

**City of Mansfield**  
**MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING**  
**March 28, 2016**

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, March 28th** 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**, Joseph Hall, Jr., –District **D** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E.** **Absent due to suspension:** Roy R. Jones –District **B.** **Other City Personnel Present:** Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk). **Others Present:** Johnny Simpson. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **March 11, 2016 *regular*** City Council meeting and to 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 comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

**Old Business:**

**Item A:** It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation of BALAR Associates, Inc. to reject ALL bids received and opened on 03/23/16 for the 2014/2015 LCDBG Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation project due to budget constraints. BALAR Associates serves as the city's consulting engineers on this project. For the improvements proposed, the city was awarded an \$800,000 grant through the LCDBG program, and of that amount, the total construction cost was estimated at **\$670,000.** All of the sealed public bids received far exceeded the estimated construction cost by several hundred thousand dollars. The bids received were tabulated and are as follows: ***ASB Utility Construction, L.L.C.*** -\$1,077,176.00, ***Dixie Overland Construction, L.L.C.*** -\$1,099,644.75, ***David Lawler Construction, Inc.*** -\$1,208,501.50, and ***Belt Construction, Inc.*** -\$1,388,890.00. Because the bids received exceed the construction budget, it may be necessary to revise the scope of this project and then rebid it to hopefully receive bid submissions that are more in line with the engineer's cost estimate. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item B:** No other old business to discuss.

**New Business:**

**Item A:** At this time, a discussion ensued regarding the continued employment of suspended employee, Mr. **Johnny R. Simpson.** On February 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Simpson was suspended from his duties due to repeated tardiness and frequent absences, according to his immediate supervisor Mr. Jim Ruffin. Mr. Ruffin could not be present at this meeting. However, via a pre-recorded video, he stated that habitual tardiness and frequent absenteeism was cited as the principal reasons

for Mr. Simpson's suspension. Hearing the primary basis for his suspension, Mayor McCoy asked Mr. Simpson if he would like to stand and address the council with any comments or concerns regarding the decision for his suspension. Mr. Simpson expressed his displeasure at how his suspension was handled. Though this was not the first time Mr. Simpson had been suspended. He was suspended in June 2015 for violating another city policy. Due to these infractions, termination of employment was recommended. Mayor McCoy remarked that the nature of Mr. Simpson's position with the city (worked with the garbage/sanitation crew) demands that he report to work timely and with minimal absences. After hearing the Mayor's comments and those of Mr. Ruffin, it was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to terminate Mr. Simpson's employment with the City of Mansfield. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item B:** Contained in each alderman's agenda package was the annual ***Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Environmental Audit Report*** for their review. After review, the council was asked to adopt the **Resolution** on page 17 as mandated by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in order to maintain requirements for the city's Permit Number **LA0038962**. The **Resolution** recites certain assurances made by the Board of Aldermen with regard to the actions taken by them in maintenance of permit requirements contained under the city's permit number. It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to adopt the Resolution on page 17 of the MWPP Environmental Audit Report. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Item C:** At this time, a discussion commenced regarding a request from Mansfield resident and commercial property owner Dr. **George L. Thomas** (Community of Faith, L.L.C.) to close and abandon an approximate 20 ft. wide X 300 ft. long alley located in the rear of the Community Of Faith Family Ministries building (624 Louise Street) because of future plans to expand the facility. The council voiced no opposition to the request for closure and eventual abandonment of the alley so described. It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to authorize the advertisement of a public hearing on April 25<sup>th</sup> for abandonment and closure of the alley described above. The notice of public hearing will be appear in our local journal (***The Enterprise***) a total of three (3) times (April 7, April 14, and April 21) before introduction of an Ordinance to close the named alley is presented at the council's regular meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:54 p.m.** by MOTION from **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and was SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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