

11/28/2023

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2nd floor at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, November 28th at 7pm.

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 Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Present in Council Chambers:

Mayor Glenn Ewing / Absent / Illness

Vice Mayor Larry Prues

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, Tim Caldwell, Kurtis Boggs

Non-Village Resident: Ty Powers, Jay and Sabrina Schnarrenberg, New Richmond VFW/Non-Village Residents and Kathryn Murray, Non-Village Resident.

Zoom: Bobbi Phillips, Joel Gilpin, Scott Wolf, Sophia Woodruff, Veronica (no last name).

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sabrina Schnarrenberg

- Update on the Veterans Day Project: Found up to 262 Veterans graves, cleaned 112 in Section Old and Newer Oak, I, K and KK Section. 11 volunteers came out. They also identified the Veterans, date of birth and date of death, branch of service, its typed up and will send it out. Does have additional supplies for anyone is interested. Will do this event 2 times a year, around Memorial Day, May 18th, 2024, and Veterans Day. A few of the headstones had to be cleaned 2

times. There were 2 graves that were completely buried in which they dug them out. Did mapping of the Veterans. Village will get a copy of that.

Jay Schnarrenberg

- Update on FreedomFest, VFW agreed to take over Freedomfest. Filed applications and reserved dates, will start raising money. Will know more by January 31st - will see what the money situation looks like. Tentative dates are July 3rd is set up, July 4th-6th is the event and cleanup will be on July 7th. Will meet January 31st to make the final decision on the length of event. VFW will have a member present at the Council meetings to update.

Tim Caldwell:

Own 212 Susanna Way and would like to own 208 Susanna Way. Approach Dave Vornholt but said demo order in place from village. They came up with a plan - Contract of Purchase based on contingent to demo order removed. Bob Lindhorst suggested MOU with project plan. Mr. Caldwell asked us not to take his word that its going to get done but enter into an agreement -let him show you progress and then remove demo order at that point. Mr. Caldwell is retiring at 212 would like 208 for visiting family. Also said back taxes would be cleared. This house is also in the National Registry and would bring it back to what it was. Would start by sealing the outside. Councilperson Prues in favor of this. Mr. Caldwell also said that he has contractors in all trades. Councilperson Allen noted we never wanted to have it torn down.

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to allow Interim Bob Lindhorst to enter an MOU for the property at 208 Susanna, Second by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Kathryn Murray / Documents handed out.

- Presented information about our cat issues here in the village. The League of Animal Welfare / Trap Neuter and Release has a program. Looking for a few properties to feed them regularly so that the League for Animal Welfare can put traps out and monitor. They take the cats and sedated, fixed, vaxx and ear tipped. (this way they know to not keep catching the same cat). There are 3 dates picked out and there is no cost to village. Main concern is not to steal anyone's cats. The plan is to drop flyers day before. Also made a Facebook group. It was suggested to get the property owners permission to do this, and it cannot be done on village property. It was also noted that this is not a Village Project.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the November 14th, 2023. Regular Council meeting was presented for approval.

Councilperson Allen made motion to approve Minutes of the November 14th, 2023, (with changes) Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Prues, Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Abstain

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

COMMITTEE REPORT

Safety, Rules and Laws, Chair Ryan Woodruff

- Discussions on a proposed Vacant Property Ordinance that the Planning Commission has been looking at. He referenced several communities in Ohio who have implemented similar legislation to help curb nuisance properties as well as encourage economic prosperity in their communities. A sample piece of legislation that had been produced by American Legal Publishing was viewed online. Several communities have adopted this format for their ordinance. Fire & EMS Chief Feldkamp asked if this would be effective since we are already understaffed to handle the general Zoning Rules in the village now. There was some discussion to his point, and it was resolved that it may be better to get the foundation layer first and then we can bolster our enforcement activities. This item was tabled for further research and to check with the Solicitor on specifics for implementation in our dual zoned properties such as Front Street business district.
- Discussion was the Sidewalk Repair requirements for property owners. There was discussion on who should be responsible for sidewalk maintenance. The ORC says it does fall on the responsibility of the property owners. It was discussed that we may look to do an education campaign on the state of the sidewalks in the town and see what property owners would be interested if we supplied a bulk price reduction. This item will be referred to general discussion at council for guidance.
- Discussion on the differences in ordinance as it pertained to "on street parking" The ordinance reads that it is to be on paved surfaces, however most of the village is using gravel with no specific requirement. Police Chief Williams would like some clarity for enforcement since there is a contradiction. He

would like to have something fair and measured across the board. This item presents several issues that may involve multiple committees, this item will be discussed at general council and asked to be reviewed by all who feel they stake in it. MA: Augusta street parks all over the place and there is nothing in place about that. No other street has paved parking. RW there is no continuity.

- Discussion on re-grouping and planning took place for the possibility of a future Police levy. This will be discussed in more detail at Personnel & Finance, but some ideas were brainstormed as well as discussion on different staffing accommodations. Chief Williams said he had Joel Gilpin looking at numbers for what better options we could pursue for levy consideration. There was also added discussion on average pay in our area with similar sized communities. It was noted that when council increased wages for the safety service departments we met the pay that other communities had been doing for several years already. Since then, those other communities have increased wages to remain competitive for retention and attraction. We are now below grade again on the Police side and our Fulltime Firefighter/Paramedics are close but still slightly under the local average. It was discussed that council investigate changing benefits to make up for lower wages for retention and attraction. This will be sent to Personnel & Finance Committee for future discussion.
- Fire Chief Tim Feldkamp mentioned as a reminder that the departments portable radios are due to be replaced this year as they will no longer be compatible with the County once the statewide update is complete. Chief Feldkamp did apply for a MARCS Grant that would cover these needed upgrades, but he has not heard if that has been awarded yet. He has numbers available on the cost to replace these radios should the grant not be awarded. He will share these at the council meeting.
- Discussion was a brief recommendation for council to place a timeframe on Skippers Restaurant for vacancy of the riverfront. Their license termination letter was vague. Since the license contract will expire at the end of this year based on their request and councils' approval, it feels only appropriate to establish a final day of occupation. This recommendation will be made at the council meeting and with the guidance of the Solicitor. Councilperson Woodruff felt the letter was vague. There will be a deadline on it of March 1st, 2024. Councilperson Prues asked if we want to leave door open to stay. Councilperson Allen and Dalton said no. Councilperson Prues heard that whomever they reached out to tow it said it was too risky. Scott Sollmann will send letter - it will state that we accepted terms and expect within 30 days if additional time to let us know.

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to send Skippers a notice of termination date, which is 30 days from their letter. If they need more time, they will need to let us know. Second by Councilperson Woodruff.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Village Administrator Bob Lindhorst:

Monday 11/26 The Village of New Richmond submitted our application to ILCAO (Iron-ton-Lawrence Community Action Organization) who is our lead applicate for the (ACG) Appalachian Community Grant to secure full funding for Liberty Landing and Augusta Boat Ramp Projects. The total request was \$13,472,403.49. High five to Councilman Prues and Dalton. That app would have never made it in.

KZF is currently in the engineering process for Liberty Landing stating this week with surveying the project area which includes Front Street and Susanna Way from Walnut Street down to Augusta Street, they are marking all utilities and doing a bathymetric survey of the river bottom and riverbank, the process may take a week or two.

Meters installed to date 921 out of 962, we are at 96% completion. Currently waiting on transmitters to complete the project, delivery expected in December and project completion in January. Bobbi sent email 220 meters that were not activated. The guys will have to go out and physical read. Will track the hours and will recoup off contractor.

Solicitor Scott Sollmann sent an email out outlining the Process for Requiring Construction/Repair of Village Sidewalks, Curbs, & Gutters, the paperwork is attached to the Administrators Report. Its open for discussion. It does fall under property owners. We could do bulk rate processing, let homeowners know it does fall under then, but help that find contractors at a bulk rate. We can do payment plans or access to taxes. We need to educate residents and give them ample notice. Identify the locations. Councilperson Woodruff said we need to start finding ways to spruce up the village. Councilperson Prues suggested we find a contractor to give us pricing on potholes too. Councilperson Dalton stated we need to identify where the potholes are. We have manpower to do this.

Personnel and Finance: Chair Mary Allen

Received an email from Chief Feldkamp regarding Rob Kovak and Lucas Kroener in regard to their resignations.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to accept resignation of Firefighter/EMT Rob Kovak, November 16th, 2023, he leaves in good standing, seconded by Councilperson Woodruff.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Councilperson Allen made motion to accept resignation of Firefighter/EMT Lucas Kroener, Nov 25th, 2023, he leaves in good standing. Seconded by Councilperson Prues.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Police Chief Eric Williams:

- Grant - Enterprise Fleet management
- Need to have discussion on Police Levy for next week.

Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp:

- Radios / Applied for grant through fire marshal's office. It would not take care of it 100% - they are \$3,200 per radio. Councilperson Woodruff commented that wished people would come and stay for meeting to hear about the cost of things. The audience was made up of non-residents. Nobody wants to be involved until we need money. It takes up to a year to put an order in for the radios. It was determined that you cannot purchase then apply the grant money when awarded.

Mayor Glenn Ewing: Absent/Illness

Vice Mayor Larry Prues: Flood stage sign – Councilperson Tharpe was going to get a quote to repair the Flood Sign. Bob Lindhorst will reach out Councilperson Tharpe to get status of this. Councilperson Woodruff suggested we put a feeler out there to see if anyone would want to sponsor the flood sign.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann: Requests an executive session.

Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider:

- Reminder that we adopted a family.
- Quotes on website – will send samples out.

LEGISLATION read by Vice Mayor Prues

First Reading:

2023-24 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS: EMS FOR OPERATING FUNDS, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS / Pass as Emergency

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to waive 3-read rule for 2023-24 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS: EMS FOR OPERATING FUNDS, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS / Pass as Emergency, Second by Councilperson Woodruff.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to pass as emergency 2023-24 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS: EMS FOR OPERATING FUNDS, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS, second by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Councilperson Allen spoke with Fiscal Officer Joel Gilpin about this, we may not need to move all the money, but this would be the safe thing to do.

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues -

- Nothing to report.

Ryan Woodruff -

- Asked about the Trash Rate Increase email from Bobbi, has that been addressed-He asked Bobbi to check with County and Tate Monroe Water.

Richard Feldkamp - Nothing to report.

Jon Tharpe Absent.

Mary Allen -

- Last meeting Mayor Ewing brought up cancelling the 2nd meeting in December. If we need an emergency meeting, we can call one.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to cancel the last meeting in December (26th), Second by Councilperson Prues.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Met with 2 members of Personnel and Finance Committee to accept the new proposed rate increase for our Solicitor and staff.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to accept the new proposed rate increase for our Solicitor and staff, second by Councilperson Dalton.

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Yes

Per Solicitor Scott Sollmann, thank you.

Dennis Dalton -

- Wanted to point out that the 4 people that spoke earlier, none were village resident and its nice they have vested interested.
- Public Works - we need to figure a way to combined Water and Street Departments. Be better organized. Both departments are mixing up the roles. Will task Joel with what that will look like. Councilperson Woodruff said a several communities are combining their departments and cross training. Councilperson Prues likes the idea.
- It is time to start looking for an Administrator, Part, or Full Time. We put a lot on Bob's plate for not a penny more. Councilperson Prues would like to get the job description. It was noted that Bob Lindhorst has done an amazing job, we cannot thank him enough.

ORC 121.22 (G)(3)

Solicitor Scott Sollmann 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 and Counsel which represents the Village.

Councilperson Woodruff made motion to go into 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>Absent</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to come back from Executive Session, seconded 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>Absent</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

Councilperson Dalton made a motion for the Village to remain in the DuPont & 3M settlements as recommended by Counsel representing the Village in the PFA litigation, seconded by Councilperson Woodruff.

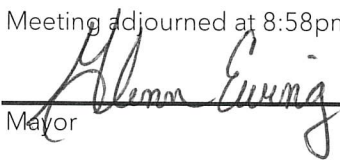
Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Absent</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

Councilperson Woodruff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm seconded by Councilperson Dalton. **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>Absent</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Yes</u>

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Mayor



Council Clerk

