COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022

The 2nd monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw, Ken Fletcher, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

Bill Hunter, chairman of the Mannington Sanitary Board, presented a 3-step sewer rate increase for council’s consideration. He said funds are needed to help with the current and future inflow & infiltration project. He said the 2nd step would not become effective until the project is started, and the last step would take effect upon the project completion. Board Member Denny Williams said they did it in the three phases to make it easier on the customers. Roger Russell said, as a past member of the Sanitary Board, he knows they have had the same infiltration issue for years at the plant. Fluharty made the motion to approve the request for a sewer rate increase. Russell seconded the motion and it carried. It will be sent to the city attorney to draw up an ordinance.

Leslie Forquer said she wanted to address any questions about The Mason Jar, a new restaurant that will be moving into the former location of Mario’s Pizza. She said they are waiting on the loan closing that should take place in the next week and a half. They plan to serve homecooked meals along with beer and wine, but they will abide by the recent ordinance that mandates sales must be at least 60% food. The mayor said everyone was looking forward to the opening of The Mason Jar.

In old business, the agreement with DataMax to collect hidden business license fees was the first item on the agenda. The city attorney has reviewed it and said there were no issues. Craw made the motion to approve the agreement with DataMax. Russell seconded the motion and it carried.

The second reading of Ordinance #465 which provides for an auction to see a 2004 Mercury Marquis was next. Fletcher made the motion to read the heading only. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Fletcher asked about the decals on the car and Michael said Chief Rigsby is to remove them and the equipment before the auction. Fletcher made the motion to adopt Ordinance #465. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.

Michael said the committee will have their recommendation for the engineering firm for the Burt Hill Water Storage Tank Project at the next meeting.

The purchase of the trash receptacles that are being partially funded by a Litter Control Grant was discussed. City Clerk Michele Fluharty presented a quote for five receptacles for downtown and on the trailhead. Fletcher made the motion to approve the purchase of the receptacles from Belson Outdoors for $3,028. The cost will be split between the DNR and the City. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Quotes for a trench box for the water department were reviewed. The following were received: Kundel $7,257.98; North East Shoring $9,575.00; United Rentals $14,186.00. Fletcher made the motion to accept the quote from Kundel. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Ordinance #466 which abandons Rose Street extension was introduced for the first reading. Fletcher made the motion to read the heading only. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Fletcher made the motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #466. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

Code Enforcement Officer Jordan Gump reported on several complaints that he has investigated along with two building permits he issued. Fletcher said he would like to see Nwoko Columba brought to court about several of the properties he owns in town.

Superintendent Ted Nice said his guys have been busy with the lead and copper sampling that is now mandated.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Fletcher made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael asked for an executive session to discuss a retiree insurance issue. Tim made the motion to go into executive session. Fletcher seconded it and it carried. The time was 7:55 p.m. After coming back into regular session, Fletcher made the motion to deny the request to pay a portion of Eddie Price’s PEIA insurance. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Craw made the motion to adjourn. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.