COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 15, 2023

The second regular monthly meeting of the Mannington City Council, with Mayor Lora Michael presiding, was held Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Kris Bates, John Craw and Tim Fluharty.

The minutes of the last regular and special meetings were reviewed. Craw made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried.

State Senator Charles Clements presented a $25,000 check to Park Board President Lenny Stafford for the new pool/splash pad project. Clemons said he hopes to have an additional $25,000 for the pool after July 1. Stafford said the Park Board is very appreciative of all of the senator’s help.

In Old Business, the second and final reading of Ordinance #478 which permits the sale of real property owned by the city and valued at $15,000 or less without a public auction was the first item on the agenda. Bates made the motion to read the heading only. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. Michael read the heading. Craw made the motion to adopt Ordinance #478. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty said any municipality that received up to $10,000,000 in ARPA funds can declare those monies as lost revenue and move to their general fund to use for government services. The City has $297,121.06 in ARPA funds remaining. Craw made the motion to designate the remaining funds as lost revenue and approve the transfer of the $297,121.06 into the General Fund. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.

In New Business, Michael said Tyler Hess and Philip Stewart have completed their probation periods. Chief of Police Donnie Wheeler recommended that both Hess and Stewart be hired as part time officers. Craw made the motion to approve Hess and Stewart as regular part time officers. Bates seconded the motion and all approved.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty asked for council’s approval of the pay for the poll workers for the upcoming city election. Bates made the motion to approve $150 for working the election day and $25 for the training session plus $13 an hour for the two early voting poll workers. Craw seconded the motion and all approved.

The bids for next fiscal year’s paving project were opened and the following received:

Anderson Excavating $140,690

C W Stickley 179,025

Miller Paving 181,000

North Central Paving 268,659

Bates made the motion to approve the low bid by Anderson Excavating provided they are still the low bidder after the bid review is completed. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Michael and Superintendent Ted Nice both recommended that Brad Moore be promoted to Assistant Street & Water Superintendent. The job was posted intra-departmentally and he was the only applicant. Moore has his WD water license and has taken the chief operator course. He has also been in charge whenever Nice is busy with paperwork or is off work. Craw made the motion to promote Brad Moore to the Assistant Street & Water Superintendent position effective July 1, 2023. Bates seconded the motion and it carried.

The renewal of the city’s liability insurance with WV Corp was the last item of New Business. Michael said the premium decreased by approximately $2,000. Bates made the motion to authorize the renewal of the WV Corp premium. Craw seconded the motion and it carried.

Wheeler read the police department activity report for the month and said he obtained warrants for two people for the breaking & entering at the Mannington Laundromat. Moore gave the Street/Water Department report.

Code Enforcement Officer Christina Shreve said she distributed 16 door tags and all but three complied. She also said a citation was issued for 705 Grant St. Shreve said she had copies of the city code pertaining to grass cutting if anyone wants to see them. Fluharty said the poll worker training class will be held next Tuesday.

Robin Smith asked if anyone was watching the Sycamore Road hillside for rockslides. Moore said they drive through there every day and more often during rainy weather. He said they closed it several times this year due to slides.

Mayor Michael said she had a meeting with First Exchange Bank President Bill Goettel today and he informed her that they will be staying in town. They also plan to renovate the bank. She also met with a representative from Senator Manchin’s office and asked for help securing funding for a new fire truck. Michael read a letter of resignation from Councilman At Large Ken Fletcher. He recently accepted a new job in another state. Lastly, Michael said she nominated Rebecca & Jesse Juarez for a Historic Preservation award for their renovations to the Bowers house and was recently notified that they won.

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

Craw made the motion to adjourn. Fluharty seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.