COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 2, 2023

The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Lora Michael presiding was held Monday, October 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members in attendance 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 Reverend Legg.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Bates made the motion to approve the minutes. Tim Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Visitor Amber McElwain asked about the paving on Buffalo Road. She said they paved over some of the ditches. Street & Water Superintendent Ted Nice advised her to contact the WV DOH since that was a state job. Becky Williams, representing Mannington Main Street, asked for a one-time permit to sell beer & wine at the Pepperoni Roll Drop on New Year’s Eve. Mayor Michael said that decision will need to be tabled until both organizations sponsoring the Drop are state-certified. Williams said they would take care of that.

There was no old business.

In New Business, three bids for the purchase of a new police cruiser were opened. The bids received were:

Jenkins Ford (Ford Explorer) $ 45,955 (available immediately)

Stephens Auto (Dodge) 41,346 (in transit)

Whiteside Chevrolet (Chevrolet) 57,816 (in stock)

Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler said he questioned the reliability of the Dodge Durango because they have not had a good experience with them in the past. He is to review the bids before the next meeting and City Clerk Michele Fluharty will contact the city attorney about rejecting the low bid.

Brad Moore’s probation expired today for his position as Assistant Street & Water Superintendent. Both Mayor Michael and Nice recommended that he be approved for the permanent position. Smith made the motion to approve Moore as the Assistant Street & Water Superintendent. Tim seconded the motion and all approved.

In Department Reports, Wheeler read his report for the period of September 4 through October 1, 2023. Nice then reported that Anderson Excavating has completed all their paving jobs in town and the speed humps will be installed shortly. The tap for the trailer park by North Pointe Plaza is to be scheduled soon and a small ditch will be put in at Parkview Rentals. The placement of their water line will not allow a deeper ditch.

Code Enforcement Officer Christina Shreve said she tagged one unsafe property, completed four inspections and is working with the DNR on the problems at 300 Highland St.

The city clerk said she recently completed the annual financial statements, and they will be published in the newspaper this month.

Smith asked for an update on the new pool and the ongoing demolition projects. Michael said the pool parts are still in transit and will, hopefully, be here soon. Smith asked if Aster had a September 30, 2023, deadline. Michael said the city was granted an extension.

In the mayor’s report, she read a letter from the Mannington Fair Board thanking everyone at the city for their help in making this year’s fair a success. She also reported on a mitigation meeting she recently attended at the Region Six offices. They are compiling a report on any hazards in our area. Michael then reiterated the process of the demolition project. She explained how and when the properties were selected because she said there was some misinformation being given out to the public. She estimated that $250,000 would be needed to finish tearing down all 35 properties initially selected for the project.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Bates made the motion to approve payment of the bills. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Bates made the motion to adjourn. Smith seconded the motion and all approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.