

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
March 10, 2014

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, March 10th**, 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 call was suspended; however, the following officials were recorded as **Present:** Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, G. B. Hall III – District **A**, Troy N. Terrell –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, and Joseph Hall, Jr. – District **D.** **Absent:** Kervin D. Campbell. –District **E.** **Other City Personnel Present:** James “Jim” Ruffin (Public Works Director), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), and Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk). **Others Present:** A. J. Williams, Jr., Randy Peebles and Rev. Ronnie Morris. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **TROY N. TERRELL** and SECONDED **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** by to approve the minutes of the **February 24, 2014 regular** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** 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 then closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: At this time, the floor was open to invite discussion by the Mayor and City Council regarding the riding of horses on public streets, sidewalks, alleyways or other public thoroughfares of the corporate limits or on any city-owned properties. Also slated for inclusion in this discussion was the stabling of horses within the City’s corporate limits. Numerous, recent complaints from City residents have been received at City Hall, specifically regarding the riding of horses within the corporate limits. Recently, horse owners are riding their animals on public streets and sidewalks and leaving behind manure on such public thoroughfares. Owners are not removing and disposing the excreta of that animal. Such action is being considered a nuisance to the residents of the neighborhoods where this nuisance is occurring. To hopefully eradicate this nuisance, the Mayor and City Council are considering adoption of an Ordinance that would prohibit both the riding of and the stabling of horses within the City’s corporate limits. The city’s attorney drafted a preliminary Ordinance relative to this issue, intended for use as a ‘*Discussion Draft*’ at this Council meeting. However the Mayor and Councilmen concluded that the draft provided needs to be more definitive in its scope. To that end, it was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to take this matter under advisement and instruct the city attorney to draft an Ordinance for introduction at either the

March 24th or April 14th regular council meeting. The attorney must be given time to properly research this matter to ensure legality, before such an Ordinance can be adopted. Also, doing so will ensure that the Ordinance is not laborious to police. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation by city clerk, Marvin Jackson, to offer full-time employment to Ms. **Tommie Lynn Crawford** with the City of Mansfield. Ms. Crawford was hired on November 25, 2013, and assigned to work in the capacity of Public Relations Officer. She has become quickly acclimated to her job duties and in her brief tenure has become a valuable asset to the City Hall staff. Further, she is punctual, hard-working and takes initiative to perform tasks not expressly assigned to her Motion Passed Unanimously.

Before continuing with the next scheduled agenda item, the Mayor requested that the agenda be amended to discuss reinstating his monthly vehicle allowance. The city clerk asked if there were any objections from those in attendance to amending the agenda for discussion of this matter. When no objections were voiced, it was MOTIONED BY **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **TROY N. TERRELL** to approve amendment of the agenda to deliberate this issue. The Mayor requested approval from the City Council to authorize a monthly disbursement to him of \$750.00 as a vehicle allowance, effective April 1st. He favors reverting back to driving his own, personal vehicle. This action would mean he would relinquish operation of the city-owned 2012 Ford Expedition he currently drives, the fuel card assigned to this vehicle and would after April 1st, be responsible for all maintenance costs associated with his own personal vehicle. After further, brief discussion it was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **TROY N. TERRELL** to approve a disbursement of \$750.00 monthly to the Mayor in the form of a vehicle allowance, effective April 1st. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: As a final item of new business, Mr. **Randy Peeples**, the Manager of External Affairs for American Electric Power Company (AEP), a division of SWEPCO (Southwestern Electric Power Company) was given the floor to introduce himself to the Mayor and Councilmen. Mr. Peeples was formerly the CEO of Valley Electric Membership Corp. He invited the Mayor or his staff to contact him for virtually any problem or concern that may arise in our jurisdiction that involves AEP in any way. He made a point of mentioning that his authority extends beyond the City's corporate limits. He has authority to resolve problems anywhere in North Louisiana, as Mr. Peeples acts essentially as a liaison between the general public and his company.

Item D: No other new business discussed.

During the **Comments Period** for the Mayor and Council Members, no comments were offered.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at **4:41 p.m.**, by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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