COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, Anthony Fluharty, Tim Fluharty, Taylor Garrison, and Robin Smith.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Jerry Bush.

The minutes for the last regular and special meetings were reviewed. Bates made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tim Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Several visitors were present. Melissa Martin distributed pictures of people sitting on a wall across from her parents’ house. She suggested that a residential loitering ordinance should be adopted. April Fittro asked Code Enforcement Officer Christina Shreve if she cites someone for garbage piled up at their house, do they show her proof that they are paying for garbage service. Shreve said that she has only cited one or two people but she was not aware that they had to show proof of service. Fittro said several commercial dumpsters in town are being used by people who do not have service. Mark Starsick said he would like more discussion about the police department. He challenged the mayor and council to do something about hiring more officers, including hiring an outside firm to look for candidates. Mayor Michael said this is not just a Mannington problem. It is a problem state and nation-wide. She said Jason Lipps, who was hired at the last meeting, was repeatedly passed over by the former chief of police and he is now at the FSU Police Academy. Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler said no one wants to be a police officer anymore. The mayor and council are doing nothing wrong. Social attitudes and social media are big reasons that no one is applying for the jobs. Fittro asked about offering an incentive and Michael said when she attended a recent WV Municipal League conference, several mayors said they offered signing bonuses and still no one applied. John Craw invited everyone to attend the Forks of the Buffalo Showdown this weekend.

The only item of Old Business was the signature cards. Smith made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the signature cards. Garrison seconded the motion and it carried. The time was 7:40 p.m.

Bates made the motion to reconvene into regular session. Garrison seconded the motion and all approved. The time was 8:10 p.m.

The first item of New Business was opening the bids for a new truck for the street department. The only bid received was from Jenkins Ford for a Ford F250 for $58,748. Smith made the motion to accept the bid provided it meets all the specifications. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael Jenkins’ invoice for the asbestos report for Phase II of the REAP Program was reviewed. Tim Fluharty made the motion to approve the payment of $5,990 to Mike Jenkins. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. Michael said this money will come from the REAP grant.

In department reports, Wheeler said his department received 31 calls for assistance, had six cases and made one arrest. Shreve also gave her monthly report. Superintendent Ted Nice said they have begun lead and copper testing as mandated by the state and he has ordered the speed hump signs/poles for the roads that are to be paved next month. City Clerk Michele Fluharty distributed the financial reports for July & August.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Anthony Fluharty made the motion to pay the bills as listed. Smith seconded the motion and all approved.

Tim Fluharty made the motion to adjourn. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.