

## **COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2021**

**The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kristen Bates, John Craw, Chris Efaw and Tim Fluharty.**

**The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Fluharty made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.**

**Erika Fishel of WV Promise was present to discuss the Bowers Grant that they were awarded for gardens that they would like to build on the Joel McCann Rail Trail trailhead. She said they would plant flowers and herbs that could be picked by the public and they would also like to hold classes/programs about gardening, birding, etc. Mayor Michael said the city guys will mow and water the gardens. Craw asked what their long-term plans were for the gardens. Fishel said the Girl Scouts will be a partner in this project and they will help maintain it. She also plans to contact MCPARC about partnering with them. Bates made the motion to grant permission to WV Promise to put gardens at the trailhead. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.**

**Shelby Johnson & Sheena Hunt from Region Six presented qualifications from four engineering firms who are interested in the project to build a new pool at Hough Park. The firms were The Thrasher Group, DRS Architects, OMNI Architects and Alpha Architects & Engineers. Hunt said a date should be set to interview the four firms and then select one to proceed with the project. The grant application is due December 31, 2021. Park Board President Lenny Stafford said he would like to meet as soon as possible so they can go to work on the funding. Michael said she will contact Johnson by Friday with a date to interview all four firms.**

**Gary Leeson said a recent drug arrest resulted in the person being released upon payment of a \$176 fine. He said something needs done about the laws that allow that to happen. Michael said she would give Leeson a list of the local and state legislators so that he can contact them.**

*Damon Sturgeon asked if the municipal service charge could be waived from his past due bill since the house was empty for a long time and he would like to get the water turned back on. City Clerk Michele Fluharty said if he pays the past due water & sewer charges along with a reconnect fee, the city will reconnect his service. The municipal service charge cannot be waived but he can be set up on a payment schedule.*

*In Old Business, Michael said the Dent's Run Dam project is still progressing. She called the DEP about getting an extension of the permit and they advised her of the process.*

*In New Business, Michael said she sent the attorney's opinion to all the council members about the recent back pay that was approved by council and a motion is needed to rescind that resolution. Efaw said he wanted to know why the Sides appointment and pay raise were not put on the agenda in March. Michael said according to Chief of Police Jim Rigsby he distributed a letter requesting the promotion after a council meeting and then no one followed up. Sides asked the city clerk why it was not placed on the agenda and she said she never saw the letter, and no one ever asked her to put it on the agenda. Discussion followed about whether council should vote on resignations. Michael said she was still waiting on a motion to rescind the back-pay resolution. Craw made the motion to rescind Don Sides' back pay as voted on at the September 7, 2021 meeting. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.*

*At the recent meeting held by the State Auditor's Office, they said every municipality should have a written policy as to who keeps track of the leave. Fluharty said she would like each department head to submit a single sheet each pay period stating who has taken leave, when and what type. That would make it much easier to enter into the ADP payroll software and then that information would be printed on the checks. She said both the department head and the city clerk should know how much leave each of their employees have. Bates made the motion to have the department head and city clerk both keep a written report of each employee's leave and they are to turn that information in with the timesheets. This policy will be added to the employee handbook. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.*

*Jeremy Drennen's proposal to do the City's pre-audit financial statements was reviewed. Efaw made the motion to accept Drennen's proposal for \$3,500. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.*

*Ordinance #460 which provides for three FEMA properties to be turned over to the City from Marion County. Bates made the motion to read the heading only. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. She said the City cannot sell the property and nothing permanent can be built on them. Efaw made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #460. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. The properties are located at 409 Pyles Avenue, 411 Pyles Avenue and 306 Park Drive.*

*Mannington BAD's request for a one-time use permit to serve beer downtown for New Year's Eve was the next item of business. Bates made the motion to grant the one-time provisional use permit for New Year's Eve. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Craw abstained.*

*Michael said Mon Power will install, free of charge, electrical service on the pole across from the post office on Water Street. It will be available for use during festivals and events. Craw made the motion to okay the installation of service on Water Street by Mon Power. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.*

*In department reports, Sides said the police department received 109 calls for assistance, issued six citations and recovered three vehicles. The mayor thanked him for assisting with the code enforcement.*

*Michael said the new code enforcement officer, Jordan Gump, started work today.*

*The outstanding bills were reviewed. Efaw made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.*

*Fluharty made the motion to adjourn. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.*