

**01/09/2024
COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2nd floor at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, at 7pm.

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with everyone standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing in of Joel Gilpin, Kurtis Boggs, Mayor Glenn Ewing, Councilperson Richard Feldkamp and Councilperson Larry Prues.

Mayor Ewing asked for Roll Call of all Councilmembers with the following members responding:

Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Yes</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

Present in Council Chambers:

Mayor Glenn Ewing

Administration: Interim Administrator Bob Lindhorst, Clerk of Council Kelley Snider

Department Heads: Fire/EMS Tim Feldkamp, Police Chief Eric Williams

Solicitor Scott Sollmann/Prior Work Commitment.

Guests present in Council Chambers

Resident: Donna Prues, Sophie Woodruff, Joel Gilpin and Family, Kurtis Boggs and Family, Scott Wolf, David Stigler, Commissioner David Painter, Vince, and Carla Bee

Non-Village Resident: Jim Serger

Zoom: Katie Odell, Jenny Bramlage, A. Duty, Lisa Tharpe, Al *no last name,

COMMUNICATIONS: N/A

MINUTES:

Minutes of the December 12, 2024, Regular Council meeting was presented for approval.

Councilperson Prues made motion to approve Minutes of the December 12, 2024, (with changes) Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Allen, Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Yes</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel and Finance / Chair Mary Allen

Discussion Topics:

Finance - Fiscal Officer Joel Gilpin

1. Interest earned from StarOhio December was \$5,457.48. The total interest from StarOhio for 2023 was \$57,368.60.
2. The committee recommendation and Council motion to make a payment from the Sewer Fund to the General fund for prior advances was made in the amount of \$50,000.
3. He's sent information to the Solicitor related to changes in House Bill 33 related to the local income taxes.
4. He's working on normal end-of year tasks.
5. He believes the estimate we received from the vendor Councilman Prues has been working with, is too high for the flood gauge and vertical signs. He was involved with making the last night.
6. Joel stated we'd need to make a motion for him to transfer money to the Health Savings Accounts for 2024.

Motion: Motion to contribute to the Health Savings Accounts. \$1,000 for individual and \$2,000 for couple or family coverage.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to contribute \$1,000 for individual and \$2000 for family coverage for the Health Savings Account, Seconded by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

The Committee has reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of December 2023.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Village Administration - Interim Village Administrator Bob Lindhorst

- Bob didn't have anything.
- We did discuss moving forward with posting the position for Village Administrator. We asked the Clerk of Council to make sure all council members had the current job description.

Police Department - Police Chief, Eric Williams

- Chief Williams didn't have any personnel changes.
- He did share his 2024 Vehicle Purchase comparison for leasing vs. purchasing vehicles going forward. This included all Village vehicles, not just for the Police Dept. There was discussion about the information shared.

Fire/EMS Department - Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp

- Chief Feldkamp didn't have any personnel changes.
- He stated he had applied for a grant for extrication equipment from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation.

Guest Comments:

Clerk of Council - Kelley Snider mentioned the work she was doing on the new website and a brief discussion followed.

Councilman Woodruff mentioned police and Fire/EMS employees can have their unpaid sick time transferred, in accordance with ORC, to a new similar position. Discussion occurred and the committee agreed to recommend this to Council, for Chief Eric Williams.

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to pay Police Chief Eric Williams his unpaid sick leave, Second by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Safety, Rules and Laws, Chair Ryan Woodruff

Councilman Woodruff gave a detailed update on the proposed vacancy ordinance that Planning Commission had been working on. At the January 4, 2024, meeting the PC deliberated the proposed legislation and voted the measure down at this time. PC meeting minutes are available for review. With PC support not being in favor, Councilman Woodruff recommended that the SRL committee table any further discussion until next meeting.

The topic of the vacancy ordinance opened a lengthy discussion on American Legal Publishing services to handle our villages ordinances in a codified manner. In October 2023 Councilpersons Prues & Woodruff, Administrator Lindhorst, Kelley Snider (Clerk of Council), and Joel Gilpin (Village Clerk), sat in a web meeting with Rich Frommeyer of ALP to discuss the benefits of their service along with how the process would work on our end and associated costs. ALP essentially does a year long process that starts with collecting all our legislation on file, codifying it, putting it through a full legal review to ensure our legislation is compliant with state law and does not contradict itself. Once this is complete the proposed codified ordinance is sent back to us for formal review and acceptance. Once complete we implement it according to Ohio law and they publish 6 hard copies along with a fully online and easily searchable option. It was noted that hundreds of communities in Ohio alone use this service including Batavia, Loveland, and Milford. It was also noted that the village was a service user several years ago for a basic service, but we terminated it due to cost-saving measures. The rough estimate for this service would be initially \$14,000 to \$20,000. This is for the full organization and legal review to be completed. The estimated annual expense to be budgeted was \$2,000 to \$4,000 dollars. The reason for the wide estimate is because the amount of legislation we have in our records is unknown and Mr. Frommeyer was ballparking an estimate based on our community size as compared to other communities they have worked with of a similar size. There were also some considerations as to how and when payment for the first years' service could be handled or split up. After the discussion, members of the committee thought it was worth a full discussion at council.

Village Administration

A discussion was had concerning the damaged guard rails located in various locations along SR 132 & US 52. Administrator Lindhorst stated in addition to the 2 guard rails he was aware of that were damaged from vehicle accidents, ODOT sent notice concerning 2 others. In the case of the damaged guard rails from accidents, 1 vehicle

owner was insured, and he is working to submit the claim for replacement. The second accident was with a non-insured motorist. Because these are safety barrier devices it is imperative that they be replaced. A discussion was started concerning the US 52 Complete Streets project by Chief Feldkamp. He inquired about possible alternate solutions since the areas for some of these guard rails may possibly be re-worked and no longer needed once the project is completed. Administrator Lindhorst will reach out to ODOT to see if there are possible alternative solutions that can be made to satisfy the safety needs going forward as they relate to the upcoming US 52 project. Guest in attendance, Kurtis Boggs did get some quotes from a few vendors on the guard rail replacement and had forwarded that information to Administrator Lindhorst. The estimated repair/replacement cost is approximately \$12,960 for the guard rails on SR 132 and US 52 (Excluding Pond Run area that ODOT sent notice on).

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Williams had no new business to discuss. A discussion was had in the Personnel & Finance Committee on next steps for a possible Police levy to address the revenue issues for the department.

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Chief Feldkamp was asked about the status of the radio replacement grant. The Chief reported that we have been denied in the first round of grant awarding due to a clerical issue when the fire department was in the process of switching over from one state reporting system to another. This matter has been resolved and he is hopeful that we will be considered in the next round of awards. The date for that announcement is unknown at this time. In the event that a grant is not awarded the department would need approximately \$72,000 to complete the necessary radio upgrades. This is to include 3 base vehicle radios and several portable radios. Chief Feldkamp stated we have a little time left before a hard deadline is here.

Public Works, Chair Jon Tharpe

Thanked Kelley Snider/Clerk of Council for the ongoing communication with the public regarding billing and recent installation of new meters, holiday trash service and other Public Work matters. She has performed well in positing to the public throughout social media.

Attendees discussed the condition of our fleet and amount of salt needed for winter weather events. Bob Lindhorst stated we are prepared for winter weather.

Bob Lindhorst brought up the idea of the village owning or leasing a mini excavator to streamline the services provided by our water and street department. Councilperson Tharpe agreed to seek out opportunities and leads to lease this equipment.

Ryan Woodruff initiated a conversation about the possibility of utilizing community service programs for roadside clean up and stated other municipalities have had success with this. All attendees liked idea and agreed to investigate the program.

Kelley Snider addressed the river gauge sign that needs repair or replacement. There was an offer from a businesswomen /resident to sponsor. The timing of this repair is being investigated as equipment may need to drive on the beach below to repair/replace the sign.

Administrators Report, Bob Lindhorst

2023 Year End

Permits Issued 138

Permit Fees \$48,159

Housing 56

Ryan 15

DR Horton 41

Ashburn Phase 1 Development is completed regarding water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, curb, sidewalks, and finish course of blacktop. Back in August Choice One Engineering, HPADG and myself did a walk through and developed a punch list which has since been completed, HPADG is now requesting the bond be released for \$72,640.41.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to release the bond, seconded by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Ashburn Phase 2 Development is under way for water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer, we should be receiving the updated Record Plat for signature in February and the related Performance Bond for Phase 2.

FYI: According to Joe Vogel the electric for the harbor and fuel tank was purchased and installed by him and went with the sale of the boat harbor.

Mr. Blanton called and was wondering if the village was interested in purchasing the fuel tank. Councilperson Prues asked if he gave a price and he also commented that someone else is thinking about coming in Skippers spot.

Ashburn PI 65% built out.

Police Chief Eric Williams:

- Emailed data to Council.
- Thanked Council for transferring his sick time.
- It was a right decision to close short hill for ½ hour after school for safety of students. This was at the request of the Resource Officer at NREVSD.

Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp:

- Nothing to report.

Mayor Glenn Ewing:

Would like Council to make a motion to keep Rules of Council the same as before.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to keep Rules of Council the same as before,
Seconded by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Would like Council to make a motion to keep Councilperson Prues on as Vice Mayor.

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to keep Councilperson Prues on as Vice Mayor,
Seconded by Councilperson Feldkamp.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Abstain

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Would like to remove Elizabeth Hill and Erica Willis from Planning Commission. Will
appoint 2 new members next Council meeting.

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to remove Elizabeth Hill from Planning
Commission and Erica Willis as alternate. Seconded by Councilperson Prues.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Would like to ask if any council would like to step in and fill in for Woodruff while working. Prues noted Thursdays are bad for him. Glenn will discuss with Brian Bailey.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann:

- Litigation against Clarks has been dismissed.
- Ordinance Tax Ordinance by Rita 2024-01, there was a typo and needs to be color coded.

Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider:

Updated on website: Will be going with Tobias Lavelly, he is a local resident. It was noted that we do not have to make a motion to do this.

LEGISLATION read by Mayor Ewing

First Reading:

2024-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL, WATER OPERATING AND SEWER OPERATING FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS / Pass as emergency.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to waive 3-read rule for 2024-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL, WATER OPERATING AND SEWER OPERATING FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS / Pass as emergency. Second by Councilperson Woodruff.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to pass as an emergency for 2024-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL, WATER OPERATING AND SEWER OPERATING FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS / Pass as emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Allen.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

2024-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS: CEMETERY, POLICE AND EMS FOR OPERATING FUNDS, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS / pass as emergency.

Councilperson Woodruff 2024-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS: CEMETERY, POLICE AND EMS FOR OPERATING FUNDS, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS / pass as emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Feldkamp.

Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Yes</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to waive the 3-read rule for 2024-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS: CEMETERY, POLICE AND EMS FOR OPERATING FUNDS, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS / pass as emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Feldkamp..

Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Yes</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

2024-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND UPDATING SECTIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND TX ORDINANCE / Pass as emergency.

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to waive the 3-read rule for 2024-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND UPDATING SECTIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND TX ORDINANCE / Pass as emergency. Seconded by councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Yes</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

Councilperson Allen made a motion to pass as an emergency for 2024-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND UPDATING SECTIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND TX ORDINANCE / Pass as emergency. Seconded by councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Yes</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues

- Asked Councilperson Woodruff where he thinks we are heading in regard to the Vacancy Tax. This will be tabled long term.
- Status of Flood Sign. Councilperson Prues reached out to Xaviers Vendor, it's a higher quote. Councilperson Tharpe noted we cannot work with his company since he is on council. It was discussed the material being used and what is needed to replace sign. Jim Serger asked how long as sign been in disrepair - and can we just place the bottom of sign. He knows a painter that could give us a quote. Mr. Serger will get the lead to him. Councilperson Dalton also noted that this could be part of Liberty Landing project - Councilperson Woodruff asked if we need to post that we are looking for sponsors. Scott Sollman investigated this and didn't think so.
- Had a resident asked us to ban any legislation on the medical marijuana dispensaries. He noted that we do have a moratorium in place or 6-months regarding this.

Ryan Woodruff

- Did Gatso get the termination-Per Scott Sollmann, yes.
- Is there an update on Skippers. Per Bob Lindhorst -just what has been on Facebook.
- There was discussion on American Legal Publication. \$14,000 - \$20,000 year 1. Roughly \$4,000 budget per year after that. Their legal team will start comparing our legislation with the ORC, if they find discrepancy, it comes back to our solicitor. Councilperson Woodruff will dig deeper into American Legal to see if we can get a better idea of a dollar amount.

Richard Feldkamp

- Asked Jeff Troxell if he would like to speak - he came into the meeting but didn't sign in. He wanted to discuss RITA. He said he tried to talk to Fiscal Officer Joel Gilpin, but he would not help him with his concerns and questions and there was a misunderstanding between the two of them. He stated he will not pay it and he has several friends that are not paying RITA. Councilperson Allen said she will take this up with Joel. Would also like to know what is up with Mr. Wiggins on Pond Run - which is Pierce Township. This has nothing to do with the Village of New Richmond.

Jon Tharpe-Nothing to report.

Mary Allen

- Met with Padma, Culture Center of India. Shared a link with Council that was filmed on the Augusta Ferry. She also spent time with her on the riverbank here in New Richmond. Showcase areas of the river. She would like to come to the Village in spring to do another video.

- Also has been in touch with Forestry Fellowship Program. They will provide seedlings to the village. We can work with the schools in future but for now we will probably use this for a Shade Tree Program. Will have details at a later date.

Dennis Dalton

- Nothing to report.

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm seconded by Councilperson Allen. **Upon roll call the vote was as follows:**

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.



Mayor



Council Clerk