COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 1, 2023

The first monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members present were Kris Bates, John Craw, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Rev Jerry Bush.

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

Robin Smith representing Mannington BAD asked for a copy of the agreement between the City and the Taylor County Sheriff’s Department. She also noted that their attorney researched the state code and could find nothing that pertains to police canines. Michael said a copy of the agreement will be provided to Smith.

Melissa Martin said she had received a code notice about the high grass on her property. She asked if the codified ordinances online were the most recent. City Clerk Michele Fluharty said the most recent ordinances are not included. She said the updates are expensive and are only done annually. Michael said she would have the code enforcement officer call Martin if she had a question about her notice.

Becky Williams gave a brief outline of some activities planned by Mannington Main Street including asking downtown businesses to remain open late on the third Thursday of each month. Lisa Dillon said the embezzlement case has been settled and Sarah Reel can make payments in any amount that she can afford as long as it is paid by February 2025. She said Main Street was not advised of the final hearing on the case.

In New Business, Ordinance #478 which provides for the sale of city property was the first item of business. Bates made the motion to read the heading. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Russel made the motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #478. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael said she would like to use some of the ARPA funds for the city’s share of $57,000 for the water meter project and to replace the Hardesty Bridge. Thrasher Engineering’s estimate for the bridge replacement was approximately $170,000. Craw made the motion to allocate $227,000 for the two projects requested. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

The probation periods for Tyler Hess and Phillip Stewart have been completed but Interim Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler is on his way to the regional jail so it will be tabled until the next meeting.

Michael asked for authorization for Allegheny Environmental to do the asbestos testing/reporting on the eight properties slated for demolition. Fluharty made the motion to approve Allegheny Environmental to conduct the asbestos studies. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

In department reports, Michael read the police report. Superintendent Ted Nice said the bid notice for the street paving jobs was sent to the newspaper and a check was received from Overland Pipeline to cover the cost of the repairs to the Whetstone waterline caused by their trucks. Fluharty said Overland’s check was for $4,363 and was deposited in the water fund today.

In the mayor’s report, she said letters were received from the WV Department of Highways stating they plan to replace the Brookside Bridge and seal the Historic Southside Bridge (Clarksburg Street Bridge) and asking the city to sign the agreement since they are both city bridges. She asked for a special meeting to approve those agreements because the funding is based on availability. The special meeting was set for May 5 at 7:00 p.m. Michael also reported that the discretionary funds that she applied for through Senator Manchin’s office have been moved to the next step. They include $44,000 for the Fire Department and $39,000 for the Police Department.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Craw made the motion to pay the bills as listed. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

Bates made the motion to adjourn. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.