VILLAGE OF MANTUA
PUBLIC HEARING AND COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
October 21, 2025

Mayor Tammy Meyer called the public hearing to order at 6 p.m., that pertains to ORD 2025-29 AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING AN OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA) IN MANTUA VILLAGE, OHIO.

Roll Call: Steve Thorn, Kevin Maloney, Denise DiLellio, David Sluka, Chris Novotny, Dawn King
Others Present: Mayor Tammy Meyer, Solicitor Bill Mason, Police Chief Joe Urso, Fiscal Officer Maryann Fabian, Eric Fink, Brad Bennett
Citizens: James Novak, Jan Thorn, Stephanie Bruckner, Eric Bruckner, Nicole Nero, Riley Meyer, Linda Clark, Robert Gaglione, Suzanne Gaglione, Zachary Krebs, Miranda Brothers, Katherine Beneseon, Alex Lane, Yevette Lommler, Jacqueline Rooth, William Lane, Sandy Hershberger, Vickie Wilcox, Linda Wilke, Ron Overberger, JoAnn Overberger, Kaeleigh Lupton, Beth Sluka, Michelle Sweet, Paul Maroni, Heather Novotny, Kendall Speer, Eric Davis, Jarvis Stamm, Nicole Smolen, Mark Smolen, Morgan Grubaugh, Linda Vasil, Dan Knippenberg, Darlene Urso, Joseph Urso, Aireane Curtis, Susan Anderson, Stephanie Morhidge, Marty Fergus, Diane Smith, Janet O Bryant, Eric Miller, Ellie Stamm, Jaimie Harper, Paula Tubalkain, Randy Ellis, Casie Allen, Jeremy Allen, Terry Hronek, Brian Perkins, Sarah Harper, Wes Hawkins, Ashlee Hawkins, John Clark, Calvin Adum Lemmler, Wendy DiAlesandra, Tim Paisley, Paige Paisley, Jen Sobczak, Tom Knipper, Wendy Knipper

Tammy asked if there were any comments or questions for the public hearing. There were none.

- ❖ Steve made the motion to adjourn at 6:01 p.m. Dawn second. All ayes.

Tammy called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Steve Thorn, Kevin Maloney, Denise DiLellio, David Sluka, Chris Novotny, Dawn King
Others Present: Mayor Tammy Meyer, Solicitor Bill Mason, Police Chief Joe Urso, Fiscal Officer Maryann Fabian, Eric Fink, Brad Bennett
Citizens: James Novak, Jan Thorn, Stephanie Bruckner, Eric Bruckner, Nicole Nero, Riley Meyer, Linda Clark, Robert Gaglione, Suzanne Gaglione, Zachary Krebs, Miranda Brothers, Katherine Beneseon, Alex Lane, Yevette Lommler, Jacqueline Rooth, William Lane, Sandy Hershberger, Vickie Wilcox, Linda Wilke, Ron Overberger, JoAnn Overberger, Kaeleigh Lupton, Beth Sluka, Michelle Sweet, Paul Maroni, Heather Novotny, Kendall Speer, Eric Davis, Jarvis Stamm, Nicole Smolen, Mark Smolen, Morgan Grubaugh, Linda Vasil, Dan Knippenberg, Darlene Urso, Joseph Urso, Aireane Curtis, Susan Anderson, Stephanie Morhidge, Marty Fergus, Diane Smith, Janet O Bryant, Eric Miller, Ellie Stamm, Jaimie Harper, Paula Tubalkain, Randy Ellis, Casie Allen, Jeremy Allen, Terry Hronek, Brian Perkins, Sarah Harper, Wes Hawkins, Ashlee Hawkins, John Clark, Calvin Adum Lemmler, Wendy DiAlesandra, Tim Paisley, Paige Paisley, Jen Sobczak, Tom Knipper, Wendy Knipper

Mayor's Report
Tammy requested a retroactive approval of Chief Clemens from October 6, 2025 to be the Acting Police Chief for Mantua Village.

- ❖ David made the motion, Steve second. All ayes.

Tammy requested a payment not to exceed $13,500.00 for Harner Plumbing for the OBM DMRC Pumphouse project. Kevin asked if this was bid out. Tammy explained that it was not the villages money.

- ❖ Dawn made the motion. Denise second. All ayes.

Tammy requested a payment made to Air Time HVAC LLC not to exceed $5,000.00, for the OBM DMRC Pumphouse project.

- Dawn made the motion. David Second. All ayes.

Tammy asked for another payment for $5,220.00 for Harner plumbing, she was not sure if this amount was in the previous amount for Harner Plumbing. If it was, they will not spend it.

- Kevin made the motion. Steve second. All ayes.

Tammy requested a motion for payment to Great Northern Fence for ODNR Buchert Park Phase V for $8,525.00.

- Kevin made the motion. Denise second. All ayes.

Tammy requested a motion to pay Specialized Construction $111,057.50 for the 2025 Chip and Seal Project.

- Dawn made the motion. Denise second. All ayes.

Maryann asked the council for approval of two donations. The Aurora Vet Clinic donated $400 to the K9 operating fund. Chief Urso had donated his time for a demonstration at the fund raiser the Vet Clinic held the same day as Art-on-the-Hill. The money the Vet Clinic raised was split amongst the K9's that they serve. Ciko's portion was $400.

The second donation is for $80 from an anonymous donor for the K9 operating fund.

- Steve made the motion to approve both donations. Dawn second. All ayes.

Financial Reports
Maryann reviewed the financial reports. No questions were asked.

- David made a motion to approve the financial reports. Kevin second. All ayes.

Correspondence
Maryann read the 4C's Food Cupboard event flyer that was left in her mailbox.

Approval of previous Minutes

- Steve made a motion to approve the 9.15.2025 minutes. Denise second. All ayes.
- Kevin made a motion to approve the 9.16.2025 minutes. David second. All ayes.

Committees:

Dawn King reported for the DMRC.
Steve Thorn said there was nothing to report for the Fire Board.
Kevin Maloney reported for Processes and Landmarks.
Denise DiLellio reported for Service.
David Sluka reported for Safety. Chief Urso said he wanted it to go on record that after he listened to the Safety meeting, that there were some discrepancies, and he had documentation he wanted to provide. David said he would talk with the chief after the meeting.

Department Heads:

Acting Police Chief report was not given.
Acting Village Administrator report was given by Tammy.

Legislation:
ORD 2025-29 AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING AN OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA) IN MANTUA VILLAGE, OHIO.

- Kevin made a motion to approve. Dawn second. All ayes, except Steve who voted nay.

ORD 2025-32 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO OPERATE THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This was the second reading and there will be a public hearing on it in November.

RES 2025-33 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR DISPATCHING SERVICES TO THE MANTUA-SHALERSVILLE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Kevin made a motion to suspend the rules. David second. All ayes.
- David made a motion to approve. Steve second. All ayes.

ORD 2025-34 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2025 APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Steve made a motion to suspend the rules. David second. All ayes.
- David made a motion to approve. Kevin second. All ayes

ORD 2025-35 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY NATURAL GAS PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING ALL ACTIONS TAKEN AND NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF THE VILLAGE'S NATURAL GAS PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- David made a motion to suspend the rules. Steve second. All ayes.
- David made a motion to approve. Chris second. All ayes.

ORD 2025-36 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH DYENEGY SERVICES (DESE) TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRIC AGGREGATION AND VILLAGE PROGRAMS, AND AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING ALL ACTIONS TAKEN AND NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF THE VILLAGE'S GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRIC AGGREGATION AND VILLAGE PROGRAMS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Steve made a motion to suspend the rules. David second. All ayes.
- Denise made a motion to approve. Dave second. All ayes.

ORD 2025-37 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FOR HIRAM POLICE CHIEF SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- David made a motion to suspend the rules. Dawn second. All ayes.
- David made a motion to approve. Denise second. All ayes.

Hearing regarding Chief Urso summary.
(Note: Audio available upon request)

Linda Clark asked if citizens would be able to speak, and Steve said that it would happen after the hearing, before the vote.

Bill Mason explained what to expect for the hearing and that he was going to conduct the hearing. He said that the purpose of the hearing was to substantiate the charges against Mantua Police Chief Joe Urso, pursuant to ORC 737.171, or not. Attorney Brad Bennet, who represents the village, had a brief opening statement. Attorney Eric Fink, who represents Chief Urso, also had a brief opening statement.

The following people were called to the stand and were questioned by both attorneys, and council people had an opportunity to question them as well.

Aireane Curtis, Superintendent of Crestwood Schools
Anthony Vicich, former School Resource Officer
Stephanie Morhidge, former Dispatcher
Tammy Meyer, Mayor
Linda Clark, former Mayor
Miranda Brothers, Police Officer
Joseph Urso, Police Chief

The citizens and employees spoke on the chief's behalf.

RES 2025-38 A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 737.171 REGARDING POLICE CHIEF JOSEPH URSO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Charge 1: Continued Violation of the Nepotism Policy and Favoritism. The Chief was issued a verbal warning on or about April 18, 2023, for the violation of the Department's Nepotism policy. He was instructed to follow the policy, removing himself from the supervision of Officer Miranda Brothers. He was also later instructed by the Village to empower his Sergeants to effectively and impartially supervise Officer Brothers. Despite this discipline and instruction from the Village, the Chief has continued to violate the Nepotism policy, has not fully equipped his Sergeants to impartially supervise Officer Brothers, and cannot adequately separate himself from the supervision of Officer Brothers. These actions constitute Neglect of Duty, Insubordination, Malfeasance, Misfeasance, Inefficiency, or Incompetency.

Roll call vote: Denise – yes, David – yes, Chris – yes, Steve – yes, Kevin – yes, Dawn - yes

Did the Chief commit this violation? Yes

Charge 2: Failure to Follow and Adhere to the Improvement Plan Issued by the Mayor. The Mayor, as the Chief's supervisor, conducted a performance evaluation on December 3, 2024, and gave him a four-point improvement plan. At the time of filing the charges, the Chief has not complied with the plan, nor has he followed up with the mayor on completing the improvement plan. This constitutes Insubordination, Nonfeasance, Neglect of Duty, or Incompetency.

Roll call vote: David – yes, Chris – yes, Steve – yes, Kevin – No, Dawn – yes, Denise - yes

Did the Chief commit this violation? Yes

Charge 3: Allowance of Personal Dogs and Children of On-Duty Personnel at the Department.

a. The mayor discussed with the Chief the inappropriateness of children and personal dogs of staff being at the Department, but he has allowed this to occur, which poses a safety concern. This constitutes Incompetency, Misfeasance, Inefficiency, or Insubordination.

Roll call vote: Dawn – no, Denise – yes, David – yes, Chris – yes, Kevin – yes, Steve – yes

Did the Chief commit the violation under Charge 3(a)? Yes

b. The Chief also advised the mayor there was one instance of a puppy being at the Department and it was without his knowledge, and there was only one instance of a child being in the Department and it was when he personally brought Officer Brothers's child with him. However, the Mayor and employees of the Department attest to personal dogs and children being permitted at the Department on multiple occasions. This amounts to Dishonesty.

Roll call vote: Steve – yes, Dawn – yes, Kevin – No, David – yes, Chris – yes, Denise – yes

Did the Chief commit this violation under Charge 3(b)? Yes

Charge 4: Vacation with Officer Brothers Leaving the Department Understaffed. The Chief took a vacation with Officer Brothers, who were the only 2 full-time officers besides the SRO, leaving the Department severely understaffed, and at one point, with no available officer, to respond to the needs of the Village. This constitutes Inefficiency, Incompetence, Neglect of Duty, or Misfeasance.

Roll call vote: Chris – yes, Denise – yes, Kevin – no, Dawn – no, Steve – no, David - yes

Did the Chief commit this violation? No

Charge 5: Failure to Bring Department Staffing to 24/7 Coverage as Promised to Village Residents in May 2022. A levy was passed by Village voters in May 2022 with a promise to increase staffing levels of the Department to allow for 24/7 coverage. The Chief was informed to take immediate action to address staffing issues and to provide the mayor with various applicants and interview information but never did so. The Chief has failed to take meaningful steps to increase staffing for the Department. This constitutes Insubordination, Inefficiency, Neglect of Duty, Incompetency, Malfeasance, Misfeasance, or Nonfeasance.

Roll call vote: Kevin – no, Steve – yes, Dawn – yes, Denise – ~~yes~~ no, David – yes, Chris - yes

Did the Chief commit this violation? Yes

Charge 6: Actions Regarding the Crestwood Local School District ("District").

a. The Chief failed to provide Officer Anthony Vicich with School Resource Officer ("SRO") training as required by R.C. 3313.951 and did not provide him with adequate support or guidance. This constitutes Incompetency, Inefficiency, Misfeasance, or Nonfeasance.

Roll call vote: Denise – yes, David – yes, Chris – yes, Steve – yes, Kevin – yes, Dawn – no

Did the Chief commit the violation under Charge 6(a)? Yes

b. The Chief continued to push for Officer Brothers to assume the SRO role even after the Superintendent stated Officer Brothers was not a suitable candidate, straining the relationship with the district. This constitutes Incompetency, Inefficiency, Malfeasance, or Misfeasance.

Roll call vote: David – yes, Chris – yes, Steve – No, Kevin – yes, Dawn – yes, Denise - Yes

Did the Chief commit the violation under Charge 6(b)? Yes

c. Additionally, the School's alarms were triggered in June 2025. Upon investigation, several operational inefficiencies were discovered, which the Chief allowed to occur, and the Chief was instructed by the mayor to follow-up with the Superintendent to coordinate an MOU on this issue more than once, but he failed to do so, further straining the relationship with the district. This constitutes Insubordination, Incompetency, Inefficiency, Neglect of Duty, Misfeasance, or Nonfeasance.

Roll call vote: Dawn – yes, Kevin – no, David – yes, Chris – yes, Denise – yes, Steve - yes

Did the Chief commit the violation under Charge 6(c)? Yes

- Steve made a motion to remove Joseph Urso from office and instructs the Fiscal Officer to take all requisite actions to process and compile his final pay and benefits. Chris second. Roll call vote: Steve – yes, Dawn – yes, Denise – yes, David – yes, Chris – yes, Kevin – no
- Steve made a motion to suspend the rules and place Resolution 2025-38 for passage. Denise second. Roll call vote: Chris – yes, Denise – yes, Kevin – yes, Dawn – yes, Steve – yes, David – yes
- David made the motion to amend 2025-38 as amended. Steve second. Roll call vote: Kevin – yes, Steve – yes, Dawn – yes, Denise – yes, David – yes, Chris – yes
- Kevin made the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-38. Steve second. Roll call vote: Denise – yes, David – yes, Chris – yes, Steve – yes, Kevin – ~~yes~~ no, Dawn – yes.

Adjournment

- Steve made a motion to adjourn on October 22, 2025 at 5:56 a.m. Chris second. All ayes.