

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held

February 9, 2021

20

February 9th, 2021

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers and via Zoom teleconference in regular session on Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 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: Mayor Glenn Ewing Council Members: Richard Feldkamp; Gary Skeene Administration: Village Administrator Greg Roberts; Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh Department Heads: Police Chief Mike Couch
Present via Zoom teleconference: Council Members: Mary Allen; Becky Ploucha; Larry Prues; Melanie Slade Department Heads: Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee Additional personnel: Sgt. Jason Mallott Absent: Solicitor, Scott Sollmann (due to prior work engagement)

Guests present via Zoom teleconference:

Ryan Woodruff – resident
Joby Houck – business owner
Nancy Swatts – resident
Joe Brumley – Showboat Majestic owner
Robin Knecht – resident and business owner
Bob Lees – resident and business owner
Ed and Mindy Horgan – residents and business owners
Marsha Delaney – resident
Sharon (last name not provided)
Scott Kenkel – resident
Carol Katterson – resident
David Vornholt – resident and business owner

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the pledge, Mayor Ewing introduced Mr. Joe Brumley, owner of the Showboat Majestic.

Mr. Brumley thanked New Richmond for being so accommodating and stated he looks forward to bringing the Showboat Majestic to the Village.

Comments: Council welcomed Mr. Brumley and relayed how much everyone is looking forward to working with him. Administrator Roberts welcomed Mr. Brumley back home (Joe lived on Augusta St. but moved from New Richmond after the '97 flood). Councilmember Ploucha asked if the DORA will extend to where the boat is moored. Administrator Roberts replied that it would and followed up with a brief description of what a DORA entails.

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to authorize Mayor Ewing to enter into a ten-year license agreement with Joe Brumley for the purpose of mooring the

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Showboat Majestic on the banks of the Village of New Richmond Ohio; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Minutes of the January 26th, 2021 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Prues motioned to approve Minutes of the January 26th, 2021 Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Slade.

Comments: Councilmember Allen requested the statement(s) made by the Clerk of Council immediately after the return from executive session be struck and replaced with "discussion ensued".

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: abstain

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 02-08-2021.

Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird reported on the following:

- Provided clarification on utility revenue: Utility revenue is classified as an enterprise fund. Taxes are not used to support our utilities; nor can utility revenues be used toward supporting the Village.
- Income tax money is roughly divided up as follows: 9% toward the Cemetery, 43% toward police services and 48% toward Fire/EMS services
- The Clermont County Treasurer provided New Richmond is the worst in the County as far as property tax delinquencies and that one of our largest delinquencies has filed another bankruptcy.
- The Personnel & Finance Committee reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of January 2021; we need a motion to pay these bills*

Village Administrator Greg Roberts reported on the following:

- The Clerk of Council's position and the Police Officer's position have been posted.
- The 132-property sale notice has been posted; final date to submit a bid is March 12th.

Police Chief Mike Couch reported the following:

- Charlie Saylor has accepted a position with Goshen Township. He leaves in good standing and will be missed. This is effective February 21st. Chief Couch is actively looking to replace him**
- The 2 replacement cars have been ordered from Chicago.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee reported on the following:

- Requests the reclassification of Captain Thomas Mitchell from full time status to part time effective February 25th; with no change to his hourly rate. He is leaving to go to Monroe. ***

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- The 1993 E-One (Engine 36) fire truck needs a new onboard battery charger costing approximately \$470.00 and an auto pump compressor rebuild costing approximately \$170.00 (excluding labor).

Items voted on at the 02-09-2021 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:

*Councilmember Allen motioned to approve paying the January 2021 bills; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

** Councilmember Allen motioned to approve the resignation of Officer Charlie Saylor effective 02-21-2021; he leaves in good standing; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

*** Councilmember Allen motioned to approve the reclassification of Captain Thomas Mitchell from full-time status to part-time with no change in hourly rate, effective 02-25-2021; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Safety, Laws & Rules Committee report from meeting held 02-08-2021.

- Administrator Greg Roberts reported the no-parking signs are now installed at Union Station.
- Police Chief Mike Couch relayed how Office Saylor's pay increased 44% with the move to his new job****
- Chair Richard Feldkamp reported on the meeting with Michael Halpern of MuniReg; a company that helps communities address vacant and abandoned properties as well as foreclosures; requests a motion to retain his services*****

Comments made and items voted on at the 02-09-2021 Council meeting after the Safety, Laws, Rules Committee report:

****Councilmember Feldkamp made note that smaller (*police/fire*) departments like ours are taking a back seat to bigger departments and we may need to think about a public safety levy to address this. Discussion ensued.

***** Councilmember Feldkamp made the motion to retain Michael Halpern of MuniReg; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Comments: Councilmember Prues asked that the motion be rescinded until the Administrator receives a written contract from Mr. Halpern. All concurred.

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Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report from meeting held 02-08-2021.

- A vote took place and Councilmember Prues was appointed Chairman of the Public Works Committee.
- Republic will send Administrator Roberts a bid for trash collection.
- Concerns from several residents regarding the safety of Susanna Way as a one-way street were raised.
- The mooring and future power requirements of the Showboat Majestic was discussed.

Economic Development Committee report from meeting held 02-09-2021.

- Review/remind members of the 3R's that were part of our continuing Vision/Mission and Initiative Documents. The 3R's activities and decisions that relate to leveraging the river, recreation, and our rural (small town charm). Recent and upcoming activities that relate to those:
 - Recent addition to the Ohio River Recreation Trail (ORRT)
 - Allen Felts was invited to talk about his interest in putting a hot dog cart on Front Street. The discussion with Allen yielded a robust and fun discussion about his intentions and ideas and those of the committee members. We also decided that we need to develop a mobile food vendor ordinance for council to adopt.
- David Vornholt, Chairman of the NROBA, provided an update on their recent meeting.
- Carol Katterson, Secretary of the NROBA, provided information about a coffee shop that is coming soon to New Richmond.
- Andrew Gephardt mentioned that Taco Bell seems very interested in the former Frisch's property on Old US 52.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- Thanked Mayor Ewing for his part in making the move of the Showboat Majestic to New Richmond happen.
- Announced the \$25,000. state capital budget award will go toward our riverbank plans.
- Mark Griever petitioned to annex land into the Village to build 99 homes.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- Currently working a few workers comp for employees involved in the car accidents.
- Six department employees have now received their second vaccine.
- Provided year-to-date data including overall crime reports are down 14% and traffic citations are up 57%. Business and residential checks, as well as calls for service, are up.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- Gave a big thank you to both Officer John Amole for his assistance with a very critical weekend run and to Officer Charlie Saylor for his assistance with a forced entry run today. Together, the Fire/EMS department and the Police Department make a very strong team.

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Comments: Councilmember Feldkamp thanked the EMS crew for doing a fantastic job three weeks ago when called to his residence; they literally saved my life.

Mayor Glenn Ewing: Mayor Ewing made the following appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA):

- o Tom Wulker retroactive to December 2019; with a term expiring 12-31-2023.
- o Art Galea retroactive to January 2021 with a term expiring 12-31-2024.

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve the appointment of Tom Wulker and Art Galea to the BZA; Tom Wulker's term is retroactive to December 2019 and will expire on 12-31-2023; Art Galea's term is retroactive to January 2021 and will expire 12-31-2024; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann: Absent due to prior work engagement

Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh: Nothing to report

LEGISLATION

First Reading:

RESOLUTION 2021-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUND(S): CEMETERY FUND 2031 \$41,000. POLICE FUND 2901 \$213,000. EMS FUND 2903 \$240,000.

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 2021-02; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to approve RESOLUTION 2021-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOLLOWING FUND(S): CEMETERY FUND 2031 \$41,000. POLICE FUND 2901 \$213,000. EMS FUND 2903 \$240,000; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

RESOLUTION 2021-05 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE SEWER AND WATER

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FUNDS TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 2021-05; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve RESOLUTION 2021-05 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE SEWER AND WATER FUNDS TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; 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:

ORDINANCE 2021-02 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE 2021 APPROPRIATIONS *(This legislation is for the 2021 permanent appropriations)*

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve **ORDINANCE 2021-02** AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE 2021 APPROPRIATIONS; seconded by Councilmember Ploucha.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

RESOLUTION 2021-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2021 OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR WHICH IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED, BY INTERNET AUCTION, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 721.15(D)

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve RESOLUTION 2021-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2021 OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR WHICH IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED, BY INTERNET AUCTION, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 721.15(D); seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

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Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues – I am very appreciative of the fine work being done by the Police and Fire departments, as well as the Street and Water/Utility departments and the administration; all could use more funding. New Richmond recently passed a school levy, and the county auditor has raised property values. Instead of another levy, it might be better to focus on continuing efforts to bring more business into the community.

Mary Allen – I would like to reiterate the positive comments made regarding the Kroger pick-up service. Too, I would like to recognize Mayor Ewing's great job in getting the Showboat Majestic in New Richmond.

Becky Ploucha – Nothing to report

Gary Skeene - Nothing to report

Melanie Slade – Nothing to report

Richard Feldkamp – Years ago I received a quote of \$7,000 to bring the Showboat Majestic to New Richmond for a weekend. Mooring the Majestic in New Richmond is wonderful news.

Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

David Vornholt inquired if the Showboat Majestic 10-year license agreement was publicly advertised and if there were three readings before the agreement was approved by Council. Administrator Roberts stated the answer to both Mr. Vornholt's questions was *no*; he went on to say our Solicitor approved the process taken by the Village in matters of the agreement.

Bob Lees stated he will miss Charlie Saylor and how his leaving does show we have a need. Bob went on to say individuals who owe on property taxes may want to think about selling their properties to someone who will pay their taxes. He asked for prayers for his brother Chuck Vogel, who is not doing well with COVID.

Nancy Swatts asked for a quick recap on how the Showboat Majestic coming to New Richmond came about. Administrator Roberts provided details, including the Showboat Majestic is on the National Historic Register and is the last of its kind in the country. Mayor Ewing said the first show will be April 1st.

Ryan Woodruff thanked Mayor Ewing and Council for their work bringing the Showboat Majestic to New Richmond.

Joby Houck is looking forward to the hot dog stand and thanked everyone for their work.

Robin Knecht is very excited about the Showboat Majestic. She also thanked the Fire Department for their quick response to her fire.

Marsha Delaney is excited about the Showboat Majestic and asked if there are plans to enhance the steps leading down to where the boat will be moored. Administrator Roberts said there are two proposals for re-engineering this area with the state capital funds recently awarded, including mooring for bigger boats and an ADA compliant ramp.

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Allen.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

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Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk of Council