

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Village of New Richmond Council

Meeting

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

Original *by*

Held

June 8, 2021

20

June 8, 2021

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers in regular session on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: Tonight is Council's first meeting without Zoom teleconference.

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present in Council Chambers: Mayor Glenn Ewing; Council Members: Mary Allen, Richard Feldkamp, Becky Ploucha, Larry Prues, Gary Skeene, and Melanie Slade; Administration: Administrator Greg Roberts, Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs; Department Heads: Police Chief Mike Couch, Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee
Guests present in Council Chambers: Tonya Simmons, David Vornholt, Nick Wolf, Scott Wolf.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jeffrey Wilson who had asked to speak to Council was not present.

Nick Wolf of 102 Walnut Street stated the following: DJM Investments Co. built a six lot mini subdivision on Walnut Street. After one year of the subdivision being established and completed, the subdivision by law was to be turned over to the Village of New Richmond for continued maintenance of the street and utilities; this date was 04/30/2021. The Village would then accept the responsibilities on 05/01/2021. A letter was sent to the Village on 11/20/2020 with the explanation listed above and asking for a response from the Village within two weeks. To date they have not heard from the Village. Mr. Wolf is requesting the Village motion an ordinance to be approved tonight for the Village to take over the street and utilities of the subdivision. *Administrator Roberts apologized for not responding to the letter, explained that Council would have to accept a variance, that the Village has a contract with Choice One Engineering who would have to look at the property. After a discussion it was decided that the Public Works Committee will investigate Mr. Wolf's request. Mr. Wolf was asked to cooperate with Public Works during the investigation.*

Minutes of the May 25, 2021, Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve the Minutes of the May 25, 2021, Regular Council meeting as written; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

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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 the meeting held Monday, 06-07-2021 as reported by Councilmember/Vice Mayor/Committee Chair Mary Allen:

Finance/Budget - Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird

- (*) The Personnel & Finance Committee reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of May 2021; we need a motion to pay these bills.
- All funds are on track so far this year with the exception of the Sewer Fund which incurred expensive emergency repairs.
- American Rescue Plan (ARP)- Still no date as to when the funds will be received. Four general areas of eligible uses are 1) Respond to Public Health Emergency 2) Essential Employee Premium 3) Revenue Loss 4) Investments in water, sewer, or broadband guidance.
- A private Cemetery Donation of \$700 was received.
- RITA will be implementing the Subpoena Program, by mail only.
- 2019-2020 Audit is almost complete.

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- Large sewer repair near Connection Point Church - \$15,000.
- Discussion on possibility of an Electric Utility such as what Bethel has.
- Council needs to consider placing a cost of living adjustment into the budget for all employees.
- Discussed the DORA Ordinance requirements and the Village allowing events that have an F Liquor Permit. These two types of permits cannot legally allow their patrons to cross over into the other's area which would not be easy to patrol during an event.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- One personnel change:
 - a) (**) Police Officer John Amole presented his resignation effective June 18, 2021, to the Police Department citing family reasons. PO Amole leaves in good standing. Chief Couch asked for a motion accepting John Amole's resignation.
- Police Officer Ken Frasure is off on medical leave due to an injury he received at home.
- More officers are needed: Residential and business growth, DORA and increased weekend crowds, neighborhood turnover and a slight increase in drug activity are a few reasons given for this need.
 - a) Councilmember/Committee Chair Allen requested Chief Couch to prepare a recommendation as to how many officers are needed and the desired salary levels.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- One personnel change:
 - a) (***) Part-Time FF/EMT Andrew Logan stated verbally some time ago that he was resigning and has not worked a shift in a few months. Chief Bee is certain FF/EMT Logan will not be returning and requests of Council a motion to accept the resignation of Part-Time FF/EMT

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Andrew Logan, effective 6/8/2021. FF/EMT Logan leaves in good standing.

- More Fire/EMS personnel are needed.
 - a) Councilmember/Committee Chair Allen requested Chief Bee to prepare a recommendation as to how many FF/EMS personnel are needed and the desired salary levels.
- During the annual ladder testing a failed seal was found on the quint. Repairs were \$512.

There were comments from Rob Painter that he has looked at on-job statistics and was surprised to learn that that while Police, EMS and Fire have an increased incident of serious accident or death, the work he performs in the Street Department carries an even higher risk. He feels he and his fellow employees are underpaid. Leo Hurst agreed.

A discussion ensued over the way raises could be implemented into the budget. The problem lies in how the Village will be able to monetarily afford to give raises and then to move forward with sustaining those raises in the future.

With the closing of the Beckjord Power Plant, the future closing of the Zimmer Power Plant, Police, Fire, EMS and Cemetery levies failing, the Local Government Funding (LGF) being cut in half leaves the Village looking for options. Everyone agreed they have a good group of hard working Village employees that deserve to be paid what they are worth plus the Village needs to add more employees as Chief Bee and Chief Couch expressed tonight. There has been headway made, such as with drugs, and don't want to lose that headway by being short staffed.

It was decided the Personnel & Finance Committee will address this issue.

Items voted on at the 06-08-2021 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:

* Councilmember Allen motioned to pay all bills for the month of May 2021; 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 accept the resignation of Full-Time Police Officer John Amole effective 6/18/2021. Police Officer Amole leaves in good standing; seconded by Councilmember Feldkamp.

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

*** Councilmember Allen motioned to accept the resignation of Part-Time FF/EMS Andrew Logan effective 6/8/2021. FF/EMT Andrew Logan leaves in good standing; seconded by Councilmember Ploucha.

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

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Safety, Laws & Rules Committee report from meeting held Monday, 6-7-2021 as reported by Councilmember/ Chairman Richard Feldkamp:

Administrator Greg Roberts:

- DORA discussion and the conflict of running an F Liquor Permits event and whether to close DORA.
- Susanna Way parking on the curbside seems to be working.
- Food vendors need to make sure their customers stay on the curb and not in the street.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- Crime reviews are good.
- There is a motorcycle gang in the village.

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

- Repairs are completed on the Quint.
- Susanna Way parking appears to be orderly. He feels the barrels and tape can be removed after the proper signage has been placed.

Guest Bill Marsh – commented on the chuck hole on Short Hill and advised the cones made it safer.

No items were voted on or comments made at the 06-08-2021 Council meeting after the Safety, Laws & Rules Committee report.

Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report from meeting held Monday, 06-07-2021 as reported by Councilmember and Committee Member Melanie Slade:

NOTE: Councilmember and Committee Chair Larry Prues was held up at a prior engagement and would be arriving late, asked Melanie Slade to take the minutes.

Administrator Greg Roberts:

- Front Street- The storm water drain, sinkage problem, sidewalk damage has been repaired. In addition, the water and sewage utilities were ran through the wall.
- He and Zoning and Planning Inspector Andrew Gephardt have been discussing creating a Storm Water Management Utility Fund to help with infrastructure issues in the village that were discovered recently by surveyors along US 52. They also feel there is a need to consider increasing the paving budget to help with the paving and repair issues in the village.
- Green Mound and Watkins Hill Cemeteries will need surveying to allow for more burial sites.
- New Richmond Bandstand – Discussion on repairs needed. The village has spent money on repairs that are physical (i.e., upgrading electricity) not aesthetic, and the residents may not realize it . He is currently waiting on a quote for repairs.

No items were voted on or comments made at the 06-08-2021 Council meeting after the Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report.

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Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee report from meeting held on Wednesday 06-08-2021 as reported by Councilmember and Committee Chair Mary Allen: No meeting was held, no report to be given.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- (*) Commander Henry has requested on behalf of the VFW that Council approve the suspension/shutting down of DORA for Freedom Fest July 3rd and 4th in order to simplify enforcement of Ohio Liquor Control requirements for temporary F permit holders. These two types of permits cannot allow their patrons to cross over into the other's area. He asked Council to pass a motion that the DORA business would stop the DORA activity during the F permit event and then resume as before once the F permit event is over.
- (**) Sunset Beach Bar & Grill license agreement – Administrator Roberts requested a motion to authorize Mayor Ewing to sign a License Agreement with the proprietors of Sunset Beach Bar & Grill to maintain and use the village owned property directly behind the restaurant from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2030 for \$1.00 per year as a license fee. (formerly known as "The Landing")
- Condemnation of unsafe structures – The Zoning Department is stepping up enforcement efforts for unsafe/uninhabitable structures, expect to hear more in the near future.
- Concert Series – the first post-COVID community band concert is scheduled for this Friday evening at the Bandstand. The Oola Khan Grotto Band will be performing at 7:30pm Other scheduled band concerts are:
Sycamore Community Band – Friday, June 25
Ohio Military Band – Thursday, August 12th @7:30pm
Monday Night Big Band – Friday, August 20 @7pm

* Councilmember Allen motioned to temporarily close the DORA District during the "F" Permit event called Freedom Fest held on July 3rd and July 4th, with the DORA District reverting back to the same as before those two events; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: abstain

Councilmember Feldkamp abstained due to being the main organizer for an upcoming event called River Days which also will be an F permit event.

** Councilmember Prues motioned to authorize Mayor Ewing to sign a License Agreement with the proprietors of Sunset Beach Bar & Grill to maintain and use the village owned property directly behind the restaurant from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2030 for \$1.00 per year as a license fee. (formerly known as "The Landing"); seconded by Councilmember Allen.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Councilmember Prues asked where we stood with the progress of the MuniReg. Administrator Roberts stated the Village needs to pass appropriate codes for MuniReg to enforce. He commented the Village of New Richmond leads the county in delinquent taxes, more than all of Milford. Speed cameras, while not designed as a source of income was able to help provide a way of controlling traffic and to support the Police Department. Chief Couch is charged with

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keeping the roads and community safe but cannot without money. He stated the taxpayers overwhelmingly rejected an increase to the Earnings Tax to support Police, Fire and EMS, adding that the Village was ahead of those urban communities that sought recently to “defund the police”.
Mary – the county is responsible for collecting the property taxes, it is out of our control. It is up to council to make sure the residents understand the budget. She suggested a “Coffee & Greet” where a council member(s) would meet at a particular place, date and time and have a question & answer session with the residents. Residents were upset over the 1% Earnings Tax but passed a 9mil levy for the schools. There are some residents who think some of the school tax is used towards the Village needs which is not true. The school tax is used only for school needs.
Larry - suggested council go to the county and let them know they are taking too much money that should be going to the villages and townships.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- HB 337 – has not passed the House yet but would create a one-time bonus payment for first responders. The following are considered first responders for purposes of this bill: Police Officers, Firefighters, Highway Patrol Uniformed Division (mainly troopers), Deputy Sheriffs, BCI Investigators/Special Agents, Jail Officers, Volunteer Firefighters, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, or EMT-Paramedic. Individuals must be employed by the state or one of its agencies, any municipal corporation, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision.
 - The Village has never received the money from fines and costs collected for the speed cameras. He would like to continue the discussion about the use of the cameras and where we go from here.
- A discussion ensued with the following being noted: 1) There are other areas that still run cameras. 2) The Village does not want to be in the position of collecting the money and then having to pay it back, 3) The fee charged by the Clermont County Municipal Civil Court to hear these cases would be \$135.00 for each ticket.

| New Richmond Police Department statistics | | | | | |
|---|------|------|-------------------------|------|------|
| MAY | 2021 | 2020 | MAY | 2021 | 2020 |
| Crimes | 20 | 36 | Total Calls for Service | 463 | 205 |
| Arrests | 20 | 29 | Business Checks | 87 | 15 |
| Misdemeanor Citations | 5 | 2 | Residential Checks | 99 | 0 |
| Traffic Citations - stops | 68 | 13 | School Checks | 12 | 7 |
| Traffic Citations - cites | 37 | 9 | Assist Fire/EMS | 22 | 18 |
| Warrants Served | 4 | 3 | Investigate Complaints | 25 | 39 |
| | | | Theft | 3 | 0 |
| Felony Drug Arrests | 3 | | Abandoned Vehicles | 3 | 1 |
| Possession of Marijuana | 5 | | Incident Reports | 6 | 3 |
| Child Endangerment | 1 | | Crash Reports | 2 | 7 |
| D/C while Intoxicated | 1 | | Domestic Complaints | 7 | 8 |
| Carry Concealed Weapon | 1 | | | | |
| OVI | 2 | | Assault | 3 | |
| Patriot K-9 Activity | 2 | | Resisting Arrest | 1 | |

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- In talking about the departments working together Chief Couch commented he has a shirt that says "Different Badges But We Are All On The Same Team"

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- May totals: 51 EMS, 5 Fire, YTD EMS 244, YTD Fire 55 = 299
- 6/4/2021 Cameron Pelzel and Luke Cox responded to an auto accident where 4 of 5 people were ejected. Their Patient was in critical condition and had to be ground transported to University of Cincinnati Hospital; due to the weather air care could not fly. Later the Patient notified them that she was recovering and to thank them for their assistance.
- 05/31/2021 An off-duty Deputy Chief FF/Medic Dave Stigler saw headlights in the woods, reported the incident to the Communication Center and turned around to respond to the scene where a woman was found half in/half out of a car. Police Officers Chris Beckman and John Amole responded and assisted the Fire Department. Six EMS and Fire and two Police Department personnel worked together to help the woman.
- He expressed his appreciation to everyone for their support during the passing of his Mother and wanted Mayor Ewing to know he had heard that his Mother-In-Law had passed and to call if he needs anything.

Mayor Glenn Ewing:

- Thanked Vice Mayor Mary Allen for filling in for him the last two meeting.
- Tomorrow and Thursday will be his last treatments.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann: absent due to prior engagement.

Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs:

- Received the May, 2021 Financial Report from Fiscal Officer, Lynn Baird and added it to the village website. Signatures were received by council acknowledging receipt of the report.

LEGISLATION

First Reading

ORDINANCE 2021-09 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR GOLF CART USE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO, by emergency passage.

Councilmember Allen motioned to waive the Three-Read-Rule for

ORDINANCE 2021-09 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR GOLF CART USE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO, by emergency passage; 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 **ORDINANCE 2021-09** AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR GOLF CART USE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO, by emergency passage; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

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Second Reading: None

Third Reading: None

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues – Nothing to report.

Mary Allen – Nothing to report.

Becky Ploucha

- Ohio River Sweep will be Saturday, 6/19/2021, 9am to Noon. Free t-shirt and refreshments will be passed out. Meet at the Bandstand.

Gary Skeene – Nothing to report.

Melanie Slade – Nothing to report.

Richard Feldkamp – Nothing to report.

Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

David Vornholt –

- There is so much going on right now with “New New Richmond” and the Business Association Website, pictures on Face Book receiving 30,000 hits.
- A new WELCOME sign is up coming in from the east which costs \$1,800.
- Thanked Councilmember Feldkamp for giving them the Bandstand on Sunday 8/8/21 for the Fine Art Festival during River Days. They have 13 artists so far.

Scott Wolf – He and his wife observed a car traveling from one side of the road to the other. He called the Communication Center, and the Police Department was headed their way. He said the person was arrested and that this was his 2nd OVI in 10 years.

Councilmember Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:43p.m; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

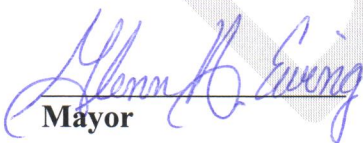
Ms. Ploucha: yes

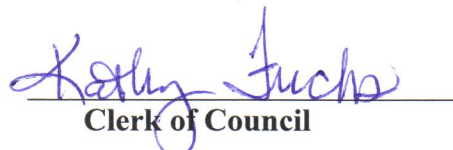
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:43p.m.


Mayor


Clerk of Council