

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 3, 2021**  
**6:50 PM**

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:50pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Ben Prescott, Tammy Meyer, Chuck Peterson, Scott Weaver and Marty Hura.

**Other Village Personnel:** Mayor Linda Clark; Village Solicitor, Michele Stuck; Police Chief Joe Urso, Village Administrator Maryann Fabian.

**Citizens Present:** Dennis Weise, Stacy Turner from The Villager, Bob Ress, Cookie Vanek, and Jen Sobczak.

- ❖ Marty Hura moved to excuse Heather Paisley. Tammy Meyer seconded the motion. All ayes on vote.

**DISCUSSION:**

**ORD. 2021-36** amending Ordinance 2021-27, regarding an increase of Mantua Village's municipal income tax from 1.5% to 2% for law enforcement purposes.

Mayor Clark said this increase is to be used strictly for police and safety. This increase will stabilize their budget. We dispatch for the Village of Garrettsville but at the end of the year they will be contracting with the county. This increase will help to keep 24/7 protection.

Mr. Bob Ress asked for information about the wages being paid now. He said he brought up years ago that we need to bring more money into the system. Maybe if people knew how underpaid they are it might help. Mayor Clark said the pay scale ordinance is available. Mr. Ress said he is retired and does not have taxable income like some others. Is there an alternative way to get money in? Tammy said we are looking at increasing the Police wages now so it is done before the ballot so it doesn't look like we passed the increase and gave everyone a raise.

Michele said the reason we are revisiting this ordinance tonight is because the legislation was passed and submitted to the Board of Elections, but they wanted some additional statutory language in the ordinance, and rather than try to convince them that what we passed was fine, she knew we were all going to be here tonight, it was easier to just create an amendment to that ordinance, add statutory language and submit it tomorrow. We are not making any changes other than amending a technicality.

- ❖ Motion to suspend the rules by Ben Prescott with a second from Scott Weaver. All ayes on vote.
- ❖ Motion to approve by Ben Prescott, seconded by Marty Hura. All ayes on vote.

**Adjournment**

Ben Prescott moved to adjourn at 6:59 pm with a second from Chuck Peterson. All ayes on vote.

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Mayor Linda Clark

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Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
August 3, 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, Chuck Peterson, Scott Weaver and Marty Hura.

❖ Scott Weaver moved to excuse Heather Paisley. Tammy Meyer seconded the motion. All eyes on vote.

**Other Village Personnel:** Mayor Linda Clark; Village Solicitor, Michele Stuck; Police Chief Joe Urso.

**Citizens Present:** Dennis Weise, Stacy Turner from The Villager, Bob Ress, Cookie Vanek, and Jen Sobczak.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYEE WAGE ORD. 2021-16**

**Police Department:**

Mayor Clark said the Chief's pay scale is currently \$19.00 to \$27.00 per hour. Tammy said she thinks the cap should be increased to \$30. Ben asked where the \$30 an hour is coming from. Tammy said we are not paying that now, but when Jenny leaves and her position is part time we can take \$20,000 out of that. The minimums will stay the same, we are just increasing the cap. The Lieutenant is \$16.00 to \$20.00 per hour. Mayor Clark said we will take the cap to \$25. Sergeant is \$15- \$25. Full time Officer we will change minimum from \$14 to \$15 and increase the max to \$25. For the Part time Officer we will raise the \$10 minimum to \$15 and a maximum of \$22. Auxiliary Officer \$10 and \$10. Head Dispatcher raise it from \$9 minimum to \$15 with a max being \$25. Longevity goes away once Linda Wilke retires. The full time dispatcher we are leaving at \$12 minimum and \$18 max. Part time Dispatcher \$11 minimum to \$22 max. Chuck asked why the part time dispatcher can make more than the full time. Chief said the full timers get benefits. Mayor Clark said we will change the max for full time dispatchers from \$18 to \$24.

**Service Department:**

Mayor Clark said the Village Administrator cap should be increased to \$30 and leave the minimum at \$16. Service Dept. Supervisor will be left right now at \$14 to \$25. For the Full time Service employees, we will change the minimum from \$9 to \$11 with a maximum raised to \$25. Part time Service Employee starts at \$11 with a \$20 max. Part time Seasonal starts at \$11 with a max of \$15. The Full time Admin Asst. \$15-\$20. Part time Admin Asst. \$15-\$20. We are adding a new position of "On call part time Mechanic" with a pay range of \$20 to \$25. Tammy said the departments will still have to work within their budgets even after giving the wage increases.

**WHETHER TO CONVERT THE ELECTED POSITION OF CLERK-TREASURER TO AN APPOINTED POSITION OF FISCAL OFFICER PER OHIO REVISED CODE 733.262 AND TO CONSIDER A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR SUCH A POSITION.**

Mayor Clark said everyone has the task list that the Clerk-Treasurer put together. Things may still be added. Also, Garrettsville has provided a job description, but they have a Board of Public Affairs, so you would strike out anything related to water and sewer. Tammy said effective April 1,

2022 Jenny will average \$22.05 per hour. After Jenny leaves, if we reduce it to 30 hours per week, we would save \$11,000. We would also save by not providing health care. Tammy said Jenny does not think after this year she will be able to keep busy 40 hours per week. Tammy said we need to determine if this will remain elected or become appointed, and if it will be part time or full time. Mayor Clark said there are a lot of communities in the area that only have a part time Fiscal Officer. The townships are part time. Tammy said if Jenny decides to stay we can give her other tasks so she can remain full time. Ben disagrees with making this an appointed position. Scott says we can hire someone from outside the village if it is appointed. Tammy asked if we have the option of a shared Fiscal Officer. Mayor Clark said the part time Fiscal Officers in the township are elected. Tammy said if we brought someone in from another part time entity they would already know the system.

Marty said he would rather have some say as to who is working for them than just someone who goes out and collects signatures. Chuck asked who would hire the Fiscal Officer. Tammy said that Council would approve who the Mayor appoints. Chuck asked what is the benefit of leaving it elected. Tammy said with an elected Clerk-Treasurer we are all the same. With appointed they become an employee. Michele said Council has to approve letting an appointed Fiscal Officer go, not just one person. Ben said you are disenfranchising the voters. Mayor Clark said she thinks our residents are more interested in someone that is knowledgeable. The pool is so small anymore. Scott said we are going to be hard pressed to find someone with all of these qualifications.

Tammy asked for a straw poll to see what Council members think about appointed or elected. Chuck, Marty, Tammy and Scott said they would want someone hired. Ben wants it to remain elected. Tammy asked the residents that were there. Bob Ress, Cookie Vanek and Dennis Weise all said hired. Chief Urso said he would like to hire all of his Officers of people that live in the village but he has to hire people that live outside the village. He asked if anyone in the village has shown any interest in Jenny job. There has not been any interest.

Next Tammy asked for a straw poll of whether or not the job is full or part time. Mayor Clark said we should consider making it part time with the possibility of becoming full time with additional duties. Michele said with an appointed person you have the flexibility of assigning them different tasks, where a Clerk-Treasurer is set by statute and there is not as much flexibility. Someone from the audience asked if we have considered internships from college students. Tammy said with the audits every two years it may not work. Tammy recommends doing a full audit when Jenny steps down.

Tammy asked for a straw poll on part time flexible or full time. Scott, Tammy, Marty, and Chuck voted for part time flexible, Ben abstained. Cookie Vanek, Bob Ress and Dennis Weise voted for part time. Bob Ress said it could be changed to full time if needed at some point. Tammy would like legislation for a part time flexible fiscal officer. Michele said if Jenny were to resign mid term additional legislation would be needed to make it appointed at the time. Tammy said discussion on wages will come later.

### **Adjournment**

- ❖ Ben Prescott moved to adjourn at 7:48 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