

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
June 28, 2021

In-Person Council Meeting

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **June 28th**, 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 Christopher S. Thomas**. 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**, Mary J. Green – District **A**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent:** Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present:** Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Annette Blue (Police Chief), and Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief). Others Present: (one) 1 other present. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **May 24, 2021 *regular*** City Council meeting and 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. When no public comments were offered from any of the participants at this meeting, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: -None.

New Business:

It should be noted that the first **3** agenda items (Items A through C) were petitions that were first presented to the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Commission at their June 23rd regular meeting. All the petitions were requests to situate mobile homes for residential use in various zoning districts throughout the City. ALL of the requests submitted to the Zoning Commission for consideration were **granted**. Because that was true, it was the unanimous consensus of the City Council to approve ALL of the petitions described on the meeting agenda, as was recommended by the Zoning Commission. The petitioner's requests are more particularly described as follows: **LaBrodrick McGee's** request was to situate a mobile home for residential use at **7474 Highway 509**, **Kristal Shontae Jones** submitted a request to situate a mobile home for residential use at **210 Church Street**, and **James Henry Jones** submitted a request to situate a mobile home for residential use at 203 Roach Street. It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the recommendations of the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission **granting** all the requests submitted by the petitioners at the Commission's meeting held on June 23rd. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: **Ordinance No. 2 of 2021** was introduced, drafted to change zoning at **167 Riemer Calhoun Circle** from a B-3 District (Community and Central Business Dist.) to an R-1 District

(Single-Family Residence Dist.) at the request of petitioner **Marcia C. Calhoun** for the purpose of developing 11 lots at the aforementioned address for planned residential use. No objections to Mrs. **Calhoun's** request were voiced at the June 23rd regular meeting of the Zoning Commission. Thus, the petitioner's request was met with unanimous approval by the Commissioners at their meeting. With that knowledge and after brief deliberation, it was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize advertisement of the title of the Ordinance in the July 8th edition of the city's municipal journal (*The Enterprise & Interstate Progress*) and to set a public hearing on same at the Aldermen's regular meeting scheduled for Monday, July 12th. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize the Mayor to execute a Preliminary Engagement Letter with **Crews & Associates, Inc.** (a First Security Company), based in Little Rock, Arkansas but with a satellite office in Shreveport, LA, to assist the City with the possibility of refinancing the its Sales Tax Refunding Bond Series 2010 & 2011 to potentially secure more favorable interest rates on these Fixed Rate Municipal Bonds. In this endeavor, **Crews & Associates** will act as an Underwriter/Placement Agent in our quest to attempt securing a lower interest rate than what the Bonds are currently financed at. It should be noted however, that fees due **Crews & Associates** will only be assessed if the Bonds are sold and delivered to an investor. The city's bond counsel (**Foley & Judell, LLP**) are working closely with the officers of **Crews & Associates** to help ensure that their actions taken are in the best interest of the City. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item F: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve authorization for the Mayor to enter into and execute updated Cooperative Endeavor Agreements between the City and the **LA Department of Veterans Affairs** for fiscal years spanning from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 and from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 to continue our support of local veterans, thereby improving their access to available benefits and services. For 2021, the City's contribution was calculated to be **\$157.00/month**, and for **2022**, the monthly contribution amount will increase to **\$158.00**. For many years, the City has been a contributor to this agency. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item G: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the Mayor's recommendation to amend the city's Holiday Schedule to add and include **Juneteenth Day** as an official, paid holiday on our annual Holiday Schedule for all **full-time** city employees. This year (2021), all full-time employees were granted a ½ day off in observance of **Juneteenth Day**. In 2022, with the holiday officially and formally added to the city's Holiday Schedule, employees will enjoy a full day off. When the holiday falls on a Saturday, we will be closed on the day before (Friday), and when the holiday falls on a Sunday, we will be closed the day after (Monday). On June 17th, President Joe Biden and Vice President

Kamala Harris signed into law a bill (HB#554) establishing **Juneteenth National Independence Day Act**, a celebration designating the end of slavery in the United States, as a federal holiday. Likewise, LA Governor John Bel Edwards issued a Proclamation shortly thereafter, proclaiming June 19, 2021 as **Juneteenth Day** in the state of Louisiana. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item H: No other new business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, Alderwoman **Mary Green** thanked personnel of both the Mansfield Police and the Mansfield Fire Departments, as well as any other departments for their assistance with the logistics and planning of this year's **Juneteenth Festival**, and for their presence and support of this year's event. On a separate matter, Alderman **Christopher Thomas** implored the Mayor and city management to determine if any city reserves existed whereby employees who provided COVID-19 response could be compensated for their services, in advance of receiving funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds (established by the **American Rescue Plan Act –ARPA**). The Mayor responded by stating that he would explore this avenue, but could not definitively commit to providing premium pay to **essential workers** using this suggestion until it could be determined if reserve/surplus funds were available for this purpose. He also stated that we must research and ascertain if advancing funds to **essential workers** in advance of receiving the Relief Funds is permitted by the **Act**. The city council will be kept abreast of when the premium pay as sanctioned by the **Act** is available for disbursement.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:55 p.m.** by MOTION from **MARY J. GREEN** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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