

**Village of Mantua  
Regular Council Meeting  
September 18, 2007**

Mayor Claude Hopkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked Chief Buchert to lead the pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Claude Hopkins, Jim Rogers, Marty Hura, Wesley Hawkins, Ben Prescott, Linda Schilling, Giles Seith.

**Others Present:** Clerk-Treasurer Betsy Woolf, Asst. Clerk Susan Skrovan, Police Chief Harry Buchert, Village Administrator Ed Trego, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz.

**Public:** Tom Aldrich, Pearl Campbell, Jennifer August, Larry Kaczmarek & Robin Patton with Ohio Edison.

**Minutes:** Motion by L. Schilling to bring the Council meeting minutes of August 21, 2007 to the floor with a second from G. Seith. All ayes on vote. Motion to approve as submitted made by L. Schilling with a second from J. Rogers. All ayes on vote.

**Mayor's Report:** Claude opened the Potato Festival and congratulated them on their 34th year. He attended an informational meeting put on by Dawn Pechman, the Portage County Bicentennial meeting and the recent Revitalization meeting. He requested Bill Zoller to attend a flood plains meeting. Claude passed around two copies of the proclamation recently presented to Glenn Talmon for Council to sign. Glenn requested the copies to send to friends. At the MADD awards banquet, Ken Justus was DUI officer for the Village of Mantua. Claude met with Eaton Corporation. Things are not moving as fast as they had anticipated; they are looking at being out by the first quarter in 2008. Eaton thought about using their building in Mantua as a warehouse. Claude would rather see an operating facility brought in for income tax dollars. Jim asked if the County could assist the Village in any way. Claude thanked Dave Green of Green's Funeral Service and Daily Monument Co. for donating a granite header placed on top of the village sign at the Administration building. There will be a presentation with photos on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Claude mentioned an upcoming records retention class, which Rodney Terry will attend as representative for the Village. Claude introduced Larry Kaczmarek, our insurance agent.

Larry Kaczmarek passed out renewal paperwork to Council and discussed the health insurance quotations he obtained for comparison. The renewal with SummaCare reflects only a 10% increase for the coming year, which is a very good renewal. Summa is now the preferred provider for Robinson Memorial Hospital and the doctors in Portage County. One option was perhaps the employees would want to look at a lower deductible. Plan 5515 with the RXTA drug card would decrease the deductible from \$1000 to \$500. However, it would also change the amount paid after the deductible from 100% coverage to 80/20 co-insurance. Office visits would go down from \$20.00 to \$15.00 co-pay. This would save the Village approximately \$300.00 per month in premiums. Larry suggested, should the Village decide to change the plan, it would be best to wait until January 1st of next year. This is an alternative for the Village to save money. Summa intends to aggressively pursue the facility University Hospital plans to move into Mantua as the insurance provider. Wes asked about council members and elected officials being able to have health coverage per Ohio Revised Code. Larry said there are municipalities that do offer insurance to members of council; however, in his experience they are mostly self-insured plans. With a self-funded plan, you can make rules, which are set by the employer. Therefore, you do not have to have hourly commitments. In the State of Ohio, small group law states unequivocally, 25 hours per week is considered "full-time", nothing under 25 hours is eligible for insurance.

Wes had heard any elected official automatically had insurance through the municipality. Larry said no and felt that it should be investigated very closely because small group law takes precedent over anything else the State has.

**Finance Report:** Clerk-Treasurer, Betsy Woolf gave the financial report as of August 31. Betsy informed Council the auditor plans to be back tomorrow. He wishes to talk with the Mayor and Jim regarding Eaton Corporation. However, anyone that wants to talk with him may do so while he is here. Motion to approve the financial report, fund status, appropriation status, revenue status and cash summary by fund reports made by L. Schilling with a second from B. Prescott. All ayes on vote.

Harry asked for a motion to accept a \$50.00 donation made to the police department by the Blunk Family to be put in the police capital fund. Motion to accept the donation made by B. Prescott with a second from M. Hura. All ayes on vote.

**Bills of Resolution:** Motion to bring the bills of resolution with addendum to the floor made by M. Hura with a second from J. Rogers. All ayes on vote. Motion to approve as submitted made by W. Hawkins with a second from J. Rogers. All ayes on vote.

**Legislation:**

**ORDINANCE 2007-27 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN EASEMENT FOR STORM SEWER PURPOSES FROM DELORES J. AND BRIAN E. GREGOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 2nd READING.**

**ORDINANCE 2007-28 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN EASEMENT FOR STORM SEWER PURPOSES FROM SEAN OZIMEC AND KAREN OZIMEC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 2nd READING.**

**ORDINANCE 2007-30 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR HILLSIDE CEMETERY. 2nd READING.**

**RESOLUTION 2007-32 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LISTING OF REAL ESTATE BELONGING TO THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND FOR THE PURPOSES OF A PLAN ADOPTED BY THE MANTUA VILLAGE COUNCIL FOR URBAN REDEVELOPMENT. 1ST READING.** Claude explained this was to solicit bids for the old Village Hall and to list it with realtors. Jim asked when this would take place, signing with a realtor, assuming the motion passes. Claude stated the village would not sign up with any realtor; he has spoken with several to list the property. The contract would state the purchaser to assume all costs related to the sale. Because it is incorporated into the revitalization, the Village does not have to put it out for bids. Jim had showed the building about a month ago, but has not heard back from that individual. Claude asked council members to think of a dollar figure they would like to have for the building. Tom Reitz reminded Council they do not want to discuss any dollar amount in public; it is appropriate to discuss the sale of real estate in executive session. The dollar amount should not be shared with anyone. In addition, while in executive session, Council can also discuss what type of terms would be acceptable. Tom would also like to have some additional information including the Village's Urban Revitalization Plan. Tom encourages Council to call an executive session on this matter before doing anything else.

Motion to accept the letter drafted by Jim to Ralph Gregory made by J. Rogers with a second from M. Hura. B. Prescott voted no, all other ayes on vote.

Motion to accept all committee reports on file by L. Schilling with a second from M. Hura. All ayes on vote.

Chief Harry Buchert reported the safety meeting for September 27th has been cancelled. He also wanted to commend Linda Schilling and the committee for their efforts on the Potato Festival this year. The Police department had no major incidents. Linda said next year will be her last year.

Ed Trego, Village Administrator, also wished to commend Linda and all the team for their work with the Potato Festival. A couple issues Ed wanted to bring up; first, the committee of the whole has been updated on the Buckeye\Klinefelder efforts at the service garage. He asked the mayor if it would be a good time to consider having a status meeting with the solicitor, the mayor and himself. Claude told Ed to set something up. Ed commented that Robin Patton's visit is very timely tonight. The sign at the south end of the village needs a light on it. Batteries have not been successful. The village eliminated a charge for the traffic light, which is all on us now on a power backup. A single low beam light would hopefully be less than what we were paying, somewhere in the range of \$40.00 per month.

Ed asked if at sometime, the solicitor could review the cemetery regulation changes that were made.

Jim announced the planning meeting for tomorrow has been cancelled due to no business.

Linda reiterated next year would be her last year as chairperson for the festival. She thanked Harry for years of help especially this year and Ed and the service department as well.

Betsy asked everyone to think about having one or two appropriation workshops to provide input on what the village plans to do next year. Jim commented the finance meeting minutes reflected a good start. Ed asked them to consider Saturday mornings for these workshops, which seemed to work well for everyone.

Giles Seith announced the next finance committee meeting would be October 1st at 5 p.m.

**Public:** Tom Aldrich asked with reference to the two easements going up past his property, he would like it on record they may need to come to the village and ask for help should the trees become damaged along the easements and need to be removed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. made by L. Schilling with a second by B. Prescott. All ayes on vote.

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Mayor Claude E. Hopkins

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Clerk-Treasurer Betsy M. Woolf