

Council Meeting of December 6, 2021

The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw, Chris Efaw, Tim Fluharty, and Ray Shadrick.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Bates made the motion to let the minutes stand as read. Shadrick seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Michael recognized members of the Mannington Gators football team, and their coaches, for their accomplishment in winning the championship this year.

Jerry Bush began the regular business with a prayer.

In old business, Michael said the Dent's Run Dam Project is on hold because they are waiting on rebar.

Visitor Gary Leeson asked what was going to be done about the dope problem in town. He also reported a pile of wood that is still along the fence by his house.

Ordinances #461, #462, #463 and #464 were all scheduled for readings. Craw made the motion to read the heading only of all four ordinances. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael read the heading of Ordinance #461 which pertains to the inspection of sewer laterals. Efaw made the motion to accept the 2nd reading of Ordinance #461. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael read the heading of Ordinance #462 which abandons an alleyway extension in Homewood Addition. Craw made the motion to accept the 2nd reading and adopt Ordinance #462. Shadrick seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael read the heading of Ordinance #463 which abandons a portion of an unopened alleyway between Washington and Nay Streets in Clayton Addition. Craw made the motion to accept the 2nd reading and adopt Ordinance #463. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael read the heading of Ordinance #464 which establishes guidelines for drive-through service facilities in the c-1 Commercial Downtown District. Shadrick made the motion to accept the second reading and adopt Ordinance #464. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilman Efaw said the party who was interested in the property on Burt Hill has changed his mind. Mayor Michael said the attorney is already working on the ordinance so the City will proceed with the auction.

In New Business, Superintendent Ted Nice gave prices on the repair to the wall at 300 Marshall Street and the storm sewer repair in Homewood. The costs were \$2,725 and \$2,200, respectively. He said that several of their trucks are down for repair so they would not be able to start either job until the trucks are back in service. It was agreed to table the matter until the next meeting when the cost to fix the trucks will be known.

The police department manpower was the next item on the agenda. Chief of Police Jim Rigsby reported that Officer Cameron Mitchell has resigned effective in two weeks. He said two candidates will be doing the PT tests this week but one of them lives in Elkins which is outside of the 15-mile radius, per the City's regulations. Michael said she talked to Sheriff Riffle and he has agreed to send more manpower to this area since the City is shorthanded. Efaw said they was no police available to help the EMT this week when he encountered trouble on a call. Rigsby said no one called him or Sgt Sides plus they cannot do anything out of the city limits. Efaw said something must be done to get the department fully staffed to provide 24/7 coverage. Michael said there is nothing in the city charter or regulations that says we must have 24/7 coverage. Discussion followed about the lack of tickets being written, the need for a neighborhood watch, increasing the municipal service charge, and having only three full-time officers so that the pay can be increased.

Michael recommended that Denny Williams be reappointed to the Mannington Sanitary Board. Shadrick made the motion to reappoint Williams to another 3-year term. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilman John Craw has agreed to serve as the City's rep on the Mannington Main Street board. Efaw made the motion to appoint Craw as the City's representative. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Nice gave his department report. He said they are still waiting on a quote from an outside company to repair two hydrants.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Efaw made the motion to approve the bills as presented. Shadrick seconded the motion and it carried.

Efaw asked that the assistant street/water superintendent position be on the next agenda.

Shadrick asked for an executive session to discuss the police department personnel. Shadrick made the motion to go into executive session. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. The time was 8:00 p.m. Shadrick made the motion to reconvene into regular session. Fluharty seconded the motion and all approved. The time was 8:10 p.m.

Michael reported that Cameron Mitchell's resignation will be effective at 2:00 a.m. Tuesday and his last day will be December 17. Craw made the motion to accept Mitchell's resignation effective at the end of his shift tonight. Shadrick seconded the motion and it carried.

Shadrick made the motion to adjourn. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.