

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *SPECIAL* PUBLIC MEETING
March 15, 2021

In-Person Council Meeting

In a *special meeting* called pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 42:19, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on **Monday, March 15th**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. This is the first '*in-person*' council meeting held since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic which was declared a State of Emergency by Governor John Bel Edwards on March 16, 2020. An Invocation was offered by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Mary J. Green**. Following the pledge, the clerk called the roll to record those council members in attendance. The following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. John H. Mayweather, Sr., -**Mayor**, Mary J. Green –District **A**, **Christopher S. Thomas** –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**, and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **Absent**: None. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk) and Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief). Others Present: None. **Press Present**: None.

***NOTE**: The **February 8, 2021** regular council meeting was cancelled due to extreme, inclement weather. The **March 8, 2021** regular council meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum, and re-scheduled to be held on Monday, **March 15th**, deeming it a *special* meeting.

It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **February 8, 2021 regular** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Prior to this meeting, council meetings were either conducted via teleconference or virtually via ZOOM, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been true since the council's April 13, 2020 regular meeting. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and **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 public comments were offered from any of the participants in this meeting, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: -None.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve adoption of a **Resolution** designating **April 5th – April 9th, 2021** as National Community Development Week acknowledging the City as a participant in the forty-seven year old Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in partnership with federal, state and local governing, and also referencing the benefits of the CDBG program and the negative impacts which would result by discontinuing the funding of this program. In late fall 2020, the City was awarded a nearly 1.1 million dollar grant through this program to effect

improvements at our Wastewater Treatment Plant and to our Wastewater Collection System. Over the years, this program has afforded the City the means to address other infrastructure issues, namely our water distribution and treatment systems and our streets and drainage systems. These type projects improve the quality of life for low and moderate income persons as well as for all our citizens, which would otherwise not be possible without this program. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve issuance of a **Proclamation** at the request of Governor John Bel Edwards, commemorating **April 15, 2021** as the **53rd** anniversary of the *National Fair Housing Law of 1968* in the State of Louisiana. This law guarantees each citizen the critical, personal element of freely choosing a home without discrimination. This **Proclamation** will be signed by the Mayor and proudly displayed in the lobby of City Hall during the entire month of **April**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve acceptance of an Act of Donation of a **2011 Ford XLT SuperCab 4X4 Pickup Truck** from the *DeSoto Parish Police Jury* to be used in and added to the existing fleet of vehicles at the Mansfield Police Department. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: No other new business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor announced definitively that the next city-wide ‘Cleanup Day’ has been scheduled for Saturday, March 27, from 8:00 a.m. until Noon. Participants of this initiative will be asked to assemble on the parking lot of City Hall and should plan to arrive shortly before 8:00 a.m. to receive cleaning supplies and any further instructions. Citizens of all ages are invited and encouraged to join this periodic effort. Alderman Hall stated that he intends to enlist the assistance of youth and young adults in his district to participate in this event. All other councilmen are urged to do likewise. The Mayor then expressed gratitude to any employees of the City who assisted citizens and businesses with resources during the week-long snowstorm event which commenced on February 14th and spanned through Feb. 19th. He also thanked other local agencies and entities who offered assistance to city and parish residents during this brutal, winter snowstorm. All other councilmen echoed the Mayors’ sentiments and expressions of gratitude during the inclement weather experienced during the week of February 14th. Assistant Police Chief Billy Locke informed the Mayor and Council that during the snowstorm event, the Police Department partnered with the parish Sheriff’s Office to assist with patient care at the local Dialysis Center. Offering closing comments was Assistant Police Chief Billy Locke who informed the council that he and the Mayor would be visiting local area nursing homes during

the Easter season as a gesture to lift the spirits of the residents who are inhabitants there. Additionally, he stated that a movie-night will be scheduled soon, underwritten out of funds from a grant awarded to the Police Department through a program called *Operation Safe Streets*, which was established in 1979 by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD).

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:45 p.m.** by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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