COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2024

The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held March 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, Anthony Fluharty, Timothy Fluharty, Taylor Garrison and Robin Smith.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Anthony made the motion to approve the minutes. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.

Visitor Ryan Manley said he is still trying to get water and sewer service to his new development adjacent to Homewood Addition. He said in 2016 he was given access to tie onto the city’s water line but that has changed, and he asked how it is now his responsibility for all of the costs. Randy Watson of Thrasher Engineering said the plan was revised to ensure the 30 psi that is required by the PSC. Mayor Michael asked about the status of the Health Department permit and Watson said it takes 30 to 60 days for it to be issued. Manley asked if that is still the case if only two houses are added. Watson said no permit is needed for two houses that are six hundred feet apart. Watson then said he, Water Superintendent Ted Nice and Manley would stay after the meeting to go over the plans.

Watson gave an update on the WVWDA decision to fund the overrun on the Burt Hill Tank Project. He said they did not fund the full amount, so costs had to be reduced. The items removed from the project were the pump station meter, the garage telemetering and the pressure washing of the Koen tank.

Watson said he is also concerned about the contractors finishing the pool by the May deadline. He told them to pick up the pace or else a $1,000 a day penalty will be assessed if not completed by May 17. Manley said the contractor has delayed the concrete work that he was scheduled to do so they may not be able to do the job due to a prior commitment. Watson said he would talk to the contractor about that also.

The first item of Old Business was the second reading of the General Fund and Coal Severance Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2025. Bates made the motion to adopt the FY 2025 General Fund and Coal Severance Fund Budgets. Garrison seconded the motion and it carried.

In New Business, B&K Landworks’ invoice for the demolition of 210 Howard Street and 603 Northview was presented for payment. Tim made the motion to approve the payment of B&K Landworks invoice for $12,000. Anthony seconded the motion and it carried.

Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler recommended that Evan Cochran be hired as a police officer. He said if hired and he completes his agility testing, he will be enrolled in the June class at the academy. Tim made the motion to hire Evan Cochran as a full-time officer subject to completion of the academy training and his probation period. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

Spring Clean Up Day was the last item of New Business. Smith made the motion to set May 18 as the clean up day. Garrison seconded the motion and it carried. Two dumpsters will be set up between the hours of 7 am and 3 pm or until they are full.

Chuck Czienaski, representing the Marion County Beekeepers, asked the city to help sponsor a conference on March 29, 2025. The cost is $250 and will be held at White Hall. His request will be considered at the budget work session set for 6 pm on April 1.

Code Enforcement Officer Christina Shreve reported that she condemned two houses and helped with the removal of eighteen dogs from a house on Burt Hill.

Nice said Tyler Hayes has been doing an excellent job cleaning the streets in Clayton Addition as a community service, Mary Hutson of WV RCAP came to correctly set up the spreadsheet for the Lead & Copper study and three of his guys are preparing for the meter testing class. Councilman Anthony Fluharty asked Nice if they could put in the guardrails at the Dent’s Run Lake. Nice said he would put it on their work schedule.

Wheeler gave his monthly report. He said the new cruiser should be fully equipped by mid-April.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty reported that the Fire Department’s air packs loan has been fully paid off.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Anthony made the motion to approve payment of the bills. Tim seconded the motion and it carried.

Tim made the motion to adjourn. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting will stand adjourned until the April 16th levy meeting. The time was 7:55 p.m.