

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
July 12, 2010

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, July 12th, 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 Alvin R. Woodley. Following the pledge, the roll was called by the City Clerk and these officials were recorded as **Present**: Honorable 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 Alvin R. Woodley –District **E**. **Absent**: None. **Press Present**: Coleman Robison (**The Enterprise**) and Vickie Welborn (**The Times**).

It was MOTIONED by MITCHELL L. LEWIS and SECONDED by ALVIN R. WOODLEY to approve the minutes of the **June 28, 2010** *regular* city council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by JOSEPH HALL, JR. and SECONDED by G. B. HALL III to approve the payment of all outstanding bills for this period.

The Mayor next opened the floor to hear public comments from those in attendance to any item outlined on the meeting agenda. When none were offered, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by G. B. HALL III and SECONDED by JOSEPH HALL, JR. to approve the advertisement of a public hearing on the closure and abandonment of Commerce Street. A public notice will be placed in the legal section of our local journal (**The Enterprise**) to run for three (3) consecutive weeks, and then in an upcoming council meeting, an ordinance will be adopted to officially close the street, if no objections are received during the advertisement period. Earlier this month, a request from Citizens National Bank, represented by its President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. **Woody C. Schick**, was received to ask the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to consider closing this city street to accommodate a new bank. It is an unused street that is essentially a one-lane, alley-like strip located behind a gas station/convenience store. Commerce Street formerly served another bank's drive-through, which was demolished last year to make way for the U.S. Highway 84 extension to the realigned U. S. Highway 171. Passed Unanimously.

Item B. It was MOTIONED by JOSEPH HALL, JR. and seconded by MITCHELL L. LEWIS to adopt a Resolution authorizing the LA State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations, and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accepts bids and award oil, gas and mineral leases on approximately 95 acres of city-owned property—all acreage being in and under city streets in various subdivisions. Chesapeake Energy Corporation will nominate the lands and pay all associated costs. Passed Unanimously.

Item C. Capt. Dennis Reed, jail warden at the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office made a plea to the city's Board of Aldermen to consider possibly donating city-owned property behind

the old parish jail where presently two (2) unused concrete water storage tanks are situated. In the interim, the aldermen gave verbal approval to Sheriff Rodney Arbuckle to obtain bids on the costs associated with removal of the concrete tanks. If donated (or purchased), the parcel would be used for the construction of a maintenance facility for the sheriff's office and could also possibly be used for additional parking in and around the DeSoto Parish Detention Center. The maintenance facility, Arbuckle said, would not detract from the aesthetics of the existing downtown buildings, but would blend with the façade of those already there. It was MOTIONED by G. B. HALL III and seconded by MITCHELL L. LEWIS to take this request under advertisement, giving the city's legal counsel an opportunity to research the feasibility of this matter further. Passed Unanimously.

Item D. No other new business discussed.

Next on the agenda was the reception of reports from the City's Department Heads. Public Works Director, **Jim Ruffin**, was first up and reported on the status of the various contractors performing infrastructure improvements in the City. Mr. Ruffin stated that to date, Wicker Construction, Inc. is roughly 50% complete with their work. They are constructing improvements to the City's water distribution system. TGS Contractors, Inc. was contracted by the City to install three (3) emergency generators at various specified locations. At this point, they have installed two (2) generators –one at the Stanley Booster Station and the other at the South Mansfield Booster Station. The third generator for the water treatment plant at Toledo Bend is slated for installation in approximately three to four weeks. Trenchless Methods, Inc., the contractor awarded the contract for city-wide improvements to our wastewater collection system improvements, is about 75% complete. Thielsch Group, Inc. was awarded the contract to install new water meters throughout a large percentage of the City. To date, they are roughly 25% complete with their work. The new meters will provide a more accurate reading and obtaining meter readings will be a much faster process. Finally, Milco Utilities, Inc., the contractor awarded a construction contract for improvements to the sewer system at the DeSoto Plaza Shopping Center, has delivered some material at the site and has preliminarily begun their work. They have been given a scheduled completion date of August 19, 2010. The next department head to report was Fire Chief, **Lee Shaver**. Chief Shaver informed the Council that since the last council meeting, he and his crew have been busy assisting the LA Army National Guard with water needs at the City Park Ballfields. The ballfields, concession stand and park restrooms are being constructed behind the new Wal Mart shopping center at LA Highway 509. The Guard is affording the City free labor on the construction of the ballfields as they consider this project a training exercise for some of the officers in the battalion charged with construction of this project. Finally reporting was Police Chief, **Don English** who began by informing the attendants of a rash of business burglaries in the area. A suspect in these burglaries had been recently apprehended, and the burglaries stopped soon after the suspect's arrest. Merchants are encouraged to take precautions with respect to monies left on the premises at night. Deposits should be made daily or as regularly as possible.

During the **Comment Period** for the Mayor and Council Members, Alderman G. B. Hall III thanked Chief English for offering prompt assistance to him with some problems he had been

experiencing in his district. Mayor McCoy welcomed new councilman, Troy N. Terrell. This was Mr. Terrell's first official meeting since he took his oath of office to become alderman for District B. Alderman Terrell replaces Alderman J. Dudley Kemper as councilman for this district. Mr. Kemper had faithfully served the constituents in District B for twenty-one years, and recently decided to retire this position.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:50p.m., by MOTION from JOSEPH HALL, JR. and was SECONDED by MITCHELL L. LEWIS. Passed Unanimously.

Curtis W. McCoy, *Mayor*
Marvin R. Jackson, *Clerk*