COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 3, 2023

 The first regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, July 3, 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 meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Jerry Bush.

 The minutes of the last regular meeting and the two Board of Canvassers meetings were reviewed. Bates made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tim Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

 Jami Trowbridge said in her ride around with the mail carriers she noticed that there were missing stop signs at several of the intersections in town. Mayor Michael asked her to make a note of the intersections and submit them to Superintendent Ted Nice.

 Rebecca Juarez asked about the start date of the demolition project and if there were any items that could be saved from those properties. Michael said the bid for the demolition project has been awarded. The project should begin later this month and the contractor will be responsible for the items remaining in those properties.

 In department reports, Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler said one of the patrolman candidates passed the physical fitness testing and another one is scheduled to be tested on Wednesday. He said the next class at the academy is scheduled for August. Wheeler asked it would be would okay to ask the police reserves to work the fair parade this year. Everyone agreed that was a good idea. He also asked about hiring a county officer to work the week of the fair. Michael said that would be on the next agenda. Finally, Wheeler gave his department report for June 5 – July 3. They received 76 calls for assistance during that period.

 Next was the Street/Water Department report. Nice said they pulled up speed bumps on the streets that will be paved this month and the beaver dam was removed at the Dent’s Run Dam.

 City Clerk Michele Fluharty said her office sent out the license renewals in June and the quarterly b &o tax forms.

 The first item of New Business was the Coal Severance Fund Budget Revision #1 for FY 2024. The city clerk said the unencumbered balance must be adjusted at the beginning of the fiscal year. She said the estimated balance was $500 and the actual balance was $178. This revision will reduce the Street Department budget by $322. Tim Fluharty made the motion to approve the CS budget revision. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

 Michael gave the new council members an update on the Burt Hill Water Tank Project. She said the owner of the proposed site is asking $250,000 for the property. The city’s next step is to get an appraisal of that property before submitting another offer to the owner. If he does not accept, the city can declare a right of eminent domain. Bates made the motion to proceed with the appraisal at a cost of $2200. Anthony Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

 Thrasher Engineering’s recommendation that Litman Excavating’s bid be accepted for the pool project was the next item on the agenda. Anthony Fluharty made the motion to accept Thrasher’s recommendation and approve the bid by Litman Excavating for $822,089.57. Garrison seconded the motion and it carried. The demolition of the old pool is slated for August 14.

 The final item of New Business was the quote for maintenance of the city’s Neptune meter reading software and hardware. Bates made the motion to approve the maintenance quote from Core & Main for $4,520. Tim Fluharty seconded the motion and all approved.

 The outstanding bills were reviewed. Tim Fluharty made the motion to pay the bills as submitted. Anthony Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

 Bates made the motion to adjourn. Tim Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.