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{March 8, 2010}

City of Mansfield

MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

March 8, 2010

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, March 8th, 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 G. B. Hall III. Alderman Joseph Hall, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by the City Clerk and the following were Present: Honorable Curtis W. McCoy, G. B. Hall III –District A, J. Dudley Kemper –District B, Mitchell L. Lewis – District C, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District D, and Alvin R. Woodley –District E. Absent: None. Press: John Blanchard (The Enterprise). Others present: James “Jim” Ruffin (City’s Public Works Director), Brian M. Phillips (City’s Code Enforcement Officer), Cynthia “Cindy” Williams (City’s Public Relations Officer), Richard Johnson, Jr. (City’s Attorney), John L. Freeman (CLECO Corp), and Jeffrey J. Freeman (City Employee).

It was MOTIONED by G. B. HALL III and SECONDED by ALVIN R. WOODLEY to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2010 regular city council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTION ED by MITCHELL L. LEWIS and SECONDED by J. DUDLEY KEMPER to pay current outstanding bills for this period. Passed Unanimously.

The Mayor next opened the floor to hear public comments from those in attendance to any item outlined on the meeting agenda. When none were offered, the Public Comments Period was then closed.

Old Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by JOSEPH HALL, JR. and SECONDED by ALVIN R. WOODLEY to approve the recommendation by the City’s Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, to hire Jeffrey L. Freeman full-time in the Public Works Department. Mr. Freeman’s hire date was November 30, 2009. A 90-day employee performance appraisal, conducted by Mr. Ruffin, resulted in an overall ‘very good’ rating for this employee. Mr. Freeman takes the initiative to perform tasks relative to his position without being told and assumes additional duties, when

necessary. He has also demonstrated an ability to work well with coworkers and supervisors. Passed Unanimously.

Item B: A discussion ensued regarding notice of intention to introduce in this year's Legislative session (convenes March 29th), authority to levy and collect a hotel occupancy tax subject to voter approval. LA State Representative Richard Burford authored House Bill No. 538 and pre-filed it with the State Legislature. This levy would apply to the paid occupancy of hotels, motels and other lodging located within the city, and would not exceed three (3) percent of the rent or fee charged for such occupancy. This new tax would be in addition to any sales tax already collected by the City, but would only be paid by anyone renting a room at one of the City's overnight lodging establishments. It does not, however, encompass any hospital, convalescent or nursing home or sanitarium, or any hotel-like facility operated by or in connection with a hospital or medical clinic providing rooms exclusively for patients and their families. Further, the new hotel tax, if passed, would impact establishments, public or private, that are currently operating in the City, as well as any which are later constructed and situated within the City's corporate limits. It was MOTIONED by G. B. HALL III and SECONDED by MITCHELL L. LEWIS to grant Mayor McCoy the authority to further pursue this initiative and seek permission from the Legislature to levy and collect a hotel occupancy tax. Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by and SECONDED G. B. HALL III to approve the Resolution on page 17 of the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Environmental Audit Report. Specifically, the Resolution informs the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) that certain actions were taken by the City's Board of Aldermen which are necessary to maintain permit requirements contained in the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System under permit number LA0038962. Primarily, the Board of Aldermen resolve to continue to annually review user charges and adjust as necessary to ensure sufficient funds for operation, maintenance, debt service, and repairs to equipment within the system. Passed Unanimously.

Item D: No other new business.

During the Comments Period for the Mayor and Council members, Alderman G. B. Hall III remarked that we should continue our efforts through the LA DOTD to seek relief for vehicular traffic at the intersection of U. S. Hwy. 84 and LA Hwy. 175. Reconstruction and modifications to this current intersection are badly needed to ease the flow of traffic there. He also requested that we research our ordinances to see if travel by unusually large trucks on narrow City streets, namely Gibbs Street, is prohibited. Repeated, heavy traffic on streets not designed to accommodate these type vehicles accelerates their deterioration and other buried infrastructure.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m., by MOTION from J. DUDLEY KEMPER and was SECONDED by MITCHELL L. LEWIS. Passed Unanimously.

Curtis W. McCoy, Mayor

Marvin R. Jackson, City Clerk

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