

## COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2007

The second regular March meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Lenny Stafford presiding was held Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Denny Efaw, Bob Garcia, Betty Liller, Denny Powell and Michelle Rosier.

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

Norman Anderson, whose house was recently robbed, was present to address his concern about the lack of police on duty 24/7 in town and the mix-up as to whether his home was located in the city. Chief James responded that since he has a man in the academy and another on sick leave, they are shorthanded but the Marion County Sheriff's Department was to take over on the day in question. Fluharty added that the mix-up was, in part, due to the fact that the building behind his house is out of the city limits while his residence is in. Phyllis Fluharty who lives in Hardesty asked for more police patrol in that area. Richard Stevens said he has called for the police on several occasions and each time, he had to argue with the dispatchers that his house was within the city limits. Mayor Stafford promised that there would be more police patrols in that area of town and that the problem with the dispatch center would be addressed.

Stevens also asked about the status of the water project with Fairmont. Stafford reported that he met with the City Attorney Peter DeMasters who reviewed the agreement with Fairmont and the attorney said that they are not in breach. However, DeMasters did write a letter to Fairmont asking for assurances that the city will have water at all times and if not, Fairmont must provide alternate sources.

Main Street Manager Rana Taylor said that she contacted a contractor to get an estimate on the cost to extend the posts on the section of the Joel McCann Trail that is off of East High Street.

Theresa Price asked why the code enforcement officer was taking pictures of their property. Fluharty said that the city had received several complaints about the condition of the Price property and Horton was checking it out.

Jim Hayes said the speed bumps on Burt Hill need extended because drivers are going around them.

Mayor Stafford read the Street/Water Department's written report.

Under department reports, Fire Chief Jim Moran presented a revised budget for FY 2007-08. He said they have raised enough money to pay off the tanker truck. Moran added that he believed it was dispatcher error in the Anderson b&e because they have had similar problems with them. Jim Troy gave their monthly report. He said their hours for the month of February were 78 hours and 44 minutes.

Chief James gave his department's February report in which they had responded to 161 calls.

Fluharty reported that filing for the upcoming election runs until Tuesday, March 27. Filing has been very light so far.

Under old business, Fluharty said that since a charter amendment to stagger the council terms must be placed on the ballot, there is not enough time to pass an ordinance this year unless a special election is held. Council agreed that was not feasible. The matter will be discussed again prior to the 2009 election.

The final reading of the 2007-08 budgets was the next item on the agenda. Garcia made the motion to approve the budgets as presented. Liller seconded the motion and all approved.

Greg Music, the assistant plant operator, has submitted his resignation and requested a waiver of the 30 day notice requirement. He has agreed to help at the plant whenever possible. Garcia made the motion to accept Music's resignation and to grant the waiver. Liller seconded the motion and all approved.

Fluharty reported that the recent renewal quote from The Health Plan included a 7.5% decrease in the premiums. She said that is the first time that has occurred during her tenure as city clerk.

Mayor Stafford asked for authorization to bid out the sidewalk job by Hicks' residence on Buffalo Street to the Hough Bridge. Liller made the motion to authorize the bids. Garcia seconded the motion and all approved.

Michelle Rosier passed around a notice from the City of Fairmont concerning a past water violation. Mayor Stafford said he would forward a copy to the city attorney.

Plant Operator Ted Nice said that the City of Fairmont needs to be contacted to address John Downs' scheduling so that he can fill in at our plant until we go on line with Fairmont. Downs is an employee with Fairmont who frequently fills in at our plant. Mayor Stafford is to contact Dave Sago.

Garcia made the motion to adjourn. Rosier seconded the motion and all approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.