

**Village of Mantua  
Regular Council Meeting**

**January 17, 2012**

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence for the passing of Susie Wheeler, Mrs. Buonpane and Mr. Carl Bauman. Mayor Clark asked that all cell phones be turned off or put to vibrate mode.

**Roll Call:** Linda Clark, Paul Janson, Marty Hura, Ben Prescott, Bill Zoller, Giles Seith.

**Others Present:** Clerk-Treasurer Jenny August, Asst.-Clerk Susan Skrovan, Village Solicitor Michele Stuck, Police Chief Harry Buchert, Village Administrator Anthony Fiorilli III, Village Engineer, Rich Iafelice.

**Public:** Carl Zeleznik, Pearl Campbell, Terri Vechery, Linda Ehlert; President of the Mantua Historical Society, John Clark, Bob MacLearie, Linda Schilling, Ellie Stamm, Aaron Snopek, Patsi Gast

Mayor Clark first addressed an appointment to the vacant Council seat. The Ad Hoc Committee conducted interviews, two applied, one was interviewed and the second party withdrew their letter of interest. Linda would like to recommend to Council that Linda Schilling be appointed to fill the seat.

Motion to appoint Linda Schilling to the vacant Council seat made by B. Prescott with a second from M. Hura. All ayes on vote. Village Solicitor, Michele Stuck swore in Linda.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 13, 2011 made by M. Hura with a second from B. Prescott. All ayes on vote. Motion to approve the special meeting minutes of January 2, 2012 made by B. Prescott with a second from B. Zoller. L. Schilling abstained, M. Hura abstained, all other ayes on vote.

**Mayors Report:** Mayor Clark gave her first state of the Village address. She thanked all the residents and businesses for supporting her and the new Council members Paul Janson and Bill Zoller. We had an open Council seat, there were two applicants and Linda Schilling will be filling that seat. She stated that she felt all of the Council members, old and new, has the best interest of our Village at heart. The residents voted for change and she invited both residents and business owners to become involved with making these changes. Attend meetings; contact her or any member of Council with ideas, suggestions or complaints that will help the Village grow in the right direction to continue to be the friendly and welcoming Village that we once were and hope to be again. We are still in need of committee members for the Cemetery board, Shade Tree and Parks.

This team is already working together, with the same GOALS in mind.

- Team work within the official family to help us regain the trust and respect of the citizens;
- Ensure transparency in our government;
- Continue to reduce spending without eroding services;
- Work with the citizens and business owners and Civic groups as a team to create an environment that will fill empty storefronts with viable sustainable businesses;

As we move forward, our trial test period of septage receiving is proving to be going in the right direction. The revenues thus far have enabled us to begin needed maintenance at the WWTP. A new chopper pump will be ordered and installed. This will increase plant efficiency and reduce man-hours that are being used up working on current equipment. We plan to begin looking into new updated equipment such as a blower and alum pump as funds become available.

On January 2, Linda attended a luncheon hosted by the new Mayor of Streetsboro, Glenn Broska. While she has already made contact with Shalersville Trustees, Mantua Trustees and with the City of Ravenna with the hopes of initiating a "let's help each other" program, Mayor Broska has taken this idea a step further by thinking regional. Many good ideas that could prove beneficial to our Village are on the table; as these ideas are firmed up, the Mayor will bring them to Council to discuss their merits.

There is an Innovation Grant available, which is for communities that agree to have shared services. The cities of Kent and Ravenna are looking into purchasing a piece of equipment that will take road grindings and process it into hot patch. It was reported that a ton of hot patch runs around \$150.00. Using this equipment, the processed grindings are less than half that. The Mayor felt this warrants investigating to get an exact cost and how they would split up the cost with smaller entities should our Village be interested.

Linda ended with a quote from Mark Twain, which has become her motto and hopefully that of Village Council. "Thunder is good, thunder is impressive; but it's the lightning that gets the work done". Linda chooses to be the lightning and she hopes the rest of Council will be the lightning with her.

Mayor Clark invited Ellie Stamm to speak on behalf of the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee. Ellie Stamm thanked the Mayor and reported that they are very excited about the New Year. There are four grants available to submit with the applications due by February 1. These are relatively small grants. DMRC would be able to donate the in-kind donations and matching funds. Ellie passed out paperwork to Council for their review. She hopes the Village would take them under advisement. Ben wanted to know more about the Clean Ohio Trails Fund and the one for Portage Parks District on the Berlin Lake trails. Aaron Snopek believed the Clean Ohio Fund provided money for the Berlin Lake trail. Those, parenthetically, are examples of funding in the past. Ben asked what Council would have to do to get these grant applications completed and submitted in a couple weeks. Michele Stuck, our Village Solicitor, said we would need to determine who would be completing the applications. Council could either vote by motion or pass a resolution to move forward with the applications and determine who would fill them out. We would have to include language in there that any matching funds or in-kind donations would be contributed by the DMRC. Ben asked who would write the grants. Ellie said the grant money would be coming to the Village; the Village would have to submit them. Linda Schilling surmised that Ellie is asking the Village to fill out the grant applications and submit them, correct. Ellie said yes and added that the DMRC could help with the application but ultimately, the Village has to make application.

Mayor Linda Clark wanted to break down the four grants and asked Ellie to explain how each would be used and what amounts would be submitted. Ellie said they would want to apply for the maximum available in each grant application and explained how the funds could possibly be used. The Mayor felt that we would need to put in specific language as to what the funds would be used for when we write the grants. Linda asked Rich if he could clarify. Rich said he is familiar with all four of the grants, but you need to define the project first. These are all wonderful opportunities and very competitive. In most instances, there is more of a work planning session to determine the project first. All we have now is a master plan with DMRC that has some conceptual drawings. Ellie said there is a plan for the trailhead. Aaron said there was a design for the trail done by a volunteer landscape architect last year. It may require some additional volunteer time invested to get a draft together. It would be a shame to let another year go by without even trying. We got the trailhead; we just do not have a clear connection for the trail. Rich said they are ODNR applications, if there is some agreement on the definition of the project where we are not trying to work out some alternatives; it would cut the time for what they have to do, it is certainly doable. Linda Schilling asked Rich if he would not mind doing them under his retainer. Rich said the applications are under retainer. DMRC is having a planning workshop tomorrow from 5-9 p.m.; they could plan to pinpoint a specific project, nail down some definitions and get them to Rich. Anthony asked the Mayor if it would be beneficial to list all three projects they were interested in doing, that way if we get the funding, we could split the monies between the three or is it better to pinpoint one project. Rich said that depending on the eligibility of each grant, it might be better to do that. Linda Schilling asked Ellie if there was a limit to the funds the DMRC could match or were they going to match whatever the amount, matching and in-kind. They do not plan to pursue a project as extensive as the Berlin Lake trail; however, it is DMRC's intention to provide the matching funds.

Ellie cannot say everything is “in house” at this point but they would do everything in their power to produce those matching funds because they know the Village is unable to.

Michele said Council could authorize applying for the grants tonight and that way everyone can move forward once they have their meetings. Motion to do the grants made by L. Schilling with a second from B. Prescott. All ayes on vote.

**Finance Report:** Jenny gave her financial report as of December 31, 2011. At the Finance meeting last week, the committee did an extensive review of each of the financial reports since there are two new members on the Finance Committee. Jenny included the Financial Reports in Council packets.

- For the Fund Status report – all funds ended the year in the black.
- For Revenues and Expenses, our expenses exceeded our revenues by over \$27,000, but we had an extra payday in December, which explains that difference. In addition, the huge semi-annual payments for the water & sewer plants we not included in these reports.
- The Cash Summary report does not show any adjustments, just the monthly transfers and advance repayments Council authorized.
- The Water-Sewer program and the Income Tax program totals matched the UAN.
- The bank reconciliation was exhausting again due to the on-line payments OPERS rounding issue. Jenny decided to go back to the old foolproof paper check & stamped envelope. It was better when the bank reconciliation only took an hour instead of a day!
- Jenny included the end of the year schedule of outstanding debt that we reviewed at the Finance meeting. Giles has always liked to know our debt status, and at the end of 2011, we still have nearly 4.8 million dollars of debt. We are slowly whittling it down; but this is still considered enormous compared to our revenue levels. We should not be able to qualify for any loans.
- On the two Comparison reports, (which are the thick reports at the bottom of your financial packet); it shows that in 2011 we earned \$38,000 more than we spent. Every little bit helps.

**Correspondence:**

- December was quiet, but we were notified from J & J Refuse that they have officially changed their name to Kimble. They now have green and white trucks in the Village that say Kimble on them.
- The EPA sent us a public notice that Hattie Larlham will be permitted to discharge into the Cuyahoga River subject to certain conditions.
- We had a visit from the representative of the Ohio Municipal League. He left some general information and Sue put copies in Council mailboxes.

Motion to approve the financial reports: bank reconciliation, fund status, water/sewer reconciliation, municipal income tax reconciliation, revenue & expenses reports, cash summary report, comparison of budget & actual receipts report, comparison of disbursements/encumbrances report made by L. Schilling with a second from B. Prescott. All ayes on vote.

**Bills of Resolution:**

Motion to approve Bills of Resolution with addendum for January omitting C.T. made by L. Schilling with a second from M. Hura. All ayes on vote.

Motion to approve Bills of Resolution with addendum for January including C.T. made by L. Schilling with a second from B. Zoller. B. Prescott abstained, all other ayes on vote.

**Legislation:**

**ORDINANCE 2011-50: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VILLAGE OF MANTUA CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 145.03 IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF CEMETERY SEXTON AND VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR. TABLED AT 3<sup>rd</sup> READING.** Motion to take off the table made by B. Prescott with a second from L. Schilling. All ayes on vote. Motion to approve made by L. Schilling with a second from B. Prescott. Linda Schilling asked what the reason was to keep it tabled. Marty would like to vote it down at this time; we have not had time to do any of the work that we need to do. All nays on vote. Ordinance failed.

**RESOLUTION 2012-02: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MANTUA VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO PURCHASE A VAUGHAN CHOPPER PUMP FOR THE VILLAGE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND CONTRACT FOR THE SHIPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF THE SAME AT A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$18,000.00). 1<sup>st</sup> READING.** Jenny explained Council would have to increase appropriations first before we can move forward on this because everything is already appropriated. We cannot increase the appropriations until she does the year-end certificate, which Jenny plans to have done next week. February would be okay to approve this once that is all done.

**ORDINANCE 2012-03: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 121.03, ARTICLE XII, SUBSECTION (1) (d) OF THE MANTUA VILLAGE CODIFIED ORDINANCES CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MANTUA-SHALERSVILLE FIRE BOARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1<sup>st</sup> READING.** Motion to suspend the rules made by B. Prescott with a second from M. Hura. All ayes on vote. Motion to approve made by L. Schilling with a second from B. Prescott. B. Zoller abstained, all other ayes on vote.

Motion to repeal the committee appointments from the special Council meeting of 1/2/2012 for the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department made by B. Prescott with a second from M. Hura. B. Zoller abstained, all other ayes on vote.

Motion to appoint Giles Seith as Representative to the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department with Marty Hura as the Alternate Representative made by B. Prescott with a second from L. Schilling. B. Zoller abstained, all other ayes on vote.

**RESOLUTION 2012-04: A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CENTRALIZED COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL INCOME TAXES IN THE STATE OF OHIO. 1<sup>st</sup> READING.** Mayor Linda Clark explained that the State is trying to pass legislation to centralize collection of all income tax. It would be sent to them; they would take out their piece of the pie and send us our share. This is our way of letting them know that we are not for that. Michele added that as of right now, there is not any legislation at the State level proposing to do this let alone in danger of passing. It would not be a good thing for any Village for this to happen, but it is not in imminent danger of happening next week.

**Departmental Reports:**

Police Chief, Harry Buchert reported the next Safety meeting is set for January 26, 2012. It will now be held in Council chambers. The annual police report will be ready for the February meeting. Harry congratulated Linda Clark on her appointment as Mayor.

Village Administrator, Anthony Fiorilli III submitted his report to Council.

Village Engineer, Rich Iafelice has submitted his written report to Council. He wanted to add to his report that ODOT plans to resurface State Route 44 in late 2013, starting at S.R. 303 to Mill Street. If the Village has any ancillary projects that could coincide with this State project, we can plan for it. The Mayor asked Rich if, when they do this repaving in 2013, was not that one of the grants the DMRC applied for to improve the streetscape and was reduced to just sidewalks. Rich said no, this is part of the ODOT municipal road-resurfacing program. It is their obligation to take care of the state routes through the Village. Marty thought we had inquired into possibly having them work sidewalks into this work and it was turned down. Rich said it was not in this program. Linda Clark asked Rich if we have heard anything about the sidewalk grant. Rich said no.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Paul Janson reported they have had one meeting so far; we are going to look at everything to find ways to cut expenses.

**Parks:** Marty Hura reported they have not had a meeting yet, they need to have one soon. He plans to get together with the members and find out when it would be convenient for them to have a meeting. Their meetings are listed as the second Wednesday of the month, however, that does not work out for Marty because he has another meeting that night.

**Planning:** Mayor Linda Clark said they are discussing exterior furnaces and getting clarification on financial guarantees.

**Cemetery:** There is a board meeting scheduled for January 24 at 6:30 p.m. On their agenda will be to discuss possible slight increases in our resident and non-resident plots.

**BZA:** Linda Clark said there would be an organizational meeting, January 24 at 7:00 p.m.

**Service:** Bill Zoller reported attending their first meeting. We have established a priority list with Anthony on the chopper pump and blower pump for the alum and will be looking into possible curbside leaf collection versus the bags. The people who take the leaves prefer paper bags rather than plastic because they can grind the paper bags with the mulch.

**Safety:** Giles Seith reported no meeting yet, it is set for January 26 at 6:30 a.m. Reporting for the Fire Department, Giles said everything is normal; they elected him as President of the board. Harry asked regarding when the committees were drafted, Safety had one seat left open, would the new Council member assume the new seat. Ben said yes. Linda Schilling will be on Safety. Linda Clark said Linda Schilling would be on Service, Safety, Shade Tree and Parks.

**New or Other Business:** Village Administrator, Anthony informed Council that he had some discussion with Mr. Steel from ODOT. ODOT is not contemplating at this time, elevating the height of the bridge; however, they are not ruling it out. They plan to do some extensive surveying to see if it would warrant the elevation for better flow underneath. We will see that ongoing for the next three or four months.

Mayor Linda Clark reported that during her recent luncheon meeting with Mayor Broska, one item of interest was mutual aid for service departments. She would like to ask Council if we could investigate this. Each Community would provide an inventory list of items to be shared, if an emergency should arise, we could assist each other. The consensus of Council was definitely to look into it.

Linda said there was one other thing she wanted to bring before Council to see how it should be handled. Last month she received a call from a resident that received a letter from Direct Energy telling them they were going to be changing over their gas supplier as long as they were a resident of Streetsboro. This person lives on Glenwood Drive, Linda and the resident thought it was just a mistake. Today, Linda received another call from a resident on Herald Street who had received the same letter and had thrown it away.

Both of these residents received their gas bills today and found out they had been changed to a different gas company. Apparently because they did not "Opt-Out". Does this warrant us putting something into Mantua Matters to alert our residents or calling the newspaper to help explain what is going on? Ben felt it should be put in both. Michele felt the company should also be contacted. The Mayor did say she called Mayor Broska's office and spoke with his administrative assistant. She thought that since so many of their residents live on the cusp of the city limits and have a 44255 zip code, maybe some of our people were pulled into it.

Michele Stuck informed Council that the Village's website needs to be updated. She proposes to do a complete redesign and functionality of the website and to donate this service to the Village. She would welcome feedback from everyone. Jenny likes it a lot.

Motion to accept the donation from Michele Stuck on her updating the website redesign with thanks made by M. Hura with a second from L. Schilling. All ayes on vote.

Mayor Clark added that the past Mayor, Donna Hawkins, left a bookcase in the Mayor's office and would like Council to make a motion to accept the donation from her.

Motion to accept the donation of a bookcase from Donna Hawkins made by B. Prescott with a second from L. Schilling. B. Zoller abstained, all other ayes on vote.

**Public:**

Carl Zeleznik commented on how light the air was at this meeting, it is comfortable and refreshing. He thanked all who ran for office, Paul Janson, Bill Zoller and Linda Clark. He believes they all had the best interest of the Village and the business community. He attended the recent DMRC meeting and was pleasantly surprised to see our Mayor and Anthony in attendance. That is the most participation we have seen in a long time.

Patsi Gast asked if the repaving the State is doing just coming to Mill Street, what about the area by the high school. Rich Iafelice said that is a different project and is going forward this spring.

Motion to go into executive session to consider the employment and or promotion of an employee(s) and possible pending court action at 7:56 p.m. made by B. Prescott with a second from L. Schilling. All ayes on vote.

Motion to reconvene into regular session at 8:20 p.m. made by L. Schilling with a second from B. Prescott. All ayes on vote.

Marty Hura reminded everyone that the deadline for articles for Mantua Matters is soon.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. made by M. Hura with a second from B. Prescott. All ayes on vote.

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Mayor Linda Clark

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Clerk-Treasurer Jenny August