

April 09, 2019

**COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers in regular session on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. **Present** Council Members: Mary Allen, Paul Vanderbosch, Melanie Slade, Richard Feldkamp, Becky Ploucha and Gary Skeene; Mayor, Ramona Carr; Village Administrator, Greg Roberts; Village Solicitor, Scott Sollmann; Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee; Interim Police Chief Mike Couch; Police Sergeant Jason Mallott and Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh. **Absent:**

**Also attending:**

Dorian Grubaugh – Sensys Gatso Group  
David Vornholt - 310 Susanna Way  
Tom and Mary Beth Wulker – Washington St.  
Bob Lees – Indian Ridge Trail  
Charles Scott – Willow St.

Minutes of the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval. Mary Allen motioned to approve, Seconded by Becky Ploucha.

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Slade: yes     | Mr. Vanderbosch: yes |
| Mr. Feldkamp: yes   | Ms. Ploucha: yes     |
| Mr. Skeene: abstain | Ms. Allen: yes       |

Clerk's note: Due to Clerk's error, "HSA" contributions was incorrectly referenced as "HAS" contributions in Paul Vanderbosch's comment relating to the Minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Visitors:**

**Bob Lees** – The Spring Classic Driving Touring and Car Show will be held April 27<sup>th</sup>, this year. We have over 26 car clubs participating in this fundraising event. Bob also feels very good about what's going on in the Village; we have the Police Department running the drug element out of town, Tom and Mary Beth Wulker building a wonderful new home which will hopefully inspire others to follow suit and Captain's Cove who will employ 10 people. Also, we have Schafer's auto restoration business looking at selling their retail items from their Front St. storefront.

**Administrator's Report**

Greg Roberts, Village Administrator:

**ODOT DIRT:** ODOT is moving part of the dirt pile from their Batavia Township location to their Old 52 site in anticipation of needing the dirt for several road shoulder restoration projects on State routes in southern Clermont County

**Knothole Fields:** The status of the license agreement with New Richmond Youth Sports organization has been discussed with the Solicitor.

**Comments:**

Paul Vanderbosch: Paul asked who will be in charge of mowing the grass and general upkeep if the lease is terminated.

Greg Roberts: Greg mentioned with the lease termination the Village would be able to look at other licensees or consider selling the property for retail use.

Scott Sollmann: Scott stated, with the New Richmond Youth Sports organization not

having made the \$1500.00 payment by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019; thus constituting a breach of the contract that Council can make a motion to terminate the New Richmond Youth Sports organization's lease.

Mary Allen: Mary asked if the Village should publicize the fact that we did not throw them out. Greg mentioned that he had received several inquiries from current coaches and other concerned citizens about the Knothole fields situation and he has assured all who have inquired that the Village had no intentions to terminate the license while New Richmond Youth Sports Organization was in good standing. Non-payment of the annual fee coupled with public Facebook posts by their president indicating NRYSO's intention to no longer use the fields warrants action to terminate the license as spelled out in the license agreement.

Motion to terminate the Knothole Fields license agreement with New Richmond Youth Sports organization. Mary Allen motioned to approve, Seconded by Melanie Slade.

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Slade: yes   | Mr. Vanderbosch: yes |
| Mr. Feldkamp: yes | Ms. Ploucha: yes     |
| Mr. Skeene: yes   | Ms. Allen: yes       |

**Spring Classic Driving Tour & Motor Show**: Street closures requested per attached map from 11am to 7pm on April 27, 2019. (The street closure will be at the intersections of Main, Walnut, Union where they intersect with Front St. and Western and Sophia where they intersect with Susanna Way.)

Motion to approve the requested street closures for the Spring Classic Driving Tour & Motor Show. Paul Vanderbosch motioned to approve, Seconded by Gary Skeene.

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Slade: yes   | Mr. Vanderbosch: yes |
| Mr. Feldkamp: yes | Ms. Ploucha: yes     |
| Mr. Skeene: yes   | Ms. Allen: yes       |

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Personnel & Finance Committee**

The Personnel & Finance Committee met on Monday, April 8, 2019. Members Present: Ramona Carr, Mayor, Lynn Baird, Fiscal Officer, Paul Vanderbosch, Council Member, Gary Skeene, Council Member, Mary Allen, Committee Chair, Interim Police Chief Mike Couch, Sergeant Jason Mallott, Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp, Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee, and Village Administrator, Greg Roberts

Guests:

#### **Discussion Topics:**

### **Finance/Budget - Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird**

1. Health Insurance Renewal - We have been discussing the health insurance renewal and were anticipating a potential 3% increase this year. We have the final numbers and there will not be any increase.
2. Transfer Legislation - Lynn discuss some transfers to the operating funds and to debt
3. Appropriation changes
  - a. Revenues for the speed cameras will be recorded as revenue and the 37% to Gatso will be listed as an expense. Although when we receive the revenue, the 37% will have already been taken out.  
Lynn is suggesting that we set up an appropriation for \$10,000 in the general fund
  - b. Income Tax
    - i. Lynn's said the income expense line needs to be increased by \$6,000 to handle the 2018 RITA Subpoena Program changes. The cost of the program in 2018 was \$5,080.

- c. We'll have a possible transfer to the Street Fund for the Vehicle Greg's planning to recommend
  - 4. Ohio Transportation Budget - The state budget runs July - June.
    - a. The gas tax increase will be approximately \$58,000
      - i. 92 % will go to the street fund
      - ii. 7 % will go to the highway fund
    - b. 2019 Local Government annual revenue is \$76,000 minus the probable \$50,000 that we'll lose due to the new calculations for the Local Government Fund recipients
    - c. The state has passed a framework for us to pass a \$5.00 Permissive License Fee, should we desire to do so in the future. Currently we receive \$18,000 that can only be used for street repairs
  - 5. Lynn mentioned that the 2018-19 audit is in progress and she expects a report later in the year.
  - 6. Lynn is still working with Clermont County on property taxes for new construction.
  - 7. In general, there is nothing blatantly out-of-line on our budget numbers.
- There were no comments from Committee members.

\*We need a motion to pay the bills: Electronic Payments 98-2019 and 120-2019-222-2019

**Village Administration — Village Administrator Greg Roberts**

1. Local Government Fund Formula —There was a very short discussion about the new formula and the anticipated loss of revenue. No concrete changes have been made nor are any expected.
2. We had a new salt truck in budget from two years ago, but not one in our current budget. Due to the condition of one of our trucks, Greg is highly recommending that we put a new truck in the current year's budget. He will work up some numbers and provide a recommendation at a later time. We'll need to make a decision with appropriate lead time to get the truck appropriately equipped before it's put into use.

**Police Department – Interim Chief Mike Couch**

**Personnel Changes**

- \*\*Chief Couch stated that Jacob Chapman has been working as a part time officer. He is recommending that we move Jacob from being a part time officer to a paid full-time officer. His starting date would be Friday, April 19, 2019 and his new hourly rate would be \$17.00 per hour. The job offer is conditional based upon his successful completion of all state required medical examination/physical tests. He would be on probation for 1 year. We need a motion to hire Jacob Chapman as a full time officer.
- \*\*\*Chief Couch also asks that we move Andrew Smith (a former police officer) to the volunteer police chaplain's role. No pay is involved in this change.

**Fire/EMS Department – Chief Vince Bee**

Personnel Changes - Chief Bee stated that Erin Walton is resigning from her position of part time Paramedic and has asked that we accept her resignation. She states scheduling issues with a new full time position in Kentucky as her reason. She leaves in good standing.

\*\*\*\*We need a motion to accept the resignation of Eric Walton.

Comments from Visitors/Guests: There were no comments.

Submitted by Committee Chairwoman, Mary Allen on April 9, 2019

**Voted on at the 04/09/2019 Council meeting as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:**

\*Motion to pay the following bills: Electronic Payments 98-2019 and 120-2019-222-2019. Mary Allen motioned to approve, Seconded by Gary Allen.

Mrs. Slade: yes                      Mr. Vanderbosch: yes  
 Mr. Feldkamp: yes                  Ms. Ploucha: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes                      Ms. Allen: yes

\*\*Motion to hire Jacob Chapman as a full-time officer at \$17.00 per hour effective April 19, 2019 with a 1 year probationary period and conditional based upon his successful completion of all state required medical examination/physical tests. Mary Allen motioned to approve; seconded by Richard Feldkamp.

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

\*\*\*Motion to accept Andrew Smith (a former police officer) to the volunteer Police Chaplain's role. No pay is involved in this change. Mary Allen motioned to approve; seconded by Melanie Slade.

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

\*\*\*\*Motion to accept the resignation of part-time paramedic Erin Walton who leaves in good standing. Mary Allen motioned to approve; seconded by Richard Feldkamp.

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

### **Safety, Laws & Rules Committee**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm. Present: Members Richard Feldkamp, Gary Skeene, Paul Vanderbosch Staff: Mayor Carr, Chief Vince Bee, Interim Police Chief Mike Couch, Sgt Jason Mallott, Administrator Greg Roberts and Zoning Inspector Andrew Gephardt.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Ordinance 2019-05 — so called nuisance ordinance
  - The committee discussed the most recent draft of the ordinance that was available. Comments were offered: Section I. a-7: all discharge of firearms are not only improper but illegal. \*Section I. a-8: should this paragraph be limited to felony drug abuse only? Section I. a-12: do we have the equipment to measure decibels? Section I. g - No one was able to define consistently and habitually. Section II discussion about the number of nuisance reports and applicable time periods.
- \*\*Interim Chief Couch reported that he, the Solicitor and Sgt Mallott are on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with respect to the two canine officers. Elko is owned by the Police Sergeant, but Patriot is owned by the Village. Details to include compensation and reimbursement for Patriot's care and feeding. A suggestion was made to have one or more of the local vets provide care at reduced or no fees and become the official canine officer treatment provider.
- A second volunteer police chaplain may be added to NRPD, at no cost to the Village.
- He reported that there are 400 backlogged violations being stored for the traffic cameras. Because they are old and no warning was sent, these 400 items will be deleted with no further action. \*\*\*We are being asked to consider a sliding scale for fines depending on the offense.
- Greg Roberts reported that he, Andrew and Fire/EMS Chief Bee are working on a formal schedule for residential inspections.
- The Duke work on BNR road seems to be on schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm. Submitted by Committee Chairman, Paul Vanderbosch

**Comments during Council pertaining to the Safety, Laws & Rules report:**

\*Paul Vanderbosch questioned Chronic Nuisance Ordinance Section I. a-8 as to whether this paragraph be limited to felony drug abuse only or include “any” drugs?

\*\*Richard Feldkamp checked out the new police canine car and stated the features are outstanding. He is very impressed by the car. Sergeant Mallott is thankful for the Bites & Stripes fundraiser which raised funds to help pay for this car.

\*\*\*Paul Vanderbosch clarified a sliding scale for fines depending on the offense includes speed, number of prior speeding tickets.

**Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee**

The committee met on Monday, April 8, 2019. Meeting began at 6:40 pm

Members present - Mary Allen Council Member, Becky Ploucha Council Member, Melanie Slade Council Member, Greg Roberts Village Administrator and Andrew Gephardt Planning and Zoning Administrator. Guest: Tom Walker Resident

Discussion Topics:

- 1) Greg will be getting in touch with Archie Ireton about the mowing/upkeep of Greenmound Cemetery.
- 2) Andrew has applied for a Connect Clermont Grant for park equipment for the Hamilton Street
- 3) Becky asked if there has been any response regarding the AARP grant for the benches. Probably will hear by late summer.
- 4) \*Update was given on Liberty Landing — still in the works — have resubmitted updated details regarding the plans to Branstetter Carroll. Had a meeting last week with them.
- 5) Becky asked for an update on the Knothole fields situation on Old 52. Greg is making plans to discuss the lease circumstances with our solicitor, Scott Sollmann.
- 6) Becky asked about an update on the new water meter reading system. Greg said that it has been narrowed down to two manufacturers and has asked for proposals from both and then will compare the two. He also mentioned that though this is a \$250,000 project the new meters will allow for more accurate readings and taking less time to read, therefore, giving the men more time to maintain the plant.
- 7) Mary brought up the idea of creating green spaces in the village to help control/capture back water due to flooding and/or the run off of water from heavy rain. Asked if anyone had ever researched this or was aware of this being done by other communities in the tristate area.
- 8) \*\*Discussed the purchase of a new salt truck in the near future to replace the 2005 truck that is experiencing a lot of mechanical issues. Cost could run approximately \$70,000. Checking on whether it is in the budget or have to possibly finance in order to replace before this winter .

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm Submitted by Chairperson, Melanie Slade on April 9, 2019

**Comments during Council pertaining to the Public Works Committee Meeting report:**

\*Gary Skeene asked Greg what Liberty Landing is. Greg Roberts explained this is the name of the area between the Front St. wall and the river.

\*\* Richard Feldkamp asked if we are going to buy the same size salt truck or a larger one. Greg Roberts stated this was open for discussion although with our trying to stay within the \$70,000.00 budget range it will probably be the same size truck.

### **Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee**

This provides a summary for the Economic Development Committee Meetings conducted on March 26, 2019 and on April 9, 2019.

**Present at both meetings:** Council members: Melanie Slade; Village Administrator, Greg Roberts; Mary Allen, Committee Chair; NROBA: David Vornholt

Discussion Topics for both meetings:

- Mary sent an email to the members to confirm they were planning to remain involved in the work. Betsy Mitchell has decided to drop out due to other commitments she has made.
- Members present shared some very high level ideas for the 2019/2020 Action Plan
- During Jan. March, the Committee has been meeting once per month. There was discussion related to restarting the bi-weekly Committee meetings beginning in April and continuing through December 2019
- There was a brief NROBA Update from David Vornholt

Submitted April 9, 2019 by Committee Chairwoman, Mary Allen.

### **Department Heads:**

#### **Interim Police Chief - Mike Couch**

- Chief Couch wore the new police vest to show Council.
- The Chief stated K-9 Officer, Patriot, received state certification after completing 200 hours of narcotics training; he will be ready to start his career on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Chief Couch is very proud of Patriot and asks Council to approve a swearing-in of the K-9 Officer. Paul Vanderbosch replied that he would like to see an event introducing Patriot to the community.
- The e-ticket program will be online by the end of the month.
- In mid-May, Chief Couch plans on visiting the Great Oaks police class set to graduate June 10<sup>th</sup>, to speak about considering applying for jobs with the Village.
- The New Richmond Police Department continue to work hard to get drug dealers off the street and out of New Richmond; the Department has built such strong cases these criminals are just pleading out. Great work from our Police Department!

**Fire Chief - Vince Bee** – Nothing to report

**Ramona Carr, Mayor:** Nothing to report

**Scott Sollmann, Solicitor:** Everything is in place for the speed camera program.

#### **Comments:**

Paul Vanderbosch asked if the program has the capability to keep track of repeat offenders.

Dorian Grubaugh replied that the software does have capability to keep track of repeat offenders.

**Theresa Leigh, Clerk of Council:** Nothing to report

### **Legislation**

#### **First Reading:**

**ORDINANCE 2019-06 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING UTILIZATION OF TRAFFIC LAW PHOTO-MONITORING DEVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETECTING TRAFFIC LAW VIOLATIONS WITHIN VILLAGE**

**RESOLUTION 2019-06 AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF REVISED DRAFT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, DATED 2018-2037, FOR THE ADAMS-CLERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**Second Reading:**

**RESOLUTION 2019-04 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE FOLLOWING FUNDS TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION 2019-05 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS: STREET FUND \$60,000; CEMETERY FUND \$21,000; POLICE FUND \$235,000; FIRE/EMS FUND \$285,000**

**Third Reading:**

**ORDINANCE 2019-04 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF APPORTIONMENT OF THE UNDIVIDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND.**

Motion to adopt *ORDINANCE 2019-04 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF APPORTIONMENT OF THE UNDIVIDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND*. Gary Skeene motioned to approve, Seconded by Mary Allen.

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Slade: yes   | Mr. Vanderbosch: yes |
| Mr. Feldkamp: yes | Ms. Ploucha: yes     |
| Mr. Skeene: yes   | Ms. Allen: yes       |

**ORDINANCE 2019-05 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND ENACTING REGULATIONS ON CHRONIC NUISANCES.**

**Comments:**

Richard Feldkamp: Richard said there were a few things we really didn't like but Council can always go back and address those at a later time.

Paul Vanderbosch: Paul stated if it takes 3 complaints in 90 days then it would be 6 to 8 months before anything happens.

Scott Sollmann: Scott said this Ordinance allows habitual nuisances to be addressed.

Paul Vanderbosch: Paul asked what defines "chronic" and "habitual".

Scott Sollmann: Scott stated 'chronic' and 'habitual' would be defined as repeat offenses.

Motion to adopt *ORDINANCE 2019-05 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND ENACTING REGULATIONS ON CHRONIC NUISANCES*. Richard Feldkamp motioned to approve, Seconded by Mary Allen.

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Slade: yes   | Mr. Vanderbosch: yes |
| Mr. Feldkamp: yes | Ms. Ploucha: yes     |
| Mr. Skeene: yes   | Ms. Allen: yes       |

**CALL OF MEMBERS:**

**Vanderbosch** – During the Safety meeting we discussed where the drug houses are in the Village. Everyone knows which houses they are but what is being done?

**Comments:**

Sergeant Mallott stated we (*the New Richmond Police Department*) are shutting these places down.

Interim Police Chief Mike Couch noted that there are a few places being watched right now.

Scott Sollmann jokingly stated we should see a decrease given the Village now has 2 drug dogs, but seriously advised that the Chronic Nuisance law will put owners on notice that renting to habitual drug users will not be tolerated.

Greg Roberts mentioned that for years he had heard that various County social service agencies were directing clients to New Richmond. He subsequently has learned that certain renters that have a difficult time finding housing learn through the grapevine that there are landlords in New Richmond who do not do thorough background checks. Greg believes that this is one of the main reasons we experience repeat problems at the same rental properties in the Village.

**Allen** – I spoke with a contact at Frisch’s Corporate office and told them the Village would love to keep Frisch’s in the Village.

**Ploucha** – Nothing to report

**Skeene** - Nothing to report

**Feldkamp** – Nothing to report

**Slade** - Nothing to report

**Comments from audience:**

David Vornholt: David regaled the audience with the background story of Captain Wagner. Captain Wagner was born in Tennessee in 1910. At 20 years old, he travelled via freight train and disembarked in Covington where he happened to see the Island Queen on the river. Captain Wagner thought the Island Queen was the most beautiful thing he ever saw and actually got a job on the boat.

Gary Skeene motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM, seconded by Mary Allen.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk of Council**