

## COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2008

The first regular January meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Bob Garcia, Robbie Ice, Terry Starsick and Del Watson.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty read the minutes of the last meeting and they stood approved as read. Felicia Ramage asked why more of the conversation between her sister and Chief James was not included in the minutes. Mayor White explained that the minutes are not verbatim but just a condensed version of the meeting.

Bob Thorne, president of the Mannington Fair Board, was present concerning the controversy over the fence/gate that the Board put on the alley in Grandview. He said the alley has not been used in 75 years. He said they put the gate up to curb vandalism and to eliminate the liability of 4-wheelers on the Board's property. Mayor White said that he would like to reconcile the property owners and the Fair Board. He asked if the Board would provide keys to the abutting property owners and Thorne said he would not have a problem with that. The issue as to whether the alley was accessible was discussed. Councilman Starsick said the alley had never been abandoned so it doesn't matter whether it is accessible or not. White said it may be better to keep the gate locked if there is a vandalism problem. He suggested that Thorne give a key to Superintendent Charlie Rexrode so that keys can be made for the abutting property owners that want access to the alley.

Mayor White also addressed the issue of changing the parade route for this year's fair. He told Thorne that blocking Route 250 for an extended period of time is a problem and suggested that a new route be drawn up now so that the problems that ensued the day before the parade last year are eliminated. Thorne said he would be willing to meeting with city officials to discuss a change in the route. Starsick asked about cleaning up after the horses. Thorne said they tried that but it is dangerous because of the traffic after the parade. White said he would form a committee to discuss changes to the upcoming parade.

Felicia Ramage read a letter concerning the hit and run accident that injured her sister Sherry Williams. She expressed her concern over the police department's handling of the investigation. Mayor White said he would like to discuss some of the issues in her letter but Ramage said that she preferred to leave at this point. White reported that the street light request for that area of Water Street was discussed in the work session held prior to this meeting and everyone agreed that another light should be added there. He added that police/community communication is a high priority for him and he would do a follow-up with Chief of Police David James.

Charlie Hall said more traffic control is needed in Homewood especially in the morning and when the school buses are unloading students. He said dirt bikes are also a problem in that neighborhood.

The first item of business was the opening of the bids for a new fire truck. Bids received were:

Advantech	\$ 317,928
Smeal	331,706

Watson made the motion to accept the low bid contingent upon review of the bids by the Fire Department committee. Garcia seconded the motion and it carried. Ice abstained. Fire Chief Jim Moran said he would bring back the bids with a recommendation next week.

Chief Moran gave his department's annual report in which he noted that they received 196 emergency calls for the year which amounted to 178 hours and 7 minutes in man-hours. Moran also recounted some of the actions by the Williams family the night of the hit and run but said he excused them due to the nature of the accident.

Fluharty advised council that letters were sent out this week to businesses that reportedly had wells advising them that back flow preventers were required to prevent any risk of contamination to the city's water system. This was necessary to comply with the WV Health Department's cross-connection policy regulations.

The first item under new business was the proposal from Gustafson & Associates, Inc for the design of the trail head. Fluharty said council had already accepted the committee's recommendation to go with this firm but this was their cost proposal for the project. She said it was in the guidelines of 10 – 12% of the total project cost according to the WV Development Office. Discussion then followed as to the use of the trail and the maintenance of the trailhead. Main Street Manager Rana Taylor said the decision to proceed had already been made. This was just to accept the bid for the design. Fluharty added that the money had already been granted by the state and the city's portion has been sent to Charleston so no additional funds from the city will be spent. Upon suggestion by Garcia, the proposal was tabled so that council could review it.

The final item of business was General Fund Budget Revision #3. Fluharty said this was necessary to increase the police department's supply account so that ammunition could be purchased for training at the range. Garcia made the motion to approve the revision as presented. Watson seconded the motion and it carried.

Ice made the motion to adjourn. Watson seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.