

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
March 13, 2023

In-Person Council Meeting

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **March 13th**, 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 **Alderman Christopher Thomas**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderswoman Rita Myles**. 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 Green –District **A**, Christopher Thomas –District **B**, Victoria Jackson –District **C**, and Rita Myles –District **E**. **Absent:** Antonio Washington - District **D**. **Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present:** William C. Bradford (City Attorney), Gwen Jones (Deputy Clerk), Tommie Crawford (Public Relations Officer), LaSonja Byrd (HR), Bryan Ross (Fire Chief –MFD), Christopher Johnson (MPD), Ronnie Morris (Code Enforcement Officer), Chris Samuels (Fire Dept.), Dandrea Pouncy (Fire Dept). **Others Present:** Winfred Johnson, Attorney Lisa Burson and Maria Hogan. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **CHRISTOPHER THOMAS** and SECONDED by **MARY GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **February 27, 2023 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

The Mayor 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.

MAYOR THOMAS JONES asked that the agenda be amended to allow David Ryals with LRWA to present a water rate study that was completed for the City. It was MOTIONED by **MARY GREEN** and SECONDED by **VICTORIA JACKSON**. With no opposition from the City Council, the published agenda was amended to hear and discuss comments relative to this issue.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: Discuss the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration event being hosted by the Mansfield Civic Group. During this time President of the Civic Group, Mary Green, asked for the City’s help with supplying electricity, police officers and asking for a monetary donation. This year will be the 10th celebration. This celebration brings people from all over to the city. Ms. Green stated that the DeSoto Parish Police Jury gives the civic group a donation. The Civic Group sponsors backpack drives and gives donations to cancer patients.

Item B: David Ryals with LRWA presented the water rate study that was just completed for the City of Mansfield. After the presentation, Mr. Ryals stated that once it was finalized with LRWA he would forward the study to each council member and the Mayor.

Item C: Attorney William Bradford spoke about broadband. He stated that they have slowed down the process and he would be discussing with the state for money to help fund the program. He visited Washington D.C. to meet with Senators and Representatives and made sure to Mansfield in the conversation. He stated he got great feedback.

Item D: Mayor Jones stated he was trying to secure grants for water and sewer projects. Also, stated that a new solution for the wastewater pond is being discussed. Next, he discussed looking at annexing places into the city limits. Finally, he mentioned the skid steer loader, zero turn mower and side by side purchased for Toledo Plant.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:17 p.m.** by MOTION from **CHRISTOPHER THOMAS** and was SECONDED by **VICTORIA JACKSON**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Thomas Jones, Jr., *Mayor*
Tommie Crawford, *Public Relations Officer*