

October 13th, 2020

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers and via Zoom teleconference in regular session on Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting followed rules and guidelines established by the Ohio General Assembly for public meetings established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and state and federal restrictions for public gatherings.

Present in Council Chambers: Council Members: Gary Skeene, Richard Feldkamp, and Larry Prues Administration: Village Administrator, Greg Roberts; Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh Department Heads: Police Chief Mike Couch
Present via Zoom teleconference: Mayor Glenn Ewing Council Members: Mary Allen, Melanie Slade, and Becky Ploucha Administration: Solicitor Scott Sollmann Department Heads: Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee Additional personnel: Asst. Fire Chief Tim Feldkamp; Sgt. Jason Mallott

Guests present via Zoom teleconference:

Megan Alley
Ryan Woodruff
David Vornholt
Nancy Swats
Madeline Cantrol
Josh
David Moeggenberg
Todd Wuerdeman

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ewing called the Revitalization District Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Administrator Greg Roberts asked Solicitor Scott Sollmann to give a brief overview of what a revitalization district is.

Solicitor Sollman: After receiving the Revitalization District Application from Widespread LLC, Mayor Ewing submitted the Application to Village Council and provided his recommendation. A public notice was published once a week for two consecutive weeks notifying the public that the application is on file in the office of the clerk and available for inspection by the public during regular business hours. The notice also indicate a public hearing would be held on October 13th, 2020 to discuss the Application and, by ordinance or resolution, the legislative authority would approve or disapprove the application based on whether the proposed revitalization district does or will substantially contribute to entertainment, retail, educational, sporting, social, cultural, or arts opportunities for the community. If Village Council disapproves the application, the applicant and/or Mayor may make changes in the Application to secure its approval by Village Council. There are requirements which must be satisfied to in submitting to Division of Liquor Control, including a population requirement which may or may not be met depending on whether the 2010 census is used or the 2020 census numbers.

Councilmember Allen: Scott, do we approve the Revitalization District knowing the permit process may not go forward? Can we limit the number of liquor licenses?

Solicitor Sollman: Yes. The Revitalization District must be approved, or established, before applying for the permit. Council can change an area included in the revitalization district as defined in Resolution 2020-20.

Administrator Roberts: The Planning Commission has talked about a revitalization district for months and discussed how potential restaurants would benefit from a liquor license; potential businesses might be attracted to the lower cost of entry with license from the state vs. another jurisdiction's trex.

Councilmember Prues asked if the legislation had to be approved by the 15th.

Councilmember Allen asked if Council should wait until the 2020 census numbers are available in the Spring.

Administrator Roberts said Council could wait but we would need to run the legal notices and schedule another public hearing.

Solicitor Sollmann explained there was no timeline on when the permits would have to be applied for.

Councilmember Allen inquired if the businesses on old U.S. 52 were included in the revitalization district.

Administrator Roberts stated yes, the district involves the IGA shopping complex and the Knothole fields.

Councilmember Allen motioned to open the Revitalization District meeting to the public at 7:25 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes	Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Comments (each person who spoke was first sworn in by Solicitor Sollmann “to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God”):

Ryan Woodruff (“I do”.) I hope Council will favorably approve the application, which I feel provides for more business opportunities down the road.

David Vornholt (“I do”.) What are the boundaries? Is it up to Washington St. and Augusta St.?

Administrator Roberts explained the businesses on old U.S. 52, including Frisch’s, Gold Star, the IGA complex, the Knothole fields and the core Front St. business area are designated as the revitalization district. Too, the proposed revitalization district map is available on the Village’s website.

Councilmember Prues responded that yes, the boundary is up to Washington St. and Augusta St.

Solicitor Sollmann noted the proposed revitalization district is within the geographic boundaries of Ohio Township.

Councilmember Prues motioned to close the public portion of the Revitalization District public hearing; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

Mrs. Slade: yes	Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Feldkamp: yes

The Revitalization District Public Hearing adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and Regular Council began immediately after.

Minutes of the September 22nd, 2020 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to approve the Minutes of September 22nd, 2020 Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- We recently lost a good friend, John Ruthven. Mr. Ruthven was a local wildlife artist and just a wonderful person.
- The National Park Service has officially included the Henry and Louisa Picquett burial site in Samarian Cemetery in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.
- Union Station has only eight lots left. Ryan Homes is now clearing off sections in Regatta.
- Captain's Cove has decided to close after not being able to meet demand due to manufacturing problems related to the current COVID situation. They have a few prospects showing some interest in purchasing the building.
- Sale of Village properties will be discussed in upcoming committee meetings.
- A virtual meeting will be held tomorrow with a team of professional planners from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), leaders from the Ohio River Recreation Trail (ORRT) and the Lewis and Clark Geotourism project team to talk with us about enhancing the outdoor recreation experiences in a very special river town known as New Richmond on the Ohio.
- We have a request for a street closure on October 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for the Trunk or Treat (Fall Bash) event.

Councilmember Skeene motioned to approve the street closure from Western to Plenty streets and Union St. to Susanna Way on October 24th, from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

Comments:

Councilmember Allen asked if the Village plans to hold the traditional Halloween date.

Councilmember Slade asked what the time of the event was going to be.

Mayor Ewing said yes; Halloween would be held on October 31st,

Administrator Roberts stated the event will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and that traditionally the Village follows what Clermont County does when it comes to Halloween.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- In comparing September 2019 to September 2020, total crime reports are down 56%, total arrests are down 54%, business checks are up 68% and residential checks are up 80%. As well, enforcement related to abandoned vehicles is up 121%.
- Officer Chapman was involved in a bad accident while handling a call on U.S. 52 recently. It was a very close-call and we are thankful he was not hurt. The vehicle has \$15,500. worth of damage.
- November is No Shave November month designed to support breast cancer awareness.
- We will have four extra officers out on Halloween.
- There was drug trafficking at 1070 Bethel New Richmond Rd.; additional charges are pending.

Sgt. Mallott thanked the Fire Dept. for their support and assistance during the accident involving Officer Chapman. The Fire Dept. personnel located the other driver involved in the crash hiding in the woods and gave the man good care. We could have been planning a funeral – it was only a matter of seconds where Officer Chapman could have been opening the door and stepping from his vehicle when the other vehicle slammed into him.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- We appreciate the kind words from our Police Dept. Everyone is very thankful Officer Chapman was not hurt. The guys did a wonderful job handling this situation.
- We had 48 total details in September: 42 EMS details and 6 fire details.
- Thanked Council for their support of the ambulance re-chassis. The ambulance should be back in service by the end of the week.
- The Fire Dept. will take care of the intersections during Halloween.

Mayor Glenn Ewing: Monday I go in for surgery and I will be in the hospital for the 1st week and out for 6 weeks.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann: Wished the Mayor all the best with his surgery. Went on to relay that **the speed camera case is over.**

Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh: The clerk presented the details of a notice to the Legislative Authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding an impending change in the liquor license from Joseph Allen Vogel to Perfect Taste Entertainment LLC. If Council wants to request a hearing on the change, it must be postmarked no later than 10/16/2020.

Comments:

Councilmember Allen moved to request a hearing on changing the liquor license from Joseph Allen Vogel to Perfect Taste Entertainment LLC; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

Mrs. Slade: yes	Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Feldkamp: yes

LEGISLATION

First Reading:

RESOLUTION 2020-19 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING THE VILLAGE'S CONSENT TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING DSTRIC WIDE GUARDRAIL PROJECT, PID 111482 – D08 GR TYPE A REPLACEMENT

Upon a motion by Councilmember Skeene and seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp, Council voted to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 2020-19.

Mrs. Slade: yes	Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Councilmember Skeene motioned to approve Resolution 2020-19 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING THE VILLAGE'S CONSENT TO THE OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING DSTRICT WIDE
GUARDRAIL PROJECT, PID 111482 – D08 GR TYPE A REPLACEMENT,
seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes	Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Feldkamp: yes

**RESOLUTION 2020-20 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A
REVITALIZATION DISTRICT WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW
RICHMOND, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Allen and seconded by Councilmember
Ploucha, Council voted to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 2020-20.

Mrs. Slade: yes	Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve Resolution 2020-20 A
RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A REVITALIZATION DISTRICT WITHIN
THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY, seconded by Councilmember Slade.

Mrs. Slade: yes	Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Second Reading:

Third Reading:

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues – Asked Chief Couch if it looked like conditions at 1070 Bethel
New Richmond Rd were improving and were the drug charges stemming from an
incident in an unrenovated apartment. Chief Couch responded he does not see a
significant amount getting done and the owners of the apartments were notified

that drug dealing was being done out of apartment 11. Chief Bee said a few weeks back he saw where a substantial amount of rehab was being done with everyone evicted except for two apartments which were occupied. He agreed that he, Chief Couch and Administrator Roberts should follow up on the progress.

Administrator Roberts said the owner has been made aware their apartments are considered a nuisance property. Solicitor Sollmann said they could prosecute through Mayor's court if Council is so inclined.

Mary Allen – Several people have talked to me about open burning violations; we should note this in the newsletter.

Becky Ploucha – All of us will be thinking of you, Mayor, on Monday.

Gary Skeene – Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird requested the termination of Gerald Kidd.

Councilmember Prues motioned to, seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes	Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Melanie Slade – Nothing to report.

Richard Feldkamp – Wished the Mayor luck Monday. Asks that 308 Center St. be inspected and declared a nuisance due to all the junk cars on the property. Too, the bad condition of the mobile home at 400 Front St. needs to be addressed. Also, asked the U-Haul guy to clean up his lot. He replied Andrew and Councilmember Prues had already talked to him about it; the situation is temporary, and he will get all the extra cars out. Administrator Roberts noted the Police Chief and Fire Chief need to inspect and write a letter regarding being a nuisance if that is the case.

Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

Ryan Woodruff wished the Mayor well on his surgery. He thanked Council for their favorable approval of the Revitalization District. He is glad that Officer Chapman is okay and called out the good job the Police and Fire departments did related to the crash.

David Vornholt said his prayers will be with the Mayor on Monday. He appreciated Councilmember's Allen request to hold a hearing related to Joe Vogel's liquor license sale as the better we understand the liquor laws the better

decisions we can make. The museum has a program on October 30th and 31st; tickets are available through Dan at Buck's BBQ place.

Nancy Swats asked for an update on what happened with the Aviary place.

Administrator Roberts stated the rental lease was terminated by the property owner after the renter ran into trouble with the County regarding charges of animal cruelty. The owner has approached him and Planning/Zoning Director Andrew Gephardt about possibly opening a high-end RV park. Nancy Swats also asked about plans to paint, patch, and possibly attend to the structural issues of the Front St. wall. Administrator Roberts said repairs were made to the wall near Haussermann Park but unfortunately funds to address additional issues were not available; thankfully due to the WPA it is a very well-built wall. He went on to say he will see that the areas needing patching are addressed.

Councilmember Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk of Council