

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
February 13th, 2017
5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Michael J. Brening

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce S. Burt

Councilmember Travis L. Ferguson

Councilmember Pattisue Elliott

Councilmember Solomon Ferguson

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Attorney Nathan Lee

City Manager Doug Westberry

City Clerk Lea Spell

Chief Gray Couch

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Travis Ferguson gave the invocation and Mayor Brening led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Brening requested that the minutes from the January 9th be amended to reflect a savings of \$5 per lamp post to equal \$520 in savings a month. Motion made by Travis Ferguson to approve the January 9th minutes with the recommended amendment. Motion was seconded by Solomon Ferguson. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson and seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the minutes of the January 25th special called meeting. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson and seconded by Pattisue Elliot to approve the January Treasurer's report. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Dan Griffin had requested to be placed on the agenda to commemorate Black History Month. Mr. Griffin began his dialogue by referencing himself as a historian and the first black firefighter with the City of Manchester. He then made mention of Mr. L. S. Glencamp and Mr. Ted Anderson as previous members of City Council. The beginning of his discussion also referenced several notable black individuals in history such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X. However as his address to council began to deviate from his original agenda request, he was asked by Mayor Brening as well as Councilmember Travis Ferguson to please adhere to the agenda topic at hand. Mayor Brening advised Mr. Griffin that if he wanted to address the Council on other topics, he would need to do that at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Griffin was unable to comply with their requests and became verbally combative with the Mayor and Councilmember Ferguson which disrupted the meeting. He was ultimately escorted from the meeting by Chief Gray Couch.

Motion made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Pattisue Elliott for Carla Stephens to be appointed to the Downtown Development Authority with the term beginning February 13th, 2017 and ending February 13th, 2021. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

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5:00 P.M., continued.

Motion made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Travis Ferguson to execute the agreement between the City of Manchester and CSX Railroad to close the railroad crossing at Elm St. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Solomon Ferguson approving payment to Hofstadter & Associates in the amount of \$45,382.30. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes. The invoice for payment is from the USDA Rural Development Water Treatment Facility Improvements project.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Travis Ferguson to table the agenda item renewing the lease with Flint River Gun Club until the council could meet with a representative of the club. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Mayor Brening asked councilmembers to spread the word about the March 21st election for renewing the SPLOST tax. The County SPLOST is used to repay bonds procured to build schools in Meriwether County. Councilmember Solomon Ferguson reminded everyone that this is an existing tax and not a new tax. The Mayor also stated that if the SPLOST tax did not pass it would result in increases in property taxes to cover the payments on the bonds.

Councilmember Travis Ferguson inquired about a fluctuation in usage on a citizens' utility bill. It was explained that occasionally radio read equipment will malfunction causing an over read or under read on a meter. In further explanation it was noted that on most all occasions where this happens the bill averages itself out. Also mentioned was that in the majority of cases where there is a fluctuation in usage a leak has occurred or continues to occur. In these cases, city personnel will work with the customer to issue a credit or offer a repayment plan for excessive bills.

Councilmember Bruce Burt recommended that the sprinkler heads and waterlines at the sprayfields be marked before replanting begins in approximately two weeks.

City Manager Doug Westberry updated the Mayor and Council briefly by mentioning that the increase in water leaks experienced over the past few months had subsided. The result of this has allowed for the Public Works department to resume work on potholes.

Chief Gray Couch updated the Mayor and Council on a shooting incident that occurred over the weekend of February 11/12th. He stated that there had been no injuries sustained in the incident only property damage. He also noted that his department was close to making arrests in the case.

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At 5:54 PM Mayor Brening recessed the meeting in order to hold a Town Hall meeting scheduled for 6:00 PM.

Mayor Brening reconvened the regular meeting at 6:45 PM with all members present with the exception of Councilmember Travis Ferguson.

Motion made by Bruce Burt to approve the application for rezoning at 113 Broad St from C-1 to C-2. Seconded by Solomon Ferguson. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Bruce Burt at 6:50 PM to adjourn. Seconded by Solomon Ferguson. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

City Clerk Lea Spell

Mayor Michael J. Brening