

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
July 12, 2021

In-Person Council Meeting

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **July 12th**, 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 Kervin D. Campbell**. 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 in attendance at this regular meeting of the city council. **Present:** Hon. John H. Mayweather, Sr., -**Mayor**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent:** Mary J. Green –District **A**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present:** Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief). Others Present: James Harris and Margaret Harris. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve the minutes of the **June 28, 2021 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** 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. Although Mansfield citizens James and Margaret Harris did not offer comments on any agenda-listed items, the Mayor allowed them to voice concerns they harbored regarding two public safety issues in their neighborhood. First, they requested the installation of speed bumps on Murphy Street. They stated that motorists on that street often accelerate way beyond the posted speed limit for that area. Perhaps the speed bumps will compel vehicular traffic to adhere to the speed limit posted on this residential city street. In addition, they also requested that the owner of a house on Murphy Street, that is in disrepair be contacted and requested to either perform the repairs that need to be made or demolish the structure altogether. It is a safety hazard to residents in the neighborhood and an eyesore because of its current condition. The Mayor and councilman for that district vowed to take the actions necessary to address these issues. When no other public comments were offered from any of the attendees at this meeting, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business:

It should be noted that missing from the published agenda was a public hearing that would have been conducted at this meeting and the proposed passage of an Ordinance in relation to the public hearing. The clerk made the Mayor and Council aware that at their June 28th regular meeting, advertisement of an Ordinance to request a zone change at **167 Riemer Circle** had been approved to be published in our local journal. However, the Clerk missed the deadline for submitting the Notice of Public Hearin for publishing in the July 8th edition of the newspaper.

The deadline for submission of legal notices to be published in the weekly journal was formerly by close of day on a Thursday. However, that time changed to by 12 Noon on Thursdays. The City was not notified of this change in the publication schedule for legals. The Notice will be published in the July 15th edition of the newspaper and the public hearing conducted at the July 26th regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen. This will also be the meeting where approval of proposed **Ordinance No. 2 of 2021**, which is related to the public hearing, will be requested.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize the Mansfield Police Department to begin issuing citations to any business in violation of the Occupational License Ordinance due to non-payment of **2021** Occupational Licensing fees. These fees are due annually in January. A list of delinquent licensees was compiled and a total of fourteen (14) businesses were reflected on the list. A police officer will visit each office to inform them in person that their licensing fees are due and that they will be given several days to remit the required fees. Should they fail to do so in the time allotted, a citation will be issued to them and they must cease all business operations until the appropriate licensing fees are paid in full. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: No other new business discussed.

During comments for the Mayor and Council members, the Mayor did not offer any. However, the Aldermen expressed a strong desire to this year be more involved in the budgeting process. They intimated that they would appreciate the opportunity to offer their ideas and suggestions when budget preparation begins. Preliminary budget preparation for the ensuing year usually commences in mid-September of the current year. The Mayor consented to the scheduling of a budget workshop where the council members will be invited to offer input as it relates to the city's annual financial budget for 2022. Following their comments, Assistant Chief Billy Locke reported that with the recent high turnover of employees in his Department, there is a need to hire more police personnel. He also mentioned that an increase in the hourly wage of patrol officers should be considered when preparing the 2022 Annual Budget. To be comparable to other police departments in our region, an hourly rate increase of \$3.00 will be requested. He concluded by asking for prayer for the Doyline, LA community. One of their police officers responded to a domestic violence call, and was fatally shot in the line of duty in response to this call.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:14 p.m.** by MOTION from **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and was SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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