

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
November 9, 2020

Via Teleconference

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **November 9th**, via *teleconference* due to the current State of Emergency as a result of the **COVID-19** pandemic. Mayor John H. Mayweather, Sr. called this meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an Invocation was offered by **Alderman Kervin D. Campbell**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Christopher S. Thomas**. Following the pledge, the clerk called the roll to record those council members in attendance. Following the pledge, the clerk asked each council member on the *teleconference* to confirm their participation by signifying a verbal ‘present’ as their names were called aloud. The following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. John H. Mayweather, Sr., - **Mayor**, Mary J. Green –District **A**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis – District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: None. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present/Participating**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk/in-person), Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief/in-person), Latarsha Shelton (Fire Chief). **Others Present/Participating**: None. **Press Present/Participating**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve the minutes of the **October 26, 2020 *regular*** City Council meeting and 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/participating to any item outlined on the meeting agenda. Constituents had been invited to participate in the meeting with regard to public comments using the method of either emailing, faxing or phoning in by 4:00 p.m., any public comments they wanted to offer during the Public Comments Period. Since no comments were received by any of the methods outlined above, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business:

Item A: None.

New Business:

Item A: Proposed **Ordinance No. 4 of 2020** was introduced, drafted to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mansfield to **increase** sewerage use fees, amending Section 21-46 (*Sewer System Charges*) of Division 2, of Article II (*Sewer Use*) in Chapter 21. In late October this year, a Sewer Rate Study Analysis was performed by Mr. David L. Ryals, a circuit rider with the *Louisiana Rural Water Association* (LRWA). Results of the study revealed that the city’s

current sewer rates are not sustainable or are not sufficient to support the expenditures incurred in the Sewer Department. It is now necessary to increase sewer rates to collect revenue adequate enough to underwrite the expenses associated with operating and maintaining this Department. This rate study was also a requirement of the 2020 LCDBG Sewer Grant that the city was awarded earlier this fall. It bears mentioning that the last increase to sewer fees was in January 2004. It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to authorize advertisement of the title of the **Ordinance** in our local journal (*The Enterprise*) on 11/19/2020, and set a public hearing on same for 11/23/2020. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: At this time, proposed **Ordinance No. 5 of 2020** was introduced, drafted to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mansfield to **increase** water rates, amending Section 21-53 (*Water Rates*) of Division 1, of Article III in Chapter 21, authorize advertisement of the title of the Ordinance on 11/19/2020, and set a public hearing on same for 11/23/2020. Similar to the Sewer Department, the Water Department is likewise not currently sustainable. Presently, expenditures are exceeding collected revenue. With ever-increasing prices for the chemicals used to treat our source water to make it potable for consumption, coupled with the rising costs to operate and maintain the appurtenances, equipment and vehicles used in this Department, these facts necessitate that user fees for water services be increased as soon as possible. It should be noted that the last water rate increase was in June 2015. However, the Board of Aldermen unanimously declined to approve moving forward with this proposal until such time as they could be provided additional financial data to determine if the rate increase (\$4.00 increase to the 1st 2,000 gallons of water used) proposed was truly necessary. This matter will again be placed on a near future agenda for continued review and deliberation.

Item C: No other new business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, there were no comments offered by either the Mayor or any of the Aldermen.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:02 p.m.** by MOTION from **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and was SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

John H. Mayweather, Sr., Mayor
Marvin R. Jackson, Clerk