

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 06, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Ben Prescott, Tammy Meyer, Heather Paisley, Scott Weaver and Marty Hura.

**Other Village Personnel:** Mayor Linda Clark; Clerk- Treasurer, Jenny August; Village Solicitor, Michele Stuck; Police Chief Joe Urso, Village Administrator Maryann Fabian, Officer Miranda Brothers.

**Citizens Present:** John Clark, Roy Peck, Karen Stutzman, Sarah Pilgrim, Jon Harmon, Bill Byers, Mike and June Zamecnik, Brock Benner, Brian Kovar, Sherri Horvath, Jen Sobszak, Ken Middleton, Audrey Baran, Grace Baran, James Vasil, Nina Schroeder, Caroline Stephens, Chuck Peterson, Marty Fergus, Lyndsey Brennan from the Portager, and Diane Smith from the Record Courier.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Appointment of Council Member to fill the vacant seat:**

Mayor Clark turned the meeting over to Council President Tammy Meyer. Tammy explained that this seat will replace former Council member Matt Rosolowski with a term ending Dec. 31, 2023, and will also be a member of the Finance Committee, the Service Committee, and the Fire Board. Chuck Peterson and Caroline Stephens submitted letters of interest to fill the seat.

Tammy Meyer asked the candidates to tell Council about themselves. Caroline said she has lived in Mantua for 15 years. She works part time as a massage therapist, and she loves sports. She is a mother and grandmother. She gets along with most people. She works hard and puts her heart into everything she does. Chuck said he has lived in Mantua since 1989. His first wife lived here so when he got out of the Marines he moved here and made Mantua his home. He likes the calm and quiet here, the local festivals and the park. He has judged in the Potato Festival. He decided it is time to help out his community and learn how things work. He has no plans to retire or move away. He plans to work another 12-15 years.

Heather Paisley asked the candidates what their favorite thing about Mantua is. Chuck said it is the park. His kids always played there, and there is a tree there in memory of his son that was killed, which makes it even more special to him. The park also has the scouts and the Potato Festival. He likes the small-town atmosphere and that Mantua is so safe. Caroline said she likes that everything is within walking distance. People are friendly and always talk. She likes kayaking from Hiram to the park or the water plant. Everyone is friendly and approachable.

Ben Prescott asked the candidates what they think is involved in being a Council member. Caroline said it means participating in activities, to supervise, to hear concerns and follow up, and standing behind your word. Chuck said he thinks being a Council member is to help guide what is happening today and in the future in Mantua, oversee finances, keeping the village neat, and hearing neighbors' concerns.

Marty did not have any questions for the candidates.

Scott Weaver asked the candidates what strengths they will bring to the committee positions on Finance, Service and Fire Board. Caroline said she has dealt with personal and business finances including how the money is spent, how to save, and doing payroll. She will give 100% and prioritize. Chuck said relating to the Finance committee, he is currently and has been the treasurer of his union for 15 years. He has had clean audits. Relating to Service, his previous wife was the owner of a mobile home park so he has plowed, worked on water lines, performed repairs and maintenance for what is like a small village.

Ben Prescott asked if their jobs would interfere with serving on Council. Chuck said it is possible because he is on call one week every month. He thinks he may be able to switch around his schedule though, so his job probably would not interfere with Council. Caroline said she is part time and she is readily available.

Tammy Meyer asked where they would like to see Mantua in five years. Caroline said she has watched Mantua grow and can't wait for things to get completely back to normal. She loves the Potato Festival and the Ox Roast, Restoration 44, yoga, and the rib cookoff in town. Chuck said he would like to see a few more businesses move into town with the same dedication as Restoration 44 has. His coworkers used to just drive through town but now they stop and get coffee. He would like to see the town become more family oriented.

Tammy Meyer asked if either of them had questions for Council. They did not, so the vote was called. All Council members voted for Chuck Peterson to fill the vacant seat. Michele Stuck swore him in and he took a seat at the Council table.

#### **Public comment regarding the investigation of a complaint against a public official:**

Kenny Middleton said he worked for the village for two years and he can go on and on about the problem they have, but does Council know what Dave really meant to the village? How good he was as a worker? He worked with him for over two years, and he has seen the man do a lot of things for the people, not just the job, but above and beyond. He has seen him buy lunch for two gentlemen. Tammy Meyer said she was sorry but that is not for the investigation and there are no complaints on Dave, so we can't discuss that. Michele said he can attend the regular Council meeting and make comments of a general nature on any subject. The July meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Zamecnik said he is not a resident, but he lived here years ago and he has rental properties in the village and has done some work for the police department and the village hall here, and has never had any issues ever, and he wanted to go on record that he has never encountered anything that was in that paper.

Bill Byers said he was born and raised in Mantua Village and relocated to Hiram in 2004. He spent 22 years on Mantua Shalersville Fire District and then served in a neighboring jurisdiction as Fire Chief. He has worked with Council members as well as Mayor Clark on many occasions and also Police Officers, and he also has never encountered anything like what he read about, nothing even close. He has had nothing but cooperation from them.

There were no other comments.

#### **Executive Session for the investigation of a complaint against a public official:**

Scott Weaver moved to go into executive session at 7:26 with a second from Marty Hura. All eyes on vote.

Scott Weaver moved to come out of executive session and resume the special Council meeting at 7:48 with a second from Marty Hura. All ayes on vote.

Tammy Meyer said the prior Council took the complaint seriously and had an investigation done based on the complaint. In June of 2020 Council made recommendations based on that report and now we consider the matter closed.

**Adjournment**

Ben Prescott moved to adjourn at 7:49 pm with a second from Marty Hura. All ayes on vote.

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Mayor Linda Clark

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Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer