COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2022

The first regular October meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw, Ken Fletcher, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Rev Charles Legg.

The minutes of the last regular and special meetings were reviewed. Fluharty made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Tammy Park and Mariah Sides were present to express concern with the manner in which the Marion County Dispatch Center responds to calls from Sgt Don Sides when he is on duty and also to the lack of response by the Marion County Sheriff’s Department during a recent incident at the 7-11. Mayor Michael said she would call Sheriff Riffle about his department’s response and also Chris Cinalli about his dispatchers. Michael said she would contact Park and Sides when she had answers. She said, if necessary, she would attend a Marion County Commission meeting to address the problem. She asked Chief of Police Rigsby if he contacted Masters Funeral Home to see if their cameras caught any of the incident at the 7-11 but he said they showed nothing.

Melissa Hinerman asked council to consider changing Trick or Treat to a weekend since it is on a Monday this year and the kids must get up to attend school the next day.

Breanna Hibbs asked that something be done about the speeding on Buffalo Road by her house in Grandview. Hibbs says she calls the dispatch center and either they are not relaying the calls, or the police are not responding because no one comes.

 The first item of Old Business was Trick or Treat. Councilman Fluharty said his neighborhood wants it on Monday night. Michael said several people stopped in her shop to say they also want it on Halloween. Craw made the motion to hold Trick or Treat on Saturday, October 29. The motion died when no one seconded it. Bates made the motion to hold Trick or Treat on Monday, October 31. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Craw voted no. There was no time designated so Bates made the motion to hold Trick or Treat on October 31 between the hours of 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Craw voted no.

The second reading and public hearing on Ordinance #474 was next on the agenda. Fletcher made the motion to read the heading only. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. Craw voted no. Michael read the heading and then asked for any public comments or questions. None were received. Craw made the motion to adopt Ordinance #474 which approves a 1% sales tax. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Curtesy of the WV Attorney General, a participation agreement in a settlement with Walmart for opioid prescriptions was discussed. Michael said she anticipated several more such agreements and asked if council would just grant a blanket approval for this and all such future agreements. Fletcher made the motion to approve the Walmart and all future opioid settlements provided council is provided copies of those agreements. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

The first reading of Ordinance #475 which sets a public auction for surplus property was the next item of business. Fletcher made the motion to read the heading only. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. The date was set for November 5 at 10 a.m. Michael read the heading. Craw made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #475. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved.

Michael recommended that John Bainbridge be approved as a temporary employee to work on the tire trailer since Drew Vingino has quit. Fletcher made the motion to approve Bainbridge as a temporary, part time employee to work on the tire trailer. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Mannington Main Street would like permission to hold the Pepperoni Drop on New Year’s Eve and to sell alcohol at the event. Bates made the motion to approve the Pepperoni Drop and to grant Mannington Main Street a one-time permit for alcohol sales on New Year’s Eve. Fluharty seconded the motion and all approved.

Rigsby said he has talked to the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office concerning charges after Saturday’s incident at the 7-11.

Mayor Michael said she received official word that the City was awarded the LWCF Grant for a new swimming pool. She said they plan to bid out the whole project soon and their projected grand opening for the new pool is May 29, 2023. Michael also said the DEP awarded the city $175,000 for demolition.

Fluharty asked Michael if the meeting with the DEP about the branding grant too place. Michael said they met last week and discussed several ideas for that $20,000 grant but the money will not come through until November. There will be a meeting with council and a public hearing before any decision is made about the use of the money.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Craw made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Russell 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.