COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2024

 The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 pm at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, Anthony Fluharty, Taylor Garrison, and Robin Smith. Tim Fluharty was excused due to illness.

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

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

 Becky Williams, representing Mannington Main Street, invited the mayor and council to Business After Hours on March 14. A representative from WV Main Street will be in town to meet with the board and city officials.

 Sheena Hunt of Region Six PDC said the recent $250,000 CDBG awarded to the city for the demolition of the former Malone building expires on December 31, 2024, but may be extended due to the lateness of the award. She asked council to authorize the mayor to sign the grant award and the agreement with Region Six for the project management services. Fluharty made the motion to authorize the mayor to sign all necessary CDBG paperwork. Garrison seconded the motion and all approved.

 Chuck Shields, a candidate for Marion County Circuit Court Judge, asked for support in the May primary.

 In New Business, a resolution declaring April as Fair Housing Month was the first item of business. Bates made the motion to approve the Fair Housing resolution. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

 Mayor Michael said Officer Hunter Lipps’ probation is over and she asked for a motion to hire him as a regular city employee and give him a $1.00 an hour raise. She said Chief Wheeler has recommended him also. Fluharty made the motion to hire Lipps’ as a regular, permanent employee and to increase his hourly rate by a dollar. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

 The bids for the purchase of radio read water meters were opened. The lone bid was from Core and Main in the amount of $250,750 ($295 per meter) for 850 meters. Since the city’s grant was for $226,000, it was agreed to buy as many meters as possible with the grant money. Smith made the motion to approve the purchase of approximately 776 meters or as many as possible and stay within the $226,000 budget. Garrison seconded the motion and it carried.

 The FY 2025 General Fund and Coal Severance Fund budgets were presented for their first reading. Fluharty made the motion to accept the first reading of the FY 2025 General Fund and Coal Severance Fund budgets. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.

 In his report, Superintendent Ted Nice said the lead and copper survey of 425 houses, to-date, has been completed and the Marion County Vo-Tech students will begin replacing the ramp between the two city buildings at the end of March.

 City Clerk Michele Fluharty said 55 ATV permits have been issued since January 1. She also reported that BHM CPA Group will begin the 2023 audit next week.

 The mayor read the police department report.

 In the mayor’s report, she noted that a grant application for a storm sewer project has been submitted and she contacted the USDA for funding for a community garden.

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

 Fluharty made the motion to adjourn. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.