

Council Meeting of January 22, 2008

The second regular January meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Tuesday, January 22, 2008 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 regular meeting and they stood approved as read.

County Commissioner Randy Elliott was present to give a brief report on the Fairmont/Mannington joint water project. He said CSX has been the hold-up in securing the necessary rights of way but Fairmont's utility director feels that it will be settled within the week. Elliott repeated his belief that the only logical solution to Mannington's water problem is to go with Fairmont. Garcia said he did not believe that Fairmont can provide sufficient, clean water for Mannington. Elliott said Fairmont has room for expansion with their new plant and they are correcting the problems that occurred last year. He added that if Mannington does nothing, the city will be out of water one of these days because of the condition of their plant and because there is not a sufficient water source.

Mayor White reported that the Sanitary Board is regrouping and trying to get back on their feet financially. He told council that in order to relieve the expense of taking the sludge to the landfill, the Board will be renting the city's diesel truck one day a month for a fee of \$ 75 plus they will fill it with gasoline. The two Sanitary Board employees will be added to the city's insurance policy.

White said he had been contacted by Dan Talbott from the Marion County Parks & Recreation concerning certification classes to operate the pool. They are scheduled for March 4 & 5 and White suggested that the park board send someone to the class. White said he would like to see the Park Board submit a funding request to MCPARC this year.

Under department reports, Fire Chief Jim Moran said his department had 17 calls for assistance in the month of December.

The mayor read the Street/Water Department report. He told Superintendent Rexrode to get the number from the left pole on Water Street to submit to Allegheny Power for the new street light.

Chief of Police David James gave his December report. He said they received 121 calls for the month plus 2079 calls for all of 2007. It was reported that the police department is working on a lead on the Water Street hit & run accident.

Fluharty reported that the FY 2005-06 & FY 2006-07 audits are ongoing and asked council to complete their conflict of interest questionnaire before leaving tonight's meeting.

Under old business, Moran said his department did not find either bid acceptable for the new fire truck. He said they may go with two smaller trucks but he will report to council when a decision is made.

The next item on the agenda was the proposal from Gustafson & Associates for the trailhead design/inspection. Starsick made the motion to accept the proposal. Liller seconded the motion. Liller & Starsick voted yes, Garcia & Watson voted no. Ice did not vote. Garcia said he wanted to table it until there is proof as to who owns the property where the trailhead will be located. He said he did not want to spend tax payer's money on property that the city did not own. Fluharty said the city's lease is with Consol for use of the right of way and Elliott confirmed that Consol owns that section of the old railroad tracks. Chief of Police David James said he was in the meeting with former Mayor Carl Cole and Consol's Neil Jenkins when the right of way agreement was signed.

A quote from Hughes Supply for a two station meter test bench and 100 gallon test tank was presented for council's approval. Fluharty said \$6,000 had been included in the budget for the purchase. Garcia made the motion to purchase the test bench/test tank for \$5,579.26 from Hughes Supply. Ice seconded the motion and it carried.

Quotes to remove a tree on Walnut Avenue in Grandview were reviewed. Councilman Starsick said he looked the tree over and agreed that it does need to be cut down. Starsick made the motion to accept the proposal from John's Tree Service in the amount of \$875 to cut down and remove the tree. Liller seconded the motion and it carried.

Ice made the motion to adjourn. Garcia seconded the motion and all approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.