

City of Mansfield

MINUTES

City Council Meeting
March 14, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
Mansfield Community Center
Page 1 of 4

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

ABSENT: Post #5 Vacant

The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He said he hoped they were enjoying the beautiful weather we have been having and said it seems that we jumped straight from winter to summer.

From there, the honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley asked the council if there were any revisions they would like to make to the agenda. With no revisions he asked for a motion of approve the agenda. Councilwoman Lisa Dunn made the Motion to approve the agenda and Councilman Perry Lunsford gave the Second. All voted “aye” and the agenda was set.

The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley then gave the invocation asking for protection for our Nations soldiers and also for wisdom for the Mayor and Council in their decision making for the City. Afterwards he started everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Bower was present to give the Newton County Sheriff’s Office Mansfield report which was that there is nothing major to pass on. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley and Councilman Perry Lunsford both said they noticed more deputies patrolling Mansfield. Commissioner John Douglas asked Deputy Bower if there was any new information on the motorcycle that had been stolen from a garage at Dixie Road and Hwy 142. Deputy Bower said there was no new information. Commissioner Douglas shared that the police may be on to something regarding the 50 guns that were stolen in a matter of 4 minutes from the Washington Street gun shop in Covington. He said that LB’s Recycling may have something on their security cameras that will help. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley thanked Deputy Bower for coming.

At this time the honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley recognized our District 1 Commissioner John Douglas. He shared that Commissioner Douglas will not be running for re-election and that the City has been blessed by his attendance to several Council Meetings. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley thanked him for his attendance to the council meetings and also asked him if he would like to say anything. With that,

Commissioner John Douglas said it was a blessing to be here. He explained that with the expectation of twin grandsons he decided not to run for re-election. He said this is the first time since 1996 that he would not be on the ballot. Commissioner Douglas shared that he served 6 years in the Senate and 2 years in the House. He said Mansfield and Newborn is a great area and he hoped that the guys coming behind him will pay attention to this area as well. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley said he was glad he is here tonight and knew that we would see him again before the end of the year.

The next item on the agenda is Citizens' Comments but there were none.

The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley asked the Council if they read the February Council Meeting Minutes and all had read them. He then asked for a Motion to approve the February 2016 Council Meeting Minutes. The honorable-mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer made the motion and Councilman Perry Lunsford gave the Second. All voted "aye" and the motion to approve the February Council Meeting Minutes was Passed.

The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley asked the Council if they read the March 7 Public Budget Hearing Minutes and all had read them. He then asked for a Motion to approve the March 7 Public Budget Hearing Minutes. The honorable-mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer made the motion and Councilman Perry Lunsford gave the Second. All voted "aye" and the motion to approve the March 7 Public Budget Hearing Minutes was Passed.

The next item on the agenda is Old Business that had been discussed during 2015 Spring Work Sessions regarding Mosquito Treatment in the City. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley reminded everyone that the sprayer the City has is old, out of code and no longer works. Not only that, he said, the truck needed to haul the sprayer had to be able to recirculate the air. The City does not have a vehicle that does this. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley said he noticed on the news individuals with backpack blowers. Councilman Perry Lunsford said there were too many Federal and State regulations to consider backpacks. He suggested reminding citizens to empty standing water around their houses. Councilwoman Lisa Dunn suggested reaching out to the City of Covington. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley said an Intergovernmental Agreement may solve the issue quickly but that the budget is already tight and agreed with Councilman Perry Lunsford that the City needed to raise awareness again to the citizens. Councilman Perry Lunsford also suggested sending out a phone message. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley asked City Clerk, Jeana Hyde, to check with the Department of Agriculture on how often and how heavy our City would need to spray. He would like some official advice.

Our last item on the agenda and also Old Business is the City Hall Parking Lot and Side Street Asphalt Repairs. The honorable-mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer said he looked at all the bids and that Overstreet Asphalt & Concrete have the lowest proposal. Councilwoman Lisa Dunn was concerned that they had left something off the bid because of the considerable difference from the other 2 bids. Councilman Perry Lunsford asked if SPLOST dollars can be used for this project and will we do more sidewalks. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley answered, “Absolutely”. Councilwoman Lisa Dunn made a Motion to award the project to Overstreet Asphalt & Concrete. The honorable-mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer gave the Second. Councilman Perry Lunsford asked what exactly are they (Overstreet) going to do at the front (of City Hall). The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley answered that they are going to cut out the sunken areas, fill them in with a rock base, seal, asphalt and re-stripe. He then asked if the Council would like a sidewalk in front of City Hall as well. All council agreed that they like sidewalks. With no further discussion the honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley asked for a vote on the Motion to award the City Hall Parking Lot and Side Street Asphalt Repairs to Overstreet Asphalt & Concrete. All council voted “aye”. The Motion passed.

Commissioner John Douglas interjected, at this time, that the County has been discussing SPLOST 2017 and suggested the Mayor and Council think about what the City would like to use our portion for. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley also made the council aware of a joint meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 24th, between the Newton County Commissioners and all the City Mayors that he is planning on attending.

The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley then asked the Council if there is anything they would like to bring up or discuss and indicated that he has one item he would like to bring up. Council not having anything at this time, he began by saying that he mentioned in an email to Council that he would like to table tonight’s vote on the 2016 budget. His reason in doing this is because he would like for Mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer, himself and the City Clerk to go over the budget line item by line item to make sure there are not any items that SPLOST or LOST money can be used for. He said this will probably require a called meeting to adopt the 2016 Budget. The honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley explained that because the City has been through very significant changes over the last 4 years the budget was done incorrectly. All the City’s Funds (ie: General, Electric, Water/Sewer & Garbage) that were lumped together are now separated as they should be. He said the budget is correct this year, we know it is accurate, we can work with it and balance it.

At this time the honorable-mayor Jefferson Riley recognized the City’s Administrative Assistant Cathy Farmer who just passed her 1 year anniversary with the City on March 9th and has not missed a single day of work. Everyone present applauded.

The honorable-mayor-pro-tem Chris Fulmer made the Motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Lisa Dunn gave the Second. All present voted “aye” and the March 14, 2016 Council Meeting was 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