

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held

May 11, 2021

20

**MAY 11, 2021**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers and via Zoom teleconference in regular session on Tuesday, May 11, 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:** Council Members: Richard Feldkamp, Becky Ploucha, Larry Prues, Gary Skeene. Administration: Administrator Greg Roberts, Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs. Department Heads: Police Chief Mike Couch

**Present via Zoom teleconference:** Council Members: Mary Allen, Melanie Slade. Administration: Department Heads: Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee. Additional personnel: Police Sgt. Jason Mallott. **Absent:** Mayor Glenn Ewing due to a prior engagement; Solicitor Scott Sollmann excused due to a previous work engagement.

**Guests present in Council Chambers (\* Wish to speak):** Village residents:  
\* Mary Tons, Drew Maxwell (nephew of Mary Tons), \* Jeff Wilson.

**Guests present via Zoom teleconference:** Chris Bowman, Charles Buckingham, Joby Houck, Mandy Jenkins, Carol Katterson, Scott Kenkel, Nancy Swats, David Vornholt, and others listed by phone number who did not respond when called upon to comment.

Mary Allen, Councilwoman and Vice Mayor, lead tonight's Council Meeting in the absence of Mayor Glenn Ewing and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Jeffery Wilson had asked to be placed on the agenda to speak to council in reference to a series of issues he has experienced with a room he rented at a single family residence at 212 Susanna Street. He said that he paid \$320 to the owner and was only able to spend 5 nights in the room. Items that came with the room but did not come to fruition: water (after 3<sup>rd</sup> day no hot water), wifi, cable, heat, lock on the door. Mr. Wilson said he asked for a refund but was denied and was asked to leave the premises. He has spoken to the police department who explained to him that this is a civil matter. Per Mr. Wilson he did not feel he was treated right and is upset he was not refunded his payment. He left the room key with Chief Couch due to the owner or his representative refusing to meet with



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held

May 11, 2021

20

him. Mr. Wilson said he came tonight because he wanted council to know what was happening on that property and questioned whether the property was zoned for this type of business. He further said that what he experienced and observed in his short time at properties owned by the same individual was a poor reflection of what the village represents. He thanked Council for listening.

(\*) Minutes of the Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

\* Councilman Prues motioned to approve the Minutes of the Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Regular Council meeting as written. Seconded by Councilwoman Ploucha.

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 Monday, 5/10-2021 @ 4:30pm, as reported by Mary Allen, Councilwoman and Committee Chair:**

Finance/Budget - Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird:

- (\*) The Personnel & Finance Committee reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of April 2021; we need a motion to pay these bills.
- Spending is on pace for the year but does tend to increase during the summer months. Cost increases: Medical billing, Medical insurance, Property and Liability insurance, and Trash removal.
- Reminder to Department Heads to get purchase orders for any purchase over \$500.
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) – no confirmation for amounts or specific instructions. A seminar is planned for next week.

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- Stated he wanted to acknowledge the good work of Utilities Clerk Bobbi Phillips. She has been working with Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird to correct discrepancies in the Rumpke bills, even driving the community to confirm addresses are inhabited. She has also worked with residents who are delinquent to avoid shutoffs by identifying and connecting them to several charitable groups to help them pay for utility bills.
- He will soon be working on the bid specifications for trash collection.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- Personnel changes:
  - a) Christopher Beckman was hired effective 4/21/2021 at \$17.00/ hour pending his medical exam and background check. He has passed both and is no longer conditional. He will continue on his one-year probation. No motion is needed.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- (\*\*) He is requesting the Council accept the resignations of two personnel who are leaving in good standing: Tracy Wright (Part-Time FF/EMT) and



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held May 11, 2021 20

Ryan Pickering (Part-Time FF/Paramedic). Both resignations will be effective 5/11/2021. The Personnel and Finance Committee thank them for their service.

Items voted on at the 5-11-2021 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:

\* Councilwoman Allen motioned to pay all bills for the month of April 2021. Seconded by Councilman Feldkamp.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

\*\* Councilwoman Allen motioned to accept the resignations of Tracy (Theresa) Wright, a Part-Time FF/EMT and Ryan Pickering, a Part-Time FF/Paramedic, effective today 5/11/2021. Both will be leaving in good standing with the department. Seconded by Councilman 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 Monday, 5-10-2021 @ 5:30pm, as reported by Richard Feldkamp, Councilman and Committee Chair:**

Administrator Greg Roberts:

- The streets will be lined by next Monday
- The DORA program is due for the one-year review.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Andrew Gephardt:

- Cars that are found sitting, appearing abandoned, are being checked. This has been successful so far this year.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee and Asst. Chief Tim Feldkamp:

- 13 Fire and 33 EMS runs for the month.
- Fire hydrants are being flushed for the year. If anyone is experiencing murky water they should open their faucet and flush the water.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- 3 arrests, 34 abandoned vehicles have been checked.
- Assisted EMS on a run for a female in cardiac arrest.
- Several campers were parked illegally.
- Table-top exercise at the school.
- He and Councilwoman Allen spoke with Mandy Jenkins and Eddie Krieger from River Pines to discuss the golf cart inspections and are meeting next Tuesday at 4:30 to further discuss and to prepare recommendations to present to Council.

*Councilman Feldkamp added separately that he has read on social media that the Village Council does not respect the Fire & EMS Department and he wanted to let everyone know that that is not the truth. He, himself was on the department for over 50 years and knows what it takes to do that kind of work. He wanted to state on record that he and the Council have the utmost respect for the Fire/ EMS Departments and all they do for the community.*



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held

May 11, 2021

20

No items were voted on at the 05-11-2021 Council meeting following the Safety, Laws & Rules Committee report.

**Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report from meeting held Monday, 05-10-2021 @ 6:30pm, as reported by Larry Prues, Councilman and Committee Chair:**

- The Planning Commission did not hold a meeting this month.
- Sidewalk Ordinance is in process.
- Showboat Majestic update – waiting on contractors.
- Striping for Susanna Way and Front Streets is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Solicitor Sollmann has completed an agreement with MuniReg.
- Status of the old Frisch's. For discussion purposes it was established there are two Frisch's' referred to as "Old Frisch's" and "Old Old Frisch's". It is unknown at this time what is planned for "Old Frisch's"; there is however talk of the "Old Old Frisch's becoming a drive through.
- ODOT Village Signage Grant has been approved. Ohio Twp. will be ordering the signs.
- Discussion on River Sweep being coordinated with the spring litter pickup - it would be up to the organizers.
- Reminder: Brush Collection will occur on the last full week of the months of April through October, Monday – Friday pick up only.
- Short Hill pothole - Administrator Roberts will check on 5/11/2021.
- The former Park Bank property maintenance – grass is still in compliance. The weeds growing in the flower beds by the building are getting high. Administrator Roberts will speak to the owner Mr. Ammerman.
- Susannah Way as a one-way street.

*(Councilman Prues added that his wife, Donna Prues, is coordinating a New Richmond Historic Walking Tour with the New Richmond 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 8:30am and 11:45 am.)*

No items were voted on at the 05-11-2021 Council meeting following the Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report.

**Economic Development Committee report from meeting held Tuesday, 05-11-2021 @ 5:30pm, as reported by Mary Allen, Councilwoman and Committee Chair:**

- There were no updates from NROBA or the Planning Commission due to committee member absences at this meeting.
- Renewal of the DORA Ordinance – discussion revealed that while the ordinance was approved a year ago, the program has not been in effect for a year leaving not enough information to be gathered at this point to make an informed decision.
- Discussion on whether the nature of this committee should change, or possibly a council member be integrated into the Restaurant & Bar Association or the Business Association.
- Discussion of the continuation of the "Live, Love, Visit" marketing campaign and a possible mailer for June.

No items were voted on at the 05-11-2021 Council meeting following the Economic Development Committee report.



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held

May 11, 2021

20

## DEPARTMENT HEADS

### Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- He introduced Mary Tons, daughter of Dorinda and Luke Maxwell, past long-time residents of New Richmond, who is present along with her nephew, Drew Maxwell. She is the owner of "MPower Youth Sports, an after school \* summer Camp \* Martial Arts America Self Defense Academy". The programs include Martial Arts, dance, baseball, football, etc. and are based on Martial Arts character building. She holds summer camps in other communities and has been looking at temporary properties in New Richmond to run one here. She is willing to clean up the building/area and would use the property then for the summer camps. Properties mentioned were the old Park Bank building, old Frisch's building, the ball fields. Administrator Roberts will meet with Ms. Tons to present a plan at the next council meeting on 5/25/2021.

*(Councilman Feldkamp expressed fond memories of Dorinda and Luke Maxwell and the work they did for New Richmond while they lived here.)*

- (\*) Liquor License Review: The Clerk of Council is in receipt of a notice from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control asking whether or not the legislative authority requests a hearing considering an application of the transfer from the old owner to the new owner of the liquor license of Front Street Café . Requesting a hearing indicates the village has an objection to the application. Administrator Roberts requested a motion of Council to direct the Clerk of Council to check the box *We Do Not Request a Hearing* and return the form to Ohio Department Liquor Control.
- Forfeited Property – Clermont County Court of Common Pleas has offered to the Village one parcel of property known as Lot #448 near the intersection of Vine St and Market St. in New Richmond, being Parcel No. 26-09-21.-448. If no petition is filed by the village to the court within (10) days of the village's receipt (5/3/21), the court shall forfeit the subject property to the state. Forfeitures in the past have required the Village to pay back taxes which has proven to not be a worthwhile expenditure to the village on more desirable parcels. No motion is needed.
- DORA: Per ORC and Resolution 2020-03 DORA is up for review. (See Economic Development Committee report above.)
- Walter Green: Retired long -term Village maintenance employee Walter Green recently passed away. We send our condolences to Walter's family.

\* Councilman Prues motioned that *We Do Not Request a Hearing* be marked by the Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs, on the notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a transfer of the liquor license for Front Street Café from the old owners to the new owners and return the notice to the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. Seconded by Councilman Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held May 11, 2021 20

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- He has looked at the information Mary Tons brought tonight and liked the positive note.
- Chief gave a year-to-date comparison for the month of April 2020 and 2021. (Please see below.)

| New Richmond Police Department statistic |      |      |                         |      |      |
|------------------------------------------|------|------|-------------------------|------|------|
| APRIL                                    | 2021 | 2020 | APRIL                   | 2021 | 2020 |
| Crimes                                   | 3    | 8    | Total Calls for service | 622  | 152  |
| Arrests                                  | 3    | 8    | Business Checks         | 172  | 2    |
| Misdemeanor Citations                    | 3    | 3    | Residential Checks      | 168  | 0    |
| Traffic Citations                        | 44   | 5    | School Checks           | 13   | 1    |
| Warrants Served                          | 2    | 3    | Assist Fire/EMS         | 10   | 9    |
|                                          |      |      | Investigate Complaints  | 37   | 36   |
| Felony Drug Arrests                      | 1    |      | Theft                   | 0    | 2    |
| Drug Abuse Instruments                   | 1    |      | Abandoned Vehicles      | 34   | 0    |
| OVI                                      | 1    |      | Incident Reports        | 4    | 4    |
| Patriot K-9 Activity                     | 0    |      | Crash Reports           | 3    | 2    |
|                                          |      |      | Domestic Complaints     | 13   | 6    |
|                                          |      |      |                         |      |      |

- Patriot received his national/state annual certification on 5/5/2021.
- (\*) Chief Couch received the 2021 Brown County Jail Housing Contract from the Brown County Sheriff’s Office. This contract would be used in emergency cases where the New Richmond Police Department would require the housing of prisoners in the Brown County Adult Detention Center. This contract does not include juveniles. Chief Couch is asking council to make a motion to accept the terms and the contract. The contract has been approved to form by the New Richmond Village Solicitor Scott Sollmann.
- He spoke of PO Chris Beckman to let council know that he is employed with the village and works at Queen City Firearms located in the village.
- The police department assisted the Fire/ EMS Department in particular on a DOA.
- He announced he will be presenting awards at council meetings to his officers in recognition of their efforts in the field.

\* Councilman Feldkamp motioned to accept terms and contract of the 2021 Brown County Jail Housing Contract as presented by the Brown County Sheriff’s Office in the event the New Richmond Police Department would require the housing of prisoners in the Brown County System and to authorize Police Chief Mike Couch to sign on behalf of the Village of New Richmond on said contract. Seconded by Councilman Skeene.

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

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- Fire/EMS and the Police Departments work very well together.
- Tonight will be the second reading of the Pierce Twp. Contract.



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held May 11, 2021 20

- Councilman Feldkamp mentioned to Chief Bee that he should get a list to Administrator Roberts of any missing road signs or any that need replaced.

**Mayor Glenn Ewing:** Absent

**Solicitor, Scott Sollmann:** excused due to previous work engagement.

**Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs:**

- Per a citizen request last month, the Finance Report mentioned in the Personnel and Finance Committee report is on the village website.
- I have received from the Fire/EMS Chief Bee the Medicount Management Contract that has been signed by both himself and a Medicount Management agent as approved by a Council motion on 04/27/2021.

**LEGISLATION**

**First Reading:**

**(\*) ORDINANCE 2021-08** AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION REGARDING PARCEL #242708G053 TO THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO (Emergency Passage so that Village services can begin immediately being provided to the annexed parcel.)

Councilman Feldkamp motioned to waive the three Reading Rule of **(\*) ORDINANCE 2021-08** AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION REGARDING PARCEL #242708G053 TO THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO by Emergency Passage so that Village services can begin immediately being provided to the annexed parcel.

Seconded by Councilman Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Councilman Feldkamp motioned to approve **(\*) ORDINANCE 2021-08** AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION REGARDING PARCEL #242708G053 TO THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO by Emergency Passage so that Village services can begin immediately being provided to the annexed parcel. Seconded by Councilman Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

**Second 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



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

New Richmond Village Council

Meeting

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

Held May 11, 2021 20

Third Reading: None

## CALL OF MEMBERS:

**Larry Prues** – Nothing to report.

**Mary Allen**

- She will be returning to Council Chambers for the Council Meetings beginning 5/25/2021. 2)
- She reiterates what Councilman Feldkamp expressed earlier about the support of the board for the Fire/EMS Departments.

**Becky Ploucha** – Nothing to report.

**Gary Skeene** – He agrees with Councilman Feldkamp and Councilwoman Allen in regard to Council's support of the Fire/EMS Departments.

**Melanie Slade** – She is also planning on returning to Council Chambers on 5/25/2021 meeting.

**Richard Feldkamp** – Our Fire/EMS Departments are mainly made up of volunteers and because of that they are strong departments.

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

David Vornholt

- He began to discuss the dispute mentioned earlier in reference to his renting of 212 Susanna Way to Mr. Wilson. Councilwoman Allen asked him to speak only of matters concerning Council's meeting tonight as Mr. Wilson was allowed to speak because he asked to be placed on the agenda to address his concerns with Council.
- He has received a copy of the 12/08/2020 Council meeting minutes where Susanna Way was voted a one-way street.
- He believes vetting is the proper terminology for Susanna Way.
- He believes Thomas Ashburn did not intend for the 100' Promenade. No access for handicapped persons, mud near the step. Someone is going to get hurt. The One-Way on Susanna Way needed more discussion.

Scott Kenkel

- Owner of Sunset Beach Bar & Grille – they are pushing on to get ready for their opening which he hopes will be in a few weeks.

Chris Bowman

- Bethel New Richmond Rd – people passing other cars is becoming a problem. A lot of complaints on Face Book. *(Chief Couch- operators of vehicles are flashing their headlights at each other as a warning that a police patrol vehicle is in the area. He and his department are aware of the problem and have been patrolling the area.)*

Councilman Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:09pm. Seconded by Councilman Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

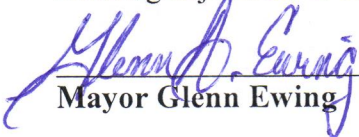
Ms. Ploucha: yes

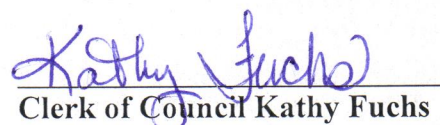
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.p.m.

  
Mayor Glenn Ewing

  
Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs