

**City of Mansfield**  
**MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING**  
**April 25, 2022**

**In-Person Council Meeting**

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **April 25th**, 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 **Alderswoman Mitchell L. Lewis**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Kervin D. Campbell**. 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, A**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, and Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent:** Mary J. Green –District **A** and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present:** Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Annette Blue (Police Chief), Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief), Bryan Ross (Fire Chief –MFD). **Others Present:** (2) Antonio Washington (City Councilman Elect for Dist. D), Chris Robinette (Administrator –DeSoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission) and John Barr (Regional Director for US Senator John Kennedy’s office). **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **April 11, 2022 *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 comments were voice 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 or concerns related to the renaming of 2105 South Washington Street, 2109 South Washington Street, and 2111 South Washington Street to **Cammie Private Lane** at the request of petitioner **Canna Hynes**. Presently several mobile homes are situated at these addresses. However, accessibility would be difficult due to the current road surface. Currently, it is just dirt and grass. On Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the city clerk, Gwen Jones and Tommie Crawford visited the subject properties to assess their current condition. For safety and ease of access to the properties, it will be necessary that certain improvements be made. First, the road that traverses through the property will need some type of gravel poured or asphaltic surface installed so that 1<sup>st</sup> responders, EMTs, and postal carriers can enter onto the premises and not get bogged down in instances of inclement weather. Also, the tenants will need an improved surface to travel over to reach their properties. Secondly, Ms. **Hynes** has stated that she intends to move a travel trailer and mobile home off the property at some undetermined time in May. **Ms. Hynes** has had a culvert and gravel installed at the entrance of the property and some gravel installed at the exit area. Finally, it should be mentioned the Fire Chief Bryan Ross stated that in the event of a fire, their fire extinguishing apparatus (fire hoses and the like) is not long enough reach the mobile homes on the farthest side of the property. He continued with the statement that the city does nevertheless have a Mutual

Aide Agreement with *DeSoto Fire District 8*. *District 8* would assist the city's Fire Department personnel in the event of a fire incident. However, before the *DeSoto Parish E-911* office issues new 911 addresses to these properties, they too would prefer that the improvements proposed be performed. Prior to the May 9<sup>th</sup> regular city council meeting, the subject property will be visited again to see if any of the improvements stated above have been performed. The Board of Aldermen are not amenable to introducing or adopting the Ordinance by which the street name change would be made formal/legal until Ms. **Hynes** has made the improvements she's proposed. When no further comments were offered, the Public Comments Period was then subsequently closed.

Item B: No other old business.

**New Business:**

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve a **Resolution** adopting the 2022 property tax millage rates. The tax rates which will be levied on the assessment roll of DeSoto Parish for the year **2022** are **8.380 mills** for General Alimony and **8.800 mills** for General Expenses. The collection of the taxes levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject taxation by the *City of Mansfield*. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: Prior to adopting the **Resolution** which approves the 2021-2022 Revised Budget and the 2022-2023 Operating Budget of the *DeSoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission*, the clerk further explained the role of the *DeSoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission* office as it relates to the collection of sales and use taxes. The collection of sales and use tax is different from other taxes in that it is a transaction tax and is based solely on the economy. In a good economy, sales tax collections are good and when the economy slows down, sales tax collections slow down. The *Commission* currently collects sales and use tax for nine (9) taxing authorities within the Parish. Collections for the next fiscal year are projected to remain about the same (\$2,250,000 for FY 2021-2022 & \$2,250,000 for FY 2022-2023). Every taxing jurisdiction in the Parish pays the same percentage (also known as a fee) for the **Commission** to collect sales and use taxes, regardless of how much tax is collected. The total operating budget for FY 2022-2023 is approximately **\$615,000**, which is a decrease of about \$18,000 or 2.9% under the current budget. It was MOTIONED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to adopt a **Resolution** approving the **2021-2022 Revised** Budget and the **2022-2023** Operating Budget of the *DeSoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission*. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the recommendation of Police Chief Annette Blue to offer full-time

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employment to patrol officer, **Steffone Martrez Collins** with the City of Mansfield. Mr. **Collins** was hired on January 31, 2022 and was immediately assigned to work in the Mansfield Police Department. He was formerly employed by the Zwolle, LA Police Department, but wanted to work closer to where he lived. Further, Officer **Collins** has met all of the requirements of the Peace Officer's and Standards Training (P.O.S.T.) regulatory program. In addition, it is admirable that since his tenure, he has established a good rapport with the citizens of Mansfield. Finally, he has shown himself to be loyal, dependable and trustworthy in his capacity as a patrol officer. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: No other new business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:52 p.m.** by MOTION from **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** and was SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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