

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

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **October 10th**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Thomas Jones, Jr. called this meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an Invocation was offered by **Alderswoman Victoria W. Jackson**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Antonio G. Washington**. 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. Thomas Jones, Jr., -**Mayor**, Mary J. Green –District **A**, Victoria W. Jackson –District **C**, Antonio G. Washington –District **D** and Rita J. Myles – 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), Bryan Ross (Fire Chief), Gwenda Taylor (firefighter), Christopher Samuels (firefighter), James Steelman (firefighter), Ronnie Morris (Code Enforcement Officer), and William Bradford, Jr. (City Attorney). **Others Present:** Linda Williams, Sharon Collins, and Frances Washington. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **RITA J. MYLES** and SECONDED by **VICTORIA W. JACKSON** to approve the minutes of the **September 26, 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 voiced from any of the attendees at this meeting, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business: -None.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **RITA J. MYLES** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve the recommendation offered by the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Adjustment Board to grant permission to petitioner **Linda Carol Hudson Williams** to allow a “*Special Exception Variance*” for a building site area of less than 7,500 square feet as required by Ordinance on property located in a B-3 District (Community and Central Business District) and bearing a municipal address of **364 Pea Street**. Ms. Williams presented her petition at the Adjustment Board’s September 21st meeting and informed the Commissioners that her plans are to situate a new mobile home for residential use on this property. It was noted that there are other mobile homes in the vicinity. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **VICTORIA W. JACKSON** and SECONDED by **ANTONIO G. WASHINGTON** to approve the recommendation offered by the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Commission *granting* permission to petitioner **Linda Carol Hudson Williams** to situate a mobile home for residential use on property located in a B-3 District (Community and Central Business District) and bearing a municipal address of **364 Pea Street**. This petitioner was presented to the Commission for consideration and was approved when noting that there are

other mobile homes in the vicinity. Ms. Williams further stated that the mobile home to be situated at this address would become her permanent residence. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **ANTONIO G. WASHINGTON** to approve adoption of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to make application for a Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) grant administered through the Louisiana Office of Community Development for fiscal year 2022-2023, and to act as Official Signatory in all matters in connection with same. The city proposes to apply for this grant to replace deteriorated water lift station pumps at various locations within the city's water distribution system. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **RITA J. MYLES** to approve adoption of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to make application for a Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) grant administered through the Louisiana Office of Community Development for fiscal year 2022-2023, and to act as Official Signatory in all matters in connection with same. If approved, funds from this grant will be used to replace a vertical turbine (VT) pump and related appurtenances at a raw water intake structure located at the city's Toledo Bend Water Treatment Facility. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: Fire Chief Bryan Ross stood to announce that an offer of full-time employment was made to firefighter **James J. Steelman** and that Mr. **Steelman** accepted the offer. Mr. **Steelman** has been employed with the City of Mansfield since February 4, 2020. Upon his employment, he was assigned to work in the city's Fire Department. Since his tenure with the Department, Mr. **Steelman** has attained Firefighter I status and has also become HazMat certified in the areas of Materials Awareness and WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) operations. He is a hard-working and dedicated firefighter and has proven his ability to work well with his co-workers and to follow the instructions given to him by his supervisors.

At this time, the Clerk requested to have the agenda **amended** to discuss and consider approval of an additive Contract Change Order associated with 2020-2021 LCDBG Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements project. It was MOTIONED by **ANTONIO G. WASHINGTON** and SECONDED by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve amending the agenda and said request for amendment was unanimously approved by all five (5) council members. Following the amendment approval, a public hearing was conducted to hear and discuss any comments related to this issue. When no comments were offered, the public hearing was then subsequently closed. During excavation of a portion of the grounds at the treatment facility for the installation of new concrete boxes (will serve as chlorine contact chambers), the contractor encountered water and unstable sand material just prior to reaching the finished depth to set the boxes. This Change Order is for the remediation, removal, and replacement of inadequate soils at a depth with a high water table. The cost of this work is **\$30,080.46** and includes all labor,

materials, and equipment necessary to perform this task. This amount increases the original contract price of \$827,000.00 to \$857,080.46. In addition, the time provided for completion of this project was increased by 261 calendar days to December 31, 2022. Finally, it was mentioned that a partial contract reduction of approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 to the other half of the 2020-2021 LCDBG Public Facilities Grant (city's Wastewater Collection System) might be realized as this portion of the project nears completion. This savings will be realized due to a partial reduction in the Scope of Work for the Collection System improvements. It was MOTIONED by **VICTORIA W. JACKSON** and SECONDED by **ANTONIO G. WASHINGTON** to approve Contract Change Order No. 2 as presented. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item F: During the comment period, the Mayor began by stating that at least five (5) open positions across multiple city departments are being advertised to request employment applications and resumes'. Job descriptions are being prepared for each position and will be posted on the employer hiring platform *Indeed* to hopefully attract relevant job seekers. Finally, he reminded the Council of the impending water rate increase that customers will see for the first time on the bills they receive in early November for water used in October. This increase will afford the city the means to properly maintain its equipment, possibly hire additional personnel and issue wage increases where needed. Next Alderwoman Green expressed appreciation to the public works employees for the ongoing efforts to clean out drainage canals. She also commented on how elated she was over the recent purchase of a used fire service truck for the Fire Department. Doing so will assist in helping the city either maintain or exceed its current P.I.A.L. fire rating of 4. Further, Green inquired about the status of repairs to the city's sanitation trucks. The Mayor shared that all the trucks are currently being repaired and should be placed back in operation soon. He also reported that a replacement is being sought for a sanitation worker who was recently terminated. Finally, Green commented that she noticed the two new police units being striped and accessorized. Last to comment was the city's attorney, Mr. William Bradford, Jr. He began by applauding the Mayor and Council on the approval of a water rate increase. He said that it is timely in that there are funding sources available when rates are adequate enough so that a public utility is self-sustaining. On a separate matter, he said that he continues to perform research on the potential buildout of a Municipal Fiber Broadband Network for the city. More information will be shared with the Council as it becomes available.

Item G: No other new business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **4:52 p.m.** by MOTION from **ANTONIO G. WASHINGTON** and was SECONDED by **RITA J. MYLES**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Thomas Jones, Jr., Mayor
Marvin R. Jackson, Clerk