

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

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **March 9th**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor John H. Mayweather, Sr. called this 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 **Alderwoman Mary J. Green**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, 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**: Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Jim Ruffin (Public Works Director), Joshua Ryals (Water Operator), LaTarsha Shelton (Fire Chief -MFD), and Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief –MPD). **Others Present**: Fran Norwood (Chairperson -*Mansfield in Motion*), John Barr (Dist. Dir. for U.S. Sen. John Kennedy), Belinda M. Lassiter (*Hope Center Church*), and A. J. Williams, Jr. **Press Present**: Martha Rivers (*The Enterprise & Interstate Progress*).

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **February 24, 2020 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** 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 to any item outlined on the meeting agenda. Since no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a **Resolution** designating **April 13th – April 18th, 2020** as National Community Development Week as a participant in the forty-six year old Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) in partnership with federal, state and local governments. Through the CDBG Program, funding for sewer, water, street improvements, and economic development projects has allowed local governments within the State of Louisiana to address infrastructure issues. These projects improve the quality of life for low and moderate income persons as well as for all their citizens, which would otherwise not be possible without the Program. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to adopt a **Resolution** referencing the benefits of the CDBG Program and the negative impacts which would result by discontinuing the funding of this program. The CDBG is among the few remaining federal programs available to address the needs of low and moderate

income persons and small cities. Without this funding, pressing local problems such as housing rehabilitation, job creation and retention, and public infrastructure would all be in jeopardy and would inarguably not be possible. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve and acknowledge the request of Governor John Bel Edwards to commemorate **April 15, 2020** as the 52nd Anniversary of the *National Fair Housing Law of 1968* in the State of Louisiana. This law guarantees each citizen the critical, personal element of freely choosing a home without discrimination. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: No other business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor invited Mrs. Norwood to offer a brief progress report on the Mansfield Revitalization Project. Mrs. Norwood reported that the 2nd mural (a sports mural) had commenced and that Channels 3 and 12 would soon return to the City to compile a follow-up piece for broadcast. Additionally, Mrs. Belinda Lassiter (*Hope Center Church*) was given a moment to announce that on April 4th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., a free-event for the public is scheduled to take place at the Jefferson/Polk Street Mini-Park. The event is tagged a *Mansfield Community Eggstravaganza*, to include free food, candy and prizes. This new church is also planning a *soft opening* on April 12th (Easter Sunday) at 2:00 p.m. for their newly renovated facility. The church is located at 201 Monroe Street. No comments were received from any of the council members at this assembly.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:50 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*