

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
January 14, 2019

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **January 14th**, 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 **Alderman Christopher S. Thomas**. 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**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: None. **City Hall Personnel & Dept. Heads Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Jim Ruffin (Public Works Director), Gary Hobbs (Police Chief), and Latarsha Shelton (Fire Chief). **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve the minutes of the **December 10, 2018 *regular*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **December 17, 2018 *special*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading, but with the following correction noted: The item discussed and approved after adjournment of the *special* meeting may need to be reintroduced at the next (01/28/19) regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement was presented for execution between the City and the *DeSoto Parish Police Jury* whereby the Police Jury is making a donation to the City to help offset expenses incurred from the City's 2018 Christmas Parade and Festival. The Agreement was discussed and later approved. However, Alderwoman Green questioned the legality of reopening a meeting and taking action on an item after adjournment. She requested that this item be placed on the City Council's January 28th regular meeting to again be considered for approval. 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. When none were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation of Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, to offer full-time employment to Mr. **David J. Holt** with the City of Mansfield. After being hired on October 22, 2018, Mr. **Holt** was assigned to partner with an existing employee to work primarily at the City's

Wastewater (Sewer) Treatment Plant and to perform duties in other areas as needed. Mr. **Holt** came to the City with some experience in waste management and has already proven to be a valuable asset in this area. Mr. Ruffin recently appraised his job performance, and Mr. Holt scored very high marks in all eleven categories evaluated, especially in the areas of **Attendance, Productivity, Job Knowledge** and **Initiative**. Further, Mr. Holt has adequately demonstrated the ability to effectively communicate and work with his coworkers. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve the recommendation offered by Police Chief, Gary Hobbs, to offer full-time employment to Mr. **Christopher A. Johnson** with the Mansfield Police Department. Mr. **Johnson** was hired on September 10, 2018 and then assigned to work as a Patrol Officer with the Department. He came to the City already a P.O.S.T. certified police officer and with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Further, he has attained an excellent attendance record during his tenure with the Department and has demonstrated his ability to effectively interact with the public, while conducting himself in a professional manner. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: **Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members:** During this period, the Mayor wished all attendees a Happy New Year and remarked that his office plans to begin setting goals for the City for the next twelve months and beyond. He commented that we should start by continuing with cleanup efforts around the City, and by making a concerted effort to seek measures which might hopefully attract new businesses to our municipality. Further, he stated that he had recently met with a couple of the Aldermen (Joseph Hall and Mitchell Lewis) who expressed their desire to host Town Hall meetings in the near future for constituents in their respective districts. The meetings will encourage input from the constituents with regard to setting future goals for the community and to finding ways for potentially improving the quality of life for all city residents. Aldermen Hall and Lewis have requested to be the first two council members to host their meetings, with the remaining Aldermen scheduling their Town Hall meetings in the near future. Alderman Campbell remarked that each Alderman should be supportive of each other's meetings. Notification to the community announcing these impending meetings will be via newspaper, radio and several other social media platforms. Alderman Campbell closed this comments period by assuring the constituents present that during the Public Comments Period on the agendas, attendees will be given an opportunity to offer their comments (within a limited time frame) on any of the agenda-listed items.

Item D: No new other business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:46 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