

Council Meeting

October 18, 2022

Call to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Linda Clark

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Scott Weaver, Steve Thorn, Nina Schroeder, Heather Paisley, Tammy Meyer

- ❖ Heather made a motion to excuse Marty Hura. Steve second. All ayes.

Others present: Mayor Linda Clark, Solicitor Michele Stuck, Chief Joe Urso, Village Administrator Greg Thomas (via Zoom), Fiscal Officer Maryann Fabian, Village Engineer Gene Arters (via Zoom)

Citizens present: Phil Rath, Stacey Turner, Lauren Weaver, Morgan Grubaugh, Corey Turnbull, Dave Sluka, Wendy Davis, Miranda Brothers, Sam Paratore, Cookie Vanek, Bob Ress

Mayors Report

Mayor Linda Clark has a Special Event Form for 2023 for Headwaters Adventure Race that would go from 7.7.2023 11:00 AM to 7.8.2023 1:00 PM. They have paid the deposit, and the insurance would come the month before, because that is when it renews.

- ❖ Scott made a motion to approve the Special Event Form from Headwaters Adventure Race. Nina second. All ayes.

Mayor Linda Clark said that there are four maple trees that need to be removed from the cemetery. Greg got three quotes, which included removing the trees, clean up debris, grind stumps, and chip and haul wood.

- ❖ Heather made a motion to have Mayor Linda Clark reach out to the Cemetery Trust to see if they would be willing to pay for this. Steve second. All ayes.

Nina asked that the tree quotes be scanned to her.

Citizens

Phil Rath, the representative from DMRC, asked if CT had heard anything about the Matts Road bridge. Mayor Linda Clark stated that we need to reach out to ODOT, for the Ohio Municipal Bridge Fund. Because the bridge has been closed for more than 5 years, we have to reach out to them with our last grant application with updated figures, and ask them to reconsider. Once that is denied then there is another person we can go to, that can say that we can go for this. Gene said that the person we talk to is Nicole in Columbus. Omar was reaching out for the bridge inspection, and we got a bridge number. ODOT has twice denied this application. Phil said that he was talking about the infrastructure bill, and the County said if we put the bridge in, the County will put the road in. Gene was unaware of this, and will reach out to Jennifer (from CT) and Nicole in Columbus to what is available for Mantua Village. Scott stated that although Gene said it would be hard to get Federal money, it is not impossible. Gene replied that he will talk with Jennifer, and the process is time consuming, expensive and there are a lot of studies that have to be done to put together the application. He is not sure why this bridge got a bridge number because a portion of it is on Dean Stebbins's property, and the bridge is not in the right-of-way.

- ❖ Tammy made a motion to have Mayor Linda Clark investigate bridge grant money. Scott second. All ayes.

Phil also said that he has two groups of seniors (from the High School) that would like to volunteer their time to put up lights, and fix a fence on the trail. Mayor replied that when the kids showed up, she was out of the office. She sent an email to Ms. Spencer and she is going to set up a time for them to meet.

Wendy Davis invited everyone to participate in the Scarecrow contest, voting will take place October 29th from 10 AM- 4 PM.

Financial Reports

Maryann said that we had a deposit of \$49,071.01 from our first reimbursement from Buchert Park Phase III. Also, it was agreed at Finance we would no longer have the Payment Listing, or the credit card monthly report, but replace those with the Bills of Resolution, and the Visa spreadsheet that have previously been used. Maryann asked for questions. Tammy reminded Maryann that she was going to tell them what the half of a percent was going to bring in. Maryann said that RITA gave an estimate for 2023, Mantua Village should get approximately \$180,000 with the half of a percent for the Police Levy, and between \$236,000-\$240,000 in 2024, barring any companies leaving or disasters happening. Tammy said that she would like to budget \$150,000 to be safe.

- ❖ Steve motioned to approve the financial reports. Scott second. All ayes.

Approval of previous Minutes

- ❖ Heather made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Minutes from 9.20.2022. Tammy second. All ayes.

Chief Joe Urso requested that Paul Maroni's comment be added to the 10.4.2022 minutes.

- ❖ Heather made a motion to table the minutes until next meeting. Tammy second. All ayes.

- ❖ Steve made a motion to approve the minutes from the Workshop on 10.12.2022. Scott second. All ayes.

Legislation:

ORD. 2022-04 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 159 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA AND DISSOLVING THE MANTUA VILLAGE HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION. Tabled on 2nd reading.

ORD. 2022-50 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK. 1st reading.

- ❖ Tammy made a motion to approve the 11.2.2022 Appropriation workshop at 6:30 PM, 11.7.2022 Employee Handbook workshop at 6 PM, and the 11.8.2022 Capital Planning workshop at 6 PM. Heather second. All ayes.

ORD 2022-51 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO RUN THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st reading. A workshop is scheduled for 11.2.2022 at 6:30 PM, in Council Chambers.

ORD 2022-52 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2022 APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st reading. Tammy asked about the increase appropriations in Streets and Cemetery Fund, that they are already on her reports. Maryann replied that we must make sure our appropriations match our legislation. Michele added that this is to amend what we have down at the County. What is in the UAN, that was done earlier this year does not match our legislation, and we need to get this to the County on this piece of paper.

- ❖ Scott made a motion to suspend the rules. Heather second. All ayes.
- ❖ Scott made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-52. Heather second. All ayes.

Department Heads and Village Engineer-

Police Chief Joe Urso discussed the first annual Halloween Bash during Mantua Village Trick-or-Treat. Trick-or-Treat will be Sunday October 30, 6-8 p.m.; the Halloween Bash will be 5-8 p.m. that evening. He said that there was no Safety meeting in October, and there will be one in November. He is meeting with the Fire Chief tomorrow to button up the dispatch contract. He asked for approval for a cash donation of \$120 for the Halloween Bash.

- ❖ Tammy made a motion to approve the donation. Scott second. All ayes.

Village Administrator Greg Thomas summarized what the Service Department has been doing. There is also a report on file. He said that the Service Department has been working on catch basins, planting trees, got the Freightliner ready for snow season, collected flowers and flags, and they had one cremation burial. Nina requested that she get the past 3 months of calendars for the lodge rental. Heather asked if there had been any probing, at the cemetery? Greg responded that just the burial. Greg said that he has been working with Chief Joe Urso about some volunteers. Chief said that there is a possibility of 3 volunteers. Steve asked how the flags get disposed of, and replaced? Mayor Linda Clark said the American Legion replaces the flags, and disposes of them.

Village Engineer Gene Arters from C.T. Consultants summarized his report that is on file, and updated the Council on the Buchert Park Phase III progress. He hopes to hear about Buchert Park Phase IV this year, but may not until late in the year.

Committee

Scott summarized the Service Meeting, and Planning Commission meetings. He said he heard that the house on Maple Street was going up for a Sheriff Sale. Chief Joe Urso said that he had stopped and talked with the guy and it is going up for Sherriff Sale thru Century 21.

Tammy summarized the Finance Meeting. She turned in the minutes from the August and September PCRP meetings. She said PCRP always gives a report on the CDBG, and she wanted to let us know what was in here for Mantua. The "word is" the DMRC Target of Opportunity program will be approved for the East side of Main Street. The sidewalks would start in the Spring. Also, there was a 2024 infrastructure grant for waste water collection for Mantua Village, the county applied for. Tammy summarized the Fire Board meeting, said they swore-in a new part-time employee. The Fire Department is putting a replacement levy on the ballot for May or November 2023 for EMS. They sold old Med One, and got \$10,000 for it, and the person that bought it will be using it as a camper.

Nina summarized the meetings for Parks and Shade Tree. She stated they are waiting to hear anything about Buchert Park Phase IV, from ODNR. Mayor Linda Clark said that she sent an email to Nina that said they would hope to know by the end of the month, but it may be November. She said the Parks meeting has been moved to Buchert Park at 6:30 PM. This way they can go over the concept that was done in 2016, and decide the wants and needs list. Then those can be presented to Capital Planning. She said they are also looking at rates at the lodge and other revenue streams, so when there is a request to do something we have funds to consider them.

Mayor Linda Clark spoke for the Cemetery Board that met in September and said instead of a regular mowing company they want to hire a landscaping company. The Cemetery Board is going to come up with a list of what they want to have a Landscaper do in the cemetery. There was no meeting of Board of Zoning Appeals.

Heather said nothing for Safety Committee, but mentioned PCWR has been cleaning up the Reservoir and it looks nice. Heather asked Chief Joe Urso if Sergeant Eric Dunn had a chance to look over those grant opportunities she had emailed. Chief Joe Urso said that he was off yesterday, and today he had other priorities. He said that they would look into it. She also brought up that she would like to see quotes on a memorial for fallen K-9. Mayor Linda Clark asked her to bring this up in the Safety meeting and then bring it to Council.

Executive Session

Tammy asked for a motion to go into executive session to consider the investigation or charges or complaints against a public employee or official.

- ❖ Heather made a motion to go into executive session at 7:27 PM. Scott second. Upon roll call vote all voted aye.
- ❖ Scott made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:50 PM. Steve second. Upon roll call vote all voted aye.

Tammy asked for a roll call vote on who to hire as an investigator.

Scott – Dean DePiero
Heather – Dean DePiero
Nina – Dean DePiero
Tammy – Dean DePiero
Steve – Dean DePiero

Tammy said they had talked about confidentiality in the executive session and she passed out a portion of the Sunshine Laws concerning what should be held confidential and what should not. Tammy asked for questions. Nina asked Michele to clarify that there were not any legal ramifications if someone broke the confidence, and Michele replied there are not, unless there is another law that states there is. That is usually not the case. Nina asked what the purpose of executive session is, and Michele said that it gives the opportunity for members to speak candidly and unhindered.

Nina spoke of the Handbook workshop, we need to continue to flush out what relationships are amendable per our legislature for our code of conduct and employee handbook, but also retaliation and retaliatory verbiage, to be considered as well. Scott reminded everyone, that they wanted to review Council's roll in hiring and look at what is expected of Council and what is not expected of Council as a group. He asked everyone to read the first few chapters. Scott said that he had never read the handbook as a Council member. Nina said the last few meeting the tone has been very curse, and the tone has shifted since the complaint has been made. Nina feels that it has been difficult to speak openly and candidly in an open meeting, and she is asking that we could all redirect ourselves back to a more collaborative spirit. Nina wants to be able to come to the meetings and speak openly coming from a place of good will, and not feeling hostility. Tammy agrees. Tammy also said that her and Mayor Linda Clark had a discussion today that they were going to wait until December to have discussions about on boarding, what is Council's responsibility.

Mayor Linda Clark asked if she can add people to the investigation to be interviewed? Tammy replied that the investigator will be interviewing Council, and all members of the police department, and some past employees, and it will branch out from there. Chief Urso asked if during the investigation if an employee of the police department mentions a person, a resident, or somebody else is the investigator going to go to that person? How far is this root cause going to go? Is this investigation going to get to the root of the issue? If not then they are not doing the due diligence of an investigation. Scott said that they are willing to take it as far as it needs to go. Chief asked if Council is on board to get to the final root to say "the buck stops here". Tammy and Scott said yes. Chief Urso said he appreciates that. Nina asked for clarification on "the buck stops here". Chief said that means to find out the root of the issue, it cannot be hearsay. Will we get to the root of the source of an alleged allegation? Nina said her understanding of the investigation was not chiefly to report it out who and when, but to make sure Village dollars and resources have not been misused and ethics and transparency has been abided by throughout the issue of the complaint. The Chief said he appreciated that, but his understanding is that part of this was based on someone talking to someone else at an outside event and mentioning something of a person from a different town and that is how this allegation came to fruition. He asked if we were going to go back and call out that source to see how it came about? The decision was made that we are not talking about the investigation since they hired an investigator. Chief said that the mayor had asked a question asking are we going to be able to add people as this comes out, names or sources for information pertaining to this investigation. Steve said that he feels that should be appropriate. He said that there are no limitations.

Mayor asked how this would get funded? Nina replied the General Fund, Michele said line item Professional Services.

Adjournment

- ❖ Tammy made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM. Scott second. All ayes.