

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING

September 25, 2023

In-Person Council Meeting

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **September 25, 2023**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Thomas Jones, Jr. called this meeting to order at **5:03 p.m.**, after which Mayor Thomas Jones Jr. offered the Invocation and Alderwoman Victoria Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as in attendance at this regular meeting of the City Council.

Present: Hon. Thomas Jones, Jr.-**Mayor**, Victoria Jackson – District **C**, Christopher Thomas - District **B**, **Absent:** Rita Myles –District **E**, Antonio Washington -District **D**, **Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present:** William Bradford (City Attorney) LaSonja Byrd (HR Director), Maria Hogan (City Clerk), Gwen Jones (Deputy Clerk), Christopher Johnson (Chief of Police), Michell Thomas(Asst. Chief of Police), Ronnie Morris (Code Enforcer), Tarus Chapman(PWD) **Others Present:** John Barr (US Senator), Dennis Poole

It was **MOTIONED** by Antonio Washington and **SECONDED** by Christopher Thomas to approve the minutes of the **September 11, 2023, *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Mayor Jones next opened the floor to hear public comments from those in attendance, to any item on the meeting agenda. When no comments were voiced by any of the attendees, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: NONE

Item A: It was **MOTIONED** by Mary Green and **SECONDED** by Victoria Jackson for approval of the Amendment #1 to the referenced Contract #4400001954 between the Department of Transportation and Development, State of Louisiana (DOTD) and Mansfield have entered into **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Item B: It was **MOTIONED** by Christopher Thomas and **SECONDED** by Victoria Jackson to Approve the recommendation of the Mansfield Planning & Zoning granting the request of petitioner **First United Pentecostal Church of Mansfield, Inc. & Venita Busher ETAL** to situate a mobile home for residential use on property bearing a municipal address of **180 Ruffin Alley**. (In R-1 Dist. -Single- Family Residence Dist.) **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Mayor Jones gave an update on the Revenues and Expenditures for August 1 through August 31, 2023, and informed the council that the 2024 Budget Process has begun.

Comments: Mayor Thomas Jones Jr stated that the city needs to spend more money in the water area. South Mansfield water tank is a big item that need repairing. Work has been done on the Elevated Tank and it is in good condition. The city has been experiencing numerous water leaks, but they are partially happening because of Nuline doing underground drilling work to install

new gas lines for Atmos in our service area. Mayor Jones informed the community that the city is working on some grant money that is available for 2024.

Also, the city should be seeing Blueline traffic system in place soon. The city's new water billing system will be up and running soon. There has been a water rate study done and next month we should have a Public Hearing about the Water Rate Study.

Attorney William Bradford gave an update on the Bond Issuance for Broadband. The item will not go on the ballot this year. It has been delayed for potentially March of 2024. In the meantime, there has been a more concerted effort to acquire grant monies and Infrastructure dollars for funding broadband.

Alderman Christopher Thomas asked Attorney Bradford to give an update on the city ordinances. Attorney Bradford stated that he is going through the book, and he has about two staff members working on it. It may take about 4 weeks to complete.

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at **5:20 p.m.** by MOTION from **Christopher Thomas** and was SECONDED by **Victoria Jackson**
Motion Passed Unanimously.

Thomas Jones, Jr., *Mayor*
Maria Hogan, *City Clerk*