COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2022

The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, April 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members in attendance were Kris Bates, John Craw, Ken Fletcher, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Pastor Liggett.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Russell made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Jeff Smell and Robin Scorsini from the United Security Agency distributed copies of the risk pool proposal for the city’s liability insurance. Scorsini said the plan will not cover any property that is located in the 100-year flood plain. Mayor Michael said she and council will review the policy and compare the coverage to the city’s current policy.

Matt Dixon of Eagle Eye Solutions, LLC passed out copies of a proposal for a surveillance system that will replace the current cameras and add one at the Wintergarden Park. The cameras will have 4k resolution and can be accessed on phones, tablets and computers. Michael asked if cameras for the rail trail were an option and Dixon said it would depend on whether there was power in that area. Michael said she may try to write a grant proposal using Dixon’s information.

In Old Business, the only item on the agenda was the Fair Board’s request for a 911 address at the fairgrounds to help with deliveries. Fletcher made the motion to approve the Board’s request to designate the WV Room’s address as 1 Bob Thorne Drive. Craw seconded the motion and all approved. The Fair Board has also named the road through their property as Fairground Lane.

In New Business, the reading of Ordinance #467 to raise the sewer rates was the first item of business. Fletcher made the motion to read the heading only. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Fletcher made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #467. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

The final ruling on the ARFA money said that municipalities could designate up to $10 million of their allocation as replacement revenue. That money can be deposited into the General Fund and used for basic city services. City Clerk Michele Fluharty said after the $250,000 was allocated to the Sanitary Board and $150,000 to the Water Fund for a new water tank, there was a remaining balance of $47,121.07. Fletcher made the motion to designate that $47,121.07 as revenue replacement funds and transfer it to the General Fund. Russell seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael said more lighting on Church Street has been requested since many people walk through there on the way to the park. There are three streetlights already in place, but she would like to have a solar light installed midway to help illuminate that section of the road. The city has the necessary piping. Russell made the motion to approve the installation of a solar light pole on Church Street. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved.

Scott Jarvis and Derek Gregory have successfully completed their probation periods in the Street/Water Department. Superintendent Ted Nice said they both were excellent workers. Mayor Michael said she agreed and recommended that both be hired as permanent city employees. Fluharty made the motion to hire Jarvis and Gregory as permanent, full-time employees. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Nice presented quotes on a mower for mowing the face of the Dent’s Run Dam. Michael said $10,000 of the money from Marion County Coal Resources was earmarked for a mowing system for the dam. Nice said a zero-turn unit was not recommended for hillside mowing. He got quotes on four used mowers and the prices ranged from $7,000 to $8,950. The quotes were: Daniel Lichtenstein $7,000; Dale Harris $8,200; Logan LaPerriere $8,500; Mark Mason $7,750. Fletcher made the motion to approve the purchase of the Snapper Pro for $7,000 from Daniel Lichtenstein. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael said it was time to hold the Spring Clean Up Day. Craw made the motion to have a clean-up day on May 14 and to authorize two dumpsters for that day. Russell seconded the motion and it carried. Michael said the city was awarded a sub-grant from the DEP for a tire trailer that will be located at the old water plant. Two employees will man the trailer for two Saturdays a month. She hopes to have the trailer in place by May 14.

The mayor also noted that MCPARC awarded a grant to the city for fencing at the Joel McCann Trailhead and to Mannington Main Street for gravel for the upper section of the rail trail from Railroad Street to Maryellen Street. In addition, she has applied for a state grant for demolition money. Eighty cities in WV have applied and Mannington is in the running. The amount of the grant will be $500,000.

In department reports, Chief of Police Jim Rigsby distributed a printout of their calls for the last two weeks. He reported that he ordered tires and brakes for the Dodge cruiser and will contact the Marion County Vo-Tech to schedule an alignment. Rigsby and Sgt Sides recently attended a class on fentanyl, and he is pursuing a license plate reading system free of charge. Mayor Michael asked Rigsby if more drugs would be found if they had more traffic stops. Rigsby said maybe.

Nice said a bid notice will be published next week for the paving of eight roads in the next fiscal year. MidAtlantic conducted the inspection of the Burt Hill tank, and video of the inspection was received. Randy Watson is to pick it up to review it and make any recommendations for maintenance of the tank.

Michele Fluharty said the trash cans that were partially funded by a DEP litter grant have arrived and will be placed downtown. She also reported on a recent virtual meeting about the WV Go-Pay online payment system. A new law was enacted that mandates online payments must be available for all city services effective March 2023.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Craw made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Christopher Wolfe, a candidate for the Marion County Commission, spoke on his platform for the upcoming election.

Robin Smith said Mannington BAD is getting a bullet proof vest for Valor, the city’s canine, from a Charleston attorney at no cost.

Michael suggested to Chief Rigsby that Valor should be walked through the neighborhoods periodically.

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