COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2023

The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, January 9, 2023 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 a prayer by Jerry Bush and the pledge of allegiance.

Visitor Gary Leeson asked if anything was going to be done about the drug problem in town.

In Old Business, the wall on Jefferson Street was discussed. Michael said Melvin Wright has requested that the city repair it but she said the wall is on Wright’s property so it would be his responsibility. She showed pictures of the wall to city council. The city has cleaned up the street but that is as far as it goes. Superintendent Ted Nice said if the owner does not fix the wall, the rest of the hill will begin to slide.

In New Business, the lease-purchase agreement with Country Roads for the splash pad equipment and accessories for the new pool was the first item of business. Fletcher made the motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a master equipment lease-purchase agreement, and related instruments, and determining other matters in connection therewith. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Fletcher then made the motion to accept the terms of the lease-purchase agreement for $737,225 at the interest rate of 5.2% for five years. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.

General Fund Budget Revision #2 was explained by City Clerk Michele Fluharty. She said the revision was necessary to allocate an increase in the sale of fixed assets, the gas & oil severance taxes, and business license income along with a decrease in fines and costs. The revised income was allocated among the city clerk’s office, the tire collection project, city hall, police department, street department and the purchase of property for demolition. The total amount of the revision was $5,012. Fletcher made the motion to approve the General Fund budget revision #2 as presented. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Chief of Police Jim Rigsby introduced Tyler Hess who he is recommending as a part time officer. Hess is currently a Marion County deputy, a military recruiter and a full-time student. In order to keep his certification while he is on leave from the Sheriff’s Department working as a full-time recruiter, he would like to work part time for the city. Councilman Fluharty asked if he would be available to work a couple of weekends a month and Hess said he would. Craw made the motion to hire Tyler Hess as a part time police officer. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

The final item of new business was the amendment to the Burt Hill Water Tank Project engineering agreement. Thrasher Engineer’s Randy Watson is trying to secure more money for the project through the Infrastructure Council, so it has increased the project scope. Craw made the motion to approve the amendment to the Burt Hill Water Tank Project engineering agreement. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried. Michael said Watson and the city attorney are still working to work out an agreement for the right of way for the new tank.

Code Enforcement Officer Randall Jaggie-Moore gave his report. He will be issuing citations for the owner of 410 Meadow Avenue, to Nwoko Columba for all of his properties and to the new owners of the TKMI building if they are still operating a business without a license. He said the paperwork for the High Life Lounge has been completed. It has an occupancy of twenty so the building will only need one way in and out. Fletcher asked why he is not bringing some of the building code violators to city court. Jaggie-Moore said he summoned several, but they did not show up so he will need someone to issue a warrant or a revocation of their business license. Fletcher said he is still waiting for the report each month that council requested. Jaggie-Moore said he has not worked much lately but he did submit a report at an earlier meeting. Council gave him several properties that need inspected.

Rigsby said he has had no luck reaching Phillip Stewart due to his current work schedule. He suggested that the city should increase the fines on building code violations instead of doing a “drug house” ordinance so that the code enforcement officer could condemn the houses. Fletcher said the property would need to have some kind of code violation before it could be condemned. Mayor Michael suggested a work session with the code guy, the chief of police and city council be held to discuss this issue. She will see when everyone is available to meet.

In her report, Michael told Rigsby she had received complaints about speeding on Jefferson & Adams Street and asked that the police make their presence shown during the evenings. She also said the speed sign is in and she will contact the State DOT Wednesday about a permit.

Superintendent Ted Nice gave his report. He said the garbage truck problem seems to be corrected since a new driver is operating the truck now. The Ford Ranger is scheduled to go to the Vo-Tech Center on Wednesday for repairs.

The letter from DEP stating that the Dent’s Run Dam meets all the specifications of the spillway repairs was distributed to council. Nice said his guys will remove all the trees to the left of the face of the dam as stipulated by the DEP.

Fluharty made the motion to pay the outstanding bills. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

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