

City of Mansfield

MINUTES

City Council Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
Mansfield Community Center
Page 1 of 5

PRESENT: Jefferson R Riley, Chris Fulmer, Perry Lunsford, Lisa Dunn, Helen Robertson

ABSENT: Post #5 Vacant

The honorable-mayor Jefferson R. Riley called tonight's meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm and welcomed all the citizens that were present and the council as well. He welcomed a larger crowd than usual.

At this time the honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley asked everyone to revise tonight's Agenda by adding sub-item d. Sewer System Smoke Test and sub-item e. Garbage Collection under item X. New Business. Councilwoman Lisa Dunn made a Motion to approve the Agenda as revised and Councilwoman Helen Robertson gave the Second, with no discussion all council present voted "aye" and the Motion passed.

The honorable-mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer gave the invocation and began everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Deputy Bowers and Deputy Gibbs arrived late to give the Newton County Sheriff's Office Mansfield Report because they responded to a fallen motorcycle at the City's center. Deputy Bowers introduced Deputy Gibbs as the deputy that has been patrolling the Mansfield area lately. Deputy Bowers also stated that she had nothing to report for Mansfield, that is when City Clerk, Jeana Hyde, asked about the report that was made by her husband regarding their tool shed that was burglarized. Deputy Bowers apologized for forgetting to report this incident and explained that when school is out, as it was last week for Spring Break, burglaries go up. She encouraged everyone present to report all crime saying that this will help the statistics that show a need for a deputy in our area. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R. Riley asked the citizen's present if they had anything else for the deputies. No one had anything. Deputy Bowers then asked the mayor if the City used its Code. Deputy Bowers reported that she has been approved to write Code Violations and would like to get familiar with Mansfield's Code. She also shared that Judge Degonia is hearing the Town of Newborn's violations and she did not see why he could not hear ours.

There are several announcements to be made for City Hall and the honorable-mayor Jefferson R. Riley began with the City Hall parking lot. He explained that a few patches had been made to the parking lot and then it was re-sealed and re-stripped, however,

there is still additional work to be done such as curbing and a sidewalk. More paving would then be done to the sidewalk and additional parking spaces will be added.

The second announcement was made by City Administrator/Clerk, Jeana Hyde, regarding the 2015 Audit. Mrs. Hyde said the 2015 Audit began on April 6. The Auditors are planning a return visit around the end of April and hope to have the audit completed by Mid-May.

The next announcement was regarding the Consumer Confidence Reports that report Mansfield's water quality will be mailed out in April's utility billing, sometime around the 20th.

The last announcement regarding the City Center and Trail was made by the honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley as well. He began by saying that the removal of the railroad had a major impact on our City Center. He explained that he considers the land between the streets in the downtown area as the City's Center. He said the City would need to bring in at least 40 loads of dirt to level the area to add a pavilion for concerts and holiday celebrations. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley said he asked the Newton Trails Board to meet with himself and the council and that the City needs to begin quickly on the project. A survey will need to be completed and official bid documents drawn by an engineer will need to be done as well. The only negative about the City Center Project is that all existing trees will need to be removed and replaced at least 1 to 1 if not more. He encouraged everyone to stop by City Hall and get a copy of the drawing of what the City Center will look like.

There were several Citizen's Comments tonight as well. Ms. Vickie Gazaway, who resides at 3023 N. Main St, made a complaint about the property, 19 Third Ave., that is behind them. She asked the mayor and council how close was the City about doing something about it. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley we would have the City's attorney send another letter.

Mr. David NaDell, who resides at 3145 Hwy 11 and also head's up the 55+ Super Senior's of Mansfield group gave a report saying they are having a super time and invited the mayor and council to attend a meeting whenever they had the chance. He explained that they meet every Tuesday from 10 am to 2pm with lunch around 11:30 am.

Mr. Leon Walton, who resides at 3761 Hwy 213, was the next citizen to comment. He began by saying this is the 3rd year they have lived in Mansfield and that everything has been good. He also believes the leadership is competent. His concern, however, are

mosquitos. Mr. Walton explained that the mosquitos were a problem last year as well but this year the news is reporting the seriousness of the Zika Virus that is transmitted by mosquitos. He urged the mayor and council to take the reports about the virus seriously and do what it can about enforcing the City's ordinance regarding standing water, etc.

Councilman and citizen, Perry Lunsford, who resides at 3594 Hwy 213 also commented on the Prosser lot on Hardeman. He stated that there are old tires and containers that hold water on the property. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley said the City would have its attorney to send another letter to Mr. Jerry Prosser, as well.

Councilwoman and citizen, Helen Robertson also made the comment that the City needs to be careful what it sprays for mosquitos because it is harmful to honey bees.

The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley also gave instructions to send John Napoli and Sam Boswell around the City looking for areas the hold standing water.

At this time, the honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley asked for a motion to approve the March 2016 Council Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Helen Robertson made the Motion and Mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer gave the Second. All Council voted "aye" and the Motion to approve the March 2016 Council Meeting Minutes passed. He then asked for a Motion to approve the March 28, 2016 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Councilman Perry Lunsford made the motion and Councilwoman Lisa Dunn gave the Second. All Council voted "aye" and the Motion to approve the March 28, 2016 Special Called Meeting Minutes passed.

Item X. New Business: a. MEAG 2015 Year-End Settlement Refund Distribution is the next item on the agenda. Mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer made the Motion to invest 100% of the \$22,761 which is the MEAG 2015 Year-End Settlement Refund into the Flexible Operating Account – Short Term Portfolio. This has been the standard investment for several years.

The City received 3 bids from Georgia Licensed Water Well Contractors regarding the Old Mansfield Well #3 Abandonment Proposal Award that the State EPD is requiring us to do. The lowest bid i/a/o \$2,250.00 come from Robinson Well Company Inc out of Monroe GA. The second bid i/a/o \$2,450.00 come from Oconee Well Drillers out of Watkinsville, GA and the third bid received i/a/o \$2,500.00 come from Green's Water Wells Inc. Councilman Perry Lunsford made the motion to award the project to

Robinson Well Company Inc., Mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer gave the Second and all Council voted “aye”. The motion was passed.

City Hall Sidewalk proposal is the next item to council to consider. Three bids were received for this project as well. The lowest bid i/a/o \$2,650.00 come from ELB Family Limited Partnership out of Covington, GA. The second bid i/a/o \$2,850.00 come from GAC Construction Inc out of Mansfield, GA and the third bid received i/a/o \$5,250.00 come from Ace/Kimble Services Inc out of Oxford, GA. Mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer was concerned that the bids were not given on the same specs by each contractor and in fact called each contractor to determine this. The proposals did have a significant thickness variance on the height of the curb. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley asked City Clerk, Jeana Hyde, to notify each bidder that the City wants a 6” curb above and below the ground and asked the council for a motion to approve a bid amount of \$2,850.00 for this project and to let Jeana Hyde award the project based on the conversation with the contractor. Councilwoman Lisa Dunn made the motion to approve the bid amount of \$2,850. Councilwoman Helen Robertson gave the Second. All Council voted “aye” and the motion passed.

Amended item d. Sewer System Smoke Test is the next item for the Council to consider. The City would like for the Council to approve having a smoke test of the sewer system. We would like to determine if there is an opening that is allowing rainwater into the City’s sewer system. Upon talking with Tim Thompson, the City’s Certified Operator, he said a ballpark figure for the test is \$10,000 and this does not include the expense to repair a problem if one is found. Councilman Perry Lunsford suggested calling the EPD for recommendations on who can perform this test and Councilwoman Helen Robertson asked if SPLOST money could be used.

The last item, also an amended item is the Garbage Collection issue. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley continued to say that the garbage truck is on its last leg and the City cannot afford to buy a new one. The originally proposed \$6.50/month garbage collection fee was to help each the cost to the City and now with the Newton County Landfill rates expected to increase the garbage collection fee will now cost \$13.00/month per residence. Councilman Perry Lunsford proposed appointing a committee to get a proposal on a private contractor and to talk to the citizens about it. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley shared that he met with Pratt Industries about this but for some reason Pratt decided at this time not to give a proposal. Councilman Perry Lunsford strongly expressed that the citizens should pay for garbage pick-up as it is a service. He also shared that people who live at the Newton/Henry line pay \$26/month for garbage pick-up.

The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley asked everyone “who has seen the new Solar Farm going in at the Pony Express?” He indicated that this is something he would like to see

the City of Mansfield do one day. He explained that the City has a sub-station behind Where There's Smoke BBQ and that Roquemore has a large field behind that. He also explained that it takes 3 – 5 acres to equal 1 Mhw, however, the power would be generated and sold back to the grid but this could offset our power bill. Councilman Perry Lunsford thought there may be some grants available for this as well. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley commented that this would be a good thing for Mansfield.

Councilwoman Helen Robertson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned.

Jefferson Riley, Mayor

Perry Lunsford, Post 1

Helen Robertson, Post 2

Christopher Fulmer, Mayor-Pro-Tem, Post 3

Lisa Dunn, Post 4

Post 5 - Vacant