COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024

The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the council chambers of city hall. Council members present were Kris Bates, Anthony Fluharty, Tim Fluharty, Taylor Garrison and Robin Smith.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Justin Steinbugl of the IGS Handyman program was present to explain how the program works and to ask the city to partner with IGS. The program calls for a 3-tier service for residents who need someone to do small jobs at their residence. IGS will do three jobs per resident and will use local contractors. IGS will pay the contractors. He said they currently partner with St Albans and Logan in WV. Mayor Michael asked if they could expand the program to include all people in the 26582 zip code and he said they could. Once the city endorses the program, IGS will send letters to all Mannington residents. Garrison made the motion to endorse the IGS Handyman Program. Anthony seconded the motion and it carried. Steinbugl said it would take approximately five weeks for the program to launch.

Rob Bolyard from Region Six PDC asked for approval of the administrative fees contract for the CDBG Demolition Program. The fees will be $24,000. Smith made the motion to authorize the mayor to sign the contract with Region Six. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

Bolyard also updated council on the Burt Hill Tank Project. He said the bid overrun was $217,000. WVWDA has been approached about funding that overrun and an answer is expected by March 10. Anthony asked if anyone else bid on the tank project and Bolyard said MidAtlantic was the only bidder.

Visitor Ed Hayes said something needs to be done about the drug activity in Hough Addition. He said suspicious people are on the streets all hours of the night and the cost of security cameras at his house will be $4,000. Hayes questioned the connection between a recent b&e at a house on Hough Street and the subsequent fire there. Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler said the fire marshal is investigating that fire, but no foul play is suspected. He encouraged everyone to call 911 if they see suspicious people in the area. He said if there is no one available from the city, a county deputy will be dispatched. Hayes also mentioned the parking on the upper section of Hough Street. He said they park on both sides, and you cannot get emergency vehicles through there. Wheeler and Street Superintendent Ted Nice will look over that parking situation.

There was no old business.

In new business, the demolition project bids were the first item on the agenda. The following bids were received:

B&L Landworks $12,000

Aster Oilfield Services 13,000

Reclaim 15,800

Beatty Construction 17,880

Parrotta Paving 20,000

Blue & Gold Development 20,900

Anderson Excavating 29,600

Michael recommended that B&L’s bid be accepted. Bates made the motion to accept the low bid of $12,000 by B&L Landworks. Tim seconded the motion and all approved.

Approval of Mike Jenkins’ invoice for the asbestos report and abatement for 210 Howard Street & 603 Northview Addition was next. Smith made the motion to approve the payment of Michael Jenkins invoice for $1,425. Garrison seconded the motion and it carried.

Nice said they would like to move the light pole by Dr Higgs’ office at the corner of Market & Main Street to the location of the downtown clock that was recently damaged by a delivery truck. When the new clock is received, it will be moved to the corner of Main Street and Mead Avenue by the city building. Anthony made the motion to approve the move of the pole and the clock. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

Nice gave his department report. Code Enforcement Officer Christina Shreve said she condemned one house, issued two permits and wrote nine violation letters. Chief Wheeler said his report software was having issues, so he was unable to print it out for tonight’s meeting. He did say that communication between his department and the community is vital since he is still shorthanded. City Clerk Michele Fluharty reported that she was recently notified that the sales tax payment for the quarter ending September 30, 2023, was incorrect and an additional $20,668 will be sent to the city this month. She said this payment will put the sales tax income on track to meet this year’s budget projection.

Bill Michael, president of the Mannington Lake Association, reported that the lake has been stocked, a bridge to provide access to the other side of the lake was built and the DNR put in a kiosk at the head of the lake.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Tim made the motion to pay the outstanding bills. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

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