

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
June 8, 2015

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, June 8th**, 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 Joseph Hall, Jr.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis.** Following the pledge, the roll was called, and the following officials were recorded as **Present:** Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, **Mayor**, Mary L. Green –District **A**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D.** **Absent:** Roy R. Jones –District **B** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E.** **Other City Personnel Present:** Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk) and James “*Jim*” Ruffin (Public Works Director). **Others Present:** Anthony Smith. **Press Present:** Julie Morris –editor of *The Enterprise.*

It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **May 26, 2015 *special*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** 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. Mansfield resident, Mrs. Jerri Burrell, was present at this meeting and presented herself as a spokesperson for the constituents in her district. She spoke in opposition to the water rate increase using as her argument that a fair amount of persons in her district are elderly and are on a ‘*fixed*’ income, while some others have only minimum wage-paying jobs. Further, Mrs. Burrell felt that the increase, no matter how small, would put an undue hardship on residents who are already struggling to meet certain basic financial obligations. When no further comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

Old Business:

Item A: A public hearing was conducted to hear and discuss any comments related to the adoption of proposed **Ordinance No. 6 of 2015**, which if adopted, would declare certain city-owned property as surplus and would authorize disposal of same by private sale after public notice. When no comments were offered from the floor on this issue, the public hearing then closed.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt **Ordinance No. 6 of 2015** to declare certain city-owned property as surplus and the dispose of same by private sale after public notice. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full Ordinance recited below):

CITY OF MANSFIELD
ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2015

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS AND
TO DISPOSE OF SAME BY PRIVATE SALE AFTER PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Mansfield in regular session convened:

SECTION 1.

The below listed six (6) items are hereby declared to be surplus and no longer needed by the City of Mansfield.

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
ITEM #1	2005 Ford CVC VIN #2FAFP73W75X108337 Minimum Bid = \$1250.00
ITEM #2	2003 Ford CVC VIN #2FAFP71W73X113568 Minimum Bid = \$1250.00
ITEM #3	2007 Ford CRV VIN #2FAFP71W17X136799 Minimum Bid = \$750.00
ITEM #4	1982 Impt Trailer VIN #20534 (Including miscellaneous used lawn equipment and parts) Minimum Bid = \$200.00
ITEM #5	2001 Dodge Crew Truck VIN #3B6MC36561M534734 Minimum Bid = \$400.00
ITEM #6	2001 Dodge PK VIN #3B7KC26Z91M544125 Minimum Bid = \$400.00

SECTION 2.

The above listed six (6) items shall be sold to the highest bidder, with the City reserving the right to refuse/reject any and all bids.

SECTION 3.

Notice of advertisement for sale is herewith authorized. Bids to be received on July 13, 2015, on or before 4:30 PM.

SECTION 4.

The minimum price, as indicated above for each item, will be accepted in cash or money order only. Payment in full is required within ten (10) days of acceptance of bid by City Council action.

SECTION 5.

Items must be removed from city property within ten (10) days of acceptance of bid by City Council action.

SECTION 6.

A "Bidder's Bond" payable to the City of Mansfield in an amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the bid, the Bidder will promptly honor the bid and remove the surplus item. The Bidder's Bond must be in the form of a money order (no cash or personal checks). Bidder's Bonds will be returned to unsuccessful bidders.

SECTION 7.

Any bid not honored within ten (10) days of acceptance, is hereby rescinded, the ten percent (10%) Bidder's Bond is hereby forfeited, and the surplus item is hereby offered to the next highest bidder until the item is sold.

SECTION 8.

Ordinance Title Publication date June 4, 2015.

Effective date of this ordinance shall be June 30, 2015.

UPON MOTION OF ALDERWOMAN Mary L. Green, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN Mitchell L. Lewis, the above and foregoing ordinance was adopted on this the 8th day of June, 2015, with the votes as follows:

AYES: 3 (M. Green, M. Lewis, J. Hall)

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 (R. Jones and K. Campbell)
ABSTAIN: 0

Item C: A public hearing was conducted to hear and discuss any further comments related to the adoption of proposed **Ordinance No. 7 of 2015**, which if adopted would amend Article III (“*Water*”), Sections 21-53 (“*Water Rates*”) of Chapter 21 (“*Water, Sewers and Sewage Disposal*”) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mansfield to increase Water Rates and to add other water-related user fees. If adopted, the city would realize an increase of **\$18,216.00** monthly and annually the increase would generate **\$28,592.00** in additional revenue. The Ordinance introduced proposed a **\$6.00** increase to the monthly minimum bill for the first 2,000 gallons of water used. Thus, persons whose properties are located inside the city’s corporate limits would see an increase from \$14.00 to \$20.00 for the first \$2,000 gallons of water used, and for outside residents an increase from \$16.00 to \$22.00. Additionally, the bulk water rate for the **Village of South Mansfield** and the **East DeSoto Water System** would change from \$1.75 to \$3.50 per one thousand (1,000) gallons. Finally, the Ordinance recited the proposed addition of a \$5.00 fee charged for ‘*re-reading*’ water meters and a fee of \$10.00 for customers requesting a 90-day water usage ‘*diagnostic investigation*’. These fees would be refunded to the customer if the reading was found to be incorrect. The agenda for the Aldermen’s May 26th *special* meeting was amended to allow for discussion of this issue where **Ordinance No. 7 of 2015** was also introduced. A public hearing was conducted at that meeting where the city clerk explained in detail the financial health of the **Water Fund** (*proprietary fund*) and the necessity to take measures to help this area reverse the recurring deficit it experiences on a monthly basis. For several months to satisfy the obligations associated with the **Water Fund**, it has become necessary to ‘*tap into*’ some of the City’s unrestricted accounts. This is a practice that cannot continue. A remedy for this matter is the imposition of an increase in the water rates and other water-related user fees charged to customers. There has not been an increase in water revenue since January 2004. The ever-rising costs of the chemicals needed to treat raw water to make it potable for human consumption is just one reason this increase has become necessary. Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, stated that another reason is the increase in cost of the kits used to collect water samples daily for inspection by an independent water testing lab. Kits that previously cost \$40 to \$50 to purchase, have now ballooned in price to better than \$400, and multiple water samples are taken daily; more specifically a total of 194 samples are taken each month. At the May 26th *special* meeting, the Council voted to approve advertisement of the title of **Ordinance No. 7** and to set a second public hearing for the June 8th regular meeting. Mayor McCoy felt the proposed Ordinance warranted further deliberation. This Ordinance will be slated for inclusion on the June 22nd agenda to be considered for adoption.

Item D: No other old business discussed.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize the receipt and opening of all sealed public bids for the chemicals **Aluminum Sulfate Solution** and **Caustic Soda Liquid 25% Diaphragm** for use at the City's Toledo Bend Water Treatment Plant and take same under advisement. For the chemical **Aluminum Sulfate Solution** the following sealed bids were received: **Univar USA, Inc.** –No bid proposal was submitted, **GEO Specialty Chemicals** -\$217.50/dry ton delivered, **Premier Chemicals & Services** -\$219.25/dry ton, and **Chemtrade Chemicals US, LLC** -\$405.00/dry ton. The bids received will be tabulated and a recommendation to accept the lowest responsible bidder will be made at the Council's June 22nd regular meeting. For the chemical **Caustic Soda Liquid 25% Diaphragm** the following sealed bids were received: **Univar USA, Inc.** - \$557.35/dry ton delivered, **Harcros Chemicals** -\$598.00/dry ton, **FSTI, Inc.** -\$669.00/dry ton, **Premier Chemicals & Services** -\$732.50/dry ton and **GEO Specialty Chemicals** –No bid proposal was submitted. Like the bids for Aluminum Sulfate Solution, these sealed bids will be tabulated and a recommendation to accept the lowest responsible bidder will be offered at the Council's June 22nd meeting.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to approve a **Resolution** to adopt a Residential and Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the 2014-2015 LCDBG Program as required under Section 104(d) of the Housing & Community Development Act of 1974. This is a requirement of the LCDBG program mandating that all grant recipients adopt such a Plan. The City of Mansfield will replace all occupied and vacant occupiable low/moderate-income dwelling units demolished or converted to a use other than as low/moderate-income housing as a direct result of activities assisted with funds provided under the Act. However, the City of Mansfield pledges to take certain steps to minimize the displacement of persons from their homes. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full Resolution file at City Hall)

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to approve the selection of *The Enterprise and Interstate Progress* to serve as the city's Official Municipal Journal for fiscal year July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2016, pursuant to LA R.S. 43:141. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: 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. **Anthony D. Smith** with the City of Mansfield. Mr. Smith was hired on March 5, 2015, and initially was assigned to work in the Mansfield Fire Department. However, he was later reassigned to the Street Department where he has performed relatively well in his current position. Further, Mr. Smith has demonstrated the ability to cooperate, work and communicate with his coworkers and supervisors. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: No other new business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was declared adjourned at **5:22 p.m.** by MOTION from **MARY L. GREEN** and was SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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