

COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

The first regular September meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Frank White presiding was held Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Council members attending were Betty Liller, Bob Garcia, Robbie Ice, Del Watson and Terry Starsick.

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

Several visitors were present so Mayor White asked that everyone keep their remarks brief.

Main Street Director Rana Taylor said there seems to be more garbage downtown. She suggested an extra trash can be placed there and the cans be emptied on a regular basis.

Mac Spengler asked about the building permit process. He said that his neighbors, the Trowbridges, built a fence before a permit was issued. Spengler added that the codes need to be administered evenly.

Teresa Price presented a letter that she had received from the city's code enforcement officer. Mayor White said it was her option to request a hearing if she did not agree with the notice.

Nassif Rohanna voiced his support for the closing of First Street in Hough Addition or at least, making it one way. He said there was a lot of traffic through the alley late at night.

Larry Smith asked that the court costs assessed to his tenant be waived since he was not able to attend the hearing due to his work and the trash had been cleaned up prior to the hearing. Mayor White agreed to waive the fees but added that he did not want to see any more trash piled there. Smith also asked about the fire hydrant on Monroe Street. Mayor White said the parts have been ordered.

Norm & Maria Gaulin said they wanted something done about the properties owned by Jeff Hayes and Loretta Wells in Sycamore.

Richard and Libby Glover were there to support First Street remaining open.

Kelly Rush said he had also received a letter from the code enforcement officer and while he did not contest the reason for the letter, he did not like the

wording at the bottom. He asked if it was necessary to threaten in the initial letter.

Bub Stout asked about the GED requirement for an employee who has worked for the city for 27 years. Mayor White explained that the requirement was a part of the Employee Handbook and all positions now require a diploma or GED. Existing employees are grandfathered in but if they apply for a new position, they must have a valid diploma or GED.

Under his report, Mayor White said Charles Hall has been sworn in as the new member of the Sanitary Board. He also reported that the notice for the paving bids was sent to the newspaper this week.

Deputy Chief Jim Troy of the MFD gave his department's monthly report.

The written Street & Water Department report was reviewed.

Chief of Police David James gave his department's monthly report and said they had received 189 calls for assistance.

The sweeper bid from Nite-Hawk was discussed. Mayor White said they had dropped the bid price by \$ 2,000 and he suggested that a down payment of \$12,000 be made to lower the payments. Liller made the motion to accept the bid by Nite-Hawk in the amount \$61,865.30 and to make a \$ 12,000 down payment. Starsick seconded the motion and all approved.

White recommended that Bob Garcia and Jean Daniel be appointed to the Mannington Middle School Task Force. Starsick made the motion to appoint Garcia and Daniel to the task force. Ice seconded the motion and it carried. Garcia abstained.

The mayor reported that Chad Hutson has asked to be replaced on the Planning Commission because he does not have the time to attend the meetings and did not feel that it was fair to the other members. White recommended that Leisha Elliott be appointed to fill Miles Cunningham's slot and Jim Taylor to replace Hutson. Liller made the motion to appoint Elliott & Taylor as recommended by the mayor. Garcia seconded the motion and it carried.

Planning Commission Chairman Ken Witt expressed his appreciation to Miles Cunningham for his years of service on the Commission. Witt said the Commission was approached by Councilman Robbie Ice with a request to close First Street in Hough Addition and after considering the proposal, the Commission's recommendation is that First Street in Hough Addition be closed

on a twelve month basis with the understanding that it be open for emergencies. Mayor White asked for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation. It died for lack of a motion.

The state has mandated that an audit selection committee be appointed to review proposals for the city's upcoming audit. The names submitted were Fluharty, Liller and Freda Moore. Garcia made the motion to appoint Fluharty, Liller and Moore to two year terms on the committee. Watson seconded the motion and it carried. Liller abstained.

Fluharty asked for permission to purchase a new copier. Liller made the motion to purchase a copier with a purchase price not to exceed \$4,800. Ice seconded the motion and all approved.

A revision to the General Fund budget is necessary to cover the down payment on the sweeper and the new copier. Garcia made the motion to approve General Fund Budget Revision #2 in the amount of \$ 16,800. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried.

Phyllis Hearn thanked the Fire Department for hosing Park Drive after the fair and asked if residents will be notified when the streets are to be swept. Mayor White said the schedule will be in the paper but that the new sweeper is a vacuum type so dust should not be a major problem.

Mayor White recommended that Jim Gill be upgraded to a Class II employee. Garcia made the motion to accept the mayor's recommendation and to upgrade Gill to Class II Laborer. Liller seconded the motion and all approved.

Mayor White said that since Edward Price has not completed all the requirements for the Assistant to the Superintendent's job within his probation period, he recommends that the position be re-posted. Starsick made the motion to repost the position. Liller seconded the motion. Starsick and Liller voted aye with Garcia, Ice and Watson voting no. The motion did not carry.

Fluharty said the meter reading wand has quit working and it has been recommended that it be replaced instead of refurbished. She said the cost is \$1400 and if ordered now, it should arrive before the meters are scheduled to be read in October. In the meantime, the company is providing a wand to be used this month. Garcia made the motion to purchase the wand from HD Supply. Ice seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor White, along with Chief James, recommended Michael Nicholson for the part time patrolman position. Garcia made the motion to appoint

Nicholson as a part time police officer subject to six month probation. Liller seconded the motion and it carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.