

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
May 9, 2011

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 G. B. Hall III**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Troy N. Terrell**. The oral call was suspended, but the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Honorable Curtis W. McCoy, G. B. Hall III –District **A**, Troy N. Terrell – District **B**, and Mitchell L. Lewis – District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**, and Alvin R. Woodley –District **E**. **Absent**: None. **Press Present**: Kriston Newsom (*The Enterprise*) and Vickie Welborn (*The Times*).

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to approve the minutes of the **April 25, 2011 regular** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to pay current outstanding bills for this period. Motion 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 no comments were offered, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

Old Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **G. B. HALL III** and SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY** to approve the recommendation of Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin to reject all bids received and opened on April 19, 2011 for the **Phase II** Water Distribution System Improvements Project. This overall project was divided into three sub-projects—Water Booster Station Improvements, Water Treatment Facilities Improvements, and Contract 2 of the Water Distribution System Improvements. After the bids were opened and later tabulated, the results revealed that all three projects exceeded the Engineer’s Estimate(BALAR Associates, Inc.) for total cost of construction. In summary, the Water Booster Station Improvements were estimated to cost \$510,000.00, but the lowest responsive bid received totaled \$529,014.00. Similarly, the Engineer’s Estimate for the Water Treatment Facilities Improvements was \$2,106,000.00 but the lowest bid received totaled \$2,194,251.00. Finally, improvements to the City’s Water Distribution System (Contract No. 2) were estimated to cost \$2,500,000.00. However, the lowest bid submitted totaled \$2,859,833.37. Because all bids received were in excess of the engineer’s opinion of probable construction cost, it was necessary to reject all of them and re-advertise this project for sealed bids. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: No other old business discussed.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation made by BALAR Associates, Inc. to award a

construction contract to **M&M Builders, Inc.** in the amount of **\$48,756.92**. The bid amount represents necessary construction activities to make the proposed improvements to Field Street between U.S. Hwy. 84 and LA Hwy. 175. **M&M Builders, Inc.** submitted the lowest responsive bid for this project at a bid opening on Friday, May 6, 2011 at 10:00am. C.S.T. These improvements will provide passage to thru-traffic desiring to gain access to the new hotel development (Comfort Inn & Suites) located at 1228 Polk Street. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: A written request was discussed from local resident and businessman, **Mr. Gilbert Stoma**, to close and abandon a portion of Dewey Street. Mr. Stoma is the owner of property situated immediately North and West of the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 84 West and U.S. Hwy. 171 North in Mansfield. A plat attached to his request reflected the division of the easternmost portion of Dewey Street into two tracts. Mr. Stoma is requesting to have the East 198 feet of Dewey Street closed to enable him to fully utilize his property for commercial development. He mentions in his written request that he has had conversation with the two remaining property owners on that street, and contends that neither has objection to the partial street closure. However, the City's Public Works Director (Jim Ruffin) indicates that the City does have active utilities on that street. Therefore, relocation of City utilities would have to be considered. Mr. Stoma was accompanied by his attorney, Mr. Nicholas Gasper of Scott D. Brown's law office located in Mansfield. After discussion, it was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to take Mr. Stoma's request under advisement until the next regular council meeting (5/23/11). This matter will be further deliberated at that time. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: No other new business discussed.

Reports from Department Heads

- **Jim Ruffin** (Public Works Director): Mr. Ruffin began by reporting that **Wicker Construction Co., Inc.** remains at 98% completed, as reported at the March 28th regular council meeting. This contractor still has left to perform, the removal of old fire hydrants and the installation of a 3" water main on the East side of the Lake Road and a 6" water main on the North side of McArthur Drive. The infrastructure improvements were approved by Change Order No. 3 (\$25,188.00) as submitted by Wicker Construction at the council's March 28th meeting. **Thielsch Group, Inc.** remains at 80% complete with their work, still having large water meters left to install, primarily in the downtown district. Mr. Ruffin reported them as 80% complete at the March 28th council meeting. On-site training with Rick Nehls of HD Supply (the supplier of the new water meters) will continue on May 12th for the meter readers and the water department personnel.
- **Lee Shaver** (Fire Chief): Chief Shaver reported that he and Lieutenant Thomas Houston were scheduled to attend a training event at Camp Minden. Also, on Friday, May 6th at 11:00pm, a fire occurred at the Pines Apartments located at 205 Lake Road in Mansfield. The fire caused moderate damage to one apartment, and heavy damage to an adjoining apartment. An investigation by the State Fire Marshal revealed that the fire was started

by a burning candle. Mayor McCoy complimented Chief Shaver on his departments' quick response to the fire call. Finally, Chief Shaver reported that the parish-wide burn ban was still in effect until further notice.

- **Joseph Pratt** (Police Chief): Chief Pratt reported that police patrol is still canvassing the parking lots of commercial businesses to deter the congregation of youth and young adults after hours. Also, Chief Pratt reported that since March 11th a total of 224 citations had been issued. Finally, his department is trying to implement patrol in neighborhoods that complain of motorists speeding through at limits above those posted.

During the **Comments Period** for the Mayor and Council Members, Mayor McCoy announced that **Mr. Fred Jones** had been employed by the City in the position of Code Enforcement Officer as of the date of this meeting (May 9th). This was a position vacated by Brian Phillips, who now performs full-time duties working with the City's court docket system. Mr. Jones also currently serves as a parish Police Juror for District 6.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting **adjourned at 4:43 p.m.**, by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **ALVIN R. WOODLEY**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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