

COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 20, 2023

The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw, Ken Fletcher, Tim Fluharty and Roger Russell.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were reviewed. Councilman Craw asked that they be amended to state that he requested an executive session to discuss Jim Rigsby's termination. Fluharty made the motion to approve the minutes with the amendment added. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Requests for funding from the FY 2024 Mead Fund Budget were first on the agenda. Becky Williams, representing the Forks of the Buffalo BBQ Throwdown, the Great Pepperoni Roll Drop and Mannington Main Street, was first. She said the Throwdown will be held September 8-10, 2023 and the cost last year was \$30,000. As for the Pepperoni Roll Drop, they are planning to make it bigger this year with Cody Eagle as the entertainment. They requested \$2,500. Williams then listed several projects that Main Street has planned for the upcoming year including rebranding, a new logo for downtown, and better signage. They are looking for an old truck to park beside the Wintergarden Park which would be decorated with flowers. She said it would be a good photo op location.

Patrick Murphy of the West Augusta Historical Society asked for funding to cover the cost of their insurance. This year's premium is \$3,204.

Dusty Earl, speaking for the Mannington Youth Baseball, said they will be holding a big tournament April 14-15 and 40 games are scheduled this year. He distributed a list of projects and equipment that is needed. He said if they could get \$3,000, they would be happy. Mayor Michael told him that the bathroom fixtures were taken out of the pool so if Youth Baseball needs them, they can have them.

Randy Elliott showed pictures of the road that runs beside the Senior Center and ends at his property on Elliott Drive. He said when Green River Group was working on Pottery Street for the Sanitary Board, they left the road

in bad shape. Michael said she would take the pictures to the next Sanitary Board meeting.

In Old Business, the General Fund, Fire Fund and Coal Severance Fund budgets were presented for their second and final approval. Fletcher made the motion to adopt the three budgets for FY 2024. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

In New Business, Mayor Michael recommended that Donnie Wheeler be appointed as the interim chief of police. Russell made the motion to accept the mayor's recommendation and appoint Wheeler as interim chief of police. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.

A resolution declaring April as Fair Housing Month was read by the mayor. Fletcher made the motion to adopt the Fair Housing Month resolution. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

In department reports, Superintendent Ted Nice said he worked on quotes for lights at Hough Park and for downtown plus his guys assembled the new trailer for the speed sign. He said the sign is in the garage for anyone who wants to see it. A list of streets to be paved was presented to council. Bates asked where the speed sign is to be located. Michael said it is up to Chief Wheeler, but it will probably be tested on Water Street.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty said her office has issued 53 ATV permits since January 1st and they have collected \$1,590. She added that filing for the June 6 election is currently taking place until March 28.

Mayor Michael read the police report.

In the mayor's report, she said that Valor is working in the Taylor County Sheriff's Department as a drug detection canine and is doing very well. The bids for the demolition of five houses should be out soon. The surveying of the property for the new Burt Hill water tank will be done this month. The Marion County Board of Education has donated five AED units to the City. Due to a change in companies, they could not purchase new batteries for the units, so they had no use for them. Michael said they will be given to the police department, fire department, street department, the park board and city hall

will keep one. Finally, she reported that the bids for the new pool/splash pad will be opened on March 21. A special meeting will be held on March 27 to hear Thrasher Engineering's recommendation concerning the bids.

Robin Smith asked about the agreement between the city and the Taylor County Sheriff's Department for Valor. Michael said she followed the attorney's recommendation and Valor was sold to them for a dollar.

The outstanding bills were reviewed. Craw made the motion to pay the bills as listed. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Rondi Rigsby asked why Valor was not retired since he had problems with his teeth. Michael said she was advised that a police canine cannot be retired if he is able to work and Valor is working as a drug detection dog not an attack dog. Rigsby also asked who enforces the city's social media policy and if an employee is bullying online, how is a complaint filed. Michael said the mayor and chief of police are responsible for investigating any complaints.

Fletcher made the motion to adjourn. Craw seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.