

Special Meeting of March 24, 2008

A special meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Monday, March 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Council members attending were Bob Garcia, Betty Liller, Robbie Ice, Terry Starsick and Del Watson.

The only item on the agenda was the adoption of the FY 2008-09 budgets. Mayor White said the first reading of the budget was approved at the March 10 meeting but the vote deadlocked on the second reading held on March 17. He said the city clerk contacted Ora Ash, the director of the State Auditor's Office, who said council must meet until the budget is adopted. Ash said failure to publish the levy estimate and mail it to his office by March 28 would result in the withholding of the city's property taxes for next fiscal year. That amount would be \$119,808. White said he would once again recommend that the FY 2008-09 budgets be approved as presented with the 5% raise included. Starsick made the motion to accept the mayor's recommendation and adopt the budgets as presented. Liller seconded the motion. White asked for any discussion. Ice said he was not in favor of the 5% raise but would prefer the 3% raise. White said it is too late to re-do the budgets and still meet the March 28 deadline. Starsick & Liller voted yes, Watson and Ice voted no. Garcia did not vote. Visitor Jim Taylor asked why Ice would want to give the employees a 3% raise if they could afford a 5% one. Harold Rosencrance also asked Ice to explain why he wanted the 3%. Ice said he did not have to explain his decision. Taylor said Ice was elected to represent his precinct and he should give a reason to the voters. Watson said he would like to begin the budget process sooner next year. Garcia said he would vote for the budget now with the understanding that it be reviewed in July. White asked for another vote on the budget. Starsick's motion then passed on a vote of four to one with Ice voting no.

Garcia made the motion to adjourn. Ice seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting will stand adjourned until April 15 when the levy rates must be set by law.