

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
May 23, 2022

In-Person Council Meeting

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **May 23rd**, 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 Joesph Hall, Jr.** 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**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent:** Mary J. Green –District **A**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present:** Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Annette Blue (Police Chief), Billy Locke (Asst. Police Chief), Joshua Schenck (Patrol Officer), John Evans (City Attorney). **Others Present:** Thomas Jones, Jr. (Mayor-Elect), Antonio Washington (City Councilman-Elect for Dist. D), Rita Myles (Councilwoman-Elect for Dist. E), Daron West (*LA Connected*), Reginald Mims (*LA Connected*), Leathon “Buck” Magee, Lucius McGehee (*Argent Advisors, L.L.C.*), and J. Hardy Andrews (*Foley & Judell, L.L.P.*). **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **May 9, 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. First to rise to offer some comments regarding execution of the Term Sheet which was Item A under New Business (outlines specific details regarding the proposed building of a fiber Municipal Broadband Network for internet users located within the City’s corporate limits) was Mayor-elect Mr. Thomas Jones. He began by stating that he was very much in favor of launching the Broadband project. He then repeated a statement he had recently made via a press release by saying, “Every citizen deserves equal opportunity to build for their economic future and one does not have a future without access to efficient broadband.” In contrast, two of the Aldermen voiced their concerns with the endeavor. One was Alderman Christopher Thomas who offered that he still had some concerns with regard to data contained in the Financial Model provided to them previously. Specifically, he intimated his concerns over the funding needed to construct the project’s infrastructure and with the debt service associated with issuing bonds to underwrite this cost, should the Council chose to proceed with this endeavor. Mr. Lucius McGehee representing *Argent Advisors*, the City’s hired municipal advisor, offered that he is presently analyzing the Financial Model provided by *LA Connected & Lit Communities*, in conjunction with the City’s bond attorneys at *Foley & Judell*. Additionally, Alderman Campbell recalled that this project had also been presented to the Police Jury last year and was curious as to why that body seemed hesitant to pursue this venture. Mr. Jones responded by stating that at the time the project was presented to the Police Jury, they felt that they had not been presented with enough information to make the decision to proceed with it. He then stated that this issue was slated to again be included

on the Police Jury's agenda next month for deliberation. City attorney, John Evans stated that the Term Sheet presented to the Mayor and Council was a non-binding agreement likened to a Memo of Understanding. *LA Connected* representative Daron West mirrored the comments made by attorney John Evans by stating that the Term Sheet was an agreement that simply open the negotiations of those involved with this project to hash out the details of the Public/Private Partnership Agreement (P3 Agreement), nothing more. When no further comments were voiced from any of the attendees at this meeting, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business:

Item A: Proposed **Ordinance No. 3 of 2022** was re-introduced to the Council, drafted to **amend** the city's Annual Financial Budget for fiscal year **2022** for the purchase of duty gear for new hires and to replace outdated gear used by police officers in the Mansfield Police Department. The purchase, if approved, would total approximately \$52,000.00. This proposed **Ordinance** had been presented to the Council at their May 9th meeting, but was tabled after the board inquired as to how this expenditure would be funded and no answer could be provided without doing some research. They were told at this meeting that the allocation was made possible via funds received last year from the American Rescue Plan Act. And that this purchase was a permitted use of those funds. With their inquiry satisfied, it was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize advertisement of the title of the **Ordinance** in the June 2, 2022 edition of *The Enterprise*, and a public hearing set on same for the Council's June 13th regular meeting. Motion Passed Unanimously.

At this time, the city clerk requested that the agenda be amended to re-introduce **Ordinance No. 4 of 22**, drafted to change zoning at the request of petitioner *CSJ Enterprises, Inc.* on property bearing a municipal address of **101 Crosby Street** from an B-2 District (Neighborhood Business District to a B-1 District (Buffer Business District). At the Council's May 9th regular meeting, the title of this **Ordinance** had been approved for advertisement in the May 19th edition of *The Enterprise*, with a public hearing on this matter set to be conducted at the Council's May 23rd meeting. However, the clerk unintentionally missed submitting the public notice by the newspaper's deadline date to request same being published. Without opposition to amending the agenda voiced by any attendees at this meeting, It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve amending the agenda for further discussion of this matter. This zoning change if approved would become the future home of *Mansfield Baptist Church*. It was then MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** to authorize advertisement of the title of the **Ordinance** in the June 2nd edition of *The Enterprise* and set a public hearing on same for June 13th. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: No other old business discussed.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the *revised* broadband project Term Sheet and authorize the Mayor to act as Official Signatory on the execution of this document as drafted and provided by **LA Connected & Lit Communities**. City attorney, John Evans, again reminded the Mayor and Council that this was a non-binding agreement, but necessary to further negotiations. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to approve selection of *The Enterprise & Interstate Progress* to serve as the city's Official Municipal Journal for fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2022** and ending **June 30, 2023** pursuant to LA R.S. 43:141(A) and LA R.S. 43:147(A)(B). Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize the advertisement of a request for sealed, public bids on a new ½-Ton, Crew Cab, 4-wheel drive pickup truck for use in the Mansfield Fire Department. A list of vehicle specifications would be drafted and a Request for Bids notice would be published for three (3) consecutive weeks in the city's local journal (*The Enterprise*). Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **CHRISTOPHER S. THOMAS** to approve the recommendation offered by Police Chief Annette Blue to offer full-time employment to patrol officer Mr. **Joshua Dale Schenck** with the Mansfield Police Department. Officer **Schenck** has been employed with the Police Department since March 10, 2021. He has recently attained P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards & Training) certified status. Further, he has an excellent attendance record and has also demonstrated his ability to positively interact with the public in a professional manner. Finally, he has shown that he can capably follow the instructions given to him by his supervisors. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: No other new business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:57 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