

City of Mansfield

MINUTES

City Council Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
Mansfield Community Center
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PRESENT: Jefferson R Riley, Helen Robertson, Chris Fulmer, Perry Lunsford, Lisa Dunn, Post 5 Vacant

ABSENT: Jeana Hyde

The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley called the meeting to order and welcomed approximately 13 citizens who were present.

The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley asked the council if there were any revisions to the agenda they would like to make. Mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer suggested tabling New Business item B - City Truck and New Business item C – 2016 Budget. All council was in agreement and items were tabled. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley asked for a Called Meeting for February 22, 2016 to discuss the 2016 Budget.

Mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer gave the invocation and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Bower from the Newton County Sheriff Department was present to give the Mansfield Report. Deputy Bower stated that in less than a month they had 17 traffic stops, however, only 2 were for speeding violations. The other 15 were equipment violations such as; headlights, taillights, etc. The 2 speeding violations occurred on Hwy 213. Deputy Bower also explained that there is little activity on the East side of the county because of the population. The West side of the county is more populated so that is where most of the calls come from. She also stated that there were over 84,000 calls in 2015 with only 6 deputies available. She asked everyone to please be patient with them because they are doing the best they can with what they have.

At this time, the honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley shared that the Public Works Supervisor, John Napoli received a Safety Training Certificate. He also pointed out that John now has 3 certificates that will be framed and hung at City Hall. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley also recognized Sam Boswell as being a full time employee.

Mansfield resident, Mr. David NaDell, spoke on the Super Seniors meetings held in the Mansfield Community House. He shared that the number of attending Super Seniors continues to grow. They have had as many as 50 participating but on an average, 30+ attend a week. He stated that the activities that have every week include bingo, dominos, and line dancing. Mrs. Brenda Campbell, also a Mansfield resident, announced that they

have now started an exercise session as well. Mr. NaDell reminded everyone that the meetings are every Tuesday from 10a – 2p. They also have a “lunch” around 11:30a. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley thanked Mr. NaDell and his wife Renay for their hard work and everything they do for the Super Seniors.

John Douglas, our Newton County Commissioner, was next to speak. Commissioner Douglas announced that he is going to be a grandpa for the first time to twin boys in July. Commissioner Douglas also talked about how the County is working on trying to keep the recycling bins empty. It will be an item on the agenda at the next Newton County Commissioners meeting to discuss privatizing the hauling since the recycling is already privatized. Commissioner Douglas also brought up the responsibilities of the Newton County Commissioner Chairman. He began by saying right now the only responsibility the chairman has is the Road department and the County Manager runs everything else and under the new form of government, the commission chairman will no longer have the road department. The County manager will have that as well. Now the question becomes, should the commission chairman be a full time, paid position at \$100,000 per year with no responsibilities? This question has been sent to the legislator. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley asked this question, “For years the commission chair has been elected by the people to run the county will all the responsibilities, when did it change?” Commissioner Douglas answered that in 2011, 3 commissioners voted to take away all the responsibilities of the commission chair except for the Road Department. The Road Department is in the Enabling Legislation so they could not take it away without going before the legislation in Atlanta. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley asked, does that not take away from the elected officials? Commissioner Douglas answered that one of the issues that has been brought up is referendum and should they change. He went on to say that Chairman Ellis is in favor of the referendum and so is Commissioner Henderson. Councilman Perry Lunsford spoke up and said that he thought it was a great idea to have a professional manager. Commissioner Douglas explained that with a full time County Manager professional the salary rates are from \$125,000 to \$140,000. Commissioner Douglas expressed his concern for the county to pay out that amount of money to someone with no responsibilities other than being a chief cheerleader for the county and the other one just taking care of roads. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley asked is the county Commissioner Chairman will manage the County Manager and Commissioner Douglas answered, no. He said that the county manager would answer straight to the county commissioners and not the county commission chairman. At this time the honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley explained an issue the City had last summer. He said that Chairman Ellis called him on a Thursday and said the county was going to start paving Kellogg Avenue and Lloyd Road the following Monday, still no paving has been done. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley said he was curious to why they promise to do

things over and over and never follow through. Commissioner Douglas said he would check with them tomorrow and get back with him. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley addressed another issued to Commissioner Douglas. He explained that there is a small lot across the street from the elementary school that the City owns. When the school has an event take place the people are parking in the Methodist Church parking lot, up and down the roads and now they are starting to park across Hwy 11 at the Tabernacle of Praise lot making it very dangerous. The City offered to provide the empty lot to the school for additional parking. Some citizens approached Chairman Ellis about paving the lot and Chairman Ellis told the City to cut down some trees and after that he would pave the lot. It has never been paved. Commissioner Douglas said he would check on this as well and get back to the mayor.

At this time Vicki Cowan asked if citizens will be able to speak at a called meeting like at a normal meeting. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley explained that he was unsure of the proper procedure for a called meeting but typically a called meeting is just a meeting to discuss a specific item or purpose. He explained that they come in and discuss that purpose then leave. He told Vicki if she had a budget item that she wanted to discuss that we can discuss it tonight and Vicki replied she has not seen a copy of the budget so she didn't know what was on it. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley explained how the budget has to be posted at City Hall for 30 days before they can vote on it an since it has not been posted, the called meeting for February 22, 2016 has been cancelled. Mansfield resident, Paul Campbell, asked if a citizen has a question about the budget was there a procedure to follow. The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley answered saying, you present the question or issue in writing to City Hall and the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and Treasurer will discuss it and come up with an answer.

Mansfield resident, Brenda Campbell, asked what the yellow flags on Hwy 11 was for and Public Works Supervisor, Mr John Napoli, answered that AT&T are getting ready to put phone line underground.

The honorable-mayor Jefferson R Riley asked for a motion to approve the January 2016 Council Meeting Minutes and Councilwoman Lisa Dunn made the Motion. Councilwoman Helen Robertson gave the Second and they were approved by a unanimous vote.

At this time all Council voted on the final Comprehensive Plan by raising their right hands. The vote was unanimous and the plan was adopted.

The February 8th Council Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

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