COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2022

The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held March 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw, Ken Fletcher, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

Fletcher made the motion to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Several visitors were present. Tom Roupe said that Third and Fourth Streets on Jericho need repairs and a plugged culvert on Hill Street is causing run-off problems. He questioned why the city is tearing down several buildings that he believes are sound. Mayor Michael said the EPA and a structural engineer have examined the buildings and determined that they are not sound or safe. In addition, she said investors are needed if such buildings are to be revitalized.

Perry Thorne and Eva Yoho, representing the Mannington Fair Board, asked for an official address for the road to the WV Room where deliveries are made during fair week. They would like to name it Bob Thorne Drive. City Clerk Michele Fluharty said she would get with Water Clerk Jennifer Barker to determine the “house” number. She said typically it would be #1 or #101 since there are no other buildings there. Michael asked if they needed an address for the main road through the fairgrounds and Thorne said they would bring that up to the board.

Pat Jack from the State Treasurer’s Office asked for permission to talk to the employees about the WV Retirement Plus Plan. He said they offer high quality mutual funds and a Roth account. Fletcher made the motion to authorize Jack to talk to the employees. Russell seconded the motion and it carried.

Gary Leeson said the drug problem is getting out of hand. Chief of Police Jim Rigsby said it is difficult with just two officers. Leeson said he needs to get help from the State Police.

In Old Business, the only item on the agenda was the second and final consideration of the FY 2023 budgets. Fluharty said this includes all the budgets but the Mead Fund one which is still being developed. Craw made the motion to adopt the FY 2023 budgets. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

In New Business, Budget Revision #2 for the FY 2021-22 General Fund budget was explained by Fluharty. Fletcher made the motion to approve the General Fund budget revision as presented. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

The City’s Home Rule proposal was distributed to the council members for their review. Fluharty said it will include the 1% sales tax, restructuring of the business license fees, elimination and reduction of some of the b&o tax rates, relief from the requirements of the sale of the City’s real property and elimination of the partisan requirements for the building commission, the ballot commissioners and the poll workers for the city’s non-partisan elections. T Fluharty made the motion to proceed with the Home Rule process. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved.

In department reports, Rigsby said they have received 56 calls for assistance since March 1st. On Thursday, he and Sgt Sides will be attending a symposium on fentanyl. Rigsby said the truck needs tires and brakes. Mayor Michael told him to get quotes on the tires and brakes and a purchase order before ordering. Rigsby asked about moving the old jail out of the basement and into the yard between the buildings. He said it could be used by organizations who jail individuals and then require “bond money” to release them as fund raising projects.

Superintendent Ted Nice said the lead & copper sampling is finished and they have been submitted to the state. MidAtlantic is doing the inspection of Tank Hill tank today and Nice is waiting on the engineer’s review of the report.

Fluharty reported that the meter reading wand that was okayed at the last meeting will not be purchased because it won’t work with the new meters that are scheduled to be purchased in the next year.

Mayor Michael said the pool grant was submitted and has been forwarded to Atlanta. She also noted that a Water Barrel Workshop is being set for April 30 with the location to be determined at a later date.

Council asked where the code enforcement officer was, and Michael said she asked him to attend. She expressed concern that he has not made an effort to get his certification. Fletcher said they do the testing in Morgantown.

Fletcher asked about the work at the Dent’s Run Dam. Michael said they are making progress. The DEP has extended the permit deadline until May 31, 2022 but indicated that would be the final extension.

Fluharty made the motion to pay the outstanding bills. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

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