

COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2009

The first regular August meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Bob Garcia presiding was held Monday, August 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Council members attending were Jeff Michael, Harry Moore, Larry Smith, Terry Starsick, and Rana Taylor.

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

Several people were present to discuss the proposed rental registration ordinance. Al Wolfe, Ronnie Powell, Mike Reese, Richard Stevens and Daniel Jones all expressed reservations about the ordinance. They said that the city has codes on the books that aren't being enforced now so they do not need new ones. Reese read a letter stating that landlords are overburdened now and urged uniformed enforcement of the present codes instead of new regulations. Councilman Moore said a Section 8 inspection should suffice for the city. Council at large Rana Taylor said maybe a waiver for landlords who already go through an inspection could be considered. Mayor Garcia asked Powell to meet with him after the meeting to discuss his proposed changes to the ordinance. Once those changes are agreed upon, they will be incorporated in the ordinance and distributed to the landlords for review and comment.

Robert Farley said something needs to be done about the bicycles on sidewalks and asked for a speed bump on Beatty Avenue. Chief of Police David James said bicyclists must obey the same laws as motorists.

Tim Coberly announced that the Larry Conaway Memorial Walk will be held this weekend and the proceeds will go toward a scholarship in Conaway's name.

Garcia read the written Street & Water Department report.

James gave his department's July report and noted that they received 138 calls for assistance.

Fluharty reported that the restroom at the trailhead has re-opened.

The first item under new business was Ordinance #391 which increases the sewerage rates. Jim Byard said it would be a burden on people who are on fixed incomes. Mayor Garcia said the sewer rates have not been increased since 2002 and the Board is severely underfunded. Starsick made the motion to read the heading only. Taylor seconded the motion and it carried. Garcia read the heading. He then asked for

a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #391. The matter died for lack of a motion.

Ordinance #392 which increases the water rates was the next item for consideration. Smith made the motion to read the heading only. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried. Garcia read the heading. Taylor made the motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #392. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried. A public hearing will be held at next Monday's meeting.

The Fire Department's request to purchase a Rescue Tool Demo Set was tabled until the next meeting in a motion by Moore. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Smith made the motion to table Mannington Public Service District's request to add 206 additional water customers. Moore seconded the motion and it carried.

The maintenance agreement for the handheld meter system was reviewed. Smith made the motion to approve the agreement for \$1,885.50 provided it can be paid on a payment plan. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried.

Shawn Davis' letter of resignation from the Mannington Police Department was read by Mayor Garcia. He asked council to grant Davis a waiver from reimbursing the cost of his academy training since he has been an excellent officer and has only a few months remaining to fulfill the 2-year requirement. Chief James said he also recommended that the fees be waived or at the very least, be pro-rated. Smith made the motion to waive Davis' reimbursement fees and to advertise for a full time and a part time officer. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilman Starsick questioned the location of the speed bumps on Clarksburg and Locust Streets. Garcia said another speed bump will be placed alongside the one on Locust Street so motorists cannot drive around it. Chief James said the buses are now unloading on Clarksburg Street where the speed bump was placed instead of Beatty Avenue so it was agreed to leave that one as is. Taylor said she had received a request for a handicapped parking space on the lower end of Market Street by Dr. Higgs' office. Councilman Moore said a speed bump is needed on Beatty Avenue.

Moore made the motion to adjourn. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

