

Council Meeting of November 5, 2007

The first regular November meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Monday, November 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. 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 regular and special meetings and they stood approved as read.

The first portion of the meeting was allotted to the visitors. Ron Powell asked about the status of the fence placed on the alley by the Fair Board in Grandview. He said that Fair Board President Bob Thorne came to his place of business and said that the gate will remain locked. Powell said he should have the right to use the alley. Mayor White said that the Planning Commission's and City Council's 1998 decision still stands regarding the alley. He added that if the Fair Board feels the need to lock the gate then they should provide keys to adjoining property owners. Councilman Starsick said the Fair Board is denying residents access to a public alley. The mayor said he would have the code enforcement officer look into the situation again. In the meantime, if an emergency arises whereby access is needed to the alley, it would be within that person's rights to cut the lock.

George Rinehart asked about the former Longstreth property on Pyles Avenue. Mayor White updated Rinehart on the recent court proceedings regarding that property. He added that he would like to apply for a Brownfield grant to clean up the property if the owners fail to respond to the fines being levied. The building has been boarded up by the city.

Main Street Manager Rana Taylor said the annual Christmas parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 1.

Under the mayor's report, White said that a copy of the code enforcement officer's letter was sent to the city attorney for review and his only suggestion was that the word "will" be changed to "may" as it refers to a warrant being issued. The attorney agreed that you must advise violators of the repercussions of noncompliance. White added that he hopes personal contact by the code enforcement officer will reduce the paperwork. Concerning the Sanitary Board's need for a rate increase, White said Bennett & Dobbins, a Fairmont accounting firm, is preparing a financial report for council to review. White also reported that he contacted Region Six concerning an application for funding to replace the Northview Bridge. Street/Water Superintendent

Charles Rexrode said that the bridge is on private property. The mayor also noted that the new street sweeper was used last week and had good results. He said it was discouraging that after the sweeper was run throughout town, residents were putting leaves back into the streets when they raked them. He said verbal warnings from the police department may be necessary.

Jim Troy gave the fire department's monthly report. They responded to twenty calls in October.

Mayor White read the written Street/Water Department report and he noted that Rexrode and Jim Gill attended a week long class in Ripley on water system maintenance.

Chief of Police David James gave his department's October report in which he said they received 191 calls for assistance during the month.

Under old business, Mayor White said he met with Ernie Martin concerning the wall behind Starsick's house on Marshall Street and they came up with a plan to fix the problem. Martin Repair's quote to fix the wall came in at \$2,448 and White recommended that it be accepted. He said other contractors were contacted but they did not submit a proposal. Starsick made the motion to accept Martin Repair's proposal. Liller seconded the motion and all approved.

Councilman Starsick said he would like to invite the members of the Bowers Trust Committee to a city meeting to explain what they look for in the applications and what can be done to enhance the chance of being funded. He said area organizations could be invited to attend also. Fluharty is to write a letter.

A quote from Jayhawk Software for an upgrade to the utility billing program that will provide for an additional message line on the bills was reviewed. Fluharty said there is only room now for one abbreviated message and this will allow more information to be sent to the city's customers. Garcia made the motion to accept the quote from Jayhawk Software in the amount of \$ 475. Starsick seconded the motion and all approved.

Under new business, White recommended that Michael Williams be hired as a full time Laborer 1. Garcia made the motion to accept the mayor's recommendation and hire Williams as a Laborer 1 subject to a 90-day probation. Liller seconded the motion and all approved.

Leisha Elliott, a member of the Trailhead Project Review Committee, said the committee recommends Thrasher Engineering as the consultant for the design phase of the project. She said seven proposals were received and four firms were interviewed. Liller made the motion to accept the committee's recommendation and hire Thrasher Engineering as consultants pending negotiation of the fee. Garcia seconded the motion and it carried.

White reported that the Sanitary Board's secretary has retired and in an effort to control their costs, the Board would like to subcontract out their clerical work to the city clerk's office on a 90-day trial basis. He said the position would be part time and would be under the city clerk's supervision. Starsick said it sounded like a win-win situation to him and it may avert the need for a sewer rate increase. Garcia made the motion to accept the Sanitary Board's proposal to subcontract their clerical services subject to a 90 day trial. Ice seconded the motion and it carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.