

COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2019

The second regular February meeting of the Mannington City Council with Council At Large Nelson Elliott presiding was held Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Other council members in attendance were Denny Efaw, Ray Shadrick and Becky Williams.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty read the minutes of the previous meeting and they stood approved as read.

In department reports, Chief of Police David James said they conducted seven investigations, made one arrest, issued three citations and received 102 calls for assistance. Superintendent Ted Nice said they are having a problem with EQT plowing Spring Street after rock or cinders are being put on it. They have been contacted twice. He reported that Brad Moore passed the water distribution test and will be fully certified when he completes the necessary 1000 hours in the next couple of months. Shadrick said he was contacted by Jennifer Huey about water run-off from Terrace Drive onto her property. Nice said they would check on it tomorrow. Fluharty said it is budget time and asked if council wanted to meet early before the March 4th meeting. It was agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m.

There was no old business.

In New Business, Fluharty said the City was awarded a Bowers grant two years ago to purchase hanging baskets and banners for downtown and she would like authorization to purchase those items now. The total cost of the project is \$7300. Williams made the motion to okay the purchase of the baskets and banners from Garden Artisans. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

The appointment to fill the vacancy created when Officer Tristan Evans resigned was the next item on the agenda. Chief James said they had three candidates. Two of them, Austin Stanley and Phillip

Stewart, passed the physical ability testing and were interviewed. He recommended that Stanley be hired as a full-time officer and Stewart as a part time office with the stipulation that Stewart produce his diploma within four months of his hire date. Shadrick asked for an executive session. Shadrick then made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Efaw seconded the motion and all approved. The time was 7:08 p.m. Shadrick then made the motion to reconvene into regular session at 7:15 p.m. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried. Williams made the motion to accept Chief James' recommendation and hire Stanley as a full-time officer and Stewart as a part time office with the stipulation that he submit his diploma within four months. Efaw seconded the motion and all approved.

General Fund Budget Revision #2 was presented for council's approval. Fluharty said there were several revenue items that have exceeded projections but also several expenditure items that are over budget. The revision will result in a \$12,605 overall increase in expenditures. Shadrick made the motion to approve the General Fund Budget Revision #2. Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

The next item on the agenda was discussion about a possible water rate increase. Fluharty presented a Water Fund financial statement that showed a \$9,600 deficit in January. She said each month they are struggling to pay the bills. Every effort is made to collect past due accounts each month, but the expenditures are still exceeding the revenue. Efaw made the motion to authorize Bennett & Dobbins to investigate a possible rate increase. Williams seconded the motion and it carried. Discussion then followed about the quality of the water being received from Fairmont. Efaw said he wants Dave Sago from the City of Fairmont, a representative from the State Health Department and Randy Watson from Thrasher Engineering to attend a future meeting to discuss the ongoing water issues. Casey Garner asked if Shinnston was having the same problem. Nice said they are

not but their intake valve is in a different location. Nice said pre-chlorine is definitely the issue.

Fluharty said the police department will need a new cruiser in next year's budget but when she contacted the State Purchasing Agency this month, they said police cruisers are no longer included in their bidding process. She suggested the City enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Mannington Sanitary Board to purchase the 2017 Dodge Ram truck they plan to auction next month. Their minimum bid is \$20,000. Elliott asked Chief James if he agreed and he said it would take approximately \$6,000 to get it properly equipped but the City would still be saving money. A new vehicle would be approximately \$25,000 plus the cost of the equipment so the City would save around \$5,000. Shadrick made the motion to okay the purchase of the 2017 Dodge Ram truck from the Mannington Sanitary Board via an intergovernmental agreement. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Shadrick made the motion to adjourn. Williams seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.