

COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 21, 2007

The second regular May meeting of the Mannington City Council with Councilman At Large Bob Garcia presiding was held Monday, May 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Council members attending were Denny Efaw, Betty Liller, Denny Powell and Michelle Rosier.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty read the minutes of the last regular meeting and they stood approved as read.

Several representatives from Marion County Parks & Recreation were present to ask council to reconsider funding the playground program. They said 26 kids participated at Hough Park last year. The program runs from June 18 through July 27. Garcia told them that would involve amending next year's budget and it would be placed on the June 4th agenda.

Rana Taylor said there is still a problem with Marion County Animal Control picking up cats in town. She said they trapped the animals but Animal Control would not pick them up. Rosier said she would call them tomorrow since she had talked to them previously about the problem and they had agreed to begin picking them up.

Jami Trowbridge requested more police patrol on High Street between 2:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. because there is a problem with high school kids speeding while the buses are unloading in the area. It was agreed that a school crossing sign or a bus stop sign should be placed by the Bowers Bridge.

Jim Hayes said the Sponaugle property on Mannington Avenue is in bad condition and the code enforcement officer needs to inspect it again.

Johnna Moore asked for a Slow Children Playing sign on First Street in Jericho plus she asked that the road be fixed where the city repaired a leak.

Leisha Elliott, the Mannington Pool Manager, showed council the new brochures promoting the park and pool. She provided copies for distribution at city hall.

Garcia read the written Street/Water Department report.

Chief of Police David James reported that Patrolman Andy Kolb graduated from the police academy with a grade average of 94 and a range score of 95. He also gave the department's monthly report in which it was noted that they received 179 calls for assistance in April.

Fluharty said that early, “no-excuse” voting is currently available in her office weekdays plus she will be open on Saturday, May 26 and Saturday, June 2 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to vote early.

The first item under Old Business was the Promise For Kids grant project. Fluharty reported that a meeting of all parties involved was recently held with Mayor Stafford and it was agreed to shift the focus of the grant from a community center to an outdoor classroom to be located next to the Mannington Library. She said council’s okay is required. Rosier made the motion to approve the plan for the outdoor classroom. Liller seconded the motion and all approved.

The Bowers grant application was discussed. It was suggested that a list of allowable projects be reviewed but Fluharty said she was not aware of any such list. Councilman Efaw said he would talk to Mark Morris to see what projects would be considered most favorably. Since the deadline is June 15, the final decision as to what the city will apply for must be made at the next council meeting.

Under new business, Chief James said he, along with Mayor Stafford, is recommending Donald Efaw for the part time patrolman position. He is 20 years old and from Mannington. James said he would like to get him hired and trained before Officer Davis is scheduled to report to the academy on September 4. Liller made the motion to hire Donald Efaw subject to a six month probation. Efaw seconded the motion and all approved. Powell abstained.

Garcia read a letter from the Board of Education which advocated a reduced speed limit on High Street. James said that High Street is outside of the school zone and the lower speed limit would not apply. Instead, he recommended that a four way stop be made at the intersection of High and Locust. He said that would slow down the traffic. It was also agreed that a new crosswalk for the Rail Trail needs to be painted on High Street. Efaw made the motion to accept the chief’s recommendation to establish a four way stop at the intersection of High & Locust plus to repaint the crosswalk on High Street. Rosier seconded the motion and it carried.

Efaw made the motion to adjourn. Powell seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.