

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

April 1st, 2014

6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: John Clark, Marty Hura, Paul Janson, Ben Prescott, Giles Seith

Motion to excuse Bill Zoller was made by Councilman Prescott and seconded by Councilman Hura. All voted aye.

Others present: Mayor Linda Clark; Clerk-Treasurer, Jenny August; Village Administrator David Akerley; Administrative Services Officer, Kate Rogers; Village Solicitor, Michele Stuck; Rich Iafelice and Brian Rogers of CT Consultants

2014 Grant Priorities

Rich Iafelice of CT Consultants reported that for the OPWC grant we now have until June 13th for the application so we have time to get it together without rushing. Rich reminded Council that we had recently talked about the water pressure problem in the Northeast Quadrant of the Village and that we were hoping to address this as a part of a grant. He said that he is re-running some of the modeling to see what options we might have to remedy the problem. He will have an updated report at the next council meeting.

OPWC grant for water and waste-water upgrades

Brian Rogers of CT Consultants shared an example of a grant that was received by Ashtabula County for upgrades to their water and wastewater systems. Earlier in the day Councilmen Janson and Clark toured the wastewater plant with Brian, Dave Akerley the Village Administrator, and the wastewater plant operators to go over a list of upgrades and repairs that are needed. A similar list was compiled and shared for upgrades and repairs needed to the water treatment plant. The items on these lists could be used to write an OPWC grant. There was a discussion about several items on the lists including a possible SCADA system replacement and the filter media in the water treatment plant.

Rich suggested that we should choose one of the two grants to apply for rather than trying to come up with matching funds for two possible grants. The Mayor suggested that we focus on the treatment plants because the Village has no choice but to keep these running. Councilmen Prescott and Clark agreed. Rich said that the next step would be to get estimates for all of the items on the list. The Mayor asked that we keep the estimates for the two plants separate so we can decide whether to apply for the grant for one or both. The water treatment plant will be fully paid for in 2017 so it may be possible to get by until then before making any major upgrades there.

The Mayor asked if we applied for this grant whether we could use the water capital improvements charge to pay for our matching funds. Clerk-Treasurer August said that this would be an acceptable use of these funds. The Mayor asked Dave to have the plant operators get prices for the items on the list and to get them to Rich. Rich said that he would need to have one of his engineers certify the quotes rather than having the plant operators do it.

It was decided to wait a year to apply for a grant to address the Northeast Quadrant and to focus this year on a grant for the treatment plant upgrades. We would be able to use the monthly water capital surcharge and proposed sewer surcharge as part of our matching funds for the grant.

- ❖ Motion to allow CT Consultants to investigate an OPWC grant for water and wastewater upgrades for no more than \$1000 was made by Councilman Prescott and seconded by Councilman Hura. All voted aye.

EMA Grant – upcoming deadline

The Mayor reported that we will ask Perrin to repair four of the catch basins from grant list. The service department will work on the other 12 catch basins on the list. She said that we would like to have Perrin complete the paving and repairs to Walnut. Additionally we would like to have Ronyak chip and seal Reagan St. and the section of Canada Rd. that is covered with the EMA money. Rich and the Mayor will call the EMA administrator to see if we can get more money for a couple of the items as well as to move around some of the money from projects that we won't be able to complete.

Hydrant grant

We still have six hydrants to replace as well as nine to repair as a part of an OPWC grant received in 2013. The Mayor asked Clerk-Treasurer August where we could get the money for parts to make these repairs and replacements. It is hard to estimate how much it will cost in parts until the work is started on each individual hydrant. It was agreed that the parts will be ordered and paid for using the water capital improvements fund.

At this point we are behind in terms of our matching man-hours and equipment hours. As the service department puts in more time repairing and replacing the hydrants we will be able to submit the documentation for partial re-imbusement. We will also be submitting the cost of having Utility Contracting do some of the hydrant replacements. Contractor cost is not necessarily considered part of our match, but Brian Rogers is hopeful that as a small part of the overall project OPWC may allow this cost to count as part of our match.

Property Tax Levy

The Mayor reviewed that we had been discussing the options for a levy for road improvements. She mentioned that we need to choose between a bond levy, a property tax levy or an income tax levy. Solicitor Stuck said that Jenny called the County Auditor who said that we would not be able to support a bond levy in the Village. Additionally a bond would require 5% of the money to go to interest that may not be the best use of the funds.

Councilman Clark said that a property tax levy would probably be more stable than an income tax levy. He gave the example that we have lost major revenue on income tax in the past when a major corporation left town.

Clerk-Treasurer August and Rich Iafelice of CT Consultants talked about reducing the property tax levy that we had been discussing to try to raise \$75,000-\$100,000 and lessen the burden to our residents at the same time.

Solicitor Stuck will write legislation to allow the Clerk-Treasurer to petition the County Auditor to determine the millage needed for a levy to raise \$75,000 per year.

Legislation

ORD. 2014-06 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF TITLE NINE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA IN ORDER TO PERMIT A TRANSITION TO MONTHLY WATER AND SEWER BILLING. *2nd Reading*

941.21 a, b, c and d

Solicitor Stuck reported that she and the Administrative Services Officer had put together a recommendation for changes to Section 941.21 a, b, c and d.

- ❖ Motion to amend 941.21 a, b, c and d as presented was made by Councilman Prescott and seconded by Councilman Hura. All voted aye.

Sewer surcharge – 941.14k

At the last Council meeting we amended the ordinance to keep in section 941.14k and to change the word quarterly to monthly. Solicitor Stuck asked if we wanted to establish a set surcharge of, for example, \$2 per month as well as to change the use of the funds to capital improvements instead of to offset the cost of billing.

- ❖ Motion to change the sewer surcharge to be used for capital improvements and to set the surcharge at \$2 per month was made by Councilman Prescott and seconded by Councilman Clark. All voted aye.

ORD. 2014-19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2014 APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *1ST Reading*

This legislation is to allow for appropriations to be made for a merry-go round and doors for the park lodge. It will also allow for appropriations for the S.R. 44 Sidewalk Project in order to pay an obligation to ODOT.

- ❖ Motion to suspend the rules was made by Councilman Prescott and seconded by Councilman Hura. All voted aye.
- ❖ Motion to approve Ordinance 2014-19 was made by Councilman Prescott and seconded by Councilman Hura. All voted aye.

Council Committee Adjustments

The Mayor reviewed adjustments that had been made to the 2014 Council Committees.

- ❖ Motion to accept the changes to the Council Committees was made by Councilman Hura and seconded by Councilman Prescott. All voted aye.

Adjournment

- ❖ Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Prescott and seconded by Councilman Hura. All voted aye.

Mayor Linda Clark

Admin Services Officer Kate Rogers