

City Council Meeting of July 30, 2007

The first regular August meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Monday, July 30, 2007. The meeting was changed due to the fair parade. Council members attending were Bob Garcia, Robbie Ice, Terry Starsick and Del Watson.

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

Randy Watson of Thrasher Engineering presented Requisition #13 for payment from the Small Cities Block Grant for the water project in the amount of \$8,647.44. Garcia made the motion to approve the Pay Requisition. Watson seconded the motion and it carried.

Several visitors were present including Michelle Rosier who expressed concern about Loretta Wells' partially burned house in Sycamore. Mayor White said a hearing with Ms. Wells was held prior to this evening's council meeting. She was given thirty days to make significant improvement to the property.

George Rinehart reported loose boards on the Brookside Bridge plus he asked about the status of the former Longstreth building on Pyles Avenue. He said safety issues exist there. Finally, he asked what could be done about the Buffalo Creek bank erosion. Mayor White said that he could ask the Department of Highways to inspect the Brookside Bridge to see if there are any structural problems or just loose boards. He said the Longstreth building is a definite problem. The short term solution may be to have the city crew secure the doors but White added that his long term goal will be to try his best to get rid of it. White asked Chief of Police David James to address the erosion problem since he is a member of the Upper Buffalo Watershed Association. James said there are no immediate plans to dredge Buffalo Creek but they are trying to get plant growth removed from the creek and its banks. He said the residents of Brookside have already said they do not want the banks rip-rapped. James suggested Rinehart call the Soil Conservation District.

Main Street Director Rana Taylor reported that Mike Giolus will be coming to town next week to discuss the possibility of adding Clayton Addition to the National Registry. If it is added, property owners will be eligible for tax credits to work on their homes.

Al Wolfe and Ron Powell said the Fair Board is putting up a fence that will cut off an alley that runs by their properties. They have no problem with the fence but

said a removable gate is needed. Powell also asked for a speed bump, especially the week of the fair, on Maple Avenue. The mayor asked Street/Water Superintendent Charlie Rexrode to put down an asphalt speed bump. He will also direct Code Enforcement Officer Anthony Horton to notify the Fair Board that they must get a permit for the fence. The gate will be addressed at that time. Wolfe added that the sidewalk along the fairgrounds is in dire shape.

Chief Plant Operator Ted Nice said that the Hach maintenance contract will be coming up for renewal shortly. He also thanked Scott Aldridge, John Downs and Greg Music for filling in for him while he was on vacation.

Libby Glover said she understood that First Street in Hough Addition was to be discussed at tonight's meeting. She presented newspaper clippings when the matter was discussed in the 1980's and a compromise was reached whereby it is closed for six months and opened for six months. Glover, who owns property that borders First Street, said she would like it to remain that way. Phyllis Hearn who lives next to First Street said she wants it closed all year. Mayor White said that the closing of the street was recently approved by the Planning Commission and was to be recommended to City Council but since the chairman was not present tonight, it will not be discussed.

In his report, Mayor White reported that the city received \$15,000 from the Bowers Trust for sidewalks in Southside. He also noted that he and city council met with the state delegates two weeks ago concerning the old state road garage. A letter was sent to the State DOH asking them to give the property to the city. Their response said they could not sell it until it is cleaned up because of environmental concerns.

The Street/Water Department's written report was reviewed.

Under old business, the only item of business was the second and final reading of Ordinance #384 which establishes a Laborer III position. Garcia made the motion to read the heading only. Ice seconded the motion and it carried. Fluharty read the heading. Garcia then made the motion to adopt Ordinance #384. Watson seconded the motion and all approved.

Appointments to the Planning Commission were the next item on the agenda. Mayor White said that Miles Cunningham has declined to be reappointed and the Commission has recommended that Leisha Elliott be appointed to fill his slot. Pete Beaty's term has also expired and White said he would recommend that he be reappointed. After some discussion as to whether the vacancy was posted, it was agreed to table any action on Cunningham's replacement until a notice is put in the

Times-West Virginian. Garcia made the motion to reappoint Pete Beaty to another three-year term. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried.

The Planning Commission recommendation that a Middle School Task Force be created to work toward keeping the Mannington Middle School in town was discussed. Garcia made the motion to create the task force. Starsick seconded the motion and all approved. A notice will be put in the newspaper asking for volunteers to serve on the task force.

Mayor White asked for the authorization to advertise for a part time position in the Street Department. He said there were several maintenance jobs in town that he would like to see done before winter arrives and the city crew is tied up with their regular maintenance jobs. He said the temporary position would not extend past two months. Garcia made the motion to authorize the advertisement for a temporary Street Department position. Watson seconded the motion and it carried.

Chief James said another part time patrolman is needed to fill in when Shawn Davis goes to the academy in September and again when Don Efaw goes in 2008. Garcia made the motion to advertise the part time patrolman position. Starsick seconded the motion and all approved.

Mayor White asked for an executive session to discuss personnel. The time was 8:10 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:47 p.m. Garcia made the motion to adjourn. Watson seconded the motion and it carried. The next regular meeting will be held on August 20, 2007.