

## COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2009

The second regular January meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Bob Garcia, Betty Liller, Harold Rosencrance and Del Watson.

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

Rhonda Martin said that Linda Palmer's house on Fairfield Drive needs cleaned up. She also asked if the city has a law about property owners cleaning their sidewalks. Mayor White said there is a code section that requires that sidewalks be kept clear but many senior citizens in town cannot do so. White said a citation was issued to James Early about the junk by the Hough Bridge and most of it has been removed. Councilman Rosencrance said it is still an eyesore along the creek. Fluharty said she spoke to Early today and he agreed to clean it up.

Main Street Director Jim Taylor said before he can proceed with plans for a skate park, a location must be set. He talked to Grant Town's Mayor Bob Riggs who said they had insurance with Accordia but he did not know any details. He also gave Taylor information on a Tony Hawk grant. Mayor White said he would like to see the city acquire a piece of property and then let Marion County Parks & Rec put in the park and be responsible for it. He added that Mannington residents pay for the parks program through their levy rates but get very little in return. Taylor asked if the old tennis court at Hough Park is out of the question. He said a new layer of asphalt is needed but it would be a good start and since it has no lights, it could not be used at night, which would alleviate some of the residents' concerns. Taylor said he would check with some other towns about their insurance coverage plus he will get with Leisha Elliott to discuss her prior efforts to get a park. He will also talk to the Marion County Commission concerning funding.

In his report, Mayor White said that there have been very few meetings when a property maintenance issue was not addressed. He said a rental registration program to help alleviate some of those recurring problems would be addressed later in the meeting. He would like the city to be pro-active on this matter and if there is no funding for demolition then he would like to

establish a fund to do projects. In addition, an article will be sent to the newspaper addressing the property maintenance issues and junked cars.

In department reports, Chief of Police David James gave his annual report. Mayor White read the Street & Water Department's written report. Fluharty reported that the 2008 audit is over and the report issued. She said the report stated that the water and sewer rates need increased and the office staff size is inadequate.

In old business, the first item was the trailhead project. Ken Witt who is on the trailhead committee presented the low bid of \$97,760 by Veritas Contracting. He said the committee met with the contractor and architect to discuss ways to reduce the original bid of \$140,000. Witt said the architect recommended that the restrooms and pavilion be built so that city residents can see something concrete and may be more willing to donate toward the project once they can see that it has begun. Mayor White recommended that council accept the bid and proceed with the project. Rosencrance made the motion to accept the bid by Veritas Contracting and authorize the project to proceed. Garcia seconded the motion and it carried.

Under new business, the proposals for new phone service were first. Fluharty said she contacted Fibernet, Citynet and Verizon but only the first two responded. The difference between the two proposals is \$3 but Fluharty said Citynet's includes hosting the city's website, which means an additional savings of \$239. Garcia made the motion to accept Citynet's proposal. Rosencrance seconded the motion and it carried.

Street & Water Superintendent Charles Rexrode presented quotes for supplies to replace the Peanut water line. Mayor White said he would like to put the project on hold until spring and in the meantime, he asked Rexrode to talk to the homeowners in Peanut. He asked Fluharty to put it back on the agenda in April.

White said a copy of Fairmont's code that sets up a rental registration program is in council's folder for their review. He asked for authorization to contact the city attorney to create an ordinance for such a program in Mannington. He said it would include a one time per year inspection fee of \$50 for single units or \$100 for multi-family units that would be assessed to the property owner. Garcia made the motion to authorize the city attorney to draw up a rental registration ordinance. Liller seconded the motion and it carried.

Chief James said that ordinance should include the stipulation that garbage service be the responsibility of the property owner. It was agreed to include that in the regulations.

Garcia made the motion to adjourn. Rosencrance seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.