

COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2007

The first regular March meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Lenny Stafford presiding was held Monday, March 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members present were Denny Efaw, Bob Garcia, Denny Powell and Michelle Rosier.

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

Fire Chief Jim Moran said they are currently holding a raffle and an elimination dinner is set for March 10 to raise money for a new fire truck.

The Street/Water Department's written report was read by the mayor.

Fluharty reported that filing for the June 5 election begins March 12 and runs through March 27.

The first item of business was the public hearing on Ordinance #383 which creates an overlay district along a portion of Route 250. Garcia made the motion to read the heading only. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried. Fluharty read the heading. Mayor Stafford asked for any comments or objections. None were heard. Garcia made the motion to adopt Ordinance #383. Efaw seconded the motion and all approved.

Dave Sago, Utilities Manager for the City of Fairmont, was present to address questions about Fairmont's ongoing water problems. He provided two samples of very brown, murky water. He said that was the quality of water coming into their plant from Grafton. The plant has not been able to treat it because it has clogged the filter membranes. As a result, the levels in their water tanks have declined. Sago added that the only Fairmont residents who were out of water were people who lived above the tank elevations. Their office received calls from approximately 15 people out of water. He assured council that Fairmont is meeting with Xenon, the firm who built their plant, to make sure all the needs are being met. Sago said everything is in place to honor their contract with Mannington. Councilman Garcia asked if they were still planning to bring on Monongah. Sago said they are currently talking to them. They want to be a regional water provider. Rosier asked why the boil water advisory was still in effect. He said it must remain on until everyone is in service. Visitor Jim Yost asked how the customers in Fairmont will feel if water is provided to Mannington and they don't have water. Sago said he was sure they would be upset but Mannington would be drawing water from one of several tanks that supply water to Fairmont's customers. When asked about the recent hook-up with Shinnston, Sago said that was an emergency connection only to tide them over during this crisis. Mayor Stafford asked about a time frame for the line being laid to Mannington. Sago said it was right on schedule with the engineers currently working on the rights of way. The project should begin this summer. Randy Watson asked about a possible rate increase for Mannington. Sago said he couldn't answer that but he did say that the cost of the additional membranes

should not affect Mannington's rates. Fairmont is also working to increase their capacity by 30% and that should all be in place before Mannington comes on line. Watson asked if Mannington would be on line this time next year. Gary Fazalare of Greenhorne & O'Mara said yes, approximately. Mannington's Chief Plant Operator Ted Nice read a letter expressing his concerns with the Fairmont project. Garcia asked where the connection would be. Sago said it would be on Cleveland Avenue and would run to one of their storage tanks. He also added that the new membranes would be done next week. Mayor Stafford thanked Sago for coming and answering everyone's questions. The mayor also said there would be more meetings to keep everyone informed plus he will be meeting with the city attorney to discuss the agreement with Fairmont.

Stafford said a letter is being written to the Marion County Commission expressing the city's dissatisfaction with their policy on cats and asking for a meeting to discuss the problem.

Councilman Garcia asked if the curfew was being enforced because it seemed like a lot of kids are on the streets after 11 p.m.

Mannington Main Street has nominated Joanna Reeves and the West Augusta Historical Society has nominated Karen Murphy Graham for appointment to the Landmark Commission. Mayor Stafford recommended that they be appointed. Garcia made the motion to appoint Reeves and Graham to the Landmark Commission. Rosier seconded the motion and it carried.

Fluharty asked council to consider a charter amendment to stagger the terms of city council so that all the terms do not expire at the same time. Garcia made the motion to authorize the city attorney to research the idea and prepare an ordinance. Powell seconded the motion and all approved.

Garcia made the motion to authorize the bids for mowing at the water plant. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

The final item of business was the 2007-08 budgets. Garcia made the motion to accept the first reading of the budgets. Efaw seconded the motion and all approved. This included the General Fund, Coal Severance Fund, Water Fund, Mead Fund and Fire Fund budgets.

Garcia made the motion to adjourn. Rosier seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.