

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

March 14, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Brening

Mayor Pro Tem Judy Foster Pike

Councilmember Jimmy Dyer

Councilmember Quardez Warrior

Councilmember Nell Wilkins

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Mark Pullium

City Clerk Angel Fowler

City Attorney Nathan Lee

Police Chief Gray Couch

Utility Director Sam Summers

Fire Chief Ben Williams

Others present: Glen Gosa

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Fire Chief Ben Williams gave the invocation and Mayor Brening led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Mayor Brening and seconded by Councilmember Warrior. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion was made to approve the February 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes by Mayor Pro Tem Pike and seconded by Councilmember Wilkins. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Glen Gosa updated the council about an unsafe house in Manchester that does not have a floor, walls and ceiling. Mr. Gosa presented the council with procedures for the Removal of Unsafe Buildings and the council will need to follow this procedure and vote at the next council meeting. Mr. Glen advised the council he will have more properties to present to them at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wilkins to reappoint Randy Nesmith, Marty Mitchell and Atticus Mathis to the Manchester Development Authority Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, Councilmember Warrior aye, Mayor Pro Tem Pike abstained.

Appearances & Public comments, Gayle Waddle did not want to speak, Pat Dotson made a complaint about a vacant house next to her house with trash, debris, couch and an abandon car without tag located in front of her house.

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

March 14, 2022 5:00 P.M.

CONT.

Motion was made by Mayor Brening to award Engineering Services related to the CDBG Grant to Hofstader & Associates and Consulting Services to Carol Consulting, Councilmember Wilkins seconded the motion, 5 ayes.

City Manager Pullium presented to the Council on how the city can use the ARPA Funds, these funds may be used to provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the pandemic and this includes State, local or Tribal government workforce. City Manager Pullium provide the council with a detailed spreadsheet of what each employee would be receiving each month. The city will start the payments April 1st 2022. The time frame where the city must spend the money is by 2024. City Manager Pullium advised the council that the city needs to be competitive in the salaries because the city is losing valuable employees to other cities because of pay and this plan will be a start to attracting employees. As of now the street department has 4 position open and recreation as 2 positions open and these have been advertised for months. The Council commended City Manager Pullium for his hard work on developing this plan. After a lengthy discussion Councilmember Warrior made the motion to adopt the pay scale City Manager Pullium created, to begin April 1, 2022. Councilmember Wilkins seconded the motion, unanimous vote.

The council was presented with 4 police vehicles to be surplus and one recreation vehicle. These vehicles will be advertised on GOV.deals. Mayor Pro Tem Pike made the motion to surplus, Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, unanimous vote.

City Manager Pullium presented the council with an updated disconnect policy, where payments must be received by 4:00 pm the day before cut off. Councilmember Dyer made the motion to adopt the updated policy, Councilmember Warrior seconded the motion, Mayor Pro Tem Pike, aye and Councilmember Wilkins abstained from voting.

City Clerk is still working on the reverse 911, employee numbers have been submitted to 911 and the city is handing out flyer on how to sign up for Civic Ready.

Mayor Brening made the motion to close two bank accounts 7008 Police Fines and 9931 General Revenue Fund, these accounts are longer needed. Mayor Pro Tem Pike seconded the motion, unanimous vote.

Mayor Brening made a motion to close Main Street on April 23, 2022 for a Farmers Market Day event from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, the street will be closed from the red light to F & M Bank, and Councilmember Wilkins seconded the motion, unanimous vote.

No Old Business

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

March 14, 2022 5:00 P.M.

CONT.

No New Business

No City Attorney comments

Mayor Brening congratulated the Manchester Basketball Team for in the 2022 Final 4. April 23 is Meriwether Clean-up day, all grass clipping must be in bags for pickup. Talbot County will be paying the \$945,000 by the end of the week. Still trying to schedule a meeting with AmWaste, LLC. Vic Dowis will be retiring after 34 years with the City of Manchester on April 1st. Need bids to paint and pressure wash the sidewalk and the iron fence on Main Street, no banners are allowed to be attached to the fence. Mayor Brening expressed his sadness in the passing of Coach Jeremy Williams, he was a great mentor and leader.

Mayor Pro Tem Pike congratulated the Basketball Team, commended Nneka on having the Mill Property cleaned up, Nneka had some visitors to come through Manchester and commented on how clean the town was.

Councilmember Warrior commended City Manager Pullium on the ARPA Budget, congratulated Basketball team

Councilmember Dyer congrats to the Basketball Team and acknowledge the passing of Jeremy William, he was a great man and coach.

Councilmember Wilkins advised council she will attending the Newly Elected Officials training in March, Perry Street resurfacing is in process, Congratulated the basketball team for their win, the city should celebrate the team in some way.

City Manager Pullium updated the council on the paving cost for the LMIG project, with the cost of gas the price may increase and the city may have to take a street off the list, bid opening will be March 21st at 11:00 am. The city will place an ad in the newspaper for a Project Manager and Engineer for the water system improvement.

The Water Plant at Rush Creek that was hit by lightning is back up running at full capacity.

RFP has been sent out for the roofing at the Recreation Department/Senior Center. The library was pressure washed and roof repairs made. The gym floor at the Recreation Department needs to be replaced. Recreation Vic Dowis recommended a new type of floor, not wood.

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

March 14, 2022 5:00 P.M.

CONT.

There is a sink hole on 2nd Street at the Flower Shop caused by erosion, this sink hole is on DOT ROW, but DOT Engineering does not want to take responsibility for repairs.

Corp. Andersen update the council on some projects the police department has been doing, Coffee with a cop, labeling hand sanitizer with the police department number and address on them. April 16th there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Mill, there will be a GSP Helicopter also present. In May there will be "Touch a Truck" where kids can see fire trucks and patrol cars up close.

Utility Director Sam Summers thanked the Mayor and Council for the pay increase

Recreation Director Vic Dowis thanked the Mayor and Council for the pay increases. They had 400 children to sign up for Basketball and Baseball, games will be held in Manchester, Woodbury, Greenville and Lutherville. Mr. Vic advised the council that Tangela Fuller will do a great job as the new Recreation Director.

Mayor Brening made the motion to go into Executive Session at 7:24 pm to discuss Personnel and Real Estate, Councilmember Warrior seconded the motion, all approved.

Mayor Brening made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:37 pm Councilmember Warrior seconded, all approved.

Councilmember Warrior made the motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm, Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, all approved.

City Clerk Angel Fowler

Mayor Mike Brening