COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2022

The first regular January meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members in attendance were Kris Bates, John Craw and Tim Fluharty.

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were reviewed. Fluharty made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Ken Witt, Planning Commission chairman, said the commission is recommending the abandonment of the portion of Rose Street situated between Route 250 and Railroad Street. Witt said Freeland Miller owns on both sides and he has requested the abandonment. Craw made the motion to accept the commission’s recommendation. Bates seconded the motion and it carried. It will now be sent to the attorney to draw up an ordinance.

In Old Business, Michael said there has been a slight stoppage in the Dent’s Run Dam project due to the weather, so she has requested a permit extension until March 1, 2022. She has not gotten a response from the DEP yet.

Michael also reported that they have received $500,000 so far in donations for the pool project and the LWCF grant application will be submitted in June once the city’s share of $1,000,000 is raised. She will be attending the Marion County Commission meeting on Wednesday to get their answer on the city’s pool funding request. Craw asked if the project will be delayed if the $1,000,000 is not reached. Michael said the Park Board may go forward with tearing out the old pool with the funds they have raised.

The letter from the State Auditor advising the City that they must secure deeds for the three properties recently secured through the State was discussed. The properties are on Railroad Street, Market Street and Buffalo Street. Craw made the motion to send the paperwork to the city attorney to secure those deeds. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.

Michael said she would like to schedule a special meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 to appoint two new councilmembers and to handle several other matters. Ray Shadrick submitted his resignation on December 22, 2021. She said several good applications have been received. Bates made the motion to hold a special meeting on January 10 at 7:00 p.m. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

In department reports, Superintendent Ted Nice said he will be meeting this week with Mary Hutson from WV Community Action Partnership to discuss the new lead and copper regulations. He also said the two new street & water department employees will start on January 10.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty said BHM CPA Group is scheduled to be here on Wednesday to conduct the annual audit.

Chief of Police Jim Rigsby said they received 89 calls last month. He also said he would like to sell the Mercury Marquis since it is not suitable as a police vehicle. Discussion followed as to whether the water department could use it for meter reading, delivering samples, etc. Nice is to decide if his department is interested.

The 15-mile radius requirement in the police department regulations was discussed. It was agreed that mutual aid makes that requirement unnecessary since other departments are available to respond. Michael said she talked to several police chiefs and many do not have that stipulation in their regulations. Rigsby said he had an interested applicant, but he lives in Barbour County. The radius requirement will be placed on the special meeting agenda. Rigsby said even certified applicants must undergo polygraph and psychological tests.

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

Fluharty made the motion to adjourn. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.