COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 16, 2022

The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, May 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

The minutes from the last regular meeting and the public hearing on the Home Rule application were approved as read. Russell made the motion. Craw seconded it and all approved.

The first item of Old Business was the second and final reading of Ordinance #468 which authorizes the filing of the Home Rule application. Fluharty made the motion to read the heading only. Russell seconded the motion and it carried. Mayor Michael read the heading. Russell made the motion to adopt Ordinance #468. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.

Next was the second and final reading of Ordinance #469 which approves the acquisition of three FEMA properties. Bates made the motion to read the heading only. Russell seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Bates made the motion to adopt Ordinance #469. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

The second and final reading of Ordinance #470 which amends the C-1 District in the zoning regulations was the final ordinance to be considered. Russell made the motion to read the heading only. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Fluharty made the motion to adopt Ordinance #470 which allows commercial gaming and entertainment establishments as permitted/conditional uses in the C-1 Downtown Historic/Commercial District. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.

Councilman Fluharty asked if the kayak launch at Hough Park was still in the works. Michael said she had not heard anything about it since she took office but asked Fluharty if he wanted to take on that project. Fluharty said he would.

In New Business, the bids for the city’s liability insurance were opened. The two received were: Assured Partners $74,449.53 and WV Corp 47,937.00. Craw made the motion to accept WV Corp’s proposal pending review of both proposals. Russell seconded the motion and it carried.

Quotes for the flower baskets for the downtown light poles were the next item on the agenda. The only bid received was from Mountaineer Florist for $1,820. Councilman Fluharty said Anthony from Something Special contacted him to say he would give the city a 30% discount on the flowers, but he did not submit a quote. In order to cut the cost, Council agreed that the city would just purchase the flowers and the city guys would put in the baskets.

Repairs on the 2016 Ford Explorer cruiser were discussed. Chief of Police Jim Rigsby said he is waiting on the recall parts for the tow links from Corwin Ford and the estimate for the other repairs is $2,800. Rigsby said both control arms are bad. Russell said it looks like it is time to start looking for a replacement for the Explorer. Craw asked about grants. Rigsby said he has looked but hasn’t found any.

Rigsby introduced Josh Payton who has applied for a job with the police department. The physical ability testing is scheduled for May 31st and if they pass it, then the psychological testing will be scheduled. Discussion followed about the number of officers needed and Michael said she would like to see three full time officers and one part time.

In his department report, Rigsby said the Dodge truck repairs are complete; however, he was told the problem may re-occur, but it could be soon or years down the road. Fluharty asked if Rigsby had any info on the damage to his truck that took place in the city hall parking lot. Rigsby said he would talk to him after the meeting.

Superintendent Ted Nice said they flushed the air out of the lines, got the trailhead restroom opened for the summer months and two dumpsters were filled at Saturday’s Clean Up Day.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty said she submitted the paperwork to the PSC for the sewer rate increase. She said if no protests are received within the 30 days, the PSC will then act. Fluharty also said she received correspondence from the Marion County Commission concerning the plans to cut back on services at the Veterans’ Hospital in Clarksburg. She asked if council wished to consider an ordinance opposing any plans to close or reduce VA Hospitals and all agreed they would.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Craw made the motion to approve payment of the outstanding bills. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Fluharty made the motion to adjourn. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.