

# City of Mansfield

## Council Meeting Minutes

City Council Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.  
Mansfield Community House  
Page 1 of 3

PRESENT: GW Davis Jr, Blair Northen, Marty Smallwood, Helen Robertson

OTHERS: Walter Tuggle, Elsie Smith, Crystal Smallwood, Scott & Vicki Cowan, John Napoli, Ashley Kelly and Mary Ann Davis.

Mayor GW Davis Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:02PM. During the moment of reflection, Mayor Davis asked if anyone had anything to reflect on during the moment of reflection. Willie James Belcher and Sam Moore were mentioned. After a moment of reflection, Mayor Davis then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem, Blair Northen made the motion to approve the agenda; Councilman Marty Smallwood second the motion. No discussion. All in favor.

No citizen comments on agenda items

Old business discussed are as follows:

**Water rate increase:** Mayor GW Davis presented the water increase that was received from Newton County. In budget summary, the water rate will increase by \$.05 per thousand/gallons annually over the 3 years. Primarily due to Covind-19 related impact on chemical and material supply. Effective July 1,2022 the wholesale water rate will be \$2.29 per thousand gallons. City of Mansfield uses a multiplier to calculate water bills, so the city is not making money but doesn't want to lose money as well so Mayor Davis recommendation as to pass the increase to customers. Northen made a motion to accept the increase and to pass the increase on to the customers. Smallwood second the motion. Northen stated in discussion an average bill would see an approximate .75 increase per month. Mayor Davis reiterated the city wasn't making money off of the increase. All in favor

**Audit Bids:** Mayor Davis stated 6 bids went out to possible auditors in the beginning. Only 1 bid was submitted from Mauldin and Mauldin in Macon, GA. Mayor Davis called the firm at the request of the council and the only reason they submitted a 5-year bid was due to the proposal packet sent by previous Clerk. They would accept a 1-year agreement and the proposal was for \$18,000.00. Northen made a motion to accept the only qualifying bid form Mauldin and Jenkins which is the correct name of the audit firm for \$18,000.00 for the FY 2021-2022. Smallwood second the motion. Mayor Davis gave the background the urgency on voting on this matter as it was the law to have the annual audit and no other bids had been received or an auditor in place. The previous auditor no longer audits municipalities. Several attempts to secure more bids were taken however no one was interested. All in favor

Security Camera: Mayor Davis presented the bid for the security camera provided by All-Star Security. One bid was for the City Hall and the other was for the City Center. Northen made motion to table the agenda item, Smallwood second. Smallwood asked Mayor Davis what his thoughts were on the item. Mayor Davis expressed his concern with the safety of the employees. This was not to spy on employees. He stated he wasn't in any discussion but possibly some cameras could be taken off to make the bid cheaper. He then asked the employees their opinion. After discussion, Mayor Davis called for a vote on the motion that was on the table. All opposed

Smallwood then made a motion to accept the bid as presented from All-Star for the City Hall only for \$3250.00. Northen second the motion. No discussion. All in favor

City improvement grant: Mayor Pro Tem, Blair Northen the grant was submitted Friday, June 3 at 2pm. The grant will be improving sidewalks, water drainage, an alley/road for trucks to turn right properly. street paving to include Ed Needham, Kellogg St, the alleys near city center, Poplar St. and trail parking on First Ave. and possibly a retention pond. The grant is for cities that have a plan for downtown areas. Max grant will be 5 million. The city applied for a \$2M grant with only \$200,000 coming from city funds of which \$160,000 was already budgeted for the paving of Ed Needham.

Mayor Davis gave a report of City operations for the month. He welcomed Ashley Kelly back from maternity leave/. The up-coming property tax bills were discussed, and stated Mansfield would accept the rollback. Mayor Davis would meet with Mrs. Kelly within the next week to get proper paperwork processed. John Napoli reported 3 utility poles were replaced, Mansfield experienced 2 power outages, and both were quickly restored. A sewer line was repaired on Hwy 213 and Poplar St. Thew sewer was backing up into a home therefore this was an emergency. City of Covington was unable to assist so a private company was called in to expedite the work. One power outage was at a residence on Hwy 11 S where a tree had taken down lines.

#### New Business:

Mayor Davis presented the quote for the card reader that was previously discussed. The quote was for \$1124. A one-time fee and all convenience fees would be passed along to the customer if they used the machine. Mayor Davis made a recommendation to the council for approval. Smallwood made motion to accept bis as presented. Northen second the motion. No other discussion, All in favor.

Mayor Davis presented the Friends of Covington Fireworks flyer requesting a donation to the 2022 Fireworks for City of Covington. No motion to accept the request was made therefore the request could not proceed.

Mayor Davis stated the sewer plant bid opening would be held July 14,2022 at 2pm in the City Hall if anyone was available to attend. Turnipseed will handle the bids. Bid proposals have been posted at the City Hall, on the website and in the newspaper.

Mayor Davis presented the bid for the new computer at the Treasurer desk. As previously discussed, it is out of date and has been shutting down periodically throughout the day. The bid with 1 monitor is \$2104.04. Northen made motion to accept bid as presented. Smallwood second the motion. No discussion. All in favor.

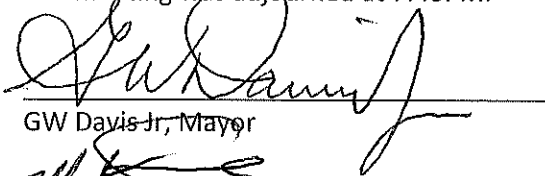
Mayor Davis presented the Budget hearing date for Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 7:00pm in the community house with the special meeting to vote on the budget the following week. Thursday, June

23, 2022, 7:00pm in the community house. Smallwood made motion to accept. Northen second the motion. All in favor

Mayor Davis stated the year end settlement from MEAG has been emailed. The 2021 Year-End Settlement was approved by the MEAG Power Board of Directors on March 17, 2022. In summary, net billings to Participants and other adjustments exceeded costs by \$48,935,836. MEAG serves 49 cities and in 2020 the year end settlement was \$18,231. 2021 settlement will be 22,872.00. Mayor Davis explained it could go into a Flexible Operating account- short tem portfolio, an intermediate portfolio, or an extended portfolio. Northen made a motion to put 100% into a Flexible Operating Account – Short term portfolio as they had in the past. Smallwood second the motion. No discussion. All in favor

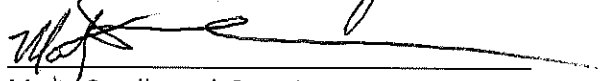
No citizen comments on non-agenda items

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48PM.



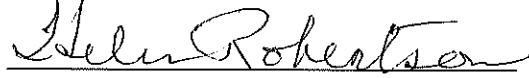
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GW Davis Jr, Mayor



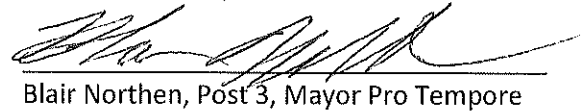
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Marty Smallwood, Post 1



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Helen Robertson, Post 2



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Blair Northen, Post 3, Mayor Pro Tempore

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Austin Mitchell, Post 4

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Vacant, Post 5