

**02/13/2024  
COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, February 13th, 2024, at 7pm.

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

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 Scott Wolf and Kurtis Boggs for Chief Tim Feldkamp.

Solicitor Scott Sollmann/Prior Work Commitment.

Absent: Eric Williams (illness) Tim Feldkamp (vacation)

**Guests present in Council Chambers**

**Resident**: Lisa Tharpe, Joel Gilpin (Fiscal Officer)

**Non-Village Resident**: Joe Ammerman (Non-Village Resident and Business Owner) Bill Graser (Former Village Resident)

**Zoom**: Sophie Woodruff, Bobbi Phillips

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Joe Ammerman:

Owns 401 Front Street: He is in the process of buying 401 Front Street. (the old Landing/Sunset Beach), He would like to bring in an affordable burger restaurant. He asked about the docks, per Councilperson Allen, they are public.

Owns property at corner of Front and Main: If he opens the old Landing, he will consider this property for parking.

Owns Park National Bank Building: would like to bring a Wings restaurant to this location. He is collaborating with an Engineer to have roof top dining. He would like to change the side that faces the bandstand to look like El Barrill. Councilperson Woodruff suggested Board of Zoning Appeals would be where to start, although Planning

Commission would love to hear about this. Suggested he also talk to Tom Wulker - Mayor Ewing will get Mr. Ammerman the information.

Bill Graser:

Introduced himself. His family is from New Richmond with his grandfather and great grandfather being on Council in 50's and 60's. He has been coming to the office digging for historic documents. He appreciates what Village Council is doing.

#### **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the January 23, 2024, Regular Council meeting was presented for approval.

Councilperson Prues made motion to approve Minutes of the January 23, 2024 (with changes) Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember 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

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Personnel and Finance // Chair Mary Allen**

##### **Discussion Topics:**

\*Finance - Fiscal Officer Joel Gilpin provided his report We are only one month into the new year, and it is too early to identify any trends.

\*He's wrapped up 2023 in the UAN and submitted the Annual Financial Report to the State Auditor.

\*He's working on permanent appropriations for 2024. These will include changes from the temporary appropriations. Mainly in Police and Fire Funds for new vehicle purchases and upfitting. He'll also be adding additional appropriations to Water and Sewer funds for anticipated vehicle purchase for the Utility Department.

We have received our first advance of real estate taxes for the first half totaling \$259,423.68. The increase in property valuation has an anticipated increase to the general fund of approximately \$40,000.

\* In preparation for hiring a new Village Administrator, he has researched what the salary was for our previous administrator and found it to be approximately \$54,000-\$55,000 plus benefits. Salary was broken down as 75% General, 10% Water, 10% Sewer and 5% Garbage.

\*He'll be requesting approval of the Permanent Appropriations when they're ready - this will be for either the February 13th or the 27th council meeting.

\*He also wants us to pass a resolution authorizing the online sale of surplus property.

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

Motion: Motion to pay the bills.

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

**Police Department - Police Chief, Eric Williams**  
**Chief Williams had one personnel change.**

Hired Elizabeth Dunford as a part-time Police Officer effective February 16, 2024. She has met all the pre-hire requirements for a part-time officer. Chief Williams has a full-time officer that has mentioned that he is resigning. If he does, Chief Williams will ask for Elizabeth to become full-time. She will serve the normal one year probationary period.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to hire Elizabeth Dunford as a part-time Police Officer effective February 16, 2024. Seconded by councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

**Fire/EMS Department -Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp is absent but provided his update to Councilwoman Allen before the Committee meeting.**

The department has received the MACRA Grant from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal in the amount of \$10,000 for the new radios. He's seeking approval to purchase a new 2024 RAM 2500 from Jeff Wyler Ft. Thomas in the amount of \$49,600. The vehicle will be used as a Chief/Command vehicle. He has discussed this with Fiscal Officer, Joel Gilpin, and he has the money in his budget.

**Village Administrator Position**

\*It was discussed to move forward with interviews for the position of Village Administrator and our high-level thoughts on the candidate resumes we've received. Next steps - discuss starting salary range during the Feb. 13th Council Meeting.

\*Initial contact to set up the interviews will include advising candidates of the salary range.

\*Schedule interview with the three candidates that have submitted resumes on either February 26 (4:00 -5:00 p.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.) and February 27 (4:30 - 5:30 p.m.)

\*Interviewers will be Mayor Ewing, Councilwoman Allen, and Councilman Prues. Invited other participants will be: Fiscal Officer, Joel Gilpin, Police Chief, Eric Williams, Fire/EMS Chief, Tim Feldkamp, and Interim Village Administrator, Bob Lindhorst

### **Village Resident Jeff Troxell**

Councilwoman Allen met with resident Jeff Troxell about the fines he has incurred from RITA related to not filing his RITA taxes. He shared his returns with Councilwoman Allen and Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider and he has paid all taxes due, but some of his returns were not received by RITA. There has been discussion about the delinquency fees and the Committee recommends we forgive 50% of the \$450 of incurred fees.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to make an exception and forgive 50% of the \$450 of incurred fees. Second by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

### **March Personnel & Finance Meeting**

The March meeting will be on March 4<sup>th</sup> vs. March 11<sup>th</sup> because Councilwoman Allen will be out-of-town.

### **Medical Marijuana**

There was very brief conversation about medical marijuana dispensaries and the potential economic development benefits.

### **Miscellaneous Discussion**

- The committee voted to keep the current Personnel & Finance Chair for 2024.
- There was miscellaneous discussion about possible uses of vacant business property within the Village.

### **Safety, Rules and Laws, Chair Ryan Woodruff**

- Fire & EMS: Kurtis Boggs brought information forward about performing installation of smoke detectors for residents free of charge. This would be through a Red Cross partnership. Kurtis presented a standard waiver form that is used by the Red Cross. As a group we discussed if the Village would also need to provide an additional waiver. The answer needed clarity and we will have Kelley Snider seek that clarification from our Village Solicitor, Scott Sollmann.
- Jon Tharpe asked Kurtis Boggs if we had current information on purchasing new radios. Kurtis responded that the fire department did receive a \$10,000.00 grant and the remaining expense will be \$60,000.00.

- A discussion of the condition and progress of Skippers restaurant was on the agenda but removed due to it being a topic during the previous committee meeting.
- Police Chief Eric Williams stated that the police department will also need three new radios.
- Richard Feldkamp addressed the topic of campers/recreational vehicles that are being used as place of residence. Kurtis Boggs and Richard Feldkamp stated that they will contact FEMA and research FEMA guidelines for clarification on the issue.

#### **Public Works, Chair Jon Tharpe**

- Meeting was cancelled / Not enough for a quorum.
- Garden Club: Butterfly Garden/Pollination Garden: Considering the old ball fields and using several acres. It would be less to mow. Part of the field is for Air Care landing.
- Councilperson Allen asked about the seedlings. It was mentioned to give the students and giving a class. Possible set up a table at a park and have a little class on how to care for them.

#### **Administrators Report, Bob Lindhorst**

January permits issued totaled 9, one housing permit to DR Horton, fees collected for month \$1,135.

Received guard rail quotes from Lake Erie Construction Company for the following areas on US 52 that ODOT is requesting we repair.

US52 & Pond Run	\$4,525	No accident report filed.
US52 & Front St	\$5,275	Driver has no insurance.
US52 at 12 Mile Bridge	<del>\$4,465</del>	No accident report filed.
	\$14,265	

\*The guard rail on 132 was quoted and will be paid for by the driver's insurance company, \$7,685.

\*Ashburn Woods Phase 2A Plat Drawing was signed off by the engineers and the village, street addresses have been assigned and sent to the county. DR Horton will be closing on the lots from HPA Development in 2A the end of March, building could start after that.

\*WWTP 2023 Annual Sludge Report was filled last week with the OEPA.

\*Skippers: Owner Gray Blanton said the floats were sold, and the owner will get out when water comes up. 2 spud and backhoe getting it cleared out. Hoping river will come up this week. Asking Solicitor Sollmann what happens if its on other people property.

\*Gary Spires gave resignation his last day will be 2/23/24.  
Currently have 5 resumes and looking for more a few more.

**Police Chief Eric Williams**/Absent/Illness

**Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp**:/Absent/Vacation

Skippers. Lieutenant Boggs has contacted the US Coast and Army Core of Engineer regarding Skippers. He emailed photos. Skippers has many violations. Also had a conversation with Salvage and Recovery as well. It will take \$15K-\$20K for them to move it back up to their spot.

Campgrounds: Kurtis Boggs has been in contact with FEMA regarding flood place management 2015-06. They can stay open. RV's must be road worthy, valid registration, and proof of this to the village. Councilperson Dalton asked if we want to leave it that way. Riverfront RV Park is closed because he thought it was 6 months out of year. He doesn't want to stay open all year round due to water freezing. We still need to let him know what he can do.

**Mayor Glenn Ewing:**

Personnel and Finance Chair will remain Councilperson Mary Allen.

Safety Rules and Laws Chair will remain Councilperson Ryan Woodruff.

Public Works Chair will now be Councilperson Larry Prues.

A motion was made between the committee members for these changes.

**Solicitor, Scott Sollmann**/ Absent/Prior Work Commitment.

**Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider**/Nothing to report.

## **LEGISLATION read by Mayor Ewing**

### **First Reading:**

2024-02, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE 2024 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS.

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to waive the 3-read rule for 2024-02, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE 2024 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS. Seconded by Councilperson Allen.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to pass as an emergency for 2024-02, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE 2024 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS. Seconded by Councilperson Prues.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

#### **CALL OF MEMBERS:**

**Larry Prues:**

- Is there an update on River State Flood Stage sign – the bottom part/broken part will be taken down within a week. We still have a room for a sponsor. Kerry Stamper with Front Café would like to sponsor.

**Ryan Woodruff**

- Have we heard anything from Tim Caldwell regarding 208 Susanna. It has not changed ownership yet. If not, can we be in contact with him?
- Discussed briefly on Mark Grever and the 96 acres behind Rachel Drive. Looking to sell property to a developer – higher end homes and patio homes.
- Landmark Commission: Manages historic entity of the historic district. The terms have all expired, ORC states the duties can fall under Planning Commission. Do we give it back to Planning Commission or see if we can revive this commission. Councilperson Prues suggested the gentleman that bought Clasgens. Will reach out to former members to see if they still have interest and post looking for members.
- Skippers: After hearing feedback, they are down to under a month. What is the next step. Will reach out to Scott Sollmann, Solicitor, he will be at our next meeting. Lieutenant Boggs confirmed after talking with Core of Engineers stated that they have not had permits in a while, which is required.

**Richard Feldkamp:** Nothing to report.

**Jon Tharpe:** Nothing to report.

**Mary Allen:**

- Restated that the Paddle Challenge is happening again this year; the paddlers will come thru New Richmond June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Dennis Dalton:** Nothing to report.

Mayor Ewing requested a motion to be made for Village Council to go into Executive Session in accordance with ORC 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee.

Councilperson Allen made a motion for Village Council to go into Executive Session in accordance with ORC 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee. Second by Councilperson Tharpe.

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 Dalton made a motion to come back from Executive Session. Seconded by Councilperson Allen.

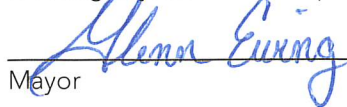
Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Yes</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

Nothing to report from executive session meeting.

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm, seconded by Councilperson 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>

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk