

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
January 10, 2022

In-Person Council Meeting

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **January 10th**, 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 **Alderman Christopher S. Thomas**. 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**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, 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), Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief), KaDarius Youngblood (Firefighter –MFD), Christopher Samuels (Firefighter –MFD), NaKeisha Turner (Firefighter 0-MFD) and Joann Adkins (Code Enforcement Officer). **Others Present:** Lauren F. Marchive (Architect –f/DPPJ) and Thomas Jones, Jr. (Police Juror –Dist. 4-D). **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** to approve the minutes of the **December 27, 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. On this agenda was a request by petitioners Shedrick and Joann Adkins to situate a mobile home for residential use on property bearing a municipal address of **141 Church Street**. This was a request first submitted to the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Commission at their December 15th regular meeting. The Commission denied this request; and this matter is now before the Board of Aldermen for review. Present at this meeting was District 4-D Police Juror, Mr. Thomas Jones. Mr. Jones was quick to mention that even before the petition was presented to the Zoning Commission for consideration, the mobile home had already been situated at **141 Church Street**. The request had not been presented to the Zoning Commission prior to be placed at this address. Doing so is in direct violation of the city's Zoning Ordinance which specifies that petition for this purpose must first be presented to the Commission for review and consideration. Prior to mobile homes being approved for being situated in a residential neighborhood, property owners within 300 feet of the proposed site of the mobile home are mailed letters informing them of the petitioner's intentions. Mr. Jones commented that this had not been done, as he lives within the 300-foot perimeter and had not received any correspondence informing him of the petitioner's intention. In addition, he made it clear that he was not in opposition to the mobile home being situated at the stated address per se, but implored the city to do a better job of policing its own Ordinance. He further inquired as to what where the consequences should a petitioner fail to follow the existing requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, which the petitioners had clearly violated. Mrs. Jones, who serves as the zoning clerk, stated that penalties are already outlined in the Ordinance. Perhaps they should just simply be better enforced. When no further public comments were offered from any of the

attendees at this meeting, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: -None.

New Business:

Item A: Introduction of proposed **Ordinance No. 1 of 2022** drafted to change zoning at the request of the **DeSoto Parish Police Jury** on property bearing a municipal address of **264 Oak Street** from an I-2 District (Heavy Industry District) to a B-3 District (Community and Central Business District). This address has been selected by the owners of this property as the future site of the new **DeSoto Parish Detention Center** and Sheriff's Office. With no objections voiced to this proposition, it was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** to authorize advertisement of the title of **Ordinance** in the January 20th edition of our local journal, ***The Enterprise & Interstate Progress***, and set a public hearing on same for the January 24th regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: After some discussion of the petitioner's (Shedrick and Joann Adkins) request to allow the mobile home already situated at **141 Church Street** to remain, the Aldermen voted to approve their request. However, all that Mr. Thomas Jones stated during public comments was taken into account as they deliberated the matter and ultimately rendered the decision to consent to the petitioner's request. Before acting on this issue though, the Mayor and Aldermen jointly agreed that the city must put forth a greater effort to require that petitioners comply with the existing zoning requirements and be subject to penalties should they circumvent the steps outlined in the Zoning Ordinance. It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to overrule the Zoning Commission's recommendation to deny the petitioner's request and instead approve the siting of a mobile home for residential use at **141 Church Street**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Before adjournment, the Mayor and all the council members present vowed to continue working for the good of their constituents and taking those actions that are always in the best interest of the citizens at-large.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:56 p.m.** by MOTION from **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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