

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of *New Richmond Village Council*

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held October 27, 2020 20

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers and via Zoom teleconference in regular session on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 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, Larry Prues, and Richard Feldkamp Administration: Village Administrator, Greg Roberts  
Department Heads: Police Chief Mike Couch **Present via Zoom teleconference:** Mayor Glenn Ewing Council Members: Mary Allen, Melanie Slade, and Becky Ploucha Administration: Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh; Department Heads: Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee **Absent:** Asst. Fire Chief Tim Feldkamp, Sgt. Jason Mallott, and Solicitor Scott Sollmann

### **Guests present via Zoom teleconference:**

Todd Wuerdeman - resident  
David Vornholt - resident  
Nancy Swats - resident  
Megan Alley - Clermont Sun  
Lee Ann Watson - Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board  
Mindy & Ed Horgan - resident  
Ryan Woodruff - resident

Vice-Mayor Mary Allen opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Lee Ann Watson**, Associate Director of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board, gave a brief presentation on the importance of renewing the .75 mil levy which is on the November 3 ballot. **Renewing the levy will NOT increase taxes;** the \$21.91 per \$100,000. valuation brings in about \$3.1 million a year.

The levy funding provides a safety net for county residents needing mental health and/or alcohol/drug services who do not have insurance or who have insurance with a high deductible. The levy helps by funding treatment and prevention services including school-based mental health services in all districts including New Richmond, as well as a mobile crisis team who assists local police departments, and a 24-hour crisis hotline to assist those having mental health issues.

Councilmember Ploucha thanked Lee Ann for coming. Councilmember Feldkamp said he stands behind this worthwhile service. Chief Couch agreed it is a wonderful resource for the Police Department and appreciates their support. Chief Bee said they are a fantastic service and hopes everyone supports them.

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Minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to approve Minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 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

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

**Personnel & Finance Committee Report from meeting held 10-26-2020**

- Held a brief, high-level, discussion regarding the distillery.

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

- Continues working with the Department Heads on how to effectively use the COVID Cares money we have received. Once decided, there will be appropriation changes.
- Next year's temporary appropriations will be presented at the first meeting in November. Temporary appropriations allow for spending through the end of March 2021, when passage of final appropriations is required.
- The Personnel & Finance Committee reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of September 2020; we need a motion to pay these bills. \*

**Village Administrator Greg Roberts:**

- Asks for a motion to complete the hiring process of Thomas Welch for the full-time wastewater/utility department position with a starting rate of pay of \$12.07 effective October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Utility Supervisor Ken Shearwood is still recuperating from his recent illness. His return date is still to be determined.
- Continues to work with Solicitor Scott Sollmann on the next steps to move forward on the use of the safety cameras on US 52.

**Police Chief Mike Couch:**

- Asked that Officer Jake Chapman be officially removed from probation; his probation date ended September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. His hourly rate of pay will change to the standard police officer pay rate (which he did not have at that time). \*\*\*
- Is working with Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird to ensure paperwork processing out five employees was completed.
- He and Sgt. Mallott have located a replacement vehicle for the one involved in a crash along US 52 a few weeks ago when Officer Chapman was outside the vehicle. The replacement cost will be very close to the amount we will be receiving from the insurance claim.

**Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:**

- Asked for a motion to accept Miranda Vearil's resignation from the full-time firefighter/paramedic position effective October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. She leaves in good standing. \*\*\*\*

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- Requested approval for the hiring of Vince Welch and Kylie Moore for the position of part-time firefighter/EMT-B. The starting date will be October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the hourly rate of \$12.60. They will serve the standard one-year probation period per Village policy. \*\*\*\*\*
- Requested approval for an increase in pay for Cameron Pelzel. He has met the requirements and passed the appropriate testing to be reclassified into the position of part-time firefighter/paramedic. His new rate of pay is \$13.65 effective August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. \*\*\*\*\*
- Is accepting applications for a part-time firefighter/EMT position and a full-time firefighter/paramedic position.

Guests:

- Councilmember Prues asked about the possibility of minimizing the curve on US 52 where the four lanes turn into two. Administrator Roberts stated the roundabout and the planned improvements in that project would also affect that curve. Roberts also stated that the curve in question is outside of the corporate limits of the village.

Items voted on at the 10-27-2020 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:

\* Councilmember Allen motioned to pay the September 2020 bills; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

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

\*\* Councilmember Slade motioned to hire Tom Welch for a full-time wastewater/utility department position with a starting rate of pay of \$12.07 effective October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020; seconded by Councilmember Allen.

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

\*\*\* Councilmember Allen motioned to remove Officer Jake Chapman from probation and change his rate of pay to the standard police officer pay rate effective September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

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

\*\*\*\* Councilmember Allen motioned to accept Miranda Vearil's resignation from the full-time firefighter/paramedic position effective October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. She leaves in good standing; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

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

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Mr. Skeene: yes                      Mr. Feldkamp: yes

\*\*\*\*\* Councilmember Allen motioned to approve the hiring of Vince Welch and Kylie Moore for the position of part-time firefighter/EMT-B. The starting date will be October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the hourly rate of \$12.60. They will serve the standard one-year probation period per Village policy; seconded by Councilmember Slade.

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

\*\*\*\*\* Councilmember Allen motioned to approve an increase in pay for Cameron Pelzel. He has met the requirements and passed the appropriate testing to be reclassified into the position of part-time firefighter/paramedic. His new rate of pay is \$13.65 effective August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

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

### **Safety, Laws & Rules Committee report from meeting held 10-26-2020**

Administrator Greg Roberts provided a report for Planning & Zoning Director Andrew Gephardt regarding the steps being taken to tow junk and/or unlicensed vehicles as well as what is being done with the house located at 207 Front St. Police Chief Mike Couch: reported another drug conviction at the apartments located at 1070 Bethel New Richmond Rd. Several police officers will foot patrol on Halloween. Officer Frasure will appear in court for the Moscow shooting that took place approximately a year ago.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee stated the department will be at the intersections on Halloween. Attended a meeting at the school to discuss parents' responsibility for parties held at their homes where drinking occurs.

### **Comments made and items voted on at the 10-27-2020 Council meeting after the Safety, Laws, Rules Committee report:**

Councilmember Ploucha asked if New Richmond police officers will be present at the New Richmond polling locations to ensure social distancing. Chief Couch said a county officer will be present and NRPD officers will travel by the polls as well.

### **Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report from meeting held 10-26-2020**

- Administrator Greg Roberts gave a brief update on the ORRT Rivertown Review team meeting that took place October 14<sup>th</sup>. A landscape architect with the National Park Service has offered to do a free sketch of his conception for our riverfront. The Village will be receiving 10 free bike racks to use in the Village courtesy of a connection with the ORRT.
- Recently met with Lance Sizemore and Allen Freeman via Zoom to discuss the purchase of the T-box property, which is still in the preliminary phase.

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- Purchasers have closed on the Clasgens property and are now in the process of looking into financing to build. The preliminary site plans look good per Ohio EPA. They are willing to work with the Village on the parking/boat launch plans.
- Finalizing the selling plans for the knothole fields and the property on 132.

Comments made at the 10-27-2020 Council meeting after the Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report:

**Economic Development Committee report from meeting held 10-27-2020**

- There are 18 Live Love Visit t-shirts left: 13 women's t-shirts and 5 XX men's t-shirts
- Reviewed highlights of the National Park Service and Ohio River Recreation Trail meeting held October 14<sup>th</sup>. Currently working on short-term and long-term ideas to pursue.

Comments made at the 10-27-2020 Council meeting after the Economic Development Committee report:

David Vornholt has talked with the owners of the new distillery.

## DEPARTMENT HEADS

**Village Administrator Greg Roberts:**

- Wished Mayor Ewing a speedy recovery.
- Commended Ed Horgan and Joby Houck for the fantastic job rehabbing and adhering to the historical 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture at 222 Front St.
- The Village received 10 free bike racks from the Devou Good Project, for which we are very grateful. The location of the racks is still being determined.
- New Richmond was the first community to participate in the Rivertown Review program offered through the Ohio River Recreational Trail and the National Park Service.

**Police Chief Mike Couch:**

- Provided crime data for the past two weeks including 234 calls for service and 2 theft reports
- The department has increased residential, business and school checks

**Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee** said his thoughts and prayers are with Mayor Ewing.

**Mayor Glenn Ewing:** Absent due to illness

**Solicitor, Scott Sollmann:** Absent due to prior work engagement

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

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**LEGISLATION**

First Reading:

**RESOLUTION 2020-21** A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF ALL FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FUND PURSUANT TO H.B. 481 TO COVER COSTS CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 5001 OF THE CARES ACT

Second Reading:

Third Reading:

**CALL OF MEMBERS:**

**Larry Prues** – Nothing to report

**Mary Allen** – Nothing to report

**Becky Ploucha** – Nothing to report

**Gary Skeene** - Nothing to report

**Melanie Slade** – Yesterday, on my 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, my granddaughter, Kennedy, was born.

**Richard Feldkamp** - Nothing to report

Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

**David Vornholt** – David, along with Betsy Mitchell and Mindy Horgan from the business community met with Tracey Miller, the new Superintendent of New Richmond Exempted Village School District. Councilmember Mary Allen will also be part of this group. Too, Brewster Rhodes and the Ohio Recreation group were really pleased with all the outside recreation activities listed on the Susanna’s Guest House website.

Councilmember Prues motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

*Glenn Ewing*  
Mayor

*Wheresa Leigh*  
Clerk of Council