

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
October 23, 2023

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **October 23rd**, 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 Antonio Washington**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderswoman Mary Green**. 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), LaSonja Byrd (Human Resources Director), Christopher Johnson (Police Chief), Bryan Ross (Fire Chief), Ronnie Morris (Code Enforcement Officer), Tarus Chatman (Public Works Director), Michelle Thomas (Asst. Chief) DaKayla Thomas (Billing Clerk) and William Bradford, Jr. (City Attorney). **Others Present:** 5 guests. **Press Present:** None.

It was MOTIONED by **ANTONIO G. WASHINGTON** and SECONDED by **RITA J. MYLES** to approve the minutes of the **October 23, 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.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Item A: A public hearing was conducted to hear and discuss any comments related to proposed **Ordinance No. 3 of 2023**, to *amend* the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mansfield to increase Water Rates; amending Article III, of Division 1 of Section 21-53 of Chapter 21. The **Ordinance** proposes to increase the rate for residential users living inside the city limits from on the 1st 2,000 gallons of water used to the 1st 1,000 gallons of water used. 1,000 gallons of water used after that will remain the same. Similarly, the rate for residential customers with premises located outside the city’s corporate limits would increase from on the 1st 2,000 gallons to the 1st 1,000 gallons. Finally, commercial customers with passage of this new **Ordinance**, their billing will now be increased from \$35 on the 1st 2,000 gallons of water used to the \$35 on the 1st 1,000 gallons of water used. When no comments were offered, the public hearing was then subsequently closed.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **Victoria W. Jackson** and SECONDED **RITA J. MYLES** to adopt **Ordinance No. 3 of 2023, Water Rate Changes** as drafted, with the **Ordinance** being published in the November 9, 2023, edition of our local journal, The *Enterprise & Interstate Progress*. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was **MOTIONED** by **ANTONIO G. WASHINGTON** AND **SECONDED BY RITA J. MYLES** to table the revision on the matter of voting to approve the Nepotism Policy as written in the City of Mansfield Employee Handbook and present the same in an upcoming work session. City Attorney, William Bradford explained that the revision would be in line with the Government Code of Ethics. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: It was **MOTIONED** by **RITA J. MYLES** and **SECONDED** by **MARY J. GREEN** to approve the Photo Enforcement Services Agreement between Blue Line Solutions, LLC and the City of Mansfield. Donald Pittard, a representative from Blue Line Solutions, LLC. made a brief summary explaining how the Speed Studies has affected other town and cities that are using the program and that the system is at no cost to the city. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item E: At this time, the mayor presented and briefly summarized a Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period 09/01/2023 through 09/31/23 for the Corporation General Fund, the Waterworks Fund, and the Sewer Fund. This year-to-date statement provided the officials with a summary of revenues collected to-date and expenditures incurred and paid to-date for the three major funds mentioned above. No action was necessary.

Item F: It was **MOTIONED** by **MARY J. GREEN** and **SECONDED** by **RITA J. MYLES** to approve the “2023” Budget Amendments. The proposed amended amounts were budgeted for revenues and expenditures in the city’s major governmental and proprietary funds, namely the **Corporation General Fund**, the **Water Fund**, the **Sewer Fund**, and the **Water Sales Tax Fund**. Motion Passed Unanimously

Item G: At this time, the mayor presented and briefly summarized the “2024” Budget for the City of Mansfield. The Notice of a Public Hearing to discuss proposed “budget” will appear in the official journal on November 2, 2023. No action was necessary.

Item H: At this time, Pricilla Nicholas with Mansfield Head Start presented a brief presentation regarding Head Start Awareness Week 2023, which was October 23-27, 2023.

Mayor Jones began his comments by first thanking the Aldermen for their calls and comments regarding the “2023” amended budget. He also, made a brief statement regarding Page 5 of the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period of September 9-31, 2023. Lastly, it was mentioned by Alderwoman Mary L. Green, that it would be great if the Aldermen had an organizational chart with the workers names by their positions.

No other old business discussed.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:17 p.m.** by MOTION from **MARY L. GREEN** and was SECONDED by **RITA J. MYLES**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Thomas Jones, Jr., *Mayor*
Maria Hogan, *Clerk*