

MINUTES  
OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Michael J. Brening

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Burt

Councilmember Travis Ferguson

Councilmember Solomon Ferguson

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Attorney Nathan Lee

City Manager Doug Westberry

City Clerk Lea Spell

Chief Gray Couch

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Pattisue Elliott

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Travis Ferguson gave the invocation and Mayor Brening led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the minutes of the May 8<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting. Vote was 3 ayes with Travis Ferguson abstaining.

Motion made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the minutes of the May 8<sup>th</sup> public hearing. Vote was 3 ayes with Travis Ferguson abstaining.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the minutes of the May 18<sup>th</sup> special called meeting. Vote was 3 ayes with Travis Ferguson abstaining.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the minutes of the June 12<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting. Vote was 3 ayes with Solomon Ferguson abstaining.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the June 2017 Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Carla Stephens, a representative with the Manchester Marketplace, came before the council requesting that the city agree to be a "sponsor" of the market. The reason for the request is to allow for on-site preparation of food by vendors. Currently, the market is unable to allow these types of vendors because of Department of Health regulations that require inspection and licensing. If the city became a sponsor of the event, this process could be averted.

The two prevailing concerns expressed by the Mayor and Councilmembers were the impact on local restaurants and liability issues.

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After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson for the City of Manchester to sponsor the Manchester Marketplace for the remainder of the season contingent on confirmation of insurance policies to ensure sufficient liability coverages as they pertain to the event. Language included in the motion noted that reviews of the impact on local restaurants would be considerations in continued and/or future sponsorship.  
Vote was 3 ayes with Mayor Brening opposing.

Nneka Carter, citizen of Manchester and local grant writer, addressed the council with information regarding grant funding that is available through the Department of Natural Resources for Mountain Bike Trails. She explained that funds in amounts of up to \$200,000 were available as 80/20 matching grants. Ms. Carter requested permission from the council to research the funding potential for a large tract of land near Nebula Rd. that is owned by the City.  
The Mayor and Council expressed interest in the project and agreed for Ms. Carter to further explore the project opportunity.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding the Conducting of the 2017 Municipal General Election for the City of Manchester between the City of Manchester and Meriwether County. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Mayor Mike Brening's comments included commendations on the success of the City's July 3<sup>rd</sup> event. He noted that the vendors in attendance were pleased with their success. He also offered positive commentary on the fireworks display and the crowd in attendance.  
Another topic the Mayor broached was regarding the mural. He stated that work had begun but due to the weather and some extra preparatory work its completion had been delayed.  
His final comments pertained to the Manchester Marketplace. He commended the organizers of the event on how well it was going and asked for them to continue to look for ways to improve and make it bigger.

City Manager, Doug Westberry, also remarked on the July 3<sup>rd</sup> event. He thanked all of the departments and staff for their work in ensuring it was a success.

Mr. Westberry apprised the Mayor and Council of some type of foreign substance that had caused suds and bubbles to appear in the creek. The appearance had been noticed that morning by city personnel. He mentioned the presence of small dead fish in the area of the substance. Also stated was that water samples had been taken and the Department of Natural Resources had been notified. He asked for citizens to report any suspicious activity near any of the waterways.

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Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Travis Ferguson to adjourn at 6:15. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

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City Clerk Lea Spell

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Mayor Michael J. Brening