COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 5, 2023

The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

The meeting began with a prayer led by Reverend Charles Legg followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Cora and Dalton Gump presented a check for $5,702.41 to Mayor Michael from a fund raiser that was held in conjunction with the first anniversary of the opening of their gym, North Peak Performance. The money is to be used for the replacement of the Water Street swinging bridge.

Randy Watson from Thrasher Engineering gave a brief outline of the swimming pool project. He said the initial bids came in over budget so the project is currently being re-bid and those bids will be opened on June 30. Watson said if those bids come in within the funding limits, the project will begin after the fair. The projected opening date is Memorial Day 2024.

Becky Williams representing Mannington Main Street said she was present to answer several questions that were circulating about their organization. She said they do have insurance coverage and if the city wants individual certificates for events, their insurance company will issue them. As for the capital gains on the sale of the old depot, they did not meet the threshold of $50,000 so they were not required to pay. The BBQ Throwdown last year resulted in $22,000 in expenditures and they had a loss of $1,700. The money for this year’s event will come in July and they expect it to be bigger and better.

The first item of New Business was Ordinance #479 which standardizes the license fees. Russell made the motion to read the heading only. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Bates made the motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #479. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.

Invoice # 1 from Michael Jenkins dba Allegheny Environmental Services for the asbestos inspections for the REAP Project was next on the agenda. Mayor Michael said the invoice would be paid from the grant monies. Bates made the motion to approve Jenkins’ invoice for $8,170. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty said the final budget revisions for the General and Coal Severance Funds must be submitted to the State Auditor’s Office for this fiscal year. She said the purpose is to move funds into any accounts that may run over budget or to allocate funds to any needed expenditures. Russell made the motion to approve General Fund Budget Revision #3 and Coal Severance Fund Budget Revision #2. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

Superintendent Ted Nice said he secured the following bids for a new mower:

Tractor Supply - Bad Boy $4,299

Rural King - Bad Boy 4,619

Tractor Supply - Cub Cadet 4,299

Home Depot - Toro 4,800

Craw made the motion to accept the bid from Tractor Supply for the Bad Boy Tractor for $4,299. Russell seconded the motion and it carried.

In his department reports, Nice highlighted the jobs that they have completed in the last two weeks. He thanked the mayor and council for promoting Brad Moore to the assistant’s position.

Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler gave his monthly report in which he noted that the squatters at 705 Grant Street were arrested and they were ordered to remove the camper there. Once it is removed, the property will be roped off. Wheeler also addressed the manpower issue. He said it has been a problem for several years because no one is applying for the police department jobs anywhere. All departments are experiencing shortages. However, he said he will continue to try to recruit people. He said Officer Hess has been off with an injury but he expects him back soon.

The city clerk reminded everyone that the city election is tomorrow.

In the mayor’s report, she said that eight contractors were present at the pre-bid meeting for the demolition project. Once the contract is awarded, they will have 90 days to complete the demolition. They will be razing eight houses in the first phase.

Several houses with high grass were mentioned. Michael said if the city does not know who the owners are, the city crews can mow the grass and then liens would be placed on those properties.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Fluharty made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.

Bates made the motion to adjourn. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.