

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
May 19th, 2020
6:30 PM**

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and asked for a moment of silence for Anthony Stupka Jr. and Timothy Holka.

Roll Call: Scott Weaver, Ben Prescott, Marty Hura, Paula Tubalkain, Matt Rololowski, and Dave Sluka.

Other Village Personnel: Linda Clark, Mayor; Clerk- Treasurer, Jenny August; Village Solicitor, Michele Stuck; Village Administrator, John Trew; Police Chief Joe Urso; Village Engineer, Rich Iafelice.

Citizens Present: none

Approval of the regular Council meeting minutes of April 21, 2020:

Dave Sluka noted that on page 4 under correspondence it says that Council received a letter from Chelsea Gregor. Then the next two paragraphs say “She” meaning the Mayor, but it could be implied that “She” is Chelsea Gregor. Then on page 6 under the 2020-16 the first motion did not say how everyone voted. Everyone voted yes.

- ❖ Dave Sluka moved to amend page 4 and 6, with a second from Scott. All voted yes.
- ❖ Dave Sluka moved to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020 Regular Council meeting, with a second from Marty Hura. All voted aye.

Approval of the Special Council meeting minutes of April 30, 2020.

- ❖ Ben Prescott moved to approve the Special Council minutes from the April 30, 2020 with a second from Marty Hura. All voted yes.

Approval of the 2021 Budget Workshop meeting minutes of May 13, 2020.

- ❖ Ben Prescott moved to approve the 2020 Budget Workshop minutes from the May 13, 2020 with a second from Marty Hura. All voted aye.

Mayors Report:

The Mayor wanted to everyone know that a few special events have been cancelled. The Soap Box Derby, Art on the Hill, and the Headwaters Adventure Race have all been cancelled. She asked Council if they would like to leave the park lodge and playground areas closed. On May 26th unless something changes, non-contact sports such as baseball and softball should be starting up for a short season. Council discussed some options and decided to leave the entire park closed for now.

Mayor Clark also let Council know that letters have been sent to the water-sewer customers notifying them of the water and sewer rate increase that is effective May 1, and the letter also includes a revised 2018 CCR Consumer Confidence Report with information on our drinking water.

Citizens: No citizens.

Financial Reports:

The sewer line repair project required a \$20,000 advance from the General Fund to the Sewer Operating fund. The Finance Committee recommends repaying the advance in 4 monthly payments, so there is legislation tonight for that.

Rita is estimating a 10% reduction for us in income tax this year. Compared to last year, Tax revenues through April were down closer to 20% but possibly just due to the extension to pay until July 15. Local Government funds are down close to 30%, and gas tax is up about 60%.

Payments were heavy in April because of the Workman payment on the sewer line repair of just under \$67,000. The water-sewer, the UAN, and the bank are out of balance. I was able to identify that the discrepancy is in the credit card fees, but we are not sure at this time how to fix it or why extra fees are being charged. There were no adjustments on the bank rec.

Regarding the 2021 budget, a few changes were recommended at our workshop last week that you will be voting on later. I would also like to remind everyone that we will have our required public hearing for the 2021 budget at 6:15 just before the June 16 Council meeting.

- ❖ Ben Prescott moved to approve the Financial Reports with a 2nd by Marty Hura- All Ayes on vote.

Correspondence: None

Bills of Resolution, Addendum Bills of Resolution

- ❖ Motion to approve the Bills of Resolution and Addendum Bills of Resolution by Ben Prescott, 2nd by Marty Hura- All ayes on vote.

Legislation:

ORD. 2020-20 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A PERMANENT BUDGET FOR 2021 FOR THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA, AFTER PUBLICATION AND PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.30. 2nd

Reading. Mayor Clark read the recommended changes resulting from the 2021 Budget Workshop. There will be an increase in the “Consumer Rent” line in Sewer Operating revenues, so the new amount should go from \$525,000 to \$705,000. The total Sewer Operating revenues will change to \$762,800. In Water Capital Improvement fund, there are increased revenues of an additional \$120,000 which makes the total revenues \$130,500. Lastly, Council will recommend amending the Capital Outlay appropriations to \$100,000 which will include the meter’s line.

- ❖ Marty Hura moved to amend the budget to reflect the recommended increases, with a second from Scott Weaver. All voted yes.

Jenny said she would send everyone an amended copy of the budget before the third and final reading.

ORD. 2020-22 AN ORDINANCE RETROACTIVELY CONFIRMING ERIC DUNN AS A FULL-TIME OFFICER OF THE MANTUA POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 25, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st Reading.

- ❖ Ben Prescott moved to suspend the rules, with a second by Scott Weaver. All voted yes.
- ❖ Dave Sluka moved to approve, with a second from Ben Prescott. All voted yes.

ORD. 2020-23 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ADVANCE REPAYMENT FROM THE SEWER OPERATING FUND #5201 TO THE GENERAL FUND #1000. 1st Reading.

- ❖ Ben Prescott moved to suspend the rules, with a second by Dave Sluka. All voted yes.
- ❖ Scott Weaver moved to approve, with a second from Ben Prescott. All voted yes.

ORD. 2020-24 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING NECO WATER OF CINCINNATI'S BID OF \$167,174.99 PLUS FINANCING FOR THE 2020 WATER METER INSTALLATION PROJECT, AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND CLERK-TREASURER OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st Reading.

Paula said in Section 1 of the first page, we need to specify the number of years. She said the company that spoke with us discussed three years. Michele said they based the payments on financing \$200,000 and we do not know the actual amounts that we will need yet. She would like Council to recommend the number of years we would finance the meter project for. Mayor Clark recommends going for a 5year plan. Dave asked if we have a guess as to what our revenues will be? John said we can expect a possible 10% increase because of actual reads, and newer and more accurate meters. Rich said in his rate analysis, it included a 3-year payback at 3%. He also said there is huge debt on the water side of identified needs. The sooner we get these meters in, the bigger revenue improvements we will see. He recommends getting that debt out of the way as soon as we can.

- ❖ Paula moved to fill in the blank for number of financed years to 3. Marty Hura seconded. Ben voted no. All others voted yes.
- ❖ Dave Sluka moved to suspend the rules, with a second by Scott Weaver. Ben voted no. All others voted yes.
- ❖ Scott Weaver moved to approve, with a second from Marty Hura. Ben voted no. All others voted yes.

Department Heads and Village Engineer

Police Chief Urso:

Safety met May 6th via Zoom.

Old Business: We are 100% switched to Marcs radio system. The second dispatch console has arrived and is installed.

New Business- We have a new part time dispatcher in training, and one that resigned. We have an Auxiliary Officer, Miranda Brothers who is advancing in her training. She is a lifelong resident of the village and Chief would like to move her to part time status.

- ❖ Scott Weaver moved to promote Miranda Brothers to part time status, with a second from Paula Tubalkain. All voted yes

Next meeting will be June 3 at 6:00 pm. He is willing to hold his meeting in Council Chambers if Council would like to get back to a sense of normality.

Village Administrator John Trew:

There are two bids on tree work that needs to be done. They are much less than he expected. 15 ash trees and another big dead tree on the trail that need to be removed.

There are two companies interested in moving to the village and two new houses being built on Canada Rd. Also there are two residents on John Edward Dr. that are looking to tie in to our water and sewer. Brush pickup is every Tuesday.

The guys have started working on the list of 16 projects that included storm sewers and other things. They have taken care of two things so far. They have done a lot of work on the garage. Paula said she was impressed at the nice job they have done. It is cleaned, painted, organized and looks really nice.

Village Engineer from C.T. Consultants:

Rich said the \$450,000 coming from the state for the reservoir project is on hold for now. He has been in contact with Beth from the EPA and he let her know the project is shovel ready, and we are just waiting on word of financing from OPWC. The re-appropriations bill should allow funding to continue for anything already in progress.

Rich reviewed Phase 2 of the Buchert Park Trail: The original project's total cost was \$45,650. This was a \$34,312 ODNR grant and a \$11,338 local share. The revised project has been reduced from \$45,000 to \$36,260 because ODNR will not fund work within the right of way, which is the crossing on High Street. The result is, the eligible cost for grant becomes \$24,000. 75% of that would be awarded at \$18,000 making the local share amount \$18,260.00. With this revision, we would only be using 50% of the grant. For this reason Rich presented several options to Council.

Option 1 eliminates the pedestrian signal, but retains a crossing of High St. The pedestrian crossing would be replaced with something eligible, which would be to run a gravel trail along the river and south to the right of way. This would be the same cost as the signal. The project amount is still reduced to \$35,500 but we are utilizing more of the grant.

Option 2 eliminates the portion for the volleyball court. There is talk about the Rotary funding this.

Option 3 maintains the trail and includes the gravel trail along the river and adds 12 benches at a cost of \$500 each. There is a crosswalk. It is ineligible, but the cost is about \$3500. The total project cost increases back up to about \$41,500. Removing the \$3500 for the cross walk, the eligible costs for the grant become \$38,000. The grant (75%) would be \$28,500 with a slight (\$1700) increase in the local share local share, which becomes \$13,000. There is some flexibility such as using less benches.

Option 3A adds a small section of asphalt trail which brings the total cost to \$44,000. Eligible costs for the grant are \$40,500. The grant portion would be \$30,375 and the local share increases to \$13,625. This maintains the crossing on High St.

Option 4- the trail ends at the road crossing. The crossings to the ball fields becomes part of phase 3. The total project is \$43,000. The grant is \$32,250 and the local share is \$10,750 and this includes benches, gravel trail, and does not cross High St. We would get the park benches and maintain close to the original costs.

Dave Sluka asked if the DMRC is paying the local share. Mayor Clark said yes, they have already paid \$11,338. Scott asked if we wait to do the crosswalk until phase 3 would we still have to pay for the crosswalk regardless? Rich said Recreational Trails will fund it, but there is an application process. Scott said the crosswalk is a big deal, and we need to make this a safe

crossing. Scott would like to at least see signs and striping at the crossing. Rich said we can non-perform something to keep the local share as is.

❖ Ben Prescott moved to go with Buchert Park Trail Phase 2 Option 4, with a second from Marty Hura. All voted yes.

Committees

Scott Weaver for Service, and Planning:

Planning- Scott said the Planning Commission did the Middlefield Bank lot combination. Scott said the bank looks fantastic. Everything else is tabled. They did get correspondence regarding the signs, so they will look into that.

Service- The first draft of the operations agreement with the county was reviewed. There were some concerns that the committee had. They also talked about the Buchert Park Trail, and the powers and duties of the Village Administrator. The Service Committee recommends following the Codified section 133.02 of what John is allowed to authorize. Ben said at one time, a previous Village Administrator was authorizing work that the village ended up owing C.T. Consultants \$140,000 which was half the reason we went into Fiscal Watch. Scott said the rules may have changed after that. Scott said the Service Committee also reviewed the Orchard St. Widening project. We are also advertising for operators but so far it is not panning out.

Marty Hura for Parks and Shade Tree:

Marty said Parks and Shade Tree will meet tomorrow night. With school being out, he is not sure if things were passed out for the Arbor Day program. Mayor Clark said she has the essays in her office to be reviewed when they can meet in person. Once a winner is selected, the school will notify them and they can go to Middlefield Bank and pick up their gift card.

Mayor Clark for Cemetery, and Board of Zoning Appeals:

Cemetery- Mayor Clark said we received the check from the Trust for \$15,465.50. Dave Akerley is picking up flowers for the Cemetery Board to plant. The mowing person plans to have everything mowed for Memorial Day. There will not be a parade, but there will be a short service.

BZA- Meets tomorrow night for an application for an oversized mural.

Paula Tubalkain for Safety and Portage County Regional Planning:

PCRPP- Paula attended the Special Council meeting so she missed the PCRPP meeting.

Safety- Chief covered everything.

Dave Sluka for Finance-

In Finance, the committee reviewed reports, legislation, and the water meter bids.

New and Other Business-

John Trew said regarding the county agreement, we are miles apart. They want us to escrow money that would hinder us from doing projects. Michele said there is a zoom meeting tomorrow, so there will be updates at the Service meeting. Mayor Clark said in her opinion, we should stop negotiating on an operating agreement and focus on the merger. Council agreed. Ben thinks we can hire operators and maintenance people and run the plants ourselves.

Anything else that may properly come before Council-

Mayor Clark said just before the June Council meeting at 6:15 there will be a Public Hearing for the 2021 budget. Also, John Clark, the Planning Chair wanted to remind everyone in Planning to

pick up their site plans that will be reviewed. He also would like to have the meeting in Council Chambers so the plans can be reviewed together.

Paula wanted to give a special shout out to Michele for the excellent job she is doing with the Zoom meetings. Council agreed.

Adjournment

- ❖ Motion to adjourn at 7:53 by Ben Prescott, seconded by Marty Hura. All voted yes.

Mayor Linda Clark

Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer