**April 27, 2021**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers and via Zoom teleconference in regular session on Tuesday, April 27, 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.

Roll Call was taken, and the following Council members were present:

Mary Allen Zoom Richard Feldkamp present Becky Ploucha present

Larry Prues present Gary Skeene present Melanie Slade Zoom

**Present in Council Chambers:** Mayor Glenn Ewing Council Members: Gary Skeene, Larry Prues, Richard Feldkamp, and Becky Ploucha Administration: Village Administrator, Greg Robert, Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs Department Heads: Police Chief Mike Couch. **Present via Zoom teleconference**: Council Members: Mary Allen and Melanie Slade; Administration: Solicitor, Scott Sollmann Department Heads: Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee; Additional personnel: Asst. Fire Chief Tim Feldkamp; Police Sgt. Jason Mallott.

**Guests present in Council Chambers (\* wish to speak):**

**\*** William R. Marsh - 2423 Country Place,

\* Donna G Prues - 1059 Bethel New Richmond Rd,

\* Lori Wahl - 1240 Bethel New Richmond Rd

\* Greg Wahl – 1240 Bethel New Richmond Rd

\* Karl Kern – 2486 Country Place

\* Sarah Adams – 2426 Country Place

\* Ryan Adams – 2426 Country Place

\* Mary Reid – 1209 Bethel New Richmond Rd

\* Linda Buehler – 2462 Country Place

\* Kathy Reid – 2470 Country Place

**Guests present via Zoom teleconference**:

Theresa Leigh, Chris Bowman, David Vornholt, Charles Bucking, Rodney Henry, Sharon Sellars, Mandy Jenkins, Nancy Swats, Sharon Stevens, Graham Parlin, Mindy Horgan, Carol Katterman, Ryan, Joe, (unidentified surnames)

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(\*) Minutes of the New Richmond Council Public Hearing on the Ashburn Woods Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.) held on April 13, 2021, 6:00pm, were presented for approval.

\* Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve the minutes New Richmond Council Public Hearing on the Ashburn Woods Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.) held on April 13, 2021, 6:00pm. Seconded by Councilwoman Slade.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

(\*\*) Minutes of the April 13, 2021 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

\*\* Councilman Prues motioned to approve the Minutes of April 13, 2021 Regular Council meeting. Seconded by Councilman Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Village Administrator Greg Roberts reported:

* Happy 199th birthday to Ulysses S Grant. Due to the current restrictions of COVID-19 the Ohio History Connection and Historic New Richmond will focus on next year to celebrate Grant’s 200th birthday.
* The Clerk of Council is in receipt of a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control stating that all permits to sell alcoholic beverages in the village will expire on July 1, 2021. Village Council has the authority to object to the renewal of a permit and request a hearing. The letter suggests reaching out to law enforcement to aid in a decision to object or not to object to any specific license holder. *(Chief Couch reported his department has not had any issues with any liquor permit holders within the village.)*
* U.S. 52 Complete Streets/Liberty Landing Connection Proposal: I received a call this afternoon from a member of Congressman Wenstrup’s staff informing me that our proposal for funding for the U.S. 52 Complete Streets / Liberty Landing and a loop trail connecting the two will be submitted to the House Transportation Committee for consideration in the pending infrastructure legislation. Thanks to all who have contributed to and expressed support for this transformational project.

*(Councilmembers praised Administrator Roberts and Zoning Inspector Gephardt for all the work they have done in preparation for this moment.)*

* (\*) Administrator Roberts received a request from Rodney Henry and VFW Post 6770 in reference to Freedom Fest and is asking Council for a motion for the following street closures for the event: George St. to Hamilton St.; Western Ave. to Hamilton St.; Susanna Way from Union to Sophia St., to be held on July 3 & 4, 2021.

\* Councilman Prues motioned for the following street closures for the event: George St. to Hamilton St.; Western Ave. to Hamilton St.; Susanna Way from Union to Sophia St., as requested by Administrator Roberts.

Seconded by Councilman Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Police Chief Mike Couch reported:

* Year-To-Date:

560 Calls for Police service 34 Abandoned Vehicle

156 Business checks 140 Residential checks

12 School checks 13 Domestic complaints

33 Investigative complaints 49 Traffic offenses

8 EMS assists

* Due to COVID-19 restrictions Patriot’s K-9 recertification by the state’s licensure division was delayed. Sgt. Mallott and Patriot will be traveling to northern Ohio on May 5, 2021 to obtain their annual certification.
* BCI has returned six(6) lab reports pertaining to felony drug possession or trafficking Rule 16, trial preparation reports, will/have been completed and will be turned over to the Clermont County Prosecutor’s office for indictments.
* BCI lab report returned on a juvenile sexual assault investigation and a young juvenile. The lab report confirms a positive DNA result from the suspect that will be used for prosecution and adjudication.
* NRPD is in its final transition into moving forward with E-tickets that will be printed and prepared electronically. NRPD is one of two agencies that are moving forward with this technology.
* Over the last 15 days there have been no reports of crime in the village.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee reported:

* Commented on the Pierce Twp. Fire and EMS Contract (see 1st Reading)
* (\*) In reference to the Medicount Management Service Agreement Chief Bee is asking for a motion from Council to allow him to sign on their behalf.
* Chief Bee thanked everyone for their continued support of the EMS and Fire Departments.

\* Councilwoman Allen motioned to authorize EMS/Fire Chief Vince Bee to sign on behalf of the Village of New Richmond on the Medicount Manage Service Agreement for EMS billing services. Seconded by Councilwoman Slade

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Mayor Glenn Ewing - Nothing to report

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann - Nothing to report

Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs

* Reported that she and Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird attended the virtual 16 hour 2021 Local Government Official’s Conference provided by the State of Ohio Attorney General’s office on May 13 and 14. We both receive certificates of completion. Some of the topics covered were Ohio Ethics Laws, Special audit and investigation in Lima, Budgeting and Funding, Practices and Procedures including Robert’s Rule, the Public Records Act, the Hinkle System, Audits, Taxable Fringe Benefits.
* I was contacted by email by the Communication Center alerting the village to COVID-19 vaccination clinics: UC Clermont College (4/19-4/23), Grant Career Center (4/24). During this email it was discovered that Healthsource in New Richmond offers COVID-19 vaccinations. All information with websites and phone numbers to register can be found on the Village website.

**LEGISLATION**

**First Reading:**

**Resolution 2021-11** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MAYOR & VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER TO EXECUTE AN EMERGENCY FIRE & EMS SERVICES CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND WITH PIERCE TOWNSHIP.

**Second Reading:**

**(\*) Ordinance 2021-07­**  AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF PARCEL #242708G053 IN THE ASHBURN WOODS SUBDIVISION FROM R-2 SINGLE FAMILY TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (P.U.D.) AND APPROVING A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ON THE CONDITION THAT THE ANNEXATION OF PARCEL #242708G053 INTO THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND IS SUCCESSFUL.

(emergency passage due to New Richmond Zoning Article 17, Section 1707, Subsection 3.)

\* Councilman Skeene motioned to waive the Three Reading Rule for

**Ordinance 2021-07­**  AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF PARCEL #242708G053 IN THE ASHBURN WOODS SUBDIVISION FROM R-2 SINGLE FAMILY TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (P.U.D.) AND APPROVING A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ON THE CONDITION THAT THE ANNEXATION OF PARCEL #242708G053 INTO THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND IS SUCCESSFUL. Seconded by Councilman Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

\* Councilman Skeene motioned to approve **Ordinance 2021-07­**  AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF PARCEL #242708G053 IN THE ASHBURN WOODS SUBDIVISION FROM R-2 SINGLE FAMILY TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (P.U.D.) AND APPROVING A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ON THE CONDITION THAT THE ANNEXATION OF PARCEL #242708G053 INTO THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND IS SUCCESSFUL. Seconded by Councilman Feldkamp.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

**Third Reading:**

**(\*\*) Ordinance 2021-05** AN ORDINANCE REGULATING MOBILE FOOD UNITS

\*\* Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve **Ordinance 2021-05** AN ORDINANCE REGULATING MOBILE FOOD UNITS. Seconded by Councilman Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

**CALL OF MEMBERS:**

**Larry Prues** – No

**Mary Allen –** She and Richard will be meeting with Mandy Jenkins before the Safety, Laws and Rules Committee Meeting on May 10th, 2021 to discuss the Golf Cart Ordinance. Councilmembers all agreed to suspend the inspections under the Golf Carts Ordinance until after the 10th.

**Becky Ploucha** – Nothing to report

**Gary Skeene –** Nothing to report

**Melanie Slade** – Nothing to report

**Richard Feldkamp** - Nothing to report

**Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council**:

Councilwoman Allen reminded everyone of the 3 minute rule.

William Marsh – 1) Disappointed in not having the 3rd Reading of the Ashburn Woods PUD. *(Councilman Feldkamp noted Solicitor Sollmann explained the Zoning Ordinance and the 15 day rule earlier in the night.) (Administrator Roberts spoke of the 15 days and the number of hearings that have been held giving the residents several opportunities to comment and express their concerns)* 2) Short Hill – Putting gravel in the hole is just coming out. It needs to be fixed. Cars could be damaged. *(Chief Couch reached out to Police Sergeant Mallott, who was attending through Zoom, to close that area of the road till it can be fixed by the road crew tomorrow. Sgt. Mallott had an officer on his way out to Short Hill.)*

Ryan Adams – Is the traffic study finished? *(Administrator Roberts stated it is not finished.)* He asked how Council could make a decision on the Ashburn Woods PUD without the study. *(Administrator Roberts explained that one is not dependent on the other.)* He stated it reflects poorly on Council that they did not know the zoning rule of the 15 days.

Sarah Adams- She is upset and feels the Village is using their area as a monumental advantage. The construction will be done, they will move on, and the community will be left with 3 PUDs.

Greg Wahl – Does not the PUD motion have to have the traffic assessment done first? *(Councilman Skeene – many towns have construction around them.) (Councilwoman Allen - when a developer is ready to build, and the land is available. She has lived here almost all of her life and cares about the area. The Board has listened and thought a lot about the future of New Richmond. The Board cares.) (Councilman Feldkamp – he has been here for a long time and has worked on planning for New Richmond.)*

William Marsh – mentioned concerns previously expressed - all these homes on such small area of land, all the traffic, water runoff, soil disruption. *(Councilwoman Allen – she has thought about the runoff, retention ponds are planned.)* Mr. Marsh - The last PUD had 3 retention ponds, and none came to fruition.

Jim Adams, Country Place – They have sent many letters to Council with no response. He asked the Council to suspend the Reading and give more discussion. How could the Council have thought of all the traffic and pass this plan? We need an orderly development, not a hurried development. Council needs to respond.

*(Councilman Prues – Wishes that Council could have provided the residents all three readings but stated that further discussion would not have changed his mind. He has been at multiple meetings where the residents have spoken. He feels*

*that Council did listen and discussed the concerns of the residents. With the Beckjord Power Station closing and the Moscow Power Station retiring, the only way the Council can move the community forward is by bringing in more residents. He apologized to the residents for the lack of a third reading.)*

David Vornholt – This has to be the lowest point for Council. He has a psychology degree. Children have children’s brains, and it is up to us to take care of the children.

Rodney Henry – 1) Commended Council in moving forward with the Ashburn PUD. 2) There will not be any rides at the Freedom Fest, due to COVID-19 causing them to go out of business. He will talk more as time gets closer.

Mandy Jenkins – Thanked the Council for continuing the golf cart discussions. She looks forward to meeting the next week.

Theresa Leigh – Believes the Planning Commission and/or Council should review the complete Zoning Ordinance Book. She believes tonight could have been avoided if the Zoning Ordinance Book had been reviewed. *(Mayor Ewing agrees the Zoning Ordinance Book needs to be reviewed.) (Solicitor Sollmann – reminded everyone that the process has to go through the time frame set by the Zoning Ordinance Book. It cannot be completed in a few months. Some areas hire an independent contractor and companies to go through an entity’s Zoning Resolution and/or Ordinances to make suggestions/ recommendations.*

Nancy Swats – This was a very disappointing meeting.

Councilman Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:12p.m., seconded by Councilman Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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**Mayor Clerk of Council**