

**City of Mansfield**  
**MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING**  
**March 13, 2017**

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Curtis McCoy called the 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 **Alderwoman Brenda H. Hall**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, *Mayor*, Mary L. Green –District **A**, Brenda H. Hall –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), James “*Jim*” Ruffin (Public Works Director) and Lt. Billy Locke (Mansfield Police Dept.). **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **February 13, 2017 *regular*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting cancelled –no quorum present)

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. When no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was subsequently closed.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

**Item A:** It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **BRENDA H. HALL** to approve a **Resolution** adopting a Citizen Participation and Procurement Plan for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program funding cycle for FY 2018 through FY 2019, to meet the citizen participation requirements of Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The Louisiana Division of Administration requires that certain citizen participation requirements be met. The City of Mansfield commits through adoption of this plan to full and total involvement of all residents of the community in the composition, implementation and assessment of its LCDBG program. Attempts will be made to reach all citizens, with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low and moderate income, residents of slum and blighted areas and of areas in which funds are proposed to be used. Federal and State regulations give ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of the program to local elected officials but also require that citizens be given an opportunity to serve in a key advisory role to the elected officials. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item B:** At this time, the floor was opened to receive a presentation from Mr. **James Dermody** (*Pattern Energy Group LP – Pattern Development*), Mr. **Chad Thompson** (*Five Corners Strategies*) and Mr. **Emory Belton, Jr.** (*Belton Consulting, LLC*) regarding the impending Southern Cross Transmission Line Project and converter station being planned for DeSoto Parish. Mr. Dermody facilitated the near 15-minute presentation to Mayor McCoy, the Board of Aldermen and other attendees at this meeting. In overview, Southern Cross Transmission is an innovative project that will bring low-cost renewable energy from Texas to the southeastern states and increase reliability by connecting two robust electrical systems. This transmission project will situate approximately 30 miles of 500 kilovolts of high-voltage direct current (HDVC) overhead transmission line in DeSoto Parish. The positive impact of this project to Louisiana economy is anticipated to generate roughly \$2 million dollars over 30 years. Additionally, this project is forecast to create more than 300 jobs in Louisiana throughout the project's construction and continued operation. Still further, the project is predicted to greatly improve tax income for DeSoto Parish, including increased payment of local sales and use taxes, and ad valorem property taxes. Finally, the project is expected to benefit electricity consumers with reduced annual wholesale electricity costs.

**Item C:** It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the adoption of a **Resolution** supporting the Southern Cross Transmission Line Project in light of the anticipated positive impacts to our local economy. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item D:** At this time, a discussion ensued regarding a request from commercial business owner, Mrs. **Junear L. Canna** to close and abandon the North end of Jackson Street to allow for future planned construction activities. The portion of Jackson Street being requested for closure measures an approximate 31 feet in width and slightly more than 500 feet in length. The overall length measures more than 500 feet. It is that portion of Jackson Street which is designated but not developed. To ensure that the City had no underground utilities that they would need access to in the future, Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin was consulted. He confirmed that no utilities existed underground in the thoroughfare being requested for closure. With that fact confirmed, it was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to authorize advertisement of a Notice of Public Hearing in our local journal, describing the area proposed for abandonment, and set a public hearing for same on April 10<sup>th</sup> or for some near future date. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item E:** At this time, Mansfield resident and local business owner, Mrs. **Betty Carter** addressed the Mayor and City Council City regarding the City's plans for eradicating old, abandoned houses locating within the City's corporate limits. Mrs. **Carter** contended that the abandoned properties are an eyesore and presented a safety hazard to the public. They are also a haven and

temporary habitat for transients searching for a place to lodge. Mayor McCoy stated that he and one of the City's Co-Code Enforcement Officers recently rode through the City identifying properties that had obviously been abandoned and most likely needed demolishing. Actions would be taken as expeditiously as possible to address these blighted properties. However, he remarked to Mrs. **Carter**, that this process is not always as quick to resolve as some citizens would like. Property owners must first be contacted and given an opportunity to address such issues.

**Item F:** At this time, presentations by Mayor McCoy and the Board of Aldermen were slated to be made to: **Worlita Jackson-Williams, Rev. Leroy Carter, Sr., and Rev. Dr. Elbert "Eddie" w. Giles.** These individuals were from varied professions, but had made notable contributions to the local community and to the community-at-large. The presentations were in the forms of plaques presented to each recipient for his/her contribution (s) to the community. First to receive an recognition award was life-long Mansfield resident, Mrs. **Worlita Jackson-Williams.** Mrs. **Williams** had been named the "**2017 School Social Worker of the Year**" by the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Mrs. **Jackson** is employed by the Desoto Parish School Board and works as a certified social worker in DeSoto Parish Schools. The NASW highlights superb accomplishments in the practice of social work. A plaque was next presented to **Dr. Rev. Elbert "Eddie" W. Giles.** Rev. **Giles** was born in DeSoto Parish (Frierson, LA) on March 17, 1938. He has been the senior pastor of **Salem Missionary Baptist Church** located in Shreveport, Louisiana since 1993, and for 45 years, has been the program and music director for KOKA Radio Station (980 AM). He is affectionately known as the "**Radio Pastor**" on KOKA. Finally, he is an acclaimed, former recording artist of secular music, but in recent years has become an award-winning gospel music artist. While Mrs. **Williams** made a few brief remarks after reception of her award, Rev. **Giles** rose to share more than a few facts about his colorful life with those in attendance at this meeting and even more anecdotes about his past. The final recipient slated to posthumously receive an award was former war veteran, **Rev. Leroy Carter, Sr.** However, no surviving member of his family was present to receive the plaque specially designed for him. Recognition for his varied accomplishments will be presented at the March 27<sup>th</sup> regular city council meeting.

**Item G:** No other new business discussed.

During the period set aside for reception of any comments from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, none were offered.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:15 p.m.** by MOTION from **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and was SECONDED by **BRENDA H. HALL.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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