

COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2008

The second regular November meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Monday, November 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Council members in attendance were Bob Garcia, Betty Liller, Harold Rosencrance, Terry Starsick and Del Watson.

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

In the visitor's portion of the meeting, Main Street Director Jim Taylor said they are sponsoring a contest among the downtown businesses to decorate the Market Street light poles. He reminded the mayor and council that the Christmas parade will be held December 6 and asked that they let him know if they wish to be in the line-up.

County Commissioner Randy Elliott commended Mannington's Main Street Program and said Taylor is doing a great job. He also urged the city to apply to the Marion County Parks & Rec's grant program. The deadline is December 1. Elliott added that the city would have a good chance if they apply for a project for one of the parks in the \$1500 to \$2000 range. Commissioner Elliott also reported that the Commission recently granted \$6000 to the Sanitary Board for a partial I & I Study. Mayor White thanked Elliott for his help and said the Sanitary Board wants to conduct the study in the problem areas of Southside and Hough Addition.

In his report, White said Mark Dunigan called to thank the city crew for the berm job that was recently completed by his residence to help with water run-off.

The written Street/Water Department and Police Department reports were read by the mayor.

Fluharty said Taylor has asked for permission to temporarily remove three parking signs on Market Street so the light poles can be decorated. She said the chief of police gave his okay but she wanted to run it by council. No one had any objections. Fluharty also said she telephoned several of the businesses who are delinquent in the payment of their gross sales taxes.

The first item under old business was Pay Requisition #22. Rosencrance made the motion to approve payment of Pay Requisition #22 in the amount of \$6,517.29. Liller seconded the motion and it carried on a 3-2 vote. Watson and Garcia voted no. Rosencrance asked the mayor if there was any reason the requisition should not be okayed. White said it was regular expenses incurred by Region Six and Thrasher Engineering for the ongoing water project.

White reported that the insurance adjuster finally appraised the damage to the Dodge Charger cruiser and said it was repairable. He said a question arose about the need for multiple proposals after the chief took the car to a local garage for repairs. In a decision made several months ago, White said council asked the department heads to get three quotes for any expenditure over \$750. He said that procedure was not followed on this

matter but at this point, it is too late to correct that oversight. White said it would be followed in the future.

In new business, the USDA's Statement of Budget & Income was presented for council's review. Fluharty said Bennett & Dobbins prepared it when they did the annual PSC report. Liller made the motion to approve the report as presented. Rosencrance seconded the motion and it carried.

A letter from West Augusta Historical Society requesting a streetlight by the museum was read. Mayor White said he would recommend that the request be approved but wants to do it in a cost effective way. He suggested that another type of light that would cost less than \$10 a year might be an option. Rosencrance made the motion to approve the WAHS's request after determining the most cost effective option. Garcia seconded the motion and it carried.

General Fund/Fire Fund budget revision #2 was reviewed. Fluharty said the revisions were necessary due to the excess funds received for the insurance claim and the recent auction. Liller made the motion to okay the revisions as presented. Garcia seconded the motion and all approved.

Mayor White said he would like to give Christmas bonuses to the city employees but he also wants to manage the city funds wisely. He said the Mead Fund portfolio has decreased by over \$1,000,000 due to the stock market plunge and the interest received this year will be adversely affected. White said he believes in being proactive so he will ask the department heads to approve overtime only as needed and Superintendent Rexrode to talk to his guys about working an occasional afternoon shift if bad weather sets in to reduce some of the overtime. White then recommended that Christmas bonuses of \$100 for full time employees and \$50 for part timers be considered. However, he said he is open to other suggestions from council. Garcia made the motion to grant Christmas bonuses of \$100 to full time employees and \$50 to part time employees. Watson seconded the motion and it carried.

Garcia made the motion to adjourn. Rosencrance seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.