

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
October 24, 2016

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, October 24th** in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Curtis 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 Kervin D. Campbell**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, **Mayor**, Brenda H. Hall –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: Mary L. Green –District **A** and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **Absent due to suspension**: Roy R. Jones –District **B**. **Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), James “**Jim**” Ruffin (Public Works Director), and John Evans (City Attorney). **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the minutes of the **October 10, 2016 *regular*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. 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 subsequently closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **BRENDA H. HALL** to authorize the advertisement of sealed public bids for the purchase of Aluminum Sulfate Solution and Caustic Soda Liquid for use at the city’s Toledo Bend **Water** Treatment Plant. The purchase period is from 01/01/17 through 06/30/17. The ‘*Request for Bids*’ notice will be published in the Nov. 3rd, 10th and 17th editions of ***The Enterprise & Interstate Progress***. All sealed bids received will be opened, read aloud at the Board of Aldermen’s regular meeting on November 28th, and taken under advisement. The bids will be tabulated and the lowest responsible bidder will be accepted at the Board of Aldermen’s December 12th regular meeting. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to authorize the advertisement of sealed public bids for the purchase of Aluminum Sulfate Solution and Caustic Soda Liquid for use at the city’s **Wastewater** Treatment Plant. The purchase period is from 01/01/17 through 06/30/17. The ‘*Request for Bids*’ notice will be published in the Nov. 3rd, 10th and 17th editions of ***The Enterprise & Interstate Progress***. All sealed bids received will be opened, read aloud at the Board of Aldermen’s regular meeting on November 28th, and taken under advisement. The bids will be tabulated and the lowest responsible bidder will be accepted at the Board of Aldermen’s December 12th regular meeting. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: At this time, **Ordinance No. 3 of 2016** was introduced, drafted to change zoning at the request of petitioner, **Curtis W. McCoy**, on property with a municipal address of **400 Johnson Street**, from an R-1 District (Single Family Residence District) to a B-3 District (Community and Central Business District). Mr. **McCoy** was present at the October 19th meeting of the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission Board and intimated that he has owned this parcel for at least thirty years. He further stated that a former city attorney (Robert Plummer) informed him that the property was already grandfathered as commercial before adoption of the city's Zoning Ordinance of 1980. However, Mr. McCoy stated to the Board that we wanted to utilize the zoning process so that the property could officially be marked on the zoning map as commercial. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the engagement of *Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham, CPAs* (Natchitoches, LA) for performance of the city's Annual Audit of Financial Statements for FYE 12/31/16. Approval of this engagement marks this firms' 4th time to audit the financial statements of the city's governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information captured from month-to-month data. It is expected that they will commence with preliminary audit work in early March 2017. The completed audit report is due for submission to the LA Legislative Auditor's Office by June 30th of each year. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: At this time, a presentation from Ms. **Brenda F. Ford** (candidate for Judge of the 42nd Judicial District -Division A) was a scheduled agenda item at this meeting. However, Ms. **Ford** failed to make an appearance at this session.

Item F: Mr. **John S. Evans**, another candidate for Judge of the 42nd Judicial District –Division A, was present to make a presentation to the Mayor and City Council. Mr. **Evans** stood and was invited to the podium to deliver his presentation. He began with offering a brief summary of his lineage and educational background. He is 1 of 13 siblings, raised on a dairy farm in Evelyn, LA. He received his formative education at Pelican Elementary School and attained his high school diploma from Mansfield High School. If elected, his intentions are to create both a criminal and civil division in this Judicial District to allow for equal allocation in the judicial courts. He concluded by reminding the attendees that early voting was from October 25th through November 1st.

Item G: At this time, Mrs. **Carolyn Huckabay**, Vice-President of the Mansfield Female College Museum and Clista A. Calhoun Center board, appeared to deliver her scheduled presentation to the Mayor and City Council. She stated that she is a Caddo Parish resident, but received her education in DeSoto Parish. She began her address to the Council by sharing some

general facts regarding the Clista Calhoun Center. The facility is centrally located, is valued at roughly three million dollars and is registered with the State as a 501(c)3 organization. The Center was named after her mother. The building is debt-free; however, debt is owed to the Police Jury for funds they advanced to the facility for construction of the parking lot. Before continuing further with her presentation, Mrs. **Huckabay** provided the Mayor and Council with quarterly financial reports for the first three quarters of 2016. Each report reflected an operating **deficit** for the respective quarters—the facility’s expenditures consistently exceeds its total receipts. Presently, her family has been contributing regularly to the budget to make up the deficit, but now announce that they are no longer amenable to supplementing this recurring shortfall. Mrs. **Huckabay** shared that this trend continued even after a recent increase in rental rates for the facility. From the quarterly reports, it appeared that the largest expenditures stemmed from utilities, insurance costs and building repairs. Further, she stated that on average it takes approximately \$6,000 to satisfy all the monthly obligations incurred by the facility. Her proposal to the Mayor and City Council was for consideration of a monthly subsidy from the City of \$2,000.00. The remaining \$4,000 would be subsidized equally by the DeSoto Parish Police Jury and the Friends Board of the Calhoun Center. Additionally, each entity would also share evenly, the payment of any needed building repairs. Provided each entity participates in this arrangement, they would be donated an equal $\frac{1}{3}$ interest in the facility (no monetary gain in this transaction). At the conclusion of her presentation, it was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to take Mrs. **Huckabay**’s proposal under advisement. She will be contacted at a near-future date to be informed of the City Council’s position on her proposal. Motion Passed Unanimously.

At this time, no further comments were offered from the Mayor or Council Members.

Item H: No other new business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:15 p.m.** by MOTION from **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and was SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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