

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
September 14, 2020

Via Teleconference

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **September 14th**, 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 **Alderswoman Mary J. Green**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis**. 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**, and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **Absent**: Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present/Participating**: Latarsha Shelton (Fire Chief –MFD). **Others Present/Participating**: None. **Press Present/Participating**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **August 24, 2020 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** 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: None.

New Business: None.

Preceding the reception of any comments from the Mayor and Council Members, the city clerk orally informed the Board of Aldermen that the budget process for preparation of the City’s **2021 Financial Budget of Revenues and Expenditures**, had begun. No action was necessary at mention of this fact. It was simply stated as a matter of information. They were further informed that with the notable reduction of the revenues anticipated for 2020, the projected revenue for **2021** will be significantly reduced. Both permanent and temporary business closures beginning in the 1st quarter of 2020, resulted in a drastic reduction in budgeted revenue in several of the city’s revenue categories. This fact will continue to impact the city’s ‘*bottom line*’ well into **2021**. In addition, no request was made of the department heads for capital expenditures for

2021. In the near future, a budget draft will be prepared and delivered to the City Council for review. Following the review of the **2021 Financial Budget**, a call to adopt the budget will be had sometime before year's end.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor informed the Aldermen that a petition had been circulated among residents living on Jacobs Street with regard to the necessity for speed bumps on that street. Motorists are accelerating at speeds well above the posted speed limit on that street. Further, this street is located in a residential subdivision and is a heavily populated thoroughfare. The petition is expected to have garnered enough signatures to move forward with installing speed bumps on this roadway. On another note, the Mayor informed the Council Members that Mansfield residents Clarence and Christo Lancaster would be soliciting donations from area businesses and constituents to purchase needed supplies for recent Hurricane Laura victims. On September 15th through the 17th from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., the Lancasters, along with several volunteers will set up at the former Walmart parking lot (old DeSoto Shopping Plaza –Washington Ave.) to collect donations for Hurricane Laura Disaster Relief. They are accepting everything from clothes to cleaning supplies to garden tools. On a separate matter, Alderwoman Green commented that with the increase of neighborhood shootings, primarily in the Mansfield Housing projects, and with the increased frequency of aggressive, stray dog attacks (Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, and the like), we will need officers in the Police Department to provide enhanced patrol in the City to help deter repeated occurrences of these unwanted events. Finally, Chief Shelton announced that a training event for firefighters of the Mansfield Fire Department and other local fire districts will be held on Saturday, September 26th from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Chief Shelton has partnered with LSU's FETI (Fire and Emergency Training Institute) to host this training event at the old Walmart parking lot. The *DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office* has graciously agreed to provide a light lunch for the attendants of this training event.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:52 p.m.** by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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