

COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2018

The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Charles Kolb presiding was held Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Denny Efaw, Nelson Elliott, Ken Fletcher, Ray Shadrick and Becky Williams.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty read the minutes of the last meeting and they stood approved as read except for a minor correction.

Several visitors were present. Mark Starsick asked about the recent water violations. Superintendent Ted Nice explained that the water samples have been in violation for the last several quarters but he, along with the public service districts who purchase water from Fairmont, have been working with the City of Fairmont to determine the cause. Nice said it has occurred with other municipalities who have the same membrane filtration system that Fairmont does. Starsick asked if a filter system would help and Nice is to check with the State Health Department.

Janina Fetty asked when Loudermilk's burnt out house will be removed on Adams Street. Kolb said the city is trying to track him down so that they can purchase the house and then demolish it. Fletcher said he will check to see if it is on the County's tax sale. She also asked about Columba's property that still needs cleaned up. Kolb said he was recently in court and he gave him 30 days to clean it all up or he will be fined \$100 a day.

Commissioner Randy Elliott said he saw that Don Sides probation was on the agenda and he just wanted to say that Sides was doing a fine job. Elliott also said he was surprised to hear Fire Chief Jim Moran's comments in the minutes about his lack of support for the fire levy. Elliott said he met with the fire department, explained the levy and answered questions. He said they all seemed satisfied and supportive. Elliott said he considers the fire levy to be the most important one on the ballot this year. Shadrick said the issue was the

fact that Mannington residents already pay a municipal service charge that helps to fund the fire department. Some people consider it a question of double taxation. Elliott said the City could always rescind the municipal service charge if the levy passes.

Liz Shenal said the transit levy is important too. Her son rides the transit bus every day.

In department reports, Chief of Police David James said they wrote 25 citations, made 3 arrests and received 101 calls for assistance in the month of September.

Nice reported that they installed a new water line at the 7-Eleven last week. He is still having problems getting blacktop. The State DOH cleaned up the slide on Sycamore Road but he is concerned that there is no barrier there to catch any future slides. Nice reported that he submitted Fluharty's name to the Rural Water Association and he was notified today that she was named Office Manager of the Year. Fluharty thanked Nice for nominating her and Kolb and Fletcher for submitting letters of support.

Fluharty said there was a leak in the council chambers ceiling and when Mike Williams fixed that leak, he reported that a new roof will be needed this year.

The only item under Old Business was the insurance money for the gymnasium floor that was damaged when the a/c unit leaked. Fluharty said she was told that the floor does not need replaced, at this time, so she would like to give the money to the Park Board. Elliott made the motion to transfer the \$16,131.31 to the Mannington Park Board. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

The first reading of Ordinance #437 which changes the municipal judge from the mayor to an attorney was the first item under New Business. Fletcher said he would like to set up a meeting with the City of Fairmont's Judge Julian who could explain the advantages and

disadvantages of such a change. Shadrick made the motion to table Ordinance #437 until the work session with Julian is held. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved.

Fluharty said the Water Department has money in two accounts with the Municipal Bond Commission that were left over when the 1963 bonds were paid off. They were left there because the interest rate was higher than the local banks. However, since the Water Fund is currently having money issues, she would like to transfer those monies back to the City. She recommended that \$8,000 be put into the Water Reserve Account which will make it fully funded, according to the RUS's bond requirements. \$19,517.52 would go into the Depreciation Account which is not fully funded. The remaining \$10,000 would remain in the Water Fund to help with the current unpaid bills. Elliott made the motion to authorize Fluharty to contact the Municipal Bond Commission to arrange the money transfer. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved. Elliott asked if the City could encourage more customers to pay earlier in the month by offering a discount. Fluharty said she would check with the PSC to see if that is permissible.

Kolb said Main Street has requested a donation to help with the initial BBQ Cook-Off slated to be held during this year's Octoberfest. Efaw made the motion to donate \$200 for the Cook-Off. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Don Sides' probation was the last item under New Business. Kolb asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Shadrick made the motion to go into executive session. Elliott seconded the motion and it carried. The time was 7:40 p.m.

Council returned at 7:55 p.m. Efaw made the motion to reconvene into regular session. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved.

Kolb asked for a motion to accept Chief James' recommendation to hire Sides as a regular employee. Fletcher made that motion to hire Sides as a regular, full time patrolman. Elliott seconded the motion and it carried.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Efaw made the motion to pay the bills as the money is available. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Efaw said he would like to see more pressure put on Nwoko Columba to get his property cleaned up on Bluff Street.

Efaw made the motion to adjourn. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.