

04-11-2023

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2nd floor, at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond, Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Vice Mayor Prues asked for Roll Call of all Council with the following members responding:

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

Present in Council Chambers: Mayor Glenn Ewing/ Absent due to illness; **Administration:** Interim Village Administrator, Bob Lindhorst; Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider; **Department Heads:** Police Chief Eric Williams, and Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp **Additional personnel;** **Absent:** Scott Sollmann, Solicitor (due to prior work commitment).

Guests present (Resident): Donna Prues, Lisa Tharpe (**Business Owner**) Christine McAdams, Robin Knecht (**Non-village Residents**) Mike Rantz (**Zoom Conference Call**) Debbie Warner Oberklaus, Sergeant Jason Mallott and Bobbi Phillips.

Christine McAdams:

- Elections took place for the newly formed Ohio River Valley Business Association and are as follows:
Donna Prues, Vice President
Treasurer, Robin Knecht
Secretary, Diana Baker
 - Felicity Ohio was excited about joining.
 - Applied for tax id number.
 - Making changes to by-law
 - Leadership Team will meet monthly, Business Owners will meet quarterly.
- Reminder that Bucks will be opening this week and will start out opening 4 days a week till fully staffed.
- KMarie Florist is opening a shop in Rivertown Post. It will be open 6 days a week. She will also be helping in the Post.
- Inviting everyone in the village to attend the dinner at VFW on Thursday evening, it is sponsored by NRAM and it's for the community. Councilperson Allen said she has gone before and it's a nice event.

Mike Ranz:

- Speaking on behalf of NR VFW Auxiliary Organization, Inquired about the ballfields. Can food trucks be brought in on a non-busy day thru the week in village and set up there? VFW is behind this. Timing would be from 4pm-to dusk as there are no lights on the old fields. Has not reached out to any food trucks yet - wanted to get feedback from Council. Will investigate this a little further. Would need to get an Event Application approved.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the **03/13/2023 and 03/28/2023** Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilperson Allen motioned to approve the Minutes of 03/13/2023 Regular Council meeting with corrections; seconded by Councilperson Dalton, 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 & Finance Committee – Chair Mary Allen

Finance – Fiscal Officer Joel Gilpin

1. Interest earned from StarOhio for February 2023 was \$3,678.15 and for March 2023, \$4,166.225
2. Joel provided an update on real estate taxes – we've received over 50% of what was expected for the first half of the year, totaling \$338,808.69.
3. The Village has received \$17,537.21 from the Regatta TIF. Some of those funds will need to be distributed to the schools before these restricted funds can be spent. Joel is researching what the funds can be spent on.
4. In previous years we've used LightGov.com to sell unused vehicles and equipment. Joel is looking into switching to GOVdeals.com due to higher exposure and higher potential sale amount.
5. In preparation for potential levies being placed on the ballot, Joel has compiled some information for the Committee's consideration.
6. NEST Benefits has collected information from all eligible insurance benefit recipients and is actively collecting quotes on employee insurance.

*The Committee has reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month March 2023.

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

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/Nothing to report.

Police Department – Police Chief, Eric Williams

Chief Williams had no personnel changes. The Committee thanked him for coming and stated he wasn't expected since he had just lost his mother. He asked about a couple of officers who had resigned and wanted to make sure the record keeping was correct. Fiscal Officer, Joel Gilpin, stated he knew one was finalized. Councilwoman Allen stated this was a housekeeping issue and there was no urgency; that Chief Williams could check on the other one when he had the time. Clearly it needs to be done, but it can wait a week or two, if necessary.

Fire/EMS Department – Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp

- Chief Feldkamp didn't have any personnel changes.
- Chief Feldkamp did provide two documents for consideration. One was a 5-year salary plan and the other was a listing of responsibilities for each position in the department.
- Chief Feldkamp provided an update on replacing the 2008 Durango. He has been discussing a supplier with Councilman Dalton and he has several options to consider. A lengthy discussion followed about the need to get a command vehicle and the timing.
- Councilman Prues stated he thought it would be difficult to explain why we purchased a new vehicle within months of placing a tax increase on the ballot. Councilman Dalton stated he would rather be proactive rather than have a major incident and we not be adequately prepared. Councilwoman Allen agreed with Councilman Dalton.
- There was discussion about using the ARPA funds and/or the department's development funds. The development funds would not be enough to cover the cost of a new vehicle but could possibly help.
- Ultimately, Fiscal Officer, Joel Gilpin was asked to find the best approach to paying for the vehicle and Council will make a decision on if and how to proceed with a purchase.

Miscellaneous Discussion:

There was miscellaneous discussion about putting a tax increase and whether it should be a local income tax rate change or a Fire/EMS and Police Levy on the ballot in November 2023.

Councilman Prues stated he would draft a communication about why a tax increase or levy was needed. Things that were mentioned in support of this included:

- Stating how different things are now vs. 8-10 years ago and how different they will be 8-10 years from now.
- We need to continue to work to build a sense of community – tell our history and our story.
- Sharing the projected Village revenue if there are no changes.
- Sharing how Dept. Heads, the Mayor, and Council have worked to reduce expenses through more effective sources, cost avoidance, and not replacing some employees who have left.
- We have a high turnover rate due to low salaries and health insurance costs compared to comparable communities.
- We have infrastructure issues – we haven't had adequate planning and implementation of maintenance due to cost constraints.
- We haven't adopted a regular increase schedule for our employees due to cost constraints.
- We need to tell our residents what we've done.

Safety, Laws & Rules Committee – Chair Ryan Woodruff

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

- Interim Administrator Bob Lindhorst had no new business to report.
- Chairman Woodruff asked about the village street/stop sign project and a timeline for completion. Bob is going to get with Rob the Maintenance Foreman to plan to get this project rolling and completed.
- There was an open discussion on Quarry Street property and other blighted properties in and around the village. All members were asked to be on the look-out for unsafe structures in the village. Discussion was made in ensuring we identify potential hazards and exercising our rights to secure these unsafe structures.
- Chairman Woodruff asked to get an update from our solicitor on where we are with the Front Street Campground and the non-compliant structure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Williams mentioned the need to add an additional cruiser to the fleet, however he is waiting for council to determine the direction they will be heading regarding a levy. Councilman Feldkamp requested to know what the average fleet mileage was on the cruisers we still utilize. Chief Williams mentioned the older cruisers we had were well over 100,000 miles. Councilman Feldkamp believes we should retain vehicles up to or beyond 150,000 miles.
- Chief Williams gave a brief discussion on adding additional officers to cover some of the weekend, high volume days over the summer months. He is looking at adding roughly an additional 108 (8 hour) shifts to the year. This would help with giving our part-time staff hours to work, being regular. This would potentially result in a \$20,000 increase in the appropriations to their budget. Chief Williams was asked to finalize the plan and numbers to present to the Personnel & Finance Committee.
- As a supplemental notice the police department will continue the off-duty special detail services for large scale events in the village to help add policing numbers for those events while lessening the cost to the village.

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

- Chief Feldkamp provided call for service detail in members mailboxes. The Fire/EMS Department had been utilized as Mutual Aid on a structure fire with Central Joint Fire/EMS. Our medic unit was initially requested and later requested our air trailer. The Chief stated he issued a recall for staff to help cover New Richmond in the other unit's absence. The medic unit was also requested by Washington Township to cover their station and most of the southeastern portion of the county due to a structure fire a week ago as well. The Chief gave a highlight discussion on Fire/EMS member Areas of Responsibility (AORs) that was presented to members during the Personnel & Finance meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / MEMBER COMMENTS

- Jim Serger shared that he thought we (Village) are missing great opportunities to share our road maintenance work that has been taking place on social media. He felt that despite some of the negative comments that tend to happen we gain a lot of positive influence and perspective by sharing the happenings and work being done in and around the town by our personnel. He also asked about US 52 Eastbound 4 lane to 2 lane interchange, who is responsible for maintenance of that area, and can we maintain it to clean it up? There was a discussion that we may have a vested interest in cleaning that area up since it is public perception it is ours. We have the equipment out and doing similar work right up to that point, we should just finish it out. Mr. Serger also requested permission to paint fire hydrants around the town in specific places that he had chosen. He also mentioned that he and his staff went out and cleaned all the center culvert drains on US 52 and noticed we have several missing grates and that they all needed a 5ft concrete troth to aid in water removal. He offered his services on a volunteer basis to correct those culvert grates and handle the concrete work. The committee had no issue with him performing any of the service items he requested permission to do, he was asked to fill out the volunteer waiver form before performing the work. It should be noted that this idea of community service should be broadly accepted and praised, as we have many members of this community who are called to this type of community service but may not know where or how to start. We should work to enhance opportunities for volunteerism and possibly have a running list of service items that could be done from small projects all the way up to much larger ones.

Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee – Chair Jon Tharpe

- Looking for volunteers for the Shade Tree Committee

Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee –

- Meeting is scheduled for April 28th at 6pm, council chambers.
- This will be a brainstorming meeting.
- Planning needs to be in place by 2024. If this doesn't pan out, we will have shovel ready projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Village Administrator Bob Lindhorst

- Street Department started on March 29th cutting back brush and repairing potholes on US 52 and will be finishing up tomorrow.
- We may need a motion to request a hearing or not request a hearing with the division of liquor control for a change of LLC Membership from Raymond Dietrich to Lance Sizemore.
- Councilperson Dalton made a motion to not request a hearing with the division of liquor control for a change of LLC Membership from Raymond Dietrich to Lance Sizemore. Second by Councilperson Prues.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

- There is a ZBA meeting scheduled April 22. Rodrick Crousey, owner of New Richmond Distilleries, is requesting a zoning ordinance variance for the property located on Washington Street, Parcel #260910.001, the variance is about putting an accessory structure on the aforementioned property when there is no primary structure located on the site at this time. Councilman Prues would like to see a more detailed drawing. Shipping containers with a deck on top.
- There is an updated Utility Ordinance where the verbiage was changed not offering lawn water meters or adjustments and some other changes noted a copy is in your binder.
- Had a busy night Monday, a wreck 52 and Old 52, 232 and a fire at Steamboat Trails. It turned out to be burnt popcorn.

Police Chief Eric Williams

- 59 Total, 27 Speeding (55+ but not in school zone) 2 Crime Arrests and 30 others.
- Getting ready to ramp up training.
- Councilperson Prues asked again about traffic by the school and confirmed that police presence is helping.

Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp (Hand Out)

- Thanked Bucks for the invite for the soft opening last Saturday.
- Received a reimbursement grant for \$4,450 from State Fire Marshall
- Had a busy night Monday, a wreck 52 and Old 52, 232 and a fire at Steamboat Trails. It turned out to be burnt food.

Mayor Glenn Ewing: Absent/Illness

Vice Mayor Prues: Asked if anyone has heard from Market Street School. Per Bob Lindhorst, no, he can reach out.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann: Prior commitment.

Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider: Need a motion to add John Lewis to Shade Tree Commission. He is on Milford's Tree City as well as an Arborist. We will be looking for 1 more Village Resident.

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to add John Lewis to Shade Tree Commission. Second by Councilperson Tharpe.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

LEGISLATION read by Vice Mayor Prues

First Reading

- **ORD 2023-05**, ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND UTILITY ORDINANCE AS DETAILED BELOW / PASS AS EMERGENCY

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to waive the 3-read rule. Second by Councilperson Woodruff.

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. Second 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>

- **RES 2023-11**, RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2023-05 AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2023 OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR WHICH IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED, BY INTERNET AUCTION, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 721.15(D) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to waive the 3-read rule. Second 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 Allen made a motion to pass as an emergency. Second 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>

Second Reading:

- **RES 2023-09** STRONGLY URGING THE OHIO GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO PRE- RECESSION LEVELS
- **RES 2023-10** URGING THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE STATE OF OHIO TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO FURTHER PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO FROM THE INHERENT DANGERS OF A TRAIN DERAILMENT ON THE TRACKS LOCATED AT NEAR OUR CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues – N/A

Dennis Dalton – Asked about the Rivertown Review.

Richard Feldkamp –

- Reached out to David Painter about the stop signs. Suggested something to make the signs stand out.
- Water Leak in the Conference Room bathroom: Went to Ace and got the parts to fix it.

Ryan Woodruff –

- Excited for Bucks to reopen.
- Asked about Skippers and when the violation letter was sent out – Bob will find the paperwork and advise. Dave Rose reached out to meet with Bob to discuss the issues. Councilperson Feldkamp would like to attend.
- Public Restrooms – Per Bob, they will be open May 1st. The Police Department usually closed them at dusk-can they do it again this year? Can they open them in the morning too? The times needs to be consistent. Bob will have them de-winterized and open Friday. There was also discussion about the restrooms for events. That is why we charge the \$100 fee. Councilperson Feldkamp noted that Riverdays has a committee that takes care of just those bathrooms and should be the responsibility of the event. Councilperson Woodruff maybe have a bigger deposit up front. If all is good, refund part of the money. Bob and Kelley will look at event application and come up with a plan.
- Banners along Front Street - discussed getting 2-3 seasonal banners. Could we look at producing a few more banners. Christine will talk to Joby to get a better idea of the banners. Create a fund, maybe a Tourism Fund and take donations. There are 18 poles.
- Reached out to Scott regarding the Clarks - there are now 5 campers/vehicles with an illegal building. Last discussion was that Bob sent a violation letter, heard nothing. Mrs. Clark stated around Oct/Nov, they would have the tiny house out in 2023. Not sure what happened, and it is going on 2 years, can we please have Scott start working on this and go down the legal trail. Councilperson Allen noted that it does not look like they have been cleaning it up. The Clarks know what they are doing. Did reached out to Health Department as the Building Department were no help and useless. They did not get a permit for electric so not sure how they got electric on.
- Dumpster Business on Front Street This property was sold by Andy Moran to a dumpster staging for construction, would take them to job sites, fill dumpsters, then take to Rumpke, then bring them to the site to have ready for next day. They put a 6–8-foot fence up. We could not find any regulations to say no to it going in next to El Barrill. Received a picture from a citizen sitting on patio which looks like household garbage and mattress. It seems it's not being used how they told Bob it was going to use. Councilperson Allen asked why they can't put on the other side. Planning Commission is looking at zoning and has not been modified recently. Not sure if we have legal recourse. This should have been dealt with upfront, not the new owners. Sympathetic with El Barrill at this point. Might need to discuss with Scott as to what can be done. Christine McAdams asked if there in place here at Village Hall to pick up packet for new businesses-they need to, show us a business plan. Can work side by side with business association. Kelley has been working on fee schedule – comparing them to other municipalities, just to stay consistent. Discussed our staff – we do not have a well-developed staff. City of Millford has every new business come into office and fill out packet. We should do the same. Councilperson Feldkamp asked if the dumpster is empty would it be a fire hazard. Fire Chief Feldkamp stated yes.
- Mentioned the car accidents then fire the night before the council meeting.
- Levy – if we ask for any service levy, please consider it.

Mary Allen –

- Ohio Riverway Mayor Summit is coming up – will get details out.
- Councilperson Dalton asked about the Rivertown Review, it's on Ohio Riverway website per Councilperson Allen. New Richmond was one of the first to use Rivertown Review. This group went around town asking why, who and how, what they liked didn't like. It's worth reading. Councilperson Allen will look for the summary document.

Jon Tharpe –

- Met with Kelley and the Shade Tree Commission, John Lewis from Millford, will meet monthly. How much money do we have in the Shade Tree Fund? Will get the information from Joel.
- Got with Kelley the information about artwork for the digital billboard.

Councilperson Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm, seconded by Councilperson Feldkamp. **Upon roll call the vote was as follows:**

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

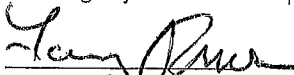
Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm


Vice Mayor


Clerk of Council