

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
May 9, 2016

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, May 9th** 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 Mary L. Green**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Brenda H. Hall**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, **Mayor**, Mary L. Green – District **A**, Brenda H. Hall – District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis – District **C**, and Kervin D. Campbell – District **E**. **Absent**: Joseph Hall, Jr. – District **D**. **Absent due to suspension**: Roy R. Jones – District **B**. **Other City Personnel Present**: Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), James “Jim” Ruffin (Public Works Director), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Wayne Nichols (Acting Fire Chief -MFD), and Cody Williams (Firefighter –MFD). **Others Present**: Rita Myles. **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **April 25, 2016 *regular*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** 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, a discussion ensued regarding the request of Mrs. **Joann Akins** to consider amending a particular section of Chapter 4 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances. Specifically, she requested an amendment to Section 4-4 (*Closing Hours for Nightclubs, Dancing Facilities and other Recreation Facilities*), of Chapter 4 (*Amusements*). While Mrs. **Adkins** was not present at this meeting, appearing to represent her was her son (Dwayne Ford) and a business associate (Daniel Alexander). They both intimated that she (Mrs. Adkins) wanted to petition the Mayor and City Council to consider amending the closing hours for her nightclub (***The Superior Event Hall***) located at 112 Adams Street (in downtown district) from **1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.** The Ordinance presently in effect states that all nightclubs, discos, dance halls and other dance facilities and all other recreation facilities operating within the City are required to close at 1:00 a.m. and remain closed continuously until 8:00 a.m. each day. When members of the City Council inquired as to her reasons for wanting to remain open until 2:00 a.m., Mr. Alexander responded by stating that because nightclub establishments in other nearby parishes are open beyond 1:00 a.m., their patrons (***Superior Event Hall*** patrons) leave this nightclub in

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search of those nightclubs allowed to stay open beyond 1:00 a.m. In doing so, he contends that Mrs. **Adkins'** establishment suffers a loss of potential revenue. If that is true, the Mayor and members of the City Council voiced concern over motorists possibly driving while under the influence of alcohol as they are traveling in search of another venue staying open later than 1:00 a.m., putting their physical well-being at risk. Mr. Alexander then countered by intimating that they do not sell alcohol at this nightclub, but do allow patrons to bring their own alcoholic beverages into the establishment. However, when Mr. Alexander was reminded that allowing alcoholic beverages on the premises was in violation of Section 3-8 of Article I of City Ordinance No. 1 of 2015, he attempted to retract his statement. When no further discussion was had, it was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **BRENDA H. HALL** to deny Mrs. **Adkins'** request to amend Section 4-4 of Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances with regard to extending closing hours for nightclubs, discos, dance halls, and other recreation facilities. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: A request was received by Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, from a Ms. **Balinda Lewis** to connect a new **mobile home** to the City's public water system. Ms. **Lewis** first made this request of **Waterworks District No. 1**, but was told that they had no service lines in close enough proximity to connect to her physical address (15355 Hwy. 175). She was encouraged to contact Mr. Ruffin regarding possible connectivity to the City's water system. The administrator of **Waterworks District No. 1** (John Neilson) in writing, expressed no objection to Ms. **Lewis'** address being serviced by the City of Mansfield's water department Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to approve the recommendation of acting Fire Chief, Wayne Nichols, to offer full-time employment to **Cody A. Williams** in the Mansfield Fire Department. Firefighter **Williams** has been employed with the Fire Department since September 4, 2014. He is very prompt, shows initiative, has attained an excellent attendance record and has demonstrated his ability to follow the instructions of his supervisors very well. Finally, on March 16, 2016, he successfully passed his Firefighter I certification test. Since his employment, Firefighter **Williams** has proven his value to the Department on numerous occasions. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: No other new business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:43 p.m.** by MOTION from **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and was SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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