

COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2020

The second regular, monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Ray Shadrick presiding was held Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:07 p.m. Council members attending were Chris Efaw, Denny Efaw, Nelson Elliott, Ken Fletcher and Tim Fluharty.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. C Efaw made the motion to accept the minutes, as presented. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

The first item of business was the public hearing on the levy rates. City Clerk Michele Fluharty explained the rates and said the City will receive \$183,271 in ad valorem taxes in the next fiscal year. Since there was no opposition, Elliott made the motion to approve the rates. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved.

In Old Business, the Wintergarden Park was discussed. Randy Watson, via telephone, said they had to change the scope of the project because the bids came in over budget. He said the amphitheater is being moved to the upper end of the lot and parking will be on the lower end. He said it allows for expansion and there is room for a gazebo later on. Anthony Fluharty, who along with Ryan Manley was the low bidder on the project, asked about the electrical connection in that area. Superintendent Ted Nice said it comes from Market Street and if Fluharty would stop at the garage, someone would show him. Fluharty said she spoke to Jenna Green at the WV SHIPPO and they were okay with the changes as long as they were updated. The funding would remain the same. Council told Watson to proceed with the next phase of the project.

Code Enforcement Officer Shane Carpenter reported that he sent out letters to several people regarding property code violations. He asked each council member to make him a list of problem areas in their precinct so that he can begin getting them cleaned up this summer.

The WV Municipal League's letter explaining their newly-formed insurance pool program was reviewed by council. Fluharty said the City's current policy expires July 1st so it would be a good time to get proposals. Elliott made the motion

to contact the ML's WV Communities Risk Pool Program for a quote on the City's property & casualty insurance/workers' compensation policies. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Nice gave his department report and said since council has given him no direction as to which streets to pave, they are proceeding with the three that were approved last spring and will re-assess when we see how much money is still available after they are paved.

Fluharty said the State Auditor's Office has approved the FY 2020-21 budgets. She also said that Water Clerk Jennifer Barker did a comparison of the water department income for February, March and April to see if the pandemic has affected it. Fluharty said as of today's date, income is down approximately \$7,000 but she will check again at the end of the month. Barker will be sending out late notices this week.

Anthony Fluharty asked if the glass that is to be installed in the city offices has come in yet. Shadrick said it did but has not been delivered yet.

Visitors were then given a chance to speak. Brandon Clyde praised Chief of Police Brian Stewart and said he, along with Wesley and Justin Wheeler, were submitting their resignations in protest of how the situation was handled. Lora Michael, president of the Mannington Women's Club, said their proposed Farmer's Market has been postponed due to the pandemic. They hope to do it later in the summer. Jennifer Leer said she thought Chief Stewart was doing a good job and he had made a difference in her neighborhood. She added that she would like to see someone outside of Mannington for the chief's position. Wesley Wheeler then came back into the meeting and said he was very upset that Stewart was terminated and not happy that Stewart, or anyone else, was not allowed to speak before council went into executive session.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. D Efav made the motion to pay the bills. C Efav seconded the motion and it carried.

Fletcher made the motion to adjourn. C Efav seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

