

COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2021

The first monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Ray Shadrick presiding, was held Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Chris Efaw, Denny Efaw, Ken Fletcher and Tim Fluharty.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for Fire Chief Jim Moran.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Fletcher made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Shadrick read a letter of condolence from the Marion County Commission on the passing of Jim Moran.

Visitor Gary Leeson said the property by his house looks bad and he is not going to pay the municipal service charge until it is cleaned up.

The new fire chief, Bob Dye, was introduced by Shadrick.

The first item of old business was the street lighting on East Main Street. Shadrick said he looked the area over and he thinks that three additional lights are needed – two between the Exxon and Church of Christ and one across from the current Big Momma's location. Council agreed. Fletcher made the motion to add three new streetlights on East Main Street. Chris Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

In honor of Jim Moran, Shadrick said he would like to add a plaque to the wall in the council chambers and a large one at the Central Station since Moran was instrumental in getting it built. He will have prices at the next meeting. Fletcher said he would like to do something at Dent's Run Dam when it is open to fishing to honor Moran since he had asked to be on the committee to oversee the use of the dam.

In New Business, Sally Martin was nominated to serve on the Planning Commission. C Efaw made the motion to approve Martin's appointment to a 3-year term on the Commission. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved.

Superintendent Ted Nice said there is an electrical problem with the lights downtown and he would like to contact e-Solutions to look them over. Denny Efaw made the motion to authorize e-Solutions to troubleshoot the downtown lights. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Shadrick reported that he spoke to Sheila Higgins about the Malone building on Market Street. It belongs to Larry Malone, but he is in poor health and may be open to giving the building to the City. Shadrick said regardless of who owns it, it needs torn down. He asked for the okay to get an estimated cost on the demo of the building. Chris Efaw made the motion to authorize Shadrick to proceed with getting an estimate on the cost of demolishing the building and to contact an engineer with the WV DOT to inspect the building for any support issues with the Buffalo Street bridge. Denny Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

Nice gave his report of the jobs they completed since the last meeting.

Chief of Police Jim Rigsby said his department has been to the same house on East Main Street at least thirty-one times on domestic issues and the house has property maintenance issues also. He wants to send a letter to the property owner advising him of the nuisance problems and he would like the code enforcement officer to send one advising him of the property code violations. Shadrick said Rigsby should send his letter and he will contact the code enforcement officer(s) and ask them to write a letter. Rigsby also reported that the cruisers have all been lettered up and tires will be needed on the truck in the spring.

Fluharty asked council if they wanted to respond to Country Roads Minerals offer to purchase 8.125 acres on Dent's Run (Rex Run) or to set up a meeting to discuss the offer. It was agreed to let the city attorney review the offer. Fluharty said it was time to hold budget meetings since the first reading is March 1. A budget work session was set for February 16 at 6:00 p.m.

A letter to the Department of Transportation asking them to help with the slippage problem on Round Barn Road was signed by the mayor and council.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Denny Efaw made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Dye presented his request to use monies from the Fire Fund to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus. The current ones are out of date and if the state comes in for an inspection, they could shut down the department. The cost is \$6846 per pack and twenty-four are needed. The money to purchase fourteen packs would be approximately \$95,844. Fletcher made the motion to authorize the use of the Fire Fund monies to purchase fourteen of the packs. Denny Efaw seconded the motion and it carried. Dye said he would like to apply for a loan, in the City's name, to purchase the remaining ten packs. Chris Efaw asked if the CARES money could be used to help the Fire Department purchase the ten packs. Fluharty said it could if council okays it. She will check the CARES money to see how much is available. Fletcher made the motion to finance the last ten Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus with the payments to come from the Fire Fund. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. The CARES Fund monies will be on the next agenda.

Dye also asked council not to make any changes to the municipal service charge ordinance because the recent levy money, that was approved in the November election, is not guaranteed beyond the next four years. He would like to set aside monies each year to update their equipment so that they do not get in the same situation, in the future, where they are mandated to buy everything at once.

Denny Efaw made the motion to adjourn. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.