

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
November 8, 2021

In-Person Council Meeting

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **November 8th**, 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 Kervin D. Campbell**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderswoman Mary J. Green**. 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. John H. Mayweather, Sr., -**Mayor**, Mary J. Green – District **A**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent:** Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present:** Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Annette Blue (Police Chief), Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief), Jalon Jones (Mansfield Police Officer), Bryan Ross (Captain –Fire Dept.), Christopher Samuels Firefighter –Fire Dept.), Kadarius Youngblood (Firefighter –Fire Dept.), **Press Present:** None.

Alderswoman Green requested that the October 25th meeting minutes be amended to state that the COVID-19 compensation provided to the city’s *‘essential workers’*, be described as one-time pay and not be confused with on-going, recurring compensation. After the above correction was noted, it was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **October 25, 2021 *regular*** City Council meeting and 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 public comments were offered from any of the attendees at this meeting, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business:

Item A: A public hearing was conducted to hear and discuss any comments related to proposed **Ordinance No. 5 of 2021**, drafted to amend the City’s Annual Financial Budget for FY **2021**. This **Ordinance** reflected receipt of grant funds (\$855,099) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the compensation and related benefits (\$208,653) to *‘essential workers’* who continued to work during the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide vital services to households situated within the city’s corporate limits. When no comments offered, the public hearing was then subsequently closed.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to adopt **Ordinance No. 5 of 2021** drafted to amend the City’s Annual Financial Budget for fiscal year **2021**, and more particularly described under Item A above. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: No other old business discussed.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve the recommendation offered by Police Chief Annette Blue to offer full-time employment to patrol officer, Mr. **Jalon M. Jones** with the Mansfield Police Department. Officer **Jones** was hired on July 26, 2021, and since his employment with the Department has shown himself to be dependable and dedicated to this department. In addition, Officer **Jones** comes to the City with prior law enforcement training. He was formerly employed by the Natchitoches Police Department and by Coushatta's Police Department. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation offered by Police Chief Annette Blue to offer full-time employment to patrol officer, Mr. **Todd A. McNeely** with the Mansfield Police Department. Officer **McNeely** was hired on July 26, 2021, and since his employment with the Department has proven his ability to work well with his fellow police officers and follow the commands of his supervisors. Additionally, he brings to the Department a prior law enforcement background. Officer **McNeely** was formerly employed by the Sabine Parish Sheriff's Office, the Sabine Parish Police Jury and Many's Police Department. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: At this time, presentations to the Mayor were offered by members of the *Mansfield Middle School's Gentlemen's Club*. This organization has been in existence for 12 years and was organized by educator and Alderman Kervin Campbell. Out of a total of 35 members, 24 members of the group were in attendance at this meeting. The club's president, Ayden Duncan, stood to deliver a riveting, heart-felt speech directed at the Mayor titled, "*A Man After God's Own Heart*." He was flanked on either side by club members Jatraylon Mayweather and Jaystin McDaniel. Following delivery of his speech, Ayden and others in the group presented the Mayor with a hand-made plaque and one of their signature bow ties...the same bow tie that all the club members were wearing at this assembly. After presentation of the gifts, the school's principal, Mr. Kevin Gardner, rose to express appreciation to Aldermen Campbell for his leadership and guidance of these youth and then to the students for their discipline. Soon after, the Mayor addressed the group by expressing his appreciation to them and their leader (Alderman Campbell) for their presence and support of his administration. This was truly an impressive bunch of 5th graders. It bears mentioning that five members of another group organized by Alderman Campbell, the *Sweetheart's Club*, was also in attendance. There are a total of 25 members in this group. The Mayor made them welcome to attend future council meetings or visit his office anytime, and encouraged them to continue being honorable young citizens. Next, Mrs. Glenda Heard announced that a COVID-19 Booster Clinic was scheduled for Saturday, November 13th at Mansfield High School. The LSU Stride Team would be administering Boosters, and 1st and 2nd vaccines. Finally, the Mayor announced that the next city-wide cleanup initiative was scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 20th from 7:00am until 11:00am.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:33 p.m.** by MOTION from **MARY J. GREEN** and was SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

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