

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Village of New Richmond Council

Meeting

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

Held August 10, 2021 20

August 10, 2021

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, August 10th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with everyone standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vice Mayor Mary Allen: yes Larry Prues: yes Becky Ploucha: yes
Richard Feldkamp: yes Gary Skeene: yes Melanie Slade: yes

Present in Council Chambers:

Mayor Glenn Ewing

Administration: Administrator Greg Roberts, Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs

Department Heads: Fire/EMS Chief Vincent Bee, Police Chief Mike Couch

Absent: Solicitor Scott Sollmann – due to prior work commitment

Guests present in Council Chambers (* Residents):

*David Vornholt, *Ryan Woodruff, *Dennis Dalton, *Tonja Simmons, *Mickey Vierreggo. Charro Vierreggo, and Bill Marsh.

COMMUNICATIONS

David Vornholt thanked Richard Feldkamp, President of River Days for allowing River Arts to use the Bandstand on Sunday August 8, 2021. There were years in the past where River Days was struggling to stay open all three days and had considered closing on Sundays. Mr. Feldkamp was asked if River Days could stay open on Sundays for RiverArts. This year Bob Lees and Carol Katterson used Facebook as a means of drawing in 22 artisans. A lot of people pulling together made for a great day.

MINUTES

(M1*) Minutes of the July 27th, 2021 New Richmond Village Council’s Public Hearing of the P.U.D. Application and Preliminary Development Plan for River View Bluffs were presented for approval.

M1 Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve Minutes of the July 27th, 2021 New Richmond Village Council’s Public Hearing of the P.U.D. Application and Preliminary Development Plan for River View Bluffs, as written; seconded by Councilwoman Slade.

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

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(M2*) Minutes of the July 27th, 2021 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

M2 Councilman Skeene motioned to approve Minutes of the July 27th, 2021 Regular Council meeting, as written; seconded by Councilman Prues.

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 the meeting held Monday, 08-09-2021 as reported by Councilwoman/Vice Mayor/Committee Chair Allen:

- Before giving the Personnel and Finance report Councilwoman Allen commented that because of some negative feedback received by multiple people related to the July 13, 2021 Council Meeting minutes- specific to information in the Personnel & Finance Section, she has made a few changes to both her notes and provided Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs new wording to be used in place of the wording previously entered. While what Clerk of Council Fuchs entered was not incorrect, it was misinterpreted by a number of people.
 - Background: Both Chief Couch and Chief Bee noticed there were people on the payroll records who were no longer employees. Some had given resignations and others were just no longer available as auxiliary and/or pay-per-call employees.
 - A motion was made, properly seconded, and voted on to accept the names of the individuals who were in the Personnel & Finance table.
 - The negative comments were primarily related to the use of the word “terminate”.
 - (M3*) Councilwoman Allen commented she modified the Personnel & Finance meeting notes and made a motion to ask the Clerk of Council to replace what is in the record of proceedings, July 13, 2021 meeting notes with the “New wording to replace the old wording” listed below.
 - Wording in the minutes Council accepted on 7/13/2021:
(****) Both Chief Couch and Chief Bee asked the following employees to be terminated from Village records because they left some time ago, but without formal resignation to finalize removing them from the Village payroll: (The paragraph was followed with the table listing the individuals.)
 - New wording to replace the old wording:
(****) Both Chief Couch and Chief Bee have identified multiple employees who have resigned or who have advised they are no longer available to work for the department. Resignations have been accepted, but the payroll records need to be updated and their names removed. This is a clerical housekeeping task. The individuals to be removed from our payroll records are in the Payroll Clean Up Table

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Finance/Budget - Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird

- (M4*) The Personnel & Finance Committee reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of July 2021; we need a motion to pay these bills.
- The Village has not received all of the property tax revenue for the second half of 2021; but it does appear we are where we expected.
- The local tax could be \$20,000 over budget.
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) – there is still no date as to when the funds will be received. Acknowledgement has been received and all the required papers have been signed. We anticipate \$280,000 over 2 years. 140,000 each year.
- There are general categories the money can be used for:
 - Response to public health emergency
 - Essential employee premium
 - Revenue loss
 - Investments in water, sewer, broadband
- Utility Funds
 - There have been many repairs and very high expenses this year, causing needed appropriation changes in both accounts
 - 2021 Revenue should exceed budget in all Utility Funds. We need to look very closely at 2022 budgeted expenses and repairs.

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- Two personnel changes
 - (M5*) He received two applications for the open full-time position. Only one applicant has passed through the hiring process. He would like to make a conditional offer to Joshua Fullbeck, who is currently working in a part-time capacity for NRPD. If approved he will move from part-time to full-time pending a medical exam and background checks, at a pay rate of \$17.00 an hour on a one-year probation.
 - Jason Spradlin, will be sworn in on August 10, 2021, as a non-paid, auxiliary officer. Mary commented that no motion will be needed.
- The River Days Festival was a success, with only minor police interactions.
- There were multiple questions asked by resident Mickie Vieregge during the July 27th, 2021 Council meeting and during s follow-up meeting with Mayor Ewing and Councilwoman Allen, on August 3, 2021. Her questions and answers from Chief Couch are as follows:
 1. Question 1 was about the Police Night Out and if the New Richmond Police Department would be doing it this year.
Chief said New Richmond does theirs in conjunction with the Fire/EMS Safety Weeks. Chief Bee said the timing would be in October.
 2. Question 2 was about having a dog demo.
Chief Couch stated it was planned for the Police Night Out/Safety Meeting. It would be an "open sniff" demo.

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3. Question 3 was in regard to who the New Richmond Police Department's Field Training Officer is.
Chief Couch and Sgt Mallott provide that training. Chief Couch stated that Ohio does not require a Field Training Officer.
4. Question 4 was related to the department having 8 cruisers.
Chief Couch stated the two older cruisers are ready to be decommissioned. We have two take home vehicles, the chief's and Sgt Mallott's. The other 4 are used by our officers. We don't run our cars 24/7.
5. Question 5 was related to idle cars running in front of the Village Hall, when the officers have gone inside the building.
Chief Couch said he has instructed his officers not to do this unless they're running in the building for a very short period of time. The dog vehicle does run when the dog is inside.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- Two personnel changes, both have a date of hire of August 11, 2021. They will serve a one-year probation per Village Policy and procedures.
 - (M6*) Hire Jim Lunsford for the position of part-time FF/Paramedic at the rate of \$13.65 hourly.
 - (M7*) Hire Tyler Eccard for the position of part-time FF/EMT Basic at the hourly rate of \$12.60 hourly.

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- Greg stated he is awaiting information about the American Rescue Plan.

Items voted on at the 8-10-2021 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:

(M3) Councilman Skeene motioned to amend Motion (**) of the July 13, 2021 Minutes, under the Personnel & Finance section to now read as follows: "Both Chief Couch and Chief Bee have identified multiple employees who have resigned or who have advised they are no longer available to work for the department. Resignations have been accepted, but the payroll records need to be updated and their names removed. This is a clerical housekeeping task. The individuals to be removed from our payroll records are in the Payroll Clean Up Table."; seconded by Councilman Prues.**

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

(M4) Councilwoman Allen motioned to pay all bills for the month of July 2021; seconded by Councilman Skeene.

Mrs. Slade: yes
Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Prues: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

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(M5) Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve the hiring of Joshua Fullbeck to the position of full-time Police Officer at the hourly rate of \$17.00, on a one-year probation, with an effective date conditional upon his completion of a medical exam and background. seconded by Councilman Feldkamp.

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

(M6) Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve the hiring of James Lunsford to the position of part-time Firefighter/Paramedic at the hourly rate of \$13.65, on a one-year probation, with an effective date of 8/11/2021: seconded by Councilman Feldkamp.

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

(M7) Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve the hiring of Tyler Eccard to the position of part-time Firefighter/EMT Basic at the hourly rate of \$12.60, on a one-year probation, with an effective date of 8/11/2021; seconded by Councilman Feldkamp.

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

Safety, Laws and Rules Committee report from the meeting held Monday, 8/11/2021 as reported by Councilman/Committee Chair Feldkamp:

Administrator Greg Roberts:

- He had visited Paddlefest and noticed dogs in attendance. He commented dogs were attending River Days even though it was clearly posted that dogs were not permitted

Police Chief Mike Couch:

- River Days 1) A drone checked River Days and estimated a crowd of 5,000 people. 2) There were no problems noted during the festival and no citations were issued.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- submitted monthly and year-to-date statistics.

David Vornholt, guest

- asked if a DVD is available explaining the DORA

No comments were made, and no motions requested at the 8-10-2021 Council meeting after the Safety, Laws, Rules Committee report.

Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report from the meeting held Monday, 8-9-2021 as reported by Councilman/Committee Chair Prues:

Topics discussed:

- DORA during River Days – This issue was discussed in Safety, Law & Rules where the rules for DORA and F-9 permits were described.
- It has been asked if the street closures for River Days could be delayed due to the impact on the businesses on Wednesday and Thursday.

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Administrator Roberts commented the event is ran by volunteers and Wednesday and Thursday were needed for all the setups.

- TIF (Tax Increment Financing)
 - Allen Freeman mentioned a TIF that would be placed on a property that would not go into effect until a developer is found with a project for that property. Can Council get approval for this type of TIF?
 - The T Box property is for sale. Lance Sizemore is still interested in moving forward in developing the property without Village financing.
 - Village Council has already approved the Ballfield and T-Box properties as developable for a TIF. When a project becomes ready the Village will work with the New Richmond Exempted School District Board and move forward with the TIF as we have with other developments in the Village.
- Vacant Property Ordinance: Administrator Roberts will present Council with a draft ordinance.
- Dog Park – Mitigated property at Willow and Market Street – approximately 2 acres.
- Complete Streets – ODOT culverts may need to be replaced as part of the project which may require additional funding.
- Hamilton Street Sidewalk Project
- Rose Vesper Park lighting
- Sidewalk Repair Ordinance
- Showboat Majestic Infrastructure
- River View Bluffs
- Light's Pointe

No comments were made, and no motions requested at the 8-10-2021 Council meeting after the Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report.

Economic Development Committee by Councilwoman/Vice Mayor/Committee Chair Allen:

- Council needs to reformat the committee and suggested suspending the meeting until January, 2022. Some of the members are working with Renaissance New Richmond. Mary will work with the Economic Development committee members and Councilmembers to redefine the committee, keeping with-in the Sunshine Laws while doing so.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- 2021 River Days: Very little cleanup was needed by the Street Department on Monday morning. Hats off to all the volunteers from several different private organizations that helped make this year's River Days a success. With being the first River Days since the pandemic, the addition of DORA and several new businesses and new business owners on Front Street, several challenges and opportunities for making future River Days even more successful have been identified. Although some of this was discussed at length in committee meetings yesterday, future success will continue to depend on the efforts of volunteers and the cooperation,

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support, and patience of the entire community. He would like to make it clear – all large events in the village are planned, organized, and executed by private organizations and ran mostly by unpaid volunteers who just happen to be human beings.

- Housing starts: Sales and new home construction continues to be brisk in the Village despite shortages and rise in material costs. Sales have slowed somewhat due to seasonal trends in the real estate market, price increases, and, at least here in New Richmond, the current principal builder, Ryan Homes, is in “catch-up” mode with new homes construction. A second builder should be starting soon in River View Bluffs.
- Summer Concerts and activities at the Susanna Park Bandstand:
 - Ohio Military Band – Thursday, 8/12/2021 at 7:30pm
 - Harley’s Against Heroin - Saturday, 8/14/2021 at 7:30pm
 - The Monday Night Big Band – Friday, 8/20/2021 at 7pm
 - Renaissance New Richmond is working on future concert events. It is very much appreciated.

Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee:

- Appreciates the Village and Council’s support for the Fire Department.
- Thanked Council for approving the new employees.
- July 2021 totals: 46 EMS, Fire 13 = 59 monthly runs.
- 2021 Year-To-Date totals: 347 EMS, 74 Fire = 421 Y-T-D runs

Police Chief Mike Couch:

New Richmond Police Department statistics					
JULY	2021	2020	JULY	2021	2020
Crimes	9	10	Abandoned Vehicles	3	0
Arrests	7	8	Incident Reports	5	4
Misdemeanor Citations	2	0	Crash Reports	5	3
Traffic Citations-stops	65	26	Domestic Complaints	4	4
Traffic Citations-cites	30	10			
Warrants Served	2	3	Felony Drug Arrests	1	Pending
Total Call for service	357	238	Possession of Marijuana	2	MM citation
Business Checks	58	1	Improper Handling/Firearm	1	Arrested
Residential Checks	48	0	OVI	2	Arrested
School Checks	11	2	Rape	1	Pending
Assist Fire/EMS	12	9			
Investigate Complaints	27	56			
Thefts	0	3			

- Chief Couch read from an email he sent to all members of the police department on August 4, 2021:
 - Beginning today, the NRPD has teamed up with our local Papa John’s to create a new Community Oriented Policing Program for the Village.
 - The goal and design of the program is to honor and recognize children and teens who perform a “Good Deed” for a member of

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the New Richmond Community, follow traffic safety rules, or help someone in their neighborhood with assistance with a task or chore.

- Please feel free to be creative, think outside the box and determine what a good deed looks like to you; and then take a few minutes to talk to the child/ teen and thank them for the good deed they have performed. At that time, please issue them a citation for a small pizza from Papa John's. Please be sure to print their name on the citation and sign your name.
- He witnessed Patriot's training at Wolf's Storage where Sgt. Mallott had hidden several items of which Patriot found all of them.
- Chief passed out to Council the Conditional Offer of Employment letter that he is asking Council to motion to hire Joshua Fullbeck to fill the open full-time position.

Mayor Glenn Ewing: He commented what a great job by all the volunteers helping at River Days. River Arts was a success.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann: – absent due to prior work commitment

Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs:

- August 2021 Finance Report from Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird to be signed. It has been placed on the Village website.

LEGISLATION

First Reading:

(M8/9*) Resolution 2021-14 AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE ONE OHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE ONE OHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, by emergency passage.

(M8) Councilman Skeene motioned to waive the three-reading rule for **Resolution 2021-14** AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE ONE OHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE ONE OHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, by emergency passage; seconded by **Councilman Feldkamp**.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

(M9) Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve **Resolution 2021-14** AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE ONE OHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE ONE OHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, by emergency passage; seconded by **Councilman Skeene**.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Second Reading: Nothing to read.

Third Reading: Nothing to read

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CALL OF MEMBERS

Larry Prues – Nothing to report

Mary Allen – Congratulations to River Days and River Arts for a successful weekend

Becky Ploucha – Nothing to report

Gary Skeene - Nothing to report

Melanie Slade – Nothing to report

Richard Feldkamp – Received a complaint from an ex-resident in reference to the need to paint the curbs yellow at Walnut/Front Streets, and Union/Front Streets to symbolize “No Parking”. He took pictures of a car parked too close to the corner. A discussion ensued over the Village-wide need to correctly mark the intersections for parking with the following points being made:

- Consistency with all markings per Ohio Code.
- The size of emergency vehicles and the space needed to maneuver corners during emergency runs, especially the Quint.
- Handicap Parking
- Once painted, and obvious, the Police Department will better be able to enforce parking laws.
- Outcry of reports of not enough parking on Front Street
- Safety comes first
- When one person parks wrong others follow suit.
- Tow Away Zones are effective
- Start with warning flyers stating they are parking in a NO Parking area since these areas may have had little to no yellow marking for a while
- Businesses have warned patrons to not park incorrectly
- Police Parking signs need to be bigger, possible stenciling also.
- The white arrows on Susanna Way have been very effective
- Open new areas for parking
- Contract with a valet parking service or a shuttle

Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

David Vornholt gave a history on how many dams there have been in the 982 miles of the Ohio River between Pittsburgh and Cairo (54 dams) and how deep the river is here at New Richmond on the Ohio (12’ – 22’)

Chief Couch reported, from Police Sgt Mallott of a tip that was received on a rape suspect reported to be in the Village. The suspect was discovered and arrested while he slept in his bed.

(M10) Councilman Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55p.m; seconded by Councilwoman Allen.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.

Glenn Ewing
Mayor

Kathy Couch
Clerk of Council