

COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 29, 2018

The first regular November meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Charlie Kolb presiding was held Monday, October 29, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. The meeting was moved to this date due to the council chambers being used as a polling place for the election on the regular meeting day. Council members attending were Denny Efaw, Kenneth Fletcher, Ray Shadrick and Becky Williams.

The minutes of the last regular meeting was read by City Clerk Michele Fluharty and stood approved as read.

In the visitors' portion of the meeting, Ken Witt, chairman of the Planning Commission, reported that the Commission is recommending William and Becky Williams' request to abandon an alley by their house on High Street. He said a public hearing was held earlier this month and no objections were received. Fletcher made the motion to accept the Commission's recommendation and to authorize an ordinance be drawn up to implement the abandonment. Shadrick seconded the motion and it carried. Williams abstained.

Comcast's Lee Shaffer distributed quotes for new phone & internet service at city hall. Mayor Kolb said council will review the options and decide at a later date.

Several residents from Howard Street were present concerning the house at 210 Howard Street. They said the house is in deplorable condition and there is loud music coming from it at all hours. One of the residents and her daughter were also chased by a woman with a hatchet who lives in that house. Chief of Police David James said Officer Jolliffe responded to that call. He will get statements tomorrow and go to the Prosecutor's Office to press charges. Kolb said the City has been trying to find the owner of the house to bring her into court. He was told she lives in Dunkard Mill now and they will get her address.

Gary Leeson complained about the dayshift officer spending so much time in the office on Saturday and Sunday. James said there is a lot of paperwork that comes with the job. Kolb asked James if he could see the log sheets that show the mileage for each shift. James said he could get that information to him.

In department reports, Superintendent Ted Nice said one dumpster was filled and there was a little bit in the second one during the October 13th Fall Cleanup Day, they are still trying to patch before cold weather hits and the HAA5 violation continued this month. He suggested a letter be written to the City of Fairmont asking that they reimburse the City for the expense to send out the notices to our customers advising them of the violation since it looks like the problem is originating in Fairmont's plant. Efaw suggested Nice and Fluharty get together to draft the letter.

Fluharty said the money from the Municipal Bond Commission was received and she transferred the necessary funds to the Reserve Account to get it fully funded. She also reported that Water Clerk Jennifer Barker contacted the Public Service Commission and they said that an early discount on the water bills is not permitted, at this time.

Councilman Nelson Elliott arrived at this time.

After reviewing Code Enforcement Officer Anthony Horton's written report, Councilman Efaw asked if an excel sheet could be developed for him to report his activities. He said those reports could then be emailed to the mayor and council, so they will know which properties have been inspected and what his findings were for each of them. Fluharty said she would see if Heather Fluharty could develop such a sheet.

In New Business, Ordinance #438 which rescinds the previous ATV ordinance was the first item on the agenda. Fletcher said he would like to see the ordinance mirror the State Code so that the money from any violations would stay in Mannington. He said with this version of Ordinance #438, the money would go to the County. Efaw agreed the money should stay in Mannington. Shadrick made the motion to reject Ordinance #438, as written, and ask the attorney to draw up a new one which would mirror the state's regulations. Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Marion County 4-H Foundation's request that the City sponsor a scholarship to send one county 4-H member to camp was discussed. Efaw made the motion to approve \$350 for a full state camp scholarship. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved.

Jeremy Drennen's engagement letter to compile the City's financial reports for the year ending June 30, 2018 was the next item on the agenda. His fee is \$3500. Shadrick made the motion to approve Drennen's engagement letter. Elliott seconded the motion and it carried.

A resolution supporting Home Rule as a permanent program was presented for council's approval. Elliott reported that, at the recent meeting held with Lisa Dooley from the WV Municipal League, she said they want each municipality in WV to pass the resolution so that Home Rule will be open to all cities. Fletcher made the motion to support Home Rule as a permanent program in WV. Shadrick seconded the motion and it carried.

The last item of New Business was the sergeant position in the police department. Chief James presented his written recommendation that Ryan Jolliffe be appointed as sergeant. Kolb said he has heard good things about Officer Sides and would like to see him considered for that position. Fluharty said the job needs to be posted as an inter-departmental job opening. Shadrick said he disagrees about posting the position since the charter says the mayor can make appointments. Fluharty said the mayor can make appointments, with council's approval, but the position still needs posted. Council agreed to post the position. Fletcher said he would like to see a canine unit in the police department. He is to ask Fairmont's planner to see if she can help with any grants available for a canine unit.

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

Efaw asked about Nwoko Columba's progress on the demolition of his Bluff St property. Kolb said he has a dumpster now and is making progress.

Fletcher said he thinks the house at 405 Adams St is in imminent danger of falling over and he would like the code enforcement officer to declare it so if he feels it is a danger also. Kolb said he is still waiting on a response from the City Attorney.

Efaw made the motion to adjourn. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.