

COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 1, 2022

The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, August 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Others attending were Councilmembers Kris Bates, John Craw, Ken Fletcher and Roger Russell; Street/Water Superintendent Ted Nice and City Clerk Michele Fluharty.

The meeting began with a review of the minutes from the previous meeting. Craw made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Visitors Vicky Jarvis and Chelsea Craw asked what they could do to help with the drug problem in Mannington. Craw said the youth need educated about the dangers involved with drug usage. Mayor Michael said they could start a Community Watch Program in their neighborhoods with monthly meetings with the police and city representatives. Councilman Fletcher asked if the police officers ever go to the schools to talk to the students about drugs. Craw said the public would like to see more transparency about the dog and his role in identifying drug users. Michael said she would talk to the local newspaper correspondent about publishing arrest logs. Craw asked if the city has asked for help from other agencies and Michael said she has but with little response. Jarvis said in spite of the drug problem, she believes the town is going in the right direction.

Kevin Stalnaker said he was interested in the Charleston meeting about funding for demolition that the mayor and clerk recently attended. Michael said that Mannington was one of twenty-one cities selected for this pilot program and she is working on submitting the city's application and is optimistic that we will receive funding. Stalnaker asked if there was anything the City can do about people redeeming the taxes on delinquent buildings. Michael said the state auditor is working on correcting that issue.

Robin Smith said the property beside her has high grass and there are holes in the side of the house. It will be referred to the code enforcement officer.

In New Business, Randall Jaggie-Moore's probation has ended, and Michael recommended he be hired as a permanent, part time employee as the code enforcement officer. Fletcher made the motion to hire Jaggie-Moore as a permanent employee. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Lenny Stafford's term on the Park Board has expired and Michael recommended he be reappointed. Fletcher made the motion to reappoint Stafford to another 3-year term. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.

In department reports, Fluharty said the city's Home Rule application was approved by the WV Home Rule Committee last week and the next step is to adopt the ordinances implementing the changes outlined in that application. The sales tax ordinance should be on the next agenda.

Nice said his guys have been busy with several projects including assembling the new playground equipment for the trailhead, cleaning the sidewalks and streets with the new power broom, finishing replacing the wall by Mark Starsick's house and clearing the trees on the left side of the dam.

Mayor Michael reported that the city's Bowers Grant was denied for replacement of the swinging bridge on Water Street. On the positive side, the funding for security cameras through Senator Capito's office is one step closer to being awarded. Michael invited council to attend the police department's PT testing at North Marion on August 31 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Craw made the motion to adjourn. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.