

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 16, 2023

The second monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on
Tuesday May 16, 2023 at 7:29 pm in the
Council Chambers of the City Building.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

Eleazer Akuchie led the audience in prayer.

ROLL CALL: The following answered present at roll call: Burns, Meier, Akuchie, Davenport, Diaz, Moton, Zader (excused absence), Scott, and Falquette.

There being no objections, the reading of the Journal and Correspondence was dispensed with.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Alright, were dispensing with the journal reading and then we have citizen comments to address Council. We have a number of people this evening, possibly some new folks here. We do ask that comment period is three minutes. We do ask that the person addressing Council addresses Council, not the entire audience. This is not a debate. This is not a question and answer. This is your opportunity to address Council and tell us what's on your mind. And if you do have questions somebody will probably get back with you at a later date and time. First up, and please forgive me a little bit...oh also, when you come up, we'll have the microphone. You'll state your name and your address. And then talk to us about what's on your mind. The first person that I have, Lavonne Dulan, alright come on up. Just push it harder. Yep.

LAVONNE DULAN: Ok, I'm Lavonne Dulan. I live at 14 Hoffer Avenue. And I'm only here as a desperate measure because every single year grass grows extremely high, and I know there's a City ordinance regarding how high your grass should be before your actually fined or contacted. Go to Codes and Permits every year. Call them numerous times a year. And, my pictures didn't go forward, but one grass was as tall as like 47". I had a tape measure and I went around measuring grass. Some is across the street from me. Some is across from my mom, Hoffer Avenue. You probably see it you guys. Daisy and Harker, that's the grass that's 47" high that never gets...it gets cut maybe once a season. So, I even offered Mr. Milliron, you cut the grass you clean the lot out, I'll maintain it for the rest of the season to make sure its presentable and decent. Mosquitos, ticks, mice, snakes, go only knows what else lives in those weeds. So that's my issue. It should never be that way, ever. Especially when there's an ordinance that dictates how it should be. So that's my beef. And hopefully you guys can help me with this. Ok. That's all I'll say. I'll turn this off.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you very much Ms. Dulan. No leave it on, it's alright. We got more to come. Thank you very much. Mr. McNeil you're up next.

ESTHER MCNEIL: I got a couple things tonight. Esther McNeil, 304 East Arch Street Mansfield. There has been some people that been asking me to ask you why is it that there apartments building in their neighborhood and they didn't know anything about it. I guess up on 4th, 5th in that area. I noticed the apartments myself. And off of Park Avenue. I can tell you the gentleman that built them down on Park Avenue said he kept going till somebody changed the code. The...the...how would you say, the zoning. Somebody changed the zoning so he could build the apartments down there. And this is happening in the

5th and 6th ward. Somebody knows why their changing the zoning in these wards. Just in these two wards that I'm familiar with. Why is that? Who deals with the zoning up here.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. McNeil please remember nobody's going to answer. Just go ahead and address up with your concerns

ESTHER MCNEIL: Another question, is the homeowners going to have to pay higher taxes for this. These instruments if we get them. I'm asking the City, are our taxes going to go up if we get these here instruments to put in the cars? Trucks.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Again, Mr. McNeil, somebody will get back to you on that. I think maybe your council lady, I'll volunteer her to respond to that at a later time.

ESTHER MCNEIL: Ok. I would...my time has run up right?

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Pretty close.

ESTHER MCNEIL: The park. I'm hoping that some other parks in the city gets some money and then our taxes are going to go up for that. I was out of the city for two months and my water bill went up. I wasn't even here and my water bill went up.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. McNeil. We have Timothy McKey next.

TIMOTHY MCKEY: My name is Timothy McKey. I live at 1047 Laurelwood Road. Forgive me if I read this, I'm a writer and not a speaker, but it is no less heartfelt. I came here today to commend Council for the action they have taken to address our City's water system. I know it's never easy to tell people that their bills are going to go up. But what you have done is absolutely necessary to our health and safety. I know this because two weeks ago I went to the City's water treatment plant, they were kind enough to take me on a tour and I saw for myself exactly how it works. Exactly what is broken. Exactly what has been repaired and what is to be upgraded. I heard about the challenges they face. And their relationship with the Federal and State Agencies that oversee their operations. It was abundantly clear to me how lucky we have been. I grew up in Mansfield and always taken for granted the unending water supply. It wasn't until I lived in California that I came to understand how critical water can be and how delicate the system is that delivers it. Here in Mansfield we are extremely fortunate to have so much water and part of our good fortune is you, City Council, for taking responsible action. I am not alone in thanking you.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. McKey, we appreciate that. Eric Miller is up next.

ERIC MILLER: Thank you, I'm Eric Miller. I live at 693 Coleman Road in Mansfield. And I also with to thank you. In this case I actually thank you because my water bill went up because even after it went up, its less than my gas bill, my electric bill or my cable tv bill. And these other utilities are not fundamental to keeping me alive, but water is. So, our water treatment plant, and I've seen this from touring it and talking to people. It was on a glide path to disaster. An eventual failure. And had we delayed these repairs until it failed, then we would have had to of paid for bottled water. Now I know people complain about their water bill being obtuse and they don't know what the break down is. But if our water plant failed and you were buying it...buying your water by the bottle at the store, the break down would be pretty clear. \$2 a gallon, you'd know exactly what you were paying. But were a lot better off if we pay now with a higher water rate to keep our water plant working. Now, we still have old water mains in our city. And these old water mains are creating a fire hazard. There leaking. There breaking down all the time. We're not providing enough volume of water for the fire department to do their job. And as I mentioned to you folks last year when I started pushing for a water rate increase, I could foresee

at that time that I'd be promptly coming back to you for an income tax increase. And I'm still planning to do that as is another citizens committee. We've got 16 miles of water mains that need to be replaced if we can be assured of delivering the water that our water plant will become capable of reliably providing to us. So, I'll be back to you soon with regard to the next step, which will not be so much your vote, but we will be asking you to ask the citizens to vote on whether or not they are willing to impose an income tax on themselves in order to assure ourselves of a reliable water supply. So, I'll be seeing you again about this between now and your next meeting. And thank you very much

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. Miller. Alright. Looks like that's the conclusion of public comments. Thank you everyone for staying within guidelines. Alright. Any committee reports this evening? Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR THEAKER: I have a proc...no I don't have a proclamation.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: No more?

MAYOR THEAKER: No, I have nothing else. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Remy?

DIRECTOR REMY: I have nothing, sir.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Alright, Deputy Director Brown?

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR KEMERER: No thank you sir.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Alright, lets proceed with legislation. Mrs. Burns do we have any late bills?

LATE BILLS

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President. I move with respect to bill 23-061 that the rule requiring legislation be submitted by Monday at 4:00 pm be suspended and that bill 23-061 be allowed on the floor tonight. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

SUSPEND RULES

LAURA BURNS: Yes sir. I move with respect to all bills that come before council this evening that the rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended and that each bill be read one time by title only. Seconded by Mrs. Meier. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 6, Nays: 0

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Let's go to Mr. Scott for the first piece of legislation this evening, 23-060. Starting with bill 23-060.

PHIL SCOTT: Thank you Mr. President. I move that bill 23-060 placed on the floor for discussion.

AURELIO DIAZ: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read bill 23-060.

AMY YOCKEY: Honoring Gary Foster upon his retirement from the City of Mansfield Clearfork Reservoir Division.

HONORING GARY FOSTER

BY: MR. SCOTT

BILL #23-060

ORDINANCE: 23-061

Honoring Gary Foster upon his retirement from the City of Mansfield Clearfork Reservoir Division.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott that Bill 23-060 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Any further questions or comments? I'm sorry Mr. Foster wasn't able to attend. I've known him a long time. I'm glad we've been able to take a moment and recognize him. If there's nothing else, Mr. Scott.

DISCUSSION:

PHIL SCOTT: Once again thank you Mr. President. I move that bill 23-060 be placed upon the floor for final passage.

AURELIO DIAZ: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's moved and seconded. No further discussion, we'll go ahead and vote to honor Gary Foster. And we have 7 that time to 0, passes. And the Clerks would appreciate it if one person did all the seconding. But it is more exciting for her to try and figure out who it is. Alright, we got that one.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Let's go on to Ms. Moton for 23-061.

KIM MOTON: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-061 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

AURELIO DIAZ: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk may now read bill 23-061.

AMY YOCKEY: Amending Section 5 of Ordinance No. 23-006 adopting personnel positions, pay grades, and salaries for certain employees of the City of Mansfield 2023 payroll year, by retitling and increasing the pay grade for a position in the Clearfork Reservoir Division, and declaring an emergency.

AMENDING SECTION 5 OF ORDINANCE NO. 23-006

BY: MS. MOTON

BILL #23-061

ORDINANCE: 23-062

Amending Section 5 of Ordinance No. 23-006 adopting personnel positions, pay grades, and salaries for certain employees of the City of Mansfield 2023 payroll year, by retitling and increasing the pay grade for a position in the Clearfork Reservoir Division, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Ms. Moton that Bill 23-061 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Is there any questions or comments? Hearing none, Ms. Moton.

DISCUSSION:

KIM MOTON: Thank you Mr. President. I move bill 23-061 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

AURELIO DIAZ: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. No further discussion. We'll go ahead and vote on 23-061. Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Davenport, 23-062.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-062 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

AURELIO DIAZ: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you. It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read bill 23-062.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Interim Safety-Service Director to accept and appropriate a donation from the Richland Community Development Group Inc. in the amount of twenty-thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$20,000.00) for the Canine Donation Fund.

CANINE DONATION FUND

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL #23-062

ORDINANCE: 23-063

Authorizing the Interim Safety-Service Director to accept and appropriate a donation from the Richland Community Development Group Inc. in the amount of twenty-thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$20,000.00) for the Canine Donation Fund.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 23-062 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Any further questions or comments? Hearing none, Mr. Davenport

DISCUSSION:

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President. I move bill 23-062 be placed on the floor for final consideration.

AURELIO DIAZ: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. If there's no further discussion, lets vote on 23-062. Bill passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Davenport, 23-063.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-063 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

AURELIO DIAZ: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk shall read 23-063.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Interim Safety-Service Director to purchase, according to STS pricing contract criteria, from Jim Shorkey Auto Group, four (4) 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD Vehicles for the Police Department, and declaring an emergency.

FOUR VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL #23-063

ORDINANCE: 23-064

Authorizing the Interim Safety-Service Director to purchase, according to STS pricing contract criteria, from Jim Shorkey Auto Group, four (4) 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD Vehicles for the Police Department, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 23-063 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Any further comments? Hearing none, Mr. Davenport.

DISCUSSION:

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President. I move bill 23-063 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

AURELIO DIAZ: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. We may now proceed to vote on 23-063. Passes 7-0. Alright.

CHRIS BROWN: Council President if I may? I just want to preserve for the record on bill 23-061, I think what was reflected on the screen and read aloud did not include increasing the salary for a position in the Engineering Division. And just again we don't have to redo the vote. It was discussed in caucus and committee but just preserving it for the record.

AMY YOCKEY: Yea that was my fault. I did not update the summary sheet when we got this one.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Alright, thank you for updating the record. Is there anything else to come before council this evening? Hearing nothing I'll entertain a motion to close.

PHIL SCOTT: Move to close.

CHERYL MEIER: Second

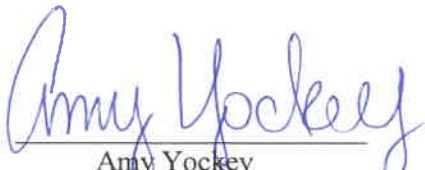
PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. Scott, Mrs. Meier's second. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: We're closed at 7:50 pm. Thank you for attending this evening.

END OF DISCUSSION

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Meier, and passed by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned.



Amy Yockey
Clerk of Council



David Falquette
President