

## Council Meeting of October 15, 2007

The second regular October meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Monday, October 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Council members in attendance were Bob Garcia, Robbie Ice, Betty Liller, Terry Starsick and Del Watson.

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

Ernie Michael of Northern Sales said he had received a letter from the code enforcement officer asking him to straighten up the Virginia Avenue lot that he rents from Eric Efaw. While he said he didn't have a problem with the reason behind the letter, he did feel that he should be given at least fifteen days, not five, to clean up the lot plus he asked why Horton did not come to see him instead of sending a certified letter. Michael said better communication is needed. Mayor White asked what the city could do for him at this point. Michael said that he had already talked to Horton and worked everything out. Councilman Starsick suggested that the code enforcement officer should notify violators verbally the first time and then if no response, do it by certified letter. Garcia said people object to the wording in the last paragraph of the letter. Mayor White said he would ask Horton to soften his letter and to initially approach people in person.

Cara Starsick presented a copy of her deed and the plat map for the street where the wall needs repaired on Franklin Street. Mayor White said he and Horton looked it over today plus two local contractors are preparing a proposal to repair it. Starsick said the stump in her yard can be removed, if necessary.

Ernie Michael thanked the mayor and council for addressing the water run-off problem by his business. He said it corrected 90% of the problem.

The mayor read the written Street/Water Department report.

Fluharty reported that the street sweeper is to be delivered this week.

Under new business, Mayor White asked for authorization to bid out the sidewalk project that will be funded by the \$15,000 from the Bowers Trust grant. The sidewalk in front of the library and on both sides of the Outdoor Classroom lot is to be replaced. He said it would be approximately ½ block. Liller made the motion to authorize the mayor to advertise for bids for this

project. Ice seconded the motion and it carried. Liller asked about the sidewalk in front of the school. White said the Board of Education has been notified at least twice about it and they promised to replace it before school went back into session in August. It was suggested that they be contacted again.

Mayor White asked that the temporary Street Department position that was established for a two month period be made permanent and advertised as such. Garcia made the motion to authorize the advertisement of a full time position in the Street Department. Ice seconded the motion and it carried.

Fluharty said the Audit Selection Committee is recommending that Tetrick & Bartlett be selected to do the city's 2005-06 and 2006-07 audits. Garcia made the motion to accept the committee's recommendation and hire Tetrick & Bartlett to do the two-year audit. Starsick seconded the motion and all approved.

White said that the Sanitary Board is experiencing low funds and does not have the money to pay for recent expensive pump repairs and the purchase of a flow meter. He said they have made a strong effort to use their money wisely but it looks like a rate increase of 12-15% will be necessary. He said if a rate increase is put off, the percentage may be larger. White added that the Board is going to advertise for an engineering firm to look into increasing their customer base area. Garcia asked why the Board sends their pumps to Charleston for repair. White said the plant operator shops around for the least expensive place to send them. Starsick said he would like more information, including a financial report, before making a decision on a rate increase.

The final item of business was two more appointments to the Mannington Middle School Task Force. White recommended that Nell & Ken Baker be appointed to the task force. Liller made the motion to accept the mayor's recommendation and appoint the Bakers. Garcia seconded the motion and all approved.

Ice made the motion to adjourn. Liller seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.