

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
March 14, 2011

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, March 14th**, 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 Mitchell L. Lewis**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Troy N. Terrell**. The following officials were recorded as **Present**: Honorable Curtis W. McCoy, G. B. Hall III –District **A**, **Troy N. Terrell** –District **B**, **Mitchell L. Lewis** – District **C**, and **Alvin R. Woodley** –District **E**. **Absent**: Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **Press Present**: Kriston Newsom (*The Enterprise*) and Vickie Welborn (*The Times*).

It was MOTIONED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **February 28, 2011 regular** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to pay current outstanding bills for this period.

The Mayor 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, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to approve Amendment No. 3 of the Annual Signal Maintenance Agreement between the City of Mansfield and the LA Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for fiscal year ending **June 30, 2011**. The original contract agreement included operation and maintenance of eleven (11) traffic signals in the City of Mansfield and was in the amount of \$8,800.00. The contract amount was revised by Amendment No. 1 adding a traffic signal in the amount of +\$631.30. Amendment No. 2 was approved at the council February 14th meeting subtracting a traffic signal beacon, and thereby reducing the contract amount by -\$637.87. This new Amendment No. 3 removes the traffic signal at the corner of LA Hwy. 513 (Gibbs St.) and Jefferson Street to further reduce the contract amount by another -\$484.43. The resulting new contract amount is now **\$8,309.00**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize the advertisement of sealed public bids for all projects involved in **Phase II** of the Mansfield Water Facilities Improvements Project. The advertisement for bids will be published in the City's official journal on March 24th, March 31st and April 7th for the areas impacted by this second phase of the improvements project. All sealed bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud on Tuesday, April 19th at 10:00a.m. C.S.T. at Mansfield City Hall. Jim Ruffin stated that **Phase II** will effect improvements to water mains and lines in the downtown district,

to the City's Water Treatment Facility, to the South Mansfield and Stanley Booster stations and to other outlying areas not included in Phase I. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to adopt a Resolution whereby the City agreed to subsidize the improvements of two city streets, namely Kenneth Street and Ruffin Alley, in connection with its 2010/2011 LCDBG Public Facilities Program application. Funds for improvements to these streets will be disbursed out of the City's local funds/budget. They were not included in the original grant application, which is currently under review. To keep the City's application in consideration for grant approval, the state is mandating this subsidy of increased construction costs to develop these two city streets. The City's consulting engineers (Balar Associates, Inc.) have estimated the cost at \$28,200.00 to construct these two additional streets. In November 2009, the City made application for \$239,470.00 of LCDBG funds for rehabilitation of streets in specified target areas (the Kavanaugh and Johnson Street areas). The total project cost has been estimated at \$320,120.00, including administrative and engineering costs. The difference between the total project cost and the amount of LCDBG funds requested, results in a shortfall of \$80,650.00. This amount will also be subsidized out of the City's own funds (local funds) and represents the administrative consultant costs and engineering costs associated with this project. Motion Passed Unanimously. (Full copy of Resolution on file at City Hall).

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to approve the request of the DeSoto Parish EMS for connectivity to City utilities for their impending new facility to be constructed and situated at 11113 Hwy. 171, Mansfield, LA. Jim Ruffin stated that in order for this agency (EMS) to tie onto existing water lines and mains, their connecting appurtenances would have to conform to City specifications. The costs associated with making these connections would have to be paid for by the requestor (EMS). Motion Passed Unanimously.

Agenda Amendment: At this time, Mayor requested that the meeting agenda be amended to discuss a proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Mansfield and the DeSoto Parish Police Jury regarding street improvements. It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **TROY N. TERRELL** to amend the agenda for discussion of this matter. Motion Passed Unanimously. Representing the Police Jury was District 4C Juror, **Mr. Ernel Jones**. Mr. Jones stated that annually each juror is allocated a specific number of miles that they can request streets repairs be performed on. Currently within the City, Sample Street, Roach Street, Gibbs Street (both sides of Gibbs near Union Cemetery) and certain others, are all in dire need of repair. Mayor McCoy and Mr. Jones both suggested entering into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to effect these street repairs. A draft of the agreement was prepared by the City's legal counsel for signature by both parties and distributed to the Mayor

and council for review at this meeting. Essentially, the terms of the agreement specify that the City of Mansfield would be responsible for funding the cost of needed materials and supplies, and the Police Jury would provide the equipment and finance the labor costs involved with this project. With those terms in place, it was MOTIONED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** and SECONDED by **G. B. HALL III** that the City and the Police Jury enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to perform the aforementioned street repairs/improvements. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: At this time, a presentation was offered by **Mr. John McMinn**, an agent for CGGVeritas Land, Inc. regarding the request to conduct 3-D seismic surveys on lands within the city's corporate limits. Some of the activity would be performed near residential neighborhoods, and Mr. McMinn appeared at this meeting to share with the council their process for performing the surveys. In most instances, equipment called vibrator trucks would be used to perform their work. At this point, Jim Ruffin remarked that if the process is conducted responsibly, city residents should experience only minimal inconveniences. Mr. Ruffin was formerly employed by a company that performed similar geophysical operations. This request is merely a permit to conduct seismic operations and does not transfer any mineral interest. Further, CGGVeritas agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Mansfield against any legal actions that may arise as a result of their operations while on City properties. The lands impacted by these seismic surveys total approximately 109 acres, and this company proposes to pay the City \$15.00 per acre for granting permission to perform this work (total check \$1,640.00 approx.). Finally, CGGVeritas agrees to pay off-duty police officers for assisting with traffic control during these operations (a minimum of three hours daily). It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to authorize the Mayor enter into and execute a permit to allow CGGVeritas to perform the work as specified. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Department Reports

Next on the agenda was the reception of reports from the **City's Department Heads**.

- **Public Works Director Jim Ruffin** presented his overview on the status of the various contractors performing infrastructure work within the City's corporate limits. He reported that **Wicker Construction, Inc.**, the company performing improvements to the City's water distribution system, is upgraded from 97% (reported at February 28th meeting) to 98%. Left to perform is some testing of mains and service lines and '*dress up.*' **Trenchless Methods, Inc.**, the contractor performing improvements to the City's sewer collection system is approximately 99% complete with their work. Basically, he said, they have completed the work outlined in their contract, with the exception of some *punch list* items. The company (**Thielsch Group, Inc.**) contracted to replace water meters city-wide remain at 80% complete with their work. All work by these contractors is warranted for one year after completion. Mayor McCoy remarked that all contractors

would be required to restore the excavated or altered ground surfaces of residential properties, as near as is practical, to their original conditions. Final payments will be retained until all affected properties are restored in a satisfactory condition.

- **Fire Chief Lee Shaver** presented a summary of 2011 statistics to date, with regard to activity in his department: **1** fire call, **1** EMS call, **1** motor vehicle accident, **2** gas leaks, **2** alarms and **1** grass fire.
- **Police Chief Joseph Pratt** reported that there are two (2) drilling sites located outside of the City's corporate limits. His department has been trying to determine their role in a mandated emergency evacuation if drilling site operations were to go awry. It is a mandate by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the LA Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the LA Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) to evacuate residents living within a half mile radius of a drilling rig where major malfunctions or escaping chemical contaminants pose a threat to human safety. Although, the drilling sites are out of city limits, the residents living in a half mile radius would be in the police department's jurisdiction. Chief Pratt further reported that after Mayor's Court on Monday, March 14th, several officers were promoted within the police department. Namely those officers included the following: Capt. Gary D. Hobbs promoted to Assistant Police Chief, Officer Billy D. Locke promoted from investigator to the rank of Corporal and Officer Charles E. Hall also promoted to the rank of Corporal.

During the period for comments from the Mayor and Council Members, Council Woodley expressed gratitude to Mr. Ernel Jones for his presence and for the continued efforts of the Police Jury to partner with the City on mutually beneficial projects. Following Alderman Woodley's comments, Councilman G. B. Hall III read aloud a 'Thank You' note received from Harold Cornett, Jr. thanking the City Council and Mayor for honoring his father with a proclamation and for lowering the flags at City Hall on the day of former Mayor Cornett's funeral. No other comments were made from the council.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting **adjourned at 5:01 p.m.**, by MOTION from **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** and was **SECONDED** by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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

