

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held March 9, 2021 20

March 9th, 2021

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers and via Zoom teleconference in regular session on Tuesday March 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: Larry Prues, Gary Skeene, and Richard Feldkamp Administration: Administrator Greg Roberts; Village Clerk, Theresa Leigh Department Heads: Police Chief Mike Couch **Present via Zoom teleconference:** Council Members: Becky Ploucha, Melanie Slade, and Mary Allen 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:

David Vornholt
Tyler Noble
Carol Katterson
Nancy Swats
Ryan Woodruff
Kathy Fuchs
Lance Sizemore
Chris Beckman
Scot Kenkel
Kathy Waldreck
Robin Knecht
William Marsh
Tyler Bullock
Marsha Delaney
Mindy Horgan
Joe Peak
Seth Fuchs
Spencer Fuchs

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Communications: Tyler Noble, a New Richmond resident and member of New Richmond Troop 155, presented his Eagle Scout project to the Mayor and Council for their consideration and support. For his project, Tyler would like to place a memorial honoring Edgar R. Aston, a New Richmond resident who served in the U.S. Army in both the American Civil War and the American Indian Wars. The memorial will consist of two plaques on a concrete pillar explaining who Mr. Aston was and his actions which earned him the Medal of Honor. Council voiced

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their approval and asked Tyler to touch base with Administrator Roberts regarding the best location for the memorial.

Councilmember Prues motioned to approve Tyler Noble's Eagle Scout project proposal; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Minutes of the February 23rd, 2021 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve Minutes of the February 23rd, 2021 Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Slade.

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 03-08-2021.

Finance/Budget - Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird

- The 2019-2020 audit is in process. Because the Village has had really good previous results, the State chooses an independent audit form and allows for the use of a 3rd party independent audit firm. The cost for the two-year audit will be less than \$7000, compared to \$30,000 we have paid in the past.
- First half property taxes are expected at the end of March.
- Local income taxes appear to remain as expected.
- Public Entities Pool (PEP) insurance cost is \$52,117 vs. last year's cost of \$45,671. This all-inclusive policy covers items including Village liability, property insurance, police cruisers. Chief Couch noted the recent auto accidents involving our police cruisers, legal proceedings related to former Officer Henderson, and the speed cameras may have contributed to the increase.
- Our Rumpke contract rate increased by 3% effective March 2021; rates will increase as well, as new homes are built.
- Our medical insurance renewal reflects a 12% increase. Currently we offer two plans: a traditional plan and a high deductible plan, with employees paying 25% and the Village 75% towards the cost of the premiums.
- The Personnel & Finance Committee reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of February 2021; we need a motion to pay these bills. *

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- Kathy Fuchs has been hired to replace Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh.**
- We have received a \$15,000. EPA grant for an electric vehicle charging station. We will be able to charge people for charging their vehicle.

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- He and the Street Dept. are maintaining records related to the flood clean-up. The sewer plant survived the flood with only a few minor repairs needed. The Fire Dept. is cleaning up on Susanna Way and on other streets in the Village where needed.
- He will talk to the county prosecutor and commissioners to discuss what else can be done about our delinquent property taxes.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- Working on filling the part-time position
- Scheduled extra officers to address increase in visitors during the flood.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- Requests the reclassification of Joshua Hughes from part-time firefighter/paramedic to full-time firefighter/paramedic at an hourly rate of \$15.75 effective March 12, 2021. Joshua will pay into the Ohio Police and Fire Retirement Fund. He will serve a one-year probation according to Village policies and procedures. ***

Items voted on at the 03-09-2021 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:

* Councilmember Allen motioned to pay the February 2021 bills; 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 hire Kathy Fuchs as Clerk of Council at 24 hours with a rate of pay of \$15.00 retroactive to February 23, 2021. Additional hours may be approved by the Mayor; 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 reclassify Joshua Hughes from part-time firefighter/paramedic to full-time firefighter/paramedic at an hourly rate of \$15.75 effective March 12, 2021. Joshua will pay into the Ohio Police and Fire Retirement Fund. He will serve a one-year probation according to Village policies and procedures.; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

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 03-08-2021.

Administrator Greg Roberts:

- Discussed food cart/food truck permit ordinance up for a first reading tonight.
- Will see that the new flood plan is uploaded to the Village website and requested everyone familiarize themselves with the new plan.
- Discussed campground tax.

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Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- Relayed the flood plan has been updated.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- Runs are up compared to this same time last year. Advised an increase in the size of the force will be needed if the population continues to increase at its current pace.

Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report from meeting held 03-08-2021.

Discussion around:

- Parking space striping on Front St. and Susanna Way
- Republic and Rumpke trash collection bids; bid to include providing 96-gallon containers for households beginning fiscal year 2022.
- Grant for boat ramps at August St. and Quarry St.
- Ashburn subdivision with 99 homes and PUD submitted for an additional 49 homes.
- Muni Reg fee options (the ordinance can be populated either as a percentage or as a flat fee to Muni Reg with remainder to municipality):
 - Keep fee at \$150 where Muni Reg retains the entire fee – with the benefit being the fee remains significantly lower; the disadvantage is no funds are transferred to municipality.
 - Fee greater than \$150 where \$150 compensation to Muni Reg and the remainder to the municipality
 - Escalating fee schedule - \$150 compensation to Muni Reg, remainder to municipality.
- Knothole fields, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) option
- Majestic; Skipper's license dispute

Comments made at the 03-09-2021 Council meeting after the Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report:

Councilmember Feldkamp mentioned he would like to see Front St., from Sycamore St. to Hotel St., striped for parking; Councilmember Prues asked Greg to make this happen.

Economic Development Committee report from meeting held 03-09-2021.

- Mary and Mike Findlan will work together to update the *Welcome to New Richmond* brochure. They will touch base with Joe Brumley for his thoughts on advertising the Majestic.
- Discussed continuing the Live, Love, Visit marketing campaign via an ad in the Clermont Sun's Seasons insert as well as in a mailer to new residents.
- Bob Lees sent an email to Councilmember Allen discussing the need for Village storytellers via an ambassador program.
- David Vornholt relayed that Gary Blanton, new partial owner of Skippers, joined the New Richmond Ohio Business Association (NROBA) and has shared some concerns about working with the Village.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

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- Sunesis Construction applied for a PUD which could result in 48 new homes to build out one of the unfinished phases of the Riverview Bluffs Subdivision located at the dead end of River Valley Blvd. A public hearing to discuss the proposed PUD will be held prior to the Planning Commission on April 1st.
- Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend Village Council accept the PUD application by HPA Development with the following conditions: 1) developer will construct a fence at the stub end of the main street at the property line of the adjoining property (2) The developer will work with the Village Administrator and others in conducting a traffic study of the Bethel-New Richmond Road corridor from Union Station to Regatta. A second public hearing will be scheduled and communicated by public notice and letters to adjoining property owners prior to Council voting on formal acceptance of the PUD application.
- Thanked Theresa Leigh for her service as our outgoing Clerk of Council and wished her the best. Please welcome Kathy Fuchs who has shadowed Theresa over the past couple weeks. Kathy comes to the Village with a wealth of municipal experience serving Wayne Township and Clermont County Municipal Court.
- I echo Mayor Ewing's comments in his letter in the March 4th edition of the Clermont Sun mentioning the current and pending additions to the New Richmond business community and encourage residents both old and new to "buy local" and support those businesses.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- Reported February year-to-date crime data including: a 38% decrease in total crime reports, a 22% increase in NRFD and NREMS assists, and a 1400% increase in business checks.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- Glad to see the Mayor back after his surgery.
- Thanked Theresa for her service.
- Thanked the New Richmond Police Dept, the water department guys as well as the Street Dept. for the fantastic job assisting during the recent flood.
- We have had 125 runs year-to-date; 92 EMS runs and 33 fire runs.

Mayor Glenn Ewing: Mayor Ewing's surgery went well; he is sore but up and around. He appreciates all the support he has received.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann (absent due to prior work engagement)

Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh: Welcomed Kathy and expressed what a great job she has done already.

LEGISLATION

First Reading:

Ordinance 2021-04 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATIONS

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Councilmember Skeene made the motion to suspend the three-reading-rule for Ordinance 2021-04; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

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

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-04 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATIONS; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

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

Ordinance 2021-05 AN ORDINANCE REGULATING MOBILE FOOD UNITS

Second Reading:

Third Reading:

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues – Nothing to report
Mary Allen – Welcomed Mayor Ewing back. Thanked Theresa for her service. A note is needed in the next newsletter to remind people about open burning.
Becky Ploucha – Welcomed Kathy. Totally impressed by the Mayor coming in for Council so soon.
Gary Skeene - Nothing to report
Melanie Slade – Welcomed Kathy. So happy the Mayor’s surgery went well.
Richard Feldkamp – Congratulated Councilmember Mary Allen on her plan long ago to bring 500 new homes to the Village and now that has happened – even more than expected!

Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

Tyler Noble thanked everyone for listening to and approving his Eagle Scout project proposal.
Scot Kenkel asked how to join the NROBA. David Vornholt asked him to call either Mindy or himself.
David Vornholt thanked Theresa and welcomed the Mayor back. Also, urged safety be given top priority in light of the 400 additional cars and 400 additional kids from the new Union Station development.
Lance Sizemore voiced his appreciation for the strong support of small businesses in New Richmond. The new gym is open now and expects the Ace Hardware to open in early May.
Joe Peak is a new resident and just wanted to stop in and say hi.

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes
Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes
Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

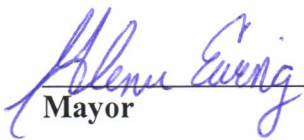
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Mayor

for Theresa Leigh
Karwyn Fuchs
Clerk of Council