

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
January 27, 2014

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, January 27th**, in Mansfield City Hall, located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor McCoy called the meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an **Invocation** was offered by **Alderman Troy N. Terrell**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended; however, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, G. B. Hall III –District **A**, Troy N. Terrell –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. – District **D** and Kervin D. Campbell. –District **E** (Noted: Alderman Campbell was tardy, but arrived after the motion and second on approval of the January 13th regular council meeting minutes). **Absent**: None. **Other City Personnel Present**: James “*Jim*” Ruffin (Public Works Director), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), and Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk). **Press Present**: Vickie Welborn (*The Times*) and Edna Wheless (*DeSoto Life*).

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **January 13, 2014 *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. No comments were offered from the floor at this period. However, Mayor McCoy offered a brief statement regarding the issue under **New Business** of whether the sale of alcoholic beverages in ‘*restaurants only*’ should be licensed and conducted within the City’s incorporated limits. He began by stating that this measure is not being introduced to allow the sale of alcohol in bars, nightclubs, discos, dance halls or other dance facilities operating within the City. Further, he went on to remark that it would never be the intent of his office to force any legislation down the throats of the electors. He continued by contending that we are simply asking state lawmakers for permission to put the issue before voters. This action is meant to potentially provide an additional revenue stream for the City and possibly generate more job opportunities for unemployed City residents. Mayor McCoy concluded with asserting that we (the City) have missed several opportunities to have national restaurant chains situate here because the sale of alcohol is prohibited. After the Mayor’s remarks, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: At this time, an open forum was conducted to allow citizens of the City an opportunity to offer public comment on the issue of whether the sale of alcoholic beverages in ‘*restaurants only*’ should be conducted and licensed within the City of Mansfield’s incorporated limits. Filling the Council Room to offer their comments and concerns on this matter was approximately 20 citizens. Of those in attendance, only 4 Mansfield residents (Mrs. Judy Wilkerson, Reverends Joe Waggener and Larry Pridmore, and Rev. Pridmore’s wife, Nancy) and 1 Grand Cane resident (Mr. Clayton Davis –former Mayor of Grand Cane, LA) voiced concerns regarding this measure.

All of these individuals were in opposition to proposing this issue to the Legislature in this year's session. At the conclusion of Rev. Pridmore's oral address, he distributed to the Mayor and Councilmen, propaganda on the perils of excessive alcohol use. Alderman Troy Terrell maintained that while their decision to move forward with this measure was not easy one and arguably not popular, ultimately the people will have final say when the issue is put before them on the ballot.

Item B: Despite the opposition voiced by those citizens mentioned above, it was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a **Resolution** authorizing the Mayor to request members of the local delegation to introduce legislation in the 2014 Legislative Session allowing the governing authority to submit to registered voters located within the municipal boundaries, a proposition to determine whether or not the sale of alcoholic beverages in '*restaurants only*' may be conducted and licensed. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: A presentation was offered by Ms. **Kavon Reni Robbins** (Director) and Mr. **Harold Renfro** of *DeSoto Parish Animal & Mosquito Services*. The visitors introduced themselves to the Mayor, Councilmen and attendees and intimated their plans to attend upcoming community events to educate people on the diseases carried by various animals and how those diseases can potentially pose a threat to human safety. Mayor McCoy expressed that there is a need for the services this organization offers.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** approving the Mayor to enter into and execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for calendar year **January 1, 2014** through **December 31, 2014** to authorize the DeSoto Parish Police Jury through its subsidiary, DeSoto Parish Animal & Mosquito Servicers, to provide animal services within the corporate limits of the City of Mansfield. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: No other new business discussed.

During the **Comments Period** for the Mayor and Council Members, no comments were offered.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at **5:11 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*