

**03/12/2024
COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2nd floor at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 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 Tim Feldkamp, Police Chief Eric Williams

Solicitor Scott Sollmann

Guests present in Council Chambers

Resident: Donna Prues, Sophie Woodruff, Kurtis Boggs

Non-Village Resident: Ron Henderson/Riverdays Committee, Bill Graser/Former Village Resident.

Zoom: Bobbi Phillips, Jeff Baxter, GDS (no name displayed)

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Ron Henderson: Came in for approval of Riverdays. Aug 2-4
- Once the event is approved will get with Police Chief Williams and Fire Chief Feldkamp.
- Councilperson Prues: Have you considered moving the dates, so it does not conflict with Paddlefest. Per Ron Henderson, because of the food vendors and bands, it could not be moved. Will consider moving it next year.
- Councilperson Feldkamp doesn't think Paddlefest will affect Riverdays and St Bernadette Festival is now the 3rd week in August.
- Councilperson Allen: With our partnership with Ohio Riverway, it would be good not to compete.
- Councilperson Allen: Not okay with suspending DORA.
- Councilperson Woodruff: For 3rd year in a row, we are still discussing DORA.

- Councilperson Dalton: We have this same discussion every year. Village should not be involved with DORA. FreedomFest was kept open last year, how did that go – nobody came back and said it didn't work.
- Councilperson Dalton: Not voting on DORA till next meeting and until we meet with the Business Association.
- Ron Henderson: With things he has going on, he cannot wait till the March 26th meeting for approval.
- Fire Chief Tim Feldkamp: He can talk to the business owners.

Councilperson Prues made a motion to close the normal streets for Riverdays, Main to Susanna and Western and at Walnut and Union. Second by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

MINUTES:

Minutes of the February 27th, 2024, Regular Council meeting was presented for approval.

Councilperson Dalton made motion to approve Minutes of the February 27th, 2024, (with changes) Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Woodruff, Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mary Allen Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel and Finance / Chair Mary Allen

- Star One earnings for February are around \$5,000.
- We've received our 2nd advance of real estate taxes in the amount of \$122,593.02. Year to- date, the total is \$382,000. This is about \$120,000 more than last year.
- Joel has received four liability insurance renewal, and it shows an increase of 14%.
- 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.

*The Committee has reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of February 2024

Councilperson Allen made a motion to pay the bills. Second by Councilperson Prues.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

There was discussion about hiring Jack Colston for the Street Department Lead at \$20.00 per hour. Would like Jack to assume the Street Lead position. After 90 days on the job and satisfactory performance, his salary will increase to \$20.50 per hour. He'll serve a one-year probation.

Councilperson Dalton asked is this something we could discuss in Executive Session as he has questions. Councilperson Allen stated there is no reason to. Solicitor Scott Sollman confirmed you can discuss in Executive Session. Councilperson Dalton said this is due to trying to merge the two departments. Councilperson Allen said as being Chair of Personnel and Finance she was not aware of this. Councilperson Feldkamp noted the discussion started 2 years ago and Councilperson Dalton said as early as a few months ago. Councilperson Woodruff asked if we could hire Colston at that rate but not as Street Lead. Councilperson Allen mentioned the Org. Chart and we knew about Jack as it's been discussed for several weeks and would like to know what has changed.

Scott Sollman requested a motion be made for Village Council to go into executive session in accordance with Ohio Revised Code § 121.22 (G)(3) to discuss pending or imminent litigation with the Village attorney.

Scott Sollman requests a motion be made for Village Council to go into executive session in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) Employment

Compensation of Employees.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:34pm, Seconded by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

Councilperson Allen made a motion to come back from Executive Session at 8:40pm, Seconded by Councilperson Feldkamp.

Mary Allen Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

Motion: Motion to hire Jack Colston as the Street Department Laborer at \$20.00 per hour beginning Wednesday, March 13, 2024 To include water certification.

Mary Allen Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

Police Chief Eric Williams stated Seargeant Mallot is underpaid for the level of work he provides. It was recommended that we do a market adjustment.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to make a \$3,500 market adjustment for Seargeant Mallot's salary effective March 8th, 2024. Second by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

Police Chief Eric Williams stated that Officer CJ Pairen has given his resignation effective March 21st, 2024, and leaves in good standing.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to accept CJ Pairen resignation effective March 21st, 2024, second by Councilperson Prues.

Mary Allen Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

Discussion on tasers - one benefit would be to get tasers with new camera - we would be able to update.

Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp

Chief Feldkamp did not have any personnel changes.
Discussed using the grant he received for radios.

Safety, Rules and Laws Chair Ryan Woodruff

Discussed blending services option for the village to consider helping provide consistency in the village maintenance division along with supplementing the Fire Department. The option presented was creating a dual role employee position where the member would be both Maintenance and Fire. This would only be for selected members who would meet requirements to do both activities. This is a similar position to what Amberly Village uses. Mr. Woodruff had a lengthy conversation with Amberly's Administrator on how their program works and what possible pros and cons we may encounter in utilizing this model. Based on the information received it appears the majority of the cons have been overcome, as we currently do not have any employees who would need to be trained after hire. Mr. Woodruff concluded his discussion by mentioning it was an option and he would like to discuss it further at tomorrow's council meeting for the entire body to hear and ask questions. Councilperson Allen would like to not to have it this evening.

Union & Front Street and Walnut & Front Street Road decay/collapse. Mr. Feldkamp noted that we have several critical collapse points in our roadway and immediate action was needed to correct the issue. Mr. Lindhorst stated a camera scope would be needed to determine exactly what was leaking so repairs scope could be estimated and planned for. Mr. Boggs added that Clermont County Water & Sewer may have a scope that we could use or contract for and it may be cheaper than outside subcontractors. Several area contractors were brought up and Mr. Lindhorst was directed to start planning for repairs.

Potholes. Mr. Feldkamp requested immediate action on addressing the multiple potholes through the village including SR 132, US 52, Old US 52, and various in the core. Mr. Lindhorst stated it would get taken care of in the coming week. He would work with the water department members to start assisting with this process. Mr. Woodruff recommended looking into getting a quote for bulk black top as opposed to using bagged black top as it should be much cheaper, and the scope of the work warrants a larger supply. Mr. Prues suggested sub-contracting the pothole repair. The group felt that may be more expensive than handling in house, but it was an option to investigate as well.

Harbor Points: Mr. Feldkamp wished to know any updates on Skippers and their cleanup process. Chief Feldkamp has heard nothing new but mentioned Lt. Boggs had been in contact with Army Corp of Engineers and they have issued notices of violation.

They were unwilling to disclose the nature of the Violations or the time frame for correction but stated we could do a FOIA requests to gain that knowledge. Skippers 90-day extension from license termination is set to expire on March 13, 2024. To this point there is no indication that the vessel will be removed by ownership by the mentioned date. Mr. Woodruff requested that council make a firm decision on the direction of action to be taken going forward. Mayor Ewing has been in contact with Solicitor Sollman on potential legal matters concerning this. Mr. Lindhorst added that he had been in contact with a gentleman who was reportedly the purchaser of some of the docks that are located behind the old Landing. The gentleman stated he did not purchase any docks and was not interested any more. He also mentioned he had the spud poles that were needed as stated in the last council meeting by Mr. Blanton. The gentleman stated he did not have any new information and had not heard from Mr. Blanton regarding the purchase of the poles. Mr. Feldkamp mentioned that he heard that one of the owners has possibly filed for bankruptcy. With this being a possibility, the group agreed that some action needs to be taken moving forward for the safety and interests of the village.

Combine Street & Water Departments. Mr. Feldkamp offered another option that has been discussed previously with creating a public Works division and combining the certifications and workload of a dual role water, sewer, Street worker. He recommended having Bobbi head up a daily task sheet of village items and work orders and to oversee completion of tasks. This possible solution has been discussed prior but is up for consideration.

Mowing of Clasgen's Property (old ball field). Mr. Feldkamp stated a verbal agreement had been made several years ago for the water department to mow the old ball field in exchange for public parking use near the boat ramp. He stated it took the water department several hours to mow that and felt their efforts would be better suited elsewhere. A discussion was had on this program, and it was decided that the services should end immediately unless a formal agreement, approved by the Solicitor, was put in place as to not have public services caring for private property. There was no perceived issue by members of the arrangement as it does provide much needed parking for the boat ramp, but a formal agreement should be drawn up and signed by all parties going forward. We had a verbal agreement. Village employe cutting private party. RF Min of 4 hours. Bob Lindhorst is sending out a Memorandum of Understanding. On a year-to-year basis.

Soccer Fields / Campground. Mr. Feldkamp heard that the new owner of the soccer fields by Beckjord was looking into possibly developing it as a Campground. Mr.

Lindhorst stated it was not zoned to allow for that and he would have to request a Zoning change. The group agreed a new Campground in that location was not a good idea, but for now it is speculation and Zoning is already in place to address the issue.

Griever Property (Old US 52) Mr. Feldkamp stated Mr. Griever had inquired on the status of his property he had for sale. Mr. Woodruff stated he came to Planning Commission with his idea and presentation for development but stated he was looking to sell to a development company who may have their own ideas. At this time no action has been taken because to our knowledge the property has not been sold and no developer has come forward with a request for permits or changes. The PC was open to the ideas suggested but at this time there is not pending action or requests for such.

Standard Rules for Campgrounds. Mr. Feldkamp requested that we should look into developing some standard rules for campgrounds as it pertains to length of stay, water, sewer use and incorporate FEMA regulations. The group agreed we should look at modifying some of the existing rules and expand as to incorporate the several different types of campgrounds that have been added over the past few years. Need to figure out the Dump Stations - will look into this. Councilman Feldkamp is still concerned about the gas tanks - they never were removed. This was reported to the State Fire Marshal several years ago. Health Department gets involved when there are (5) campers on a lot, they removed (1) so now there are only (4).

Fire Chief Report: Chief Feldkamp reported that the fire inspection program is continuing with businesses in the village. He stated he would send a report of emergency calls to date to council. Chief gave an update on the radio replacement. With receiving the \$10,000 grant we were able to replace approximately 1.5 radios. He is working with Joel Gilpin (Village Fiscal Officer) on proper funding for the remainder of what is needed, and he would like to do a single order for all radios and not just a few at a time.

Police Chief Report: Chief Williams reported that the tasers and body cameras were due for replacement. The original price he was given has since increased for brand new tasers and the option of purchasing used tasers from another agency is now off the table due to their replacement program requirements. The new tasers are estimated to be around \$50,000. The urgency for replacement comes from their age and unreliability. He stated an officer deployed his taser and it would not fire. He is also in need of radio replacements as well and will work to get hard numbers to council so we can appropriate the funds to replace the mentioned items. Chief also discussed that K9 Patriot was diagnosed with a torn ACL. A discussion was had on Patriots remaining

standard duty time (2 years) and the benefits of repair and placing him back into active service for that time. Mr. Woodruff requested that he get a quote for surgery to repair his ACL and that we look into simply retiring Patriot. The future needs of a K9 can be evaluated by the Chief and recommended to council at a later date. Members agreed Patriot had been beneficial to the community but did not see value in repairing his injury to simply try and work another year. Chief Williams will get the quote for medical bills and report back. The last item brought up was the Golf Cart Ordinance. Chief Williams is requesting that we look into modifying the ordinance to specifically limit permits to Golf Carts or similar vehicles. The issue he is seeing is there are several people with ORV Razors that have the ability to reach highway speeds requesting permits. In addition to the possible use on the highway they are traditionally noisy as compared to standard Golf Carts. Chief also mentioned the State of Ohio is no longer issuing inspections for registration for Golf Carts so that would require us to be the sole inspection department for the town and our rules and requirements would need to be better established as the state would no longer have any oversight. Mr. Woodruff said we would look into this matter and referenced researching Milford and Terrace Parks legislation on Golf Carts as both communities also have US and SR's running through their areas.

Public Works, Chair Larry Prues

- We already discussed new hire.
- Adopt a Park, Genrane does not want Haussermann Park this season, we will locate another business. Councilperson Woodruff suggested we post.

Administrators Report, Bob Lindhorst

Permits/Violations

YTD Permits Issued: 17

Permit Fees received: \$2,185

(2) New Housing Permits

- (16) Violations have been sent out, some are compliant, some are working on the violation and a couple will take further action. Scott may need to get involved.
- Reached out to New Richmond Distilleries to develop an MOU to allow parking for truck/boat trailers on their property in exchange for the village mowing their property. Currently we have nothing in place.
- Have install (88) stop signs and posts to date, we are around 51% complete and averaging 8 to 10 signs per day. We have just a few stop signs left and will move on to the other signs that were ordered for the

project. Hope to have all wrapped up by May 1st.

- Patched several potholes on High Street per a complaint received. We have a skid of cold patch ordered and will look into getting it in bulk as well. Hope to work on it in the coming week(s).
- Reached out to Washington Twp and spoke with their street supervisor regarding their boat docks, he mentioned that they have been in the water for many years, he could not comment on the condition. He also said the docks do not belong to the Township but to ODNR. I plan to run up in the coming days and inspect, if they are in better shape than ours, I will reach out to ODNR.
- Reached out to Carlisle and Bray Marine Services to get information on options the village may have concerning Shippers. The person in charge is on vacation but his assistant did mention they did supply a quote to move Shippers, but she did not to whom or the details, he will be returning next week.
- Spoke to Dave Rose and the answer is always the same, they are working on it and expect to have it moved in the coming days. Reached out to the boat dock buy and they said didn't buy them.
- 324 Quarry was put on the Clermont Counties Brownfield & Demolition list back in September, I did send an email to Desmond seeing if any have been approved yet. We may not have to go through the legal action.

Police Chief Eric Williams:

- Department Update email sent out regarding the taser and a vehicle they are wanting to purchase.
- Thanked Bobbi Phillips, our Utility Clerk for stepping in and taking care of Mayors Court.
- All info can make decision on tasers - well under what was allocated.
- Vance's no longer being produced or support and would prefer the 5-year contract.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to have Fiscal Officer Joel Gilpin appropriate an additional \$10K from General Fund to Police Department for purpose of purchasing tasers. Second by councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp:

- Working with Joel on radio situation, to PF to have an answer where money is coming from.
- Docks breaking free - 50-75 feet of dock after PF meeting, Not putting guys and equipment in danger. Its behind River Days Camp and left there. Proper authorities have been notified. Campbell County not happy with it not being secured. Boone County water rescue came up and secured it. Was in contact and David Rose and Gary Blanton the entire night. Suppose to come up today to move it either where they were or to the purchaser. It did not happen. They stated they would be moving the main harbor towards Meldal Dam by tomorrow or next day.

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion authorizing Solicitor Scott Sollman to pursue any and all civil and criminal action towards Skippers, Gary Blanton or David Rose or any other representative's or persons in association with Skippers and to recover any and all costs incurred for litigation, removal, location storage or otherwise. Second by Councilperson Allen.

Mary Allen Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

Ltd. Boggs spoke with Army Core of Engineers this morning at Zam. Email sent last night as what we did and the fire report. Received email back from Sam Warner at Zam stating their hands are tied. They gave (2) citations, Mooring situation and the docks that broke loose. They have (30) days to correct. After (30) days it will go to their legal department. They will be getting another violation for the docks down by River Days Camp. Councilperson Dalton stated any further contact (unless emergency) will go thru our Solicitor Scott Sollman. Will send Scott the emails to review.

Mayor Glenn Ewing:

- Landmark Commission: Would like a Motion to be made for Betsy Mitchell, Mike Collins, and Andrew Griffin to be on the Landmark Commission as Village Resident/Voting and a motion to be made for Linda Shuck (Historic New Richmond), Jonathan Zimmerman and Bob Mueller as Non-Voting Members. Second by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Jon Tharpe Abstain
Ryan Woodruff Yes

Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider:

- Ohio River Sweep is set for June 22nd and along with that we are adding a Village Wide Clean Up Day. This is the weekend before July 4th. Councilperson Woodruff noticed a dumpster sitting their full of trash. Councilperson Allen stated it wasn't there yesterday. They were supposed to be dumping them out daily, but it seems they are waiting till they are full.

LEGISLATION read by Mayor Ewing

First Reading: 2024-04 A RESLUTION FOR DEMOLITION OF THE PROEPRTY AT 324 QUARRY ST

Second Reading:

Third Reading:

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues

- Asked for status of American Legal Publishing - Council Clerk will confirm if motion as been made or not.

Mary Allen

- Thanked Councilperson Prues for helping get the letter signed by Mayor Ewing for Brewster Rhodes regarding the Docks grant. We are (1) of (10) communities a ramp and a floating dock - looking at Quarry Street. They will deliver and install. Councilperson noted it will also include kiosks.

Dennis Dalton / Nothing to report.

Ryan Woodruff

- Docks have been out of water for (10) years. They are owned by ODNR. Washington Township doesn't use them. Floats are in good shape. Wood decking will need to be replaced.
- Jon Tharpe-Nothing to report.

Richard Feldkamp

- The small campground owned by Clarks is called River Village Camp Site or Boonedockers Campgrounds. Read details and its showing (1) site available with 50/30/20 amps and water and the sewer are not in best spot, the website states you should bring a 20/30 ft hose. Its on a gravel lot and another website shows a RV dump station - we need to check that out. They tied in to the prior sewer. Should have gotten permits through the county, but nothing was done that way. This should be supervised. If using old gas tanks, we will have problems. Council Prues asked what we can do legally. the hands of it and feels Bob Lindhorst thought the tanks were removed. But they were not. Violations should have taken place. Councilperson Allen asked Bob Lindhorst to follow up.

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33pm seconded by Councilperson Allen. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mary Allen Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes
Larry Prues Yes
Dennis Dalton Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes
Ryan Woodruff Yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.
Thomas Zwing
Mayor

Kelly Ann
Council Clerk