

COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2021

The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, August 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Crow, Chris Efaw, Tim Fluharty and Ray Shadrick.

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

Visitor Bill Hunter, chairman of the Mannington Sanitary Board, read a resolution that the Board is asking to be added to Ordinance #255 regarding the inspection of laterals on existing or under construction dwellings. Shadrick made the motion to authorize the city attorney to draw up an ordinance to amend Ordinance #255 adding the resolution as recommended by the Sanitary Board. Fluharty seconded the motion and all approved. Hunter and Danny Braham from Thrasher Engineering requested \$400,000 from the City's ARFA funds to make necessary upgrades to the sewerage system. Hunter said any monies would help alleviate the burden on the Board and their customers. Hunter said the Board has been conducting testing to determine the source of the excess water coming into the plant. Braham said they believe the major contributor is the laterals, but more testing is needed. Mayor Michael said if the City helps, any future rate increase will be smaller. Hunter said he plans to ask the County Commission for funding also. Efaw asked if the Water Department needed some of the ARFA money also. Superintendent Ted Nice said he submitted a list of needs. Discussion followed as to the amount to give to the Sanitary Board. Shadrick made the motion to give the Sanitary Board \$250,000 for system repairs now and at least \$150,000 next year. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried. Hunter thanked the council.

In old business, Michael gave an update on the Dent's Run Dam Project. She said Forquer Contracting did not show up today, as scheduled. She is contacting the DEP every morning to give them a report. The City did receive \$30,000 from Marion County Coal Resources as stipulated in the agreement.

In new business, an amendment to the training agreement for uncertified officers hired in the police department was the first item of business. Michael said she learned at the recent Municipal League conference that cities can require that they stay for two years after graduation from the academy or they are liable for the expenses spent to send them to the academy. Efaw made the motion to adopt the new training agreement. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael also asked that the credit card payment fees be reinstated. She said they were absorbed by the City during last year's pandemic, but she would like to discontinue that practice. City Clerk Michele Fluharty said PSN charges a 2.75% surcharge for each payment made by a credit card. Efaw made the motion to reinstate the service fees. Bates seconded the motion and it carried by a 3-2 vote. Craw and Shadrick voted no. Craw said he would like to see online payments be available to pay water/sewer bills, etc. Fluharty is to see if that is an option through PSN and will report back at the next meeting.

In department reports, Chief of Police Jim Rigsby said several tickets were written the week of the fair and there was a B&E on Garfield Street. He said that the new regulations on hiring for the police department says that an untrained officer cannot ride in the cruiser without a certified officer. He said the city would be better off trying to hire someone two weeks before the next academy class so they would not be paying someone just to sit in the office. Shadrick asked about Officer Castleberry and Rigsby said he thought he was grandfathered in because he was hired before the new regulations took effect.

Nice gave his work report and said his department recently attended an OSHA safety training class. Nice then detailed the problems he, and other water departments, had in getting their samples tested by Reliance Labs last month. He tried repeatedly to contact them from July 5 to August 10 with no results. As a result, the City will be getting a violation because the lab did not test the samples. Nice plans to contact the state's representatives to ask them to change the laws when such violations are issued through no fault of the water system. He said the DEP is granting waivers for sewer systems who encountered the same problem, but the EPA will not do the same for water systems. Nice's letter stating that he is considering a job offer from the City of

Shinnston to serve as a water plant operator was discussed. Efaw said he thought council should go into executive session but Nice said it was not necessary. After talking about the conditions that Nice was asking for in order to stay with Mannington, Shadrick made the motion to go into executive session to discuss Nice's letter. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. The time was 8:25 p.m.

Shadrick made the motion to reconvene into regular session. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

Efaw made the motion to pay the outstanding bills. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

The city clerk said the City did not receive funding through the Bowers Trust for the portable speeding signs but did receive the Litter Control Grant through the DNR for the trash cans for downtown.

Shadrick made the motion to adjourn. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.