

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING
October 13, 2014

In a *special meeting* called pursuant to the provisions of R.S.: 42.7, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on Monday, October 13th, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor McCoy called the meeting to order at **4:50 p.m.**, after which an **Invocation** was offered by **Alderman Roy R. Jones**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Kervin Campbell**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended; however, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. Curtis W. McCoy, G. B. Hall III –District **A**, Roy R. Jones – District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D** (was tardy) and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: None. **Other City Personnel Present**: James “*Jim*” Ruffin (Public Works Director), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk and Code Enforcement Officer), and Gwen Jones (Deputy Clerk). **Others Present**: None. **Press Present**: None.

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.

The purpose of this workshop was to apprise the Board of Aldermen of the City’s present financial condition and to inform the Councilmen that preparation of the City’s 2015 Budget of Revenue and Expenditures had commenced. Mayor McCoy remarked that most of the City’s major, capital expenditures had been purchased in 2014, and to that end 2015 would see a very conservative budget. Capital expenditures would be kept to a minimum. For the last three fiscal years, the City’s has experienced a constant and marked decrease in many of their revenue streams...sales taxes, property taxes, hotel occupancy taxes, and water and sewer revenue. Since the waning of Haynesville Shale activity in recent years, most of the City’s revenue sources have been impacted. There has been a noticeable reduction in foot traffic in the City since the decline in Shale activity. While Haynesville Shale activity is expected to return in some degree within the next couple of years, this reduction of revenue has resulted in a lack of available funds to offer salary increases to any of the City’s personnel.

At this time, he requested that each Councilmen share at this workshop their anticipated needs for their respective districts for the ensuing fiscal year. To begin, **Alderman Campbell** commented that he would like to try and establish, in conjunction with the DeSoto Parish Library, Mansfield Female College Museum and the DeSoto Multi-Cultural Center, some type of museum to recognize local sports celebrities, humanitarians and other Hall of Famers who have made significant contributions to their hometown of Mansfield. Mayor McCoy then suggested that Alderman Campbell make contact with Chancellor Ray L. Belton at Southern State University to see if any grants are available to help fund such an endeavor. In **Alderman Roy Jones**’s district, Mayor McCoy stated that the City is applying for a Capital Outlay appropriation to assist with the rehabilitation of Forest Avenue. To further assist with funding this venture, he suggested that the City partner with the DeSoto Parish Police Jury—request that they pay for labor and the City pays for the supplies and materials. Finally, the City’s Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, stated that he is trying to procure quotes on having the parking spaces around the Courthouse Square restriped (namely on Adams Street, Texas Street, and Franklin Street).

Additionally, Alderman **Roy Jones** commented that see our five-acre parcel behind the Wal Mart SuperCenter receive more attention in the way of development. He would like to visit other municipalities to see how they secured funding to develop their park areas. Next, Mayor McCoy stated that he would like to solicit donations from corporate sponsors and candidates up for election/re-election this year to help fund a fireworks display in December after the City's Annual Christmas Parade. He requested that **Alderwoman Mary Green** spearhead this endeavor. The display is slated to take on the City's five-acre parcel behind the Wal Mart SuperCenter located on LA Hwy. 509. The City Clerk had drafted a letter requesting donations for the display and the draft will be shared with Alderwoman Green. The Mansfield Fire Department will be responsible to assist with this activity. Finally, **Green** expressed concern over firefighters in the Mansfield Fire Department possibly not being adequately trained. It was recommended that Chief Shaver be present at the next regular meeting of some near future meeting of the Board of Aldermen to answer any inquiries from the Council in this respect. At this time, discussion ensued about the 2015 National Night Out (NNO) observance. The Mayor appointed **Alderman Mitchell Lewis** as chairman of the committee who will plan and organize next year's (NNO) celebration. In **Alderman Joseph Hall's** district, he stated that some rehabilitation to Jacobs Street needs to be performed. The Mayor remarked that plans are to possibly make improvements to that street in mid-2015.

On a separate matter, Mayor McCoy informed the Council that he recently learned that Walgreen's Pharmacy had rescinded their offer to situate in Mansfield. He concluded that this decision was probably a result of another pharmacy soon to be under construction in the downtown district (***Fred's Pharmacy & SuperStore***). He further stated that ***Fred's Pharmacy*** has bought out our local Valentine's ***Pharmacy***. Intentions were to situate the proposed Walgreen's Pharmacy on the corner of Pegues Street and Lake Road. Finally, he informed the Council that our local McDonald's restaurant will be relocating to Polk Street—across the street from our Brookshire's Supermarket.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting/workshop adjourned at **5:22pm** by MOTION from **MARY L. GREEN**, with a SECOND from **MITCHELL L. LEWIS**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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