

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2009

The first October meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Bob Garcia presiding was held Monday, October 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall. Council members present were Jeff Michael, Harry Moore, Larry Smith, Terry Starsick and Rana Taylor.

In the visitors' portion, Randy Watson said he was present to report on the bid opening for the chlorination building. Garcia said that is on the agenda for later in the meeting.

Phyllis Fluharty reported that her water meter top is broken and she asked that the speed bump be removed from Windy Hill Drive. Councilman Michael said he did not know anyone who wanted the speed bump there.

Connie Stevens said she had received a letter from the city clerk about reinstating the monthly service charge to their account. She said according to the county assessor's office, it is a garage. Stevens said the building has no mailing address and they have no plans to rent it. Councilman Starsick said the city is just following the ordinance which states the service charge is assessed whether the building is occupied or not. He said the ordinance would need to be amended and if it is, it should include definitions of houses and storage buildings. He said there is no easy, quick solution. Mayor Garcia said an ordinance must be drawn up if it is to be amended but for now, it stands as is.

In department reports, the mayor read the Street & Water Department report. Chief of Police David James read his September report and noted they had received 151 calls for assistance. Fluharty distributed the FY 2008-09 financial statements.

Starsick asked if any action had been taken to recoup the cost of the damaged downtown light pole. Fluharty said she is still waiting for the information about the damage to the second pole so that both can be taken to Magistrate's Court. Officer Andy Kolb said he is trying to contact the driver.

The only item under old business was Councilman Moore's request that the west end of Beaty Avenue be made one way from Clarksburg Street to Locust Street. When concern was expressed from several citizens, Moore said maybe it could be one way only during school hours. Councilwoman Taylor said that would make it more confusing. Chief of Police David James said accountability of the school kids is the issue. Mayor Garcia asked the chief to look into the problem and report back to council.

In new business, the first item was the award of the bid for the chlorination building. Watson said that a local firm, F & I General Contracting, was the low bidder on the project with a bid of \$49,617.91 and recommended it be accepted. Taylor made the motion to accept F & I Contracting's bid. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried. Watson said F & I has ten days to get a bond and 60 days to complete the building. Councilman Smith asked about the cost of a water meter to put on the city's side of Fairmont's master meter so that the readings can be monitored. Watson said he would estimate that it would cost around \$8000 but he will get prices. He said there are grant funds left to relocate the telemetry to the city garage so that Fairmont's readings can be received daily and to replace the public service district's master meters. He added that he may have found an easier way to chlorinate the water and he will follow up on that at a later date.

Ted Nice's request that the backwash pond at the water plant be cleaned was reviewed. Mayor Garcia told Superintendent Charles Rexrode to have Nice or Jim Gill check the water in the pond for chlorine.

A day and time for Halloween was discussed. Moore made the motion to set Trick or Treat for Saturday, October 31 between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried. Robin Smith asked if the fire trucks will patrol through the neighborhoods and she was assured that they would.

A request from the Fire Department to purchase radios from Staley Communications for \$6,466.10 with funds from their city account was approved in a motion by Moore. Michael seconded the account and it carried. Smith abstained.

USDA's annual report and budget for the water department was presented for council's approval. Fluharty said it was completed by Accountant Zack Dobbins when he prepared the city's annual PSC report. Starsick made the motion to approve the report as presented. Moore seconded the motion and it carried.

Chief James' request to attend a NRA sponsored instructor course for the week of October 19 in Bridgeport was the final item on the agenda. Once he is certified through the course, he can then do the annual certification of his officers on the firing range. The course will be 45 hours over five days at a cost of \$350. Additional ammunition and equipment will be required. Smith made the motion to okay James' attendance at the course and approve a budget revision to cover the expenses. Starsick seconded the motion and all approved.

Mayor Garcia said he and Rexrode plan to go to the State Surplus Property tomorrow to check on spreaders and rollers.

It was reported that the Duncan building door was open and the paper is coming off the sides.

Starsick made the motion to adjourn. Michael seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.