

Council Meeting March 21, 2023

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

Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence for Loretta Brugmann, Steve Morrison, & Dave Bonner

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

Others present: Mayor Linda Clark, Solicitor Michele Stuck, Chief Joe Urso, Fiscal Officer Maryann Fabian,

Citizens present: Riley Meyer, Lauren Weaver, John Clark, Beth Sluka, Jennifer Lintz, Miranda Brothers,

Linda Wilke, Stephanie Morhidge, Mark Fabian, Kevin Maloney, Jim Vasil, Phil Rath, Wendy Porter, Jon

Porter, Dean DePiero, Lee Lundblad, Stacy Turner, Ryland Turner, Corey Turnbull, Morgan Grubaugh,

Brittany Dye, Jeff Benner, Eric Hummel, Sam Paratore, Kevin Brown, Mike Buctinck, Perry Tico, Melissa

Tico, John Eskridge, Bob MacClearie, Wendy Davis, Dave Sluka, Faith Pietrocini, Tom Knipper, and Paul

Shaughnessy.

Mayor requested a motion to go into executive session at 6:32 PM to consider the investigation of complaints against a public employee or official.

- ❖ Tammy made a motion to go into executive session. Heather second. Roll call vote; Tammy-aye, Marty-aye, Nina-aye, Steve-aye, Heather-aye, Scott-aye.
- ❖ Scott made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:19 PM. Tammy second. Roll call vote; Marty-aye, Nina-aye, Steve-aye, Heather-aye, Scott-aye, Tammy-aye.

Mayor and Village Administrator Report

The mayor received two special event forms. One for Art on the Hill with no insurance on July 08, 2023, and one from Advanced Rehab for a Nut Strut 5 K and Tough Nutter 9 mile with insurance.

- ❖ Scott made a motion to approve the special event forms. Marty second. All ayes.

The village had three companies submit mowing quotes this year. The mowing contract was awarded to Sustainable Ecology Property Management for the 2023 season.

The mayor received a letter of interest from Ian Jones for the Landmark committee. His qualifications for the seat include being a licensed architect in the state of Ohio (Lic. No. 1817212), as well as having experience in projects that have received state and federal historic tax credits. His experience also includes submission of designs and proposals to historic preservation boards.

- ❖ Steve made a motion to approve the appointment of Ian Jones to the Landmark committee. Tammy second. All ayes.

Michele asked when Ian's term would end, and the mayor stated that Ian said he would be taking the term that lasts until the end of this year, to see if it is a fit for him.

Mayor Clark requested a motion to approve the increase of \$8,000 (\$1000 increase to local match, \$7,000 increase to loan) to the OPWC Round 37 Small Government, West Franklin dead end thru Elm Street Roadway and Drainage project.

- ❖ Scott made the motion. Heather second. All ayes.

Mayor Clark asked for a motion to approve a work authorization for CT Consultants for \$41,000 for early engineering on the West Franklin dead end thru Oak Street Roadway and Drainage project.

- ❖ Tammy made the motion. Marty second. All ayes.

Mayor Clark requested a motion to approve the work authorization for the \$2,500 for CT Consultants to prepare the ODNR Natureworks Grant Application for Buchert Park Phase V. CT will get costs, and the DMRC will amend accordingly. This phase could include the following:

- Replace handicapped sidewalk leading up to pavilion #2

- Replace concrete slab/floor in pavilion #1
 - Pickle ball court expand the concrete slab just west of pavilion #2 (which is 30x29') adding on to the west end of the slab 3.46SY of concrete. Cost of net and painting the lines. Create a safety barrier of either concrete bollards or shrubbery.
 - Volley Ball Court, while it is regulation size, it needs a safety barrier of 10 feet around the existing field of play. Suggestions were increase the sand area, or show the delineation with some type of markers. We also need to check the Potato Fest agreement to see if the electric pole in the way can be moved.
- ❖ Nina made the motion to approve the work authorization for \$2,500 for CT Consultants to prepare the ODNR Nature works grant application for Buchert Park Phase V. Heather second. All ayes.

Mayor Clark requested a motion to have CT Consultants start the pre-application for West Franklin from Oak to Elm OPWC Round 38.

- ❖ Scott made a motion to approve. Heather second. All ayes.

CT recommends the Paddling Enhancement Grant is not a good fit for Nature works or Recreational Trails, and the best option is wait to see if they will have the Paddling Enhancement Grant available next year.

Mayor Clark said the owners of the property located at 4640 High St. have come back with a counter offer on their property \$60,000. She took the liberty of starting to get quotes to demo the property the cost would be between \$13,000 and \$15,000 plus closing cost. Mayor Clark received a text on Monday the 20th from the Mishler's that they had a potential buyer over the weekend and they have given them until the end of this week to make an offer.

- ❖ Tammy made a motion to offer \$60,000 for the property if the property becomes available. Heather second. All ayes.

Mayor Clark received the quote from Urban Growers for the flowers downtown and at the cemetery. The prices are about the same as last year.

Mayor Clark presented the council the requests for the Cemetery Thompson Trust. This included the following:

- Urban Growers quote for Cemetery \$952.90
- 30 mows at the Cemetery (\$491 each) \$14,730
- Water bill \$647.06
- Replant (4) trees \$2,400

This came to a total of \$18,729.96. The mayor then requesting a possible donation of \$10,000 towards a police cruiser.

- ❖ Scott motioned to have Mayor Clark send the request to the Thompson Trust. Steve second. All ayes.

The Village Administrator report is on file. No questions.

Citizens

Kevin asked if the village acquired the Mishler property what would we do with it. The mayor stated that it would be used for parking.

Stephanie read a prepared statement. She said the investigation has made us a joke to the two other departments where she works. She said that Miranda & the Chief have strong work ethics and have gone above and beyond for the community. She said that this "witch hunt" investigation started on a policy that was not in the Village Employee Handbook, and it has ruined the morale of all of the employees at Mantua Village. Stephanie wanted the council to know what has been going on behind the scenes.

Eric said that he has been a business man for over 50 years in the village, and he knows how difficult it is to keep and get personnel, with the negativity going on in the village he hopes the village supports the wonderful chief and officer we have.

Phil, the liaison for the DMRC, said that the DMRC is having their reverse raffle on April 1st at St. Joseph's, and would like the people to support this event. He also said as a business owner he supports the police department, and has found them to be nothing but professional and prompt.

Paul said that this is a nice community and we need to put the investigation to rest.

Corey read a prepared statement. He said was he there to support the efforts of village council in the investigation alleged misconduct of relations between the chief and a subordinate officer. As a concerned citizen he supports the council in upholding the highest standards for the community and our local government. Corey urges the council to take necessary actions to enforce these high standards.

Harry said that he supports the police department. He asked if there was a time frame for this investigation. He also asked where we were getting the money for the Mishler house. Mayor Clark replied it was coming from the General Fund.

Jeff Benner said that his mother is embarrassed that this (investigation) is going on.

Brian said that he has worked with the chief and Miranda through the Potato Festival and supports them. He does not see any problem to have a husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend working together.

Financial Reports

Maryann read a summary she had prepared for the council meeting. She asked if anyone had any questions. None were asked.

- ❖ Steve made a motion to approve the financial reports. Marty second. All ayes.

Correspondence

Mayor Clark received a letter notifying the village that the Tree City award for 2022 has been granted. She also received the invitation to Tree Awards in Cambridge Ohio on April 26, 2023, and to let her know if anyone wants to go.

Approval of previous Minutes

Nina asked that Stephanie Pietrocini be removed from the minutes as she did not attend.

- ❖ Nina made a motion to approve the 2.21.2023 as amended. Tammy second. All ayes.

Legislation:

ORD. 2022-50 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK. Tabled on 2nd reading. No discussion.

RES. 2023-09 A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA THE QUESTION OF RENEWAL OF THE 3.85 MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING AND REPAIR OF STREETS, ROADS AND BRIDGES WITHIN THE VILLAGE, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5705.19(G) AND 5705.191. 1st reading. No discussion.

ORD. 2023-10 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2023 APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st reading. Maryann explained that \$10,000 was for the \$1000 transfer to capital funds monthly, and the \$43,700 was to be able to make the village hall note payment.

- ❖ Scott made a motion to suspend the rules. Tammy second. All ayes.

- ❖ Steve made a motion to approve. Marty second. All ayes.

ORD. 2023-11 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR PAVING WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st reading. The mayor explained the paving work that the village would like to bid out, as follows: Asphaltting, either using recycling method or mill and fill method: Canada Road-2,430 Square Yards, Glenwood Street-2,045 Square Yards, Maple Street-1,925 Square Yards, Herald Street-1,990 Square Yards.

- ❖ Scott made a motion to suspend the rules. Heather second. All ayes
- ❖ Tammy made a motion to approve. Marty second. All ayes.
- ❖ Scott made a motion to approve the work authorization for CT Consultants for \$15,000 to do the engineering, put together the bid packets, and do construction administration for the paving project. Heather second. All ayes.

RES. 2023-12 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE 2023 CHEVROLET TAHOE SUV POLICE VEHICLE FROM TIM LALLY CHEVROLET AND AUTHORIZING THE PARTIAL FINANCING OF THE PURCHASE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st reading.

- ❖ Marty made a motion to suspend the rules. Scott second. All ayes.
- ❖ Heather made a motion to approve. Tammy second. All ayes.

ORD. 2023-13 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A PERMANENT BUDGET FOR 2024 FOR THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA, AFTER PUBLICATION AND PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.30. 1st reading. It was agreed that we would be having a workshop on April 12th at 6:30 PM for the permanent budget for 2024.

Department Heads and Village Engineer-

Police Chief Joe Urso summarized the Safety meeting and said that the Lutheran Church is pairing up with the PD for the Easter Egg hunt this year, and this will be happening April 1st.

Village Engineer Gene Arters, C.T. Consultants, report is turned in and on file. No questions.

Committees

Steve Thorn summarized the meeting for Finance, and said the committee is working on increasing the wage for the mayor.

Scott Weaver was absent for the Service meeting. The mayor summarized the meeting. There was not a Planning meeting, but a special meeting is scheduled for 3.28.2023

Tammy Meyer gave Maryann the minutes from PCR. Tammy said the funds were release for the ADA project for the sidewalk portion of the East side portion of Main Street. These funds were released 2.21.2023. At the Fire Board meeting they were discussing the replacement levy, increases in health insurance and engine 1 is out for service.

Nina Schroeder summarized the Parks and Shade Tree meeting. She said at the next Shade Tree meeting they would be looking over the Arbor Day contest entries.

Mayor Clark reported for the Cemetery and will get the letter out for approval to the Trust. There was nothing for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Steve Thorn for Safety said they were discussing the new police cruiser and they were talking about donating the old cruiser to the Service Department.

Note: All committee minutes are online at mantuavillage.com

Any Other Business

Mayor Clark said that the village has received an application from an individual who has proven qualifications to be our Village Administrator. While the village had to rely solely on the interview process for our hiring of the last Village Administrator, this gentleman has a plethora of verifiable experience and knowledge. He is currently the service director of the Village of Bentleyville which is 2.56 square miles and has 864 residents.

Ryan Klemm lives 25 minutes from Mantua and is looking to work closer to home. He has a class A CDL, and his experience meets the criteria to meet the needs of our Village. The mayor requested a motion to approve her appointment of Ryan Klemm as Village Administrator.

- ❖ Scott made a motion to approve the appointment of Ryan Klemm as Village Administrator. Heather second. All ayes.

Mayor Clark also explained that she has also hired a part-time administrative assistant. She starts 3.22.2023

Adjournment

- ❖ Scott made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM. Tammy second. All ayes.