COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2024

 The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members in attendance were Kris Bates, Anthony Fluharty, Taylor Garrison and Robin Smith.

 The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Father Binu Emmanuel.

 The minutes of the last regular meeting were reviewed. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Garrison seconded the motion and it carried.

 Visitor Amber McElwain asked if there was any meaning to a ribbon tied around a pole. Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler said he was not aware of any meaning, but several other visitors said it was drug related. McElwain also said she had information on the driver of the large truck that has been seen frequently in the Homewood Addition and she would give it to Chief Wheeler after the meeting.

 John Craw asked how much interest has been accrued for the money received from the Silvia Jones estate. Michael said that money was designated for the new pool and turned over to the Park Board.

 In Old Business, Mayor Michael said the dumpster locks that were discussed at the last council meeting are already available through Mannington Refuse. The idea of “No Trespassing” signs being placed on the dumpsters by the trash service was suggested. Smith asked if the dumpsters are being patrolled to discourage vandalism and littering. Wheeler said they were.

 In New Business, equipment for the new police cruiser was the only item on the agenda. Chief Wheeler said most of the equipment from the old cruiser will fit the new one. He has priced a cage, brush guard and console. That cost is approximately $3,400. JD Signs will give him a quote this week on the lettering for the new cruiser. Michael asked council to approve a $5,000 limit. Fluharty made the motion to allot $5,000 for equipment/lettering for the new cruiser. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

 April Fittro from Mannington Refuse said T&L Hot Dogs is using an open trailer for their garbage and asked that the code enforcement officer keep an eye on it.

 In department reports, Wheeler said they received 44 calls for assistance in December. He said Officer Hunter Lipps is doing very well and is a fast learner. Smith asked if there were any other candidates that could be sent to the next academy and Wheeler said that deadline has already passed. He does have three applicants and will be testing and interviewing them shortly.

 City Clerk Michele Fluharty said the first check from the Opioid Settlement was received this month and it was for $2,059.87. A new checking account has been opened and the money deposited.

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

 Smith made the motion to adjourn. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.