

## COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 21, 2017

Mannington City Council with Mayor Jim Taylor presiding met on Monday, August 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Council members attending were Denny Efaw, Kenneth Fletcher, Charlie Kolb, Ray Shadrick and Becky Williams.

City Clerk Michele Fluharty read the minutes of the last regular and special meetings and they stood approved as read.

Several visitors were present including Orië Ellen Sterling who said the West Augusta Historical Society is having a problem with getting volunteers to serve as tour guides at the museum. She said if anyone present would like to volunteer, call her or the museum. Jason Wright of AmeriCorp will be working with the Historical Society. Sterling also advised council that the museum's roof and foundation need repaired. She gave the city clerk the latest edition of WV Living to make copies of an article on tax credits.

Gary "Beanie" Leeson said they are still having problems with loud music and motorcycles at 4:00 a.m. and vehicles blocking Terrace Drive. He said it doesn't do any good to call the police because they know when you call. Councilman Efaw asked Code Enforcement Officer Anthony Horton how often he went over to that area in Homewood. Horton said once a week and they do have illegal cars but that is a law enforcement problem. Commissioner Randy Elliott said he drove by and can verify what Leeson says. Mayor Taylor said he will have more patrols in that area, especially after midnight.

Elliott thanked the City for their flood clean-up efforts and noted that the County Commission donated \$15,000 to the City, \$15,000 to the Park Board and \$10,000 for the outlying areas for help with their flood expenses and/or losses. He also said he sent a letter to council concerning the fee paid by the Fair Board to the Park Board during the week of the fair. He said \$1,500 is not enough to cover the loss of revenue by the Park Board. Elliott said it should be \$5,000. He also said Ordinance #297 which exempts Gambill Amusements from b&o taxes

should be repealed since the only who profits from it is Gambill. He said the other vendors do not make enough money to be subject to the taxes. Taylor said his request will be taken under consideration.

In department reports, Superintendent Ted Nice said they picked up between 100 to 150 loads of items left curbside by residents and businesses after the flood. He thanked Melvin Wright for mowing City property while they were tied up with the flood clean up. He also reported that the downtown lights are still not working.

Horton gave his report for the period of May to the current date. He said three trailers were condemned after the flood. Several property maintenance problems in town were mentioned by Council. Horton said the City needs to budget money for clean-up since many of the owners are out of state or don't have the means to maintain the properties. He said a lien could then be placed on the owners. Shadrick asked why they aren't being fined. Taylor said if they don't have the money to clean up their properties, they don't have it to pay the fines either. Shadrick said if you continue to pressure the homeowners, they may sell the property to someone who will take care of it. Taylor said he is willing to meet with council and Horton to discuss their solutions for the properties that need cleaned up.

In New Business, the engagement letter with Jeremy Drennen for his accounting services in preparing the pre-audit financial report was the first item of business. Williams made the motion to accept Drennen's proposal for \$3500. Kolb seconded the motion and it carried.

Taylor reported that Andrew Schwartz resigned from the police department on August 14. Shadrick made the motion to accept Schwartz's resignation. Fletcher seconded the motion and all approved. Fletcher then made the motion to advertise for a full-time officer. Shadrick seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Taylor recommended Mike Williams for the open position in the water department. He said everyone likes to work with Williams and he does a good job reading the meters. Fletcher made the motion

to appoint Williams as a Class II employee with the water department subject to a sixty-day probation. Shadrick seconded the motion and it carried. Efaw then made the motion to advertise for a Class I laborer in the Street Department to fill Williams' slot. Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried.

Bill Hunter's term on the Sanitary Board expires August 24 and Taylor recommended that he be reappointed. Shadrick made the motion to reappoint Hunter to another 3-year term. Efaw seconded the motion and it carried.

Fluharty presented a list of items to be sold at public auction. Fletcher made the motion to authorize an ordinance to hold a surplus property auction. Kolb seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Taylor said the liquidated damages from SW Group will be pursued. Reclaim began the demolition of the Wintergarden property today.

Shadrick said he has received a request for a street light off Evergreen Drive. It will be put on the next agenda.

Several council members said they have been asked why the siren at the Fire Department is not working. Shadrick said it is being repaired but there are other issues. Taylor is to ask Fire Chief Jim Moran to attend the next meeting.

Efaw made the motion to adjourn. Kolb seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

