate the work of the muralist Mr. **Matthew Verby**. Also, there are intentions on the horizon to effect some improvements to the old Log Courthouse situated near the city's gazebo on Polk Street. Further crepe myrtles (the city's official tree) will soon be planted along the Polk Street extension. In addition, the horizontal street signs mentioned at the Council's November 12th 2019 meeting have been ordered and will be installed soon. A total of 22 new horizontal signs will be placed in the downtown district and will replace the present green street signs with brown double-faced signs having white lettering. Finally, Mrs. **Norwood** reported that the façade of the remaining brick and mortar buildings downtown are receiving a much-needed paint job. All buildings being painted will also have a contrasting accent trim. Next, reporting as another member of the organization was Mrs. **Bethany May**. Mrs. **May** reported that they have been working with local food trucks and intentions are to have

them situate in front of the Parish Courthouse on court dates only. On court dates during court recess visitors scramble for eateries where they can purchase lunch. The food trucks will be parked on the street, adjacent to the sidewalk, at the Northeast corner of Texas and Adams Streets. Plans are to commence with this initiative by Monday, February 3rd. To-date, they are twelve (12) February dates designated to have the trucks set up on court dates. They have researched this initiative and found that a health permit will be required, as well as proof of liability insurance and a hold harmless agreement. To inform the public of this impending program, the organization will advertise utilizing various social media platforms and also will place an ad in our local journal (*The Mansfield Enterprise & Interstate Progress*). Food truck vendors will also be encouraged to promote their businesses on social media and by distributing flyers and posters in the downtown area and beyond. Additionally, Mrs. **May** announced plans to host a Farmer's Market (tentatively called Polk Street Farmer's Market) and a Maker's Market. A tentative schedule has been decided on. This event is being planned to commence in on the first Saturday in March, and on every Saturday thereafter, so long as there is interest in the event and vendors and participants have wares and products to sell. Finally, Mrs. **May** mentioned that the former *Kap's Cleaners* business at the corner of Texas and Adams Streets will be cleaned up and well as it can be, but due to its current, poor condition structurally, it could soon be slated for demolition.

Item B: No other business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor and the other Aldermen present welcomed Alderman Mitch Lewis back after having been absent for several meetings due to health issues. Still further, the Mayor remarked that cleanup efforts throughout the city will continue in **2020**, with this comment echoed by Alderman Joseph Hall. The Mayor also suggested launching a district-wide clean-up initiative with each Alderman assisting the other with cleanup efforts in their respective districts.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:51 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*