COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 17, 2023

The second regular meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, July 17, 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 minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Bates made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Visitors were recognized. Rebecca Juarez presented her request for Mead Fund monies to help build a handicap ramp at her business on High Street. Mayor Michael said the Mead Fund is normally for non-profit organizations not businesses. Smith said she agreed with the mayor adding that there is a fine line that she is not comfortable crossing now.

In department reports, Code Enforcement Officer Christine Shreve said she sent three condemnation letters and condemned the building at 123 Buffalo Street since it had begun to bow. An emergency tear down is being scheduled. Michael said she contacted Ken Fletcher to find out the proper procedures for an emergency tear down and then talked to the DEP. The paperwork is in the works.

Superintendent Ted Nice gave his monthly report. He said they installed a guardrail at the end of Washington Street at the request of the chief of police and leaks on Poolside Drive and Brush Run were fixed. He also noted that lead and copper sampling will be done in September.

Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler reported he received 25 calls for assistance last month. He also said that the police applicant did not pass the psychological test, so he is no longer a candidate, but another is scheduled to test on Wednesday. Two spots are being held for the city for the Fairmont State University fall semester.

In the mayor’s report, she said the DNR gave Brad Moore permission to trap the beavers at the Dent’s Run Dam. They have been building dams that are backing up the water around the Sanitary Board’s package plant. She said the asbestos walk through was done today for the next batch of houses that will be demolished. The grant application for the water meters was completed and submitted.

In New Business, the first item of business was the General Fund Budget Revision #1 for FY 2023-24. City Clerk Michele Fluharty explained the revisions that are required to update the unencumbered balance as of July 1st. Tim Fluharty made the motion to approve the revisions. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. The Fire Fund Budget Revision #1was next. The surplus was put in their equipment reserve account. Bates made the motion to okay the Fire Fund Budget Revision. Tim Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael said the next regular meeting is scheduled for the same night as the fair parade and asked if council wanted to reschedule the meeting or just cancel it. Tim Fluharty made the motion to cancel the next meeting but if something comes up, reschedule it for August 14. Anthony Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

Michael said she spoke to Chuck Cienawski from the Monongahela Soil Conservation Service and they would like to return the money allocated from the Mead Fund to the city to hire someone to clear the creek banks in the channel. She said Andrew Vingino, who is currently working at the park, would be a good candidate for that job. Smith asked if he was interested, and Michael said she has not spoken to him yet since council has not agreed to the idea. Bates made the motion to accept the $5000 from the Monongahela Soil Conservation Service. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Wheeler asked for council’s approval to contract with deputies from the Marion County Sheriff’s Department to work fair week. They will work from 4 pm to midnight for $35 per hour. He said Chief Deputy Bearden has approved the idea. They will not go to the fair but will patrol the town. Bates made the motion to okay the contract. Garrison seconded the motion and all approved.

Michael asked for authorization to purchase the new pool at the cost of $546,229 from Natare Corporation. The estimated ship date is September 17. Bates made the motion to approve the purchase from Natare Corporation. Anthony Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

The invoice from Professional Appraisal Corporation was the next item on the agenda. The invoice covers the appraised of the property at the proposed water tank site at the end of Baltimore Street. Bates made the motion to approve the payment of $2,200 to the Professional Appraisal Corp. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Wheeler also asked that the city give the WV Police Reserves a donation of $500 since they will be handling the traffic control during the fair parade. Tim Fluharty made the motion to approve the donation of $500 to the Police Reserves. Garrison seconded the motion and it carried.

The Water Fund Budget for FY 2023-24 was the final item of New Business. Tim Fluharty made the motion to adopt the Water Fund budget as presented. Smith seconded the motion and all approved.

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

Tim Fluharty made the motion to adjourn. Anthony Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.