

05/09/2023

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2nd floor at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, May 09, 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 Councilmembers with the following members responding:

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Absent

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Absent

Present in Council Chambers:

Vic Mayor: Larry Prues

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

Department Heads: Fire/EMS Tim Feldkamp, Interim Police Chief Jason Mallott

Additional personnel:

Absent: Solicitor Scott Sollmann – due to prior work commitment

Guests present in Council Chambers

(Residents): Lisa Tharpe, Donna Prues, Lucas Kroener and Autumn

(Non-Village Residents): Jim Serger

(Zoom): Police Sargent Jason Mallott, Cooper Graves, Councilperson Ryan Woodruff

COMMUNICATIONS

Jim Serger:

- Thanked Bob Lindhorst for whacking the weeds down, but asked if we could get Weed Be Gone. He would be happy to get certified. John Baird is certified.
- Area by the billboard is growing again, will bring something up in September meeting. 52 west 2 for 4 at the right of S curves, totally neglected. BL would be ODOT probably.
- Baseball fields – are we going to cut it every 2 weeks or let it go. Outside every week, inside will be 1 time a month.
- Painting a mural on Marathon building, facing 52. It will be an American Flag.
- Can we cut into Memorial Day, FreedomFest, Riverdays? Per Bob Lindhorst - it is always cut before events, and it will look just as good as last year.
- Tried to fix the Concession Stand door at the ballfields. It needs to be anchored.
- Asked if we had looked at internships any further. He feels that once students here about this it will continue to grow every year. Christine McAdams has been working with Amy Story, School Board to come talk to upperclassman about volunteer work. This may be a good segway into internships. There is a difference between volunteer and Internship. It was asked if Bob Lindhorst was going to hire a part time person, we discussed 60 days ago at a meeting. Per Vice Mayor Prues, it is in the budget.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 04-25-2023 2023 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilperson Allen motioned to approve Minutes of the 04-25-2023 Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilperson Tharpe Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mary Allen Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Dennis Dalton Absent

Ryan Woodruff Absent

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Provided below is a synopsis for each report; to obtain a full copy please visit the Administrative office.):

Personnel & Finance Committee – Chair Mary Allen

Discussion Topics:

There were discussions in the normal four broad areas: Finance, Village Administration, Police Department, and the Fire & EMS Department.

Finance – Fiscal Officer Joel Gilpin

1. Interest earned from StarOhio for April was \$4,267.51.
2. Joel provided an update on our appropriations vs. revenue to-date and we're trending on track for this point in the year.
3. Joel provided a copy of the OH01 Lighting service agreement between the Village and Duke Energy. While it contained some cost information, Duke still has to finish completing the estimates for replacing the majority of the streetlights with LED fixtures. The estimates we've received to this point are for decorative lighting only and don't include the standard streetlights.
4. Joel contacted RiverHills Bank for an estimate on a rate for a potential loan for the fire truck grant match. The current rate would be approximately 6.35%.
5. The Tax Budget is due July 14th to the county auditor. We will need to schedule a public meeting for 6:45 before the regular Council Meeting. The Committee is suggesting July 11, 2023, at 6:45 p.m. to meet the required timing.
6. There was much discussion about increasing employee salaries. Per information we received from both the Police Chief and the Fire & EMS Chief, are employees are tremendously underpaid. Councilman Prues suggested that with Bob Lindhorst assuming the Interim Village Administrator role along with his existing responsibilities, the Village is saving money – and that we could use that money to give employees a raise.

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

Councilperson Allen made Motion to pay the bills. Second by Councilperson Tharpe.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Absent

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Yes

Ryan Woodruff Absent

Village Administration – Interim Village Administrator Bob Lindhorst

Bob didn't have any comments.

Police Department – Police Chief, Eric Williams

1. Chief Williams has had several resignations. He will bring the names to council during the next Personnel & Finance Meeting for Council to ultimately accept.
2. The Committee thanked Chief Williams for his thorough Budget Planning document.

Fire/EMS Department – Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp

1. Chief Feldkamp has one personnel change to reclassify Miranda Sims from full-time to part-time paying into Social Security. Her pay rate would change from \$17.50 to \$15.15 an hour. She will stay on her current probation. This change will be effective May 19, 2023.

Motion: Motion to reclassify Miranda Sims from full-time to part-time effective May 19, 2023. Her rate of pay will change from \$17.50 to \$15.15 per hour. She will remain on her current probation.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to reclassify Miranda Sims from full-time to part-time effective May 19, 2023, Second by Councilperson Feldkamp.

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

2. Chief Feldkamp is interviewing to replace Miranda's full-time position.
3. The Committee thanked Chief Feldkamp for his thorough Budget Planning document.

Miscellaneous Discussion:

There was extensive discussion again this month about the need to put a tax levy on the November ballot. Joel has contacted the Board of Elections and we must provide them the necessary information by August 9, 2023, to have it on the November 2023 ballot. The Committee has agreed to have an additional Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting on Monday, May 22, 2023 4:30 – 5:30 to discuss planning and next steps.

Councilman Prues stated he would draft a communication about why a tax levy was needed.

Councilwoman Allen stated she would draft a list of questions that residents will likely want answered during town hall discussions.

Guest comments:

All comments were related to salary increases and the potential tax levies for the Police Department and Fire/EMS Department.

Safety Rules and Laws Committee – Chair Ryan Woodruff

Mr. Feldkamp stated he was planning on attending the Ohio Township Trustee meeting tonight and asked to be excused by 6pm so he could make their meeting. With no major issues from the members present for discussion items we moved to an open format for discussion on possible upcoming levy information. All members shared ideas and talking points to be considered for public information meetings in the future. It was also discussed about increasing our visible

presence and Public Relations in and around the community. Kurtis Boggs shared that he had attended lunch at the Middle School for just this purpose and it seemed to have positive feedback.

Chairman Woodruff did mention that our crosswalk signage should look to be modified for better visibility and to remove the mobile sign due to vehicles hitting them with frequency. It was also mentioned that we continue to have illegal parking issues around the intersection of Walnut Street and Front Street. Chief Williams stated he would reach out to the businesses in the area to reinforce to them the importance of communicating with their customers about using approved parking spaces due to safety concerns.

Interim Administrator Bob Lindhorst

Permits and violations

Permit issued during April	10
Housing Permits Issued	4
YTD Housing	29
YTD Permits Issued	57
Violations	7
YTD	17

- A motion needed allowing the Village of New Richmond to enter into a License Agreement with El Barrill Mexican Sports Bar and Grill for approximately one-half acre of ground from parcel# 260922.009 to be used for parking.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to enter into a License Agreement with El Barrill Mexican Sports Bar and Grill for approximately one-half acre of ground from parcel# 260922.009 to be used for parking. Second by Councilperson Tharpe.

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

- A Motion needed allowing the interim village administrator to enter and sign a contact with 143 Engineers for the phase 2 Round-About-Project.

Councilperson Allen made a motion allowing the interim village administrator to enter and sign a contact with 143 Engineers for the phase 2 Round-About-Project. Second by Councilperson Tharpe.

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

- A Motion needed allowing the Interim village administrator to enter and sign a contract with 143 Engineers as the planner for the Village of New Richmond for the Appalachian Community Grant

Councilperson Allen made a motion allowing the interim village administrator to enter and sign a contract with 143 Engineers as the planner for the Village of New Richmond for the Appalachian Community Grant. Second by Councilperson Feldkamp.

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

- Will have a first reading on Resolution Authorizing the Interim Village Administrator to Execute the Clermont County CDBG FY 2020 Subrecipient Grant Agreement Attached as Exhibit 1 for the Hamilton Street Improvements No. CDBG 2020-05 Project

Police Chief Eric Williams

Additional equipment Pro Cam Cincinnati
10 = 2 criminal, 8 traffic, 3 speeding

Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp:

- The person interviewed yesterday, didn't accept the job back to drawing board.
- The report yesterday, had a lot of help, Kurtis Boggs, and a few others. Thanked them.
- Thank NRPD in assistant for funeral one of members wife, they helped with traffic. Very appreciated by Fire Department and the family.
- Lucas Kroener would like to put him on the department, he did his 2-year program at Scarlett Oaks, been a cadet for 2 years. He will have certifications. Per Councilperson Allen, it wasn't on report because we don't have a quorum, but we are happy to have him. Its just formality. Tim stated this will be at next meeting.

Vice Mayor Larry Prues:

Nothing to report.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann: Absent / Prior work commitment.

Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider:

Will order a plaque for Michael Findlan with all the years of service to our Committees.

LEGISLATION read by Vice Mayor Prues

First Reading: 2023-12 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERIM VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTIVE THE CLERMONT COUNTY CDBG FY 2020 SUBRECIPIENT GRANT AGREEMENT ATTACHED AS EXEHBIT 1 FOR THE HAMILTON STREEET IMPROVEMENTS NO. CDBG 2020-05 PROJECT

Second Reading:

Third Reading:

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues – Nothing to report.

Ryan Woodruff – Absent/Work

Richard Feldkamp –

- Skippers is floating. They have asked about parking in their parking lot during events – They would have to furnish the signs. Vice Mayor Prues asked if there was a problem with the signs, per Bob Lindhorst, no. It was asked if we ever found a copy of the signed copy and why did it disappear. Our attorney would have a copy of it.
- Went Ohio Township meeting, they get a good chunk of money from New Richmond. Asked if they could pay for half \$8,540. They agreed on it (not in writing).

Jon Tharpe –

- Looking for volunteers for Greenmound Cemetery to take care of the flowers.

Mary Allen –

- Acknowledged Jim Serger. You can see a difference. Fire Chief Feldkamp agreed. Would love to take Mr. Serger to lunch.
- June 5th is the Paddle Event and when they will be coming through New Richmond - Front Street will open, let Mary know because the dinner as to be pre-paid.

Dennis Dalton - Absent

Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

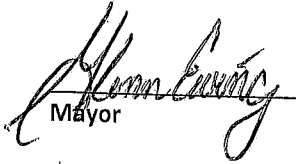
Councilperson Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 07:40pm; seconded by Councilperson Tharpe. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mary Allen Yes
Richard Feldkamp Yes

Larry Prues Yes
Jon Tharpe Yes

Dennis Dalton Absent
Ryan Woodruff Absent

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.


Mayor


Clerk of Council