COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, September 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were approved. Craw made the motion, Fluharty seconded it and all approved.

In Old Business, the first item on the agenda was the Thrasher Engineering invoices for the Burt Hill Tank Project. Randy Watson was present to give a progress report on the Tank Project and explain the charges on the invoices. He said the charges included design, geo-technical work and permitting. Watson is also applying to the Infrastructure Council for an additional $320,000 to include a new telemetering system and a new meter at the tank site. If the additional funding is approved, Thrasher will add charges for inspecting, etc to the project budget. Russell made the motion to approve the two invoices from Thrasher Engineering totaling $67,000. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Michael said she and Fire Chief Bob Dye met with Robin Corsini from WVCorp to discuss the fire department’s insurance coverage. She also said Dye said they are still looking for equipment.

In New Business, the first item on the agenda was the hiring of a police officer. Michael said she is recommending Donnie Wheeler as a part time officer. Wheeler plans to retire in October and would like to work day shift for four hours and fill in on weekends and days off. She met with Chief Rigsby last week and told him of her plans to recommend Wheeler and he had no objections. Michael asked Rigsby his opinion about hiring Wheeler and Rigsby said his opinion didn’t seem to matter. Rigsby said he would like to hire Philip Stewart as a part time officer. Michael said she needs to look at Stewart’s application, but she would have no problem with recommending him. Discussion then followed about the hiring process. Since there is nothing in writing, it was suggested it be added to the employee handbook. Fluharty made the motion to hire Donnie Wheeler as a part time patrolman. Russell seconded the motion and all approved.

The day and time for Trick or Treat was next on the agenda. Craw said he has heard several people say they would like it held on Saturday instead of Monday because the following day is a school day. The decision was tabled until the next meeting. City Clerk Michele Fluharty will see when the neighboring towns are holding trick or treat.

Michael asked council to approve October 15 as Fall Clean-Up Day. Craw made the motion to approve October 15 as Fall Clean-Up Day and to authorize two dumpsters for that day. Russell seconded the motion and it carried.

The agreement between Bennett & Dobbins and the City for accounting services for the Burt Hill Project was next. Russell made the motion to approve the agreement with Bennett & Dobbins at the cost of $7,500. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. Watson said those funds will come from the project account.

Superintendent Ted Nice presented a list of items that he would like to auction this fall. The items included a v-plow, Mauldin paver with trailer, snowplow, cinder spreader and a trash pump. Craw made the motion to authorize an ordinance to auction the above items. Russell seconded the motion and it carried. Nice suggested it be held at the old water plant site so that the equipment is already out there.

Michael said one of the tire trailer employees has quit and she would like to hire Chris Simons. The funding for these employees comes from a grant. Bates made the motion to hire Chris Simons to work twice a month on the tire trailer. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

A letter from Attorney General Patrick Morrisey asking the City to participate in the Rite Aid settlement regarding opioid prescriptions was reviewed. Craw made the motion to approve the City’s participation in the settlement. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

The city clerk said that an attorney from the State Tax Commissioner’s office called her and said the sales tax ordinance that was recently passed did not include all the necessary wording. As a result, the city would not be able to collect sales tax from online sales. Ordinance #474 was drawn up by the city attorney with all of that wording included. Bates made the motion to read the heading only. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Russell made the motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #474. Fluharty seconded the motion and all approved. A public hearing will be held at the October 3 meeting.

Fluharty asked council to approve Kris Bates, Nelson Elliott, Freda Moore and herself to serve on the audit committee. They will review all the proposals from accounting firms and make a recommendation to council. Russell made the motion to appoint Bates, Elliott, Moore and Fluharty to the audit committee. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Kelly Allen of the WV Center of Budget & Policy explained Amendment 2 which is on the November ballot. She distributed information about the amendment and urged everyone to get educated on the matter before voting.

Code Enforcement Officer Randall Jaggie-Moore gave his monthly report on the properties he has inspected, and the citations/permits issued. He also said he met with the Presbyterian Church board of directors and the problems are not as bad as expected.