VILLAGE OF MANTUA
COUNCIL MEETING
December 16, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

Mayor Tammy Meyer called the Council Meeting to order at 6 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for David Usher and Virginia Goodell

Roll Call: Steve Thorn, Dawn King, Denise DiLellio, Marty Fergus, Dave Sluka

- Dawn made a motion to excuse Chris Novotny. Denise second. All ayes.

Others Present: Mayor Tammy Meyer, Solicitor Bill Mason, Fiscal Officer Maryann Fabian, Acting Chief James Clemens

Citizens: Jan Thorn, Terry Hronok, Linda Clark, Jacqueline Rooth, Jaimie Harper, Sandy Hershberger, Suzanne Gaglione, Robert Gaglione, Ron Overberger, Kristin Herman, Fred Miaritz, Scott Gardner, Roseanne Maloney, Kevin Maloney, Wendy Di Alexandro, Heather Paisley, Riley Meyer, Lori Dunkin, Jon Hermon, Terri Cohen, John Trew, Rod Dunkin, Chuck Peterson, Toomas Tubalkain, Paula Tubalkain, Lisa Surgeon, Zackary Colegrove, Jen Sobczak, Shaun Kish, Shana Kish, Roy Peck

Mayor's Report
Tammy gave an update on the roads, parks and Christmas decorations in the village. She asked for approval to hire the following people that were sworn in the previous month:
Lieutenant Rodney Terry

- Steve made a motion to approve. Dawn second. All ayes.

Full-Time SRO Jasmine Villanueva

- Steve made a motion to approve. Denise second. All ayes.

Part-Time Officer Marcus Coonce

- Denise made a motion to approve. David second. All ayes.

Full-Time Dispatcher Jennifer Lintz

- David made a motion to approve. Denise second. All ayes.

Tammy asked for approval for the following pay that exceeds Ord 2022-54, but is in line with 2025-27.
Marcus Coonce $24/hr.

- David made a motion to approve. Denise second. All ayes.

Miranda Brothers $24/hr. effective as of December 7th.

- Dawn made a motion to approve. Marty second. All ayes.

Financial Reports
Maryann reviewed the financial reports.

- Dave made a motion to approve the financial reports. Marty second. All ayes.

She asked for approval to write a check to Veritext for the transcript of the October 21, 2025 hearing for $4,774.

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

Approval of Minutes
Tammy requested the November 18, 2025 minutes be amended to add Marty Fergus as in attendance for the public hearing and the regular council meeting.

- Steve made a motion to approve the November 18, 2025 minutes as amended. David second. All ayes.
- David made a motion to approve the December 10, 2025 minutes. Denise second. All ayes.

Committees:
Dawn King reported for DMRC.
Steve Thorn reported for Fire Board.

Denise DiLellio reported for Service.
David Sluka reported for Finance and Safety.
Marty Fergus reported for Landmarks Commission.

Department Heads:
Acting Police Chief Clemens reported for his department.
Acting Village Administrator, Tammy Meyer reported for the Service Department

Tammy went over the rules of conduct for citizens to speak in the Codified section 121.03 article VIII.

Citizens
Kevin Maloney stated his opposition to Ordinance 2024-47 regarding Hiram managing the Mantua Police Department and dispatch. He referenced a recent Hiram council meeting discussing the additional $170,000 in revenue from Mantua and questioned why Mantua funds are being directed to Hiram while dispatch funding had previously been debated for Mantua. He stated he does not want Mantua tax dollars funding Hiram and that the agreement favors Hiram. In response to a question from Tammy regarding alternatives, Kevin stated the village should not enter the agreement and should either hire a police chief or reinstate Chief Urso to manage the department. Acting Chief Clemens stated that two chief interviews had been scheduled but did not result in a hire.

Lisa Surgeon stated she agreed with Kevin Maloney and commented that she does not see Acting Chief Clemens on patrol in the village.

Jamie Harper stated that a former employee had been told the department would return to normal within a month of the chief's termination and expressed concern that more than 40 days had passed without improvement, and that it is worse. She also expressed dissatisfaction with the mayor and village politics. Jamie Harper had to stop talking before her 5 minutes expired, because she did not follow the rules of conduct.

Bob Gaglione stated that he does not want his tax dollars going to Hiram and expressed concern that the mayor and council were not upholding their oaths of office.

Linda Clark asked whether citizens would be allowed to speak during discussion of Ordinance 2025-47, noting this was permitted in Hiram. Tammy responded that Mantua follows different rules.

Linda Clark stated her opposition to spending $170,000 for Hiram to manage the department. She also asked when the Mayor and Bill Mason agreed to have Bill Mason's law firm represent Tammy at the October 21, 2025 hearing and the hourly cost. Bill Mason stated his firm represents the village under contract, that his time incurred no additional cost, and that the other attorney billed $285 per hour. Linda Clark stated that Council did not approve or was not informed of an investigation and questioned the lack of council approval for hiring Brad from Bill Mason's firm and for the Chief's investigation being brought before Council.

Linda Clark's time expired.

Sandy Hershberger referenced video from the October 6, 2025 meeting at which Chief Urso was placed on administrative leave, stating that comments made by Bill Mason indicated the outcome of the October 21, 2025 hearing had been predetermined.

John Harmon stated that he agrees with previous speakers and does not want Mantua tax dollars going to Hiram. He expressed concern that traffic cameras function as an additional tax on residents and stated his belief that there is fraudulent spending in the village.

Terry Harmon stated that she and her husband have made significant investments in Mantua. She questioned why Mantua is associating with Hiram if the two municipalities operate under different rules, noting that Mantua is a separate entity.

Ron Overberger stated he has observed a lack of police presence and does not want his tax dollars going to Hiram. He suggested appointing Lieutenant Rodney Terry as interim chief. Acting Chief Clemens responded that Lieutenant Terry has full-time employment elsewhere and was hired to assist with administrative duties.

Zack Colegrove asked whether council was aware of Ohio House Bill 574 regarding community mergers. He stated the bill includes a potential $2.5 million incentive for merging communities and expressed concern that Mantua could be targeted. He stated Mantua should remain rural, affordable, and independent and suggested council and the mayor resign to allow new leadership.

Shaun Kish stated he does not want his tax dollars going to Hiram and commented on enforcement of the village's tree and bush zoning code.

Roseanne Maloney said it was obvious that the council does not care what the constituents think and that they do not represent her.

Heather Paisley stated she expected the chief to be replaced rather than services outsourced and expressed concern about limited community input. Acting Chief Clemens stated the intent is to build up the police department, not abolish it.

Paula Tubalkain noted there are vacancies on Village Council, encouraged residents to apply, and thanked council members for their service.

Lori Dunkin stated she would like to be involved but she would not be dependable. She expressed hope that Ordinance 2025-47 would not pass and noted concerns with the legislation.

Chuck Peterson stated that several questions raised by residents had not been answered. Councilmember Marty requested clarification from the solicitor regarding the insurance provisions of the contract. Bill Mason stated that Mantua would provide liability coverage and would cover the Village of Hiram while Hiram personnel are working in Mantua.

Chuck Peterson further stated his concern that $170,000 could be allocated to Hiram while Mantua police officers are not paid more. Council member Dawn responded that raises had recently been approved. Tammy stated that the village currently has no full-time employees and three part-time employees, and that newly hired officers will require training, which the Hiram contract is intended to provide.

Toomas Tubalkain stated that he understands the legislation and believes it is a good solution to return the department to full staffing.

Jen Sobczak stated that the village is paying Acting Chief Clemens $50 per hour to manage the department and expressed concern that training could be handled internally. She stated her belief that the agreement is unfavorable to Mantua.

Roy Peck stated that the village is in a difficult situation and that hiring a police chief who is a good fit for the community should be the priority. He stated that if Ordinance 2025-47 provides time to do so, he supports it.
Legislation:

RES 2025-45 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF BLANKET CERTIFICATIONS FOR

2026 AND ESTABLISHING DOLLAR LIMITS FOR SUCH CERTIFICATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st reading.

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

ORD 2025-46 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA AND THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, PORTAGE PARKS, AND DOWNTOWN MANTUA REVITALIZATION CORPORATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st reading.

- David made a motion to suspend the rules. Denise second. All ayes except for Dawn who abstained. Motion did not pass.

ORD 2025-47 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM TO OVERSEE THE OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st reading. Dave summarized the Safety Committee's discussion on the legislation. Steve clarified that the legislation aims to support the village in expanding the police department, not abolish it. Denise, Dawn, and Acting Chief Clemens confirmed this.

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

Adjournment

- Steve made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Dave second. All ayes.