

COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

The first regular September meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Bob Garcia presiding was held Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Jeff Michael, Harry Moore, Larry Smith, Terry Starsick and Rana Taylor.

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

In the visitors' portion of the meeting, Sheena Hunt of Region Six presented Pay Requisition #28 in the amount of \$41,317.85 for the Fairmont/Mannington water project. Starsick asked about the funds remaining in the grant. Hunt said Fairmont still has money plus Mannington's funds for the chlorination building and the plant demolition are still there. Moore made the motion to approve payment of Pay Requisition #28. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried. Starsick asked Hunt to check with Fairmont's engineers about Mark Dunigan's dissatisfaction with his property restoration.

Main Street Manager Jim Taylor updated council on upcoming projects including the Blues & Cruise-In. He was given permission to block off Market Street for the car show.

Pat Moore said something needs to be done about the drainage pipe through his yard. He said a hole has come through the bank. Superintendent Charles Rexrode will check on the problem.

Roddy George said he wants Clifton Avenue reopened because he has purchased property off Terrace Drive and is land locked. Garcia said that road was abandoned to the adjoining property owners so it cannot be reopened. George was urged to check the tax records or ask for a right of way if he does not have access to his property. George also said he received a letter from Anthony Horton about vehicles, grass and sanitation problems at his Terrace Drive residence. He questioned the need for a license on the car since it is used as a race car. Chief of Police David James said it can set on the trailer if the trailer is licensed.

In department reports, James said he had nothing to report tonight. The mayor read the Street & Water Department report. Fluharty presented a report on the July General Fund income and told council that Mannington and Downs Public Service Districts have both protested the city's water rate increase.

The first item of business was the final reading and public hearing on Ordinance 391 which increases the sewerage rates. Moore made the motion to read the heading only. Taylor seconded the motion and it carried. Garcia read the heading. No public comments were heard or received. Taylor made the motion to adopt Ordinance #391. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. Starsick voted no.

Jim Hayes said he felt his son should be issued a refund of the municipal service charge on his property in Hough Addition since the Assessor's Office has agreed to change it from rental to residential. Council reviewed the minutes whereby Hayes agreed to convert one of his properties to a garage and the other was to be demolished within six months. If not, the service charge was to be reinstated. Hayes said his son felt pressured to tear down the one house and no longer wants to do so. Moore made the motion to table any further discussion until Hayes produces tax slips for council to review. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Mannington Public Service District's request to add an additional 260 customers was read for the second time. Smith made the motion to okay the request. Moore seconded the motion and it carried.

Starsick made the motion to rescind the previous motion to delay connection with Fairmont's water line. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. Mannington went online with Fairmont on August 25, 2009.

David James and Mayor Garcia recommended Donald Efaw be hired as a full time police officer and Wesley Wheeler be hired as a part time officer. Starsick made the motion to accept the recommendations and hire Efaw on a full time basis and Wheeler as a part time officer subject to a six month probation. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. James said the state police academy has been extended to 18 weeks.

A charter amendment to stagger the council terms to eliminate the possibility of all new members at one time was discussed. Moore made the motion to table the matter for further discussion. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried.

The 2009 Community Participation Grant in the amount of \$3,511 for Mannington Main Street's downtown project was presented for council's okay. Moore made the motion to approve the Community Participation Grant's contract and authorized the mayor to sign all necessary paperwork. Starsick seconded the motion and all approved.

The purchase of new master meters was tabled since Randy Watson has said there may be funds remaining in the SCBG to buy them. He will know after the contract for the chlorination building is awarded.

It was agreed to put up a Slow Children Playing sign on Grafton Street.

Ray Henderson's term on the Property Maintenance Board of Appeal has expired and Garcia recommended that he be reappointed. Moore made the motion to reappoint Henderson to another term on the Board of Appeals. Taylor seconded the motion and it carried.

Fluharty said a new cash register is needed in her office and presented a quote from Mountaineer Business Equipment in the amount of \$789. Starsick made the motion to approve the purchase of the cash register. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Chief James asked that the 6-month probation be waived for Donnie Efaw since he has already served one probation period and has graduated from the State Police Academy. Starsick made the motion to waive Efaw's probation. Michael seconded the motion and all approved.

Moore made the motion to adjourn. Starsick seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

