

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Village of New Richmond Council

Meeting

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

Held

October 26, 2021

20

OCTOBER 26, 2021

Original
Kathy Fuchs

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2nd floor, at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Ewing asked for the Roll Call of Council with the following Council members 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: Solicitor Scott Sollmann, Administrator Greg Roberts, Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs

Department Heads: Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp, Police Chief Mike Couch

Absent: Fire/EMS Chief Vincent Bee – family illness, Police Sergeant Jason Mallott

Guests present in Council Chambers (* Residents):

*Dennis Dalton, *Fire Department Cadet Cody Feldkamp, Fire Department Cadet Luke Kroener, *Jennifer Mulholland, *Donna Prues, *Tonja Simmons, *Jon Tharp, *Ryan Woodruff, *David Vornholt.

COMMUNICATIONS

David Vornholt – Christmas Walk will be on Saturday, December 4, 2021 begins at Plum Street. More details to come.

MINUTES

(*M1) Minutes of the October 12, 2021 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

M1 Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve as written the Minutes of the October 12, 2021 Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilman Feldkamp. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

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COMMITTEE REPORTS (Reminder: The committees listed below met on Monday, 10/25/2021 instead of Monday, 10/11/2021 due to federal holiday, Columbus Day)

Personnel & Finance Committee Report from the meeting held Monday, 10-25-2021 as reported by Committee Chair Mary Allen:

This provides a summary of the October 25, 2021 Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting Summary v2

Members Present: Council Members: Gary Skeene, Richard Feldkamp, and Mary Allen, Committee Chair, Mayor Ewing, Police Chief, Mike Couch, Assistant Fire/ EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp, Village Administrator, Greg Roberts, and Fiscal Officer, Lynn Baird.

Absent: EMS/ Fire Chief Vince Bee, family illness and Police Sergeant, Jason Mallott

Guests: Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs, David Vornholt, New Richmond Business Association Chairman, Leo Hurst, Ken Shearwood, Rob Painter, and Tom Welch.

Discussion Topics:

There were discussions in the normal four broad areas: Finance, Village Administration, Police Department, and the Fire EMS Department.

Finance Committee— Lynn Baird, Fiscal Officer

1. **American Rescue Plan**— we continue to get more clarifying information outlining on how we can use the money we received.

- Received \$ 144, 309
- There are four general categories of eligible uses
 1. Respond to Public Health Emergency
 2. Essential Employee Premium— Possible\$ 10, 000
 - 3.Revenue Loss— Possible\$ 57, 975
 4. Investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. Money spent for water, sewer and broadband should be projects.

2. We had a high-level discussion on the **temporary Appropriations for 2022** .

Planned budget needs should be given to Lynn by October 29th. The first Reading is November 9th. Dept Heads should provide:

- Any anticipated equipment or vehicle purchases, maintenance, repairs for 2022
- Any expected grants or grant matches for 2022

3. Lynn stated that there would be changes to the **Fire Development Fund**.

- We've received an additional bill for vehicle insurance for \$3,025. Assistant EMS/ Fire Chief Tim Feldkamp explained this is due to an updated assessment of our vehicle and accessory inventory. We had a substantial number of accessories that weren't on the policy that should have been.
In one situation we were insured for \$70,000, but the replacement cost of the item was \$180, 000. And, none of the equipment on the truck was insured.
- We have **expired turn out gear**—the cost to obtain new gear is \$9, 386.
- With these two expenditures, the fund will have a remaining balance of \$30,089. The remaining money has been earmarked toward the cost of an anticipated new vehicle in the future.

4. We received a **\$50 donation from Brushy Creek Reserve** – divided between Police Department and Fire Department. This was from the 9/11 event.

5. Per discussion with Lynn, we believe we can give a **bonus** to our employees in a total amount, not to exceed the \$57,975, that we can use for revenue loss. It's the recommendation of the Committee that we give our employees a bonus before the end of this calendar year. A possibility would be \$2,000 for each full- time employee. Then \$750-1,000 for each part time employee based

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on the average hours worked in 2020 and 2021. If we gave 19 FT employees \$2,000 (\$38,000) and if we gave 12 PT employees \$1,000 (\$12,000) and the other 10 \$750 (\$7,500) we'd be at \$57,500. So, giving the bonuses is doable. The goal is to have the details needed to make a motion during the next Council meeting on November 9th.

6. Councilwoman Allen asked all Department Heads to review information she handed out and to be prepared to meet with her in November to ensure the salary schedule for each department is accurate. Since we've experienced growth in the number of residents and number of Front Street visitors due to the new businesses. Chairwoman Allen also asked for future projected needs for all departments and optimal salary ranges. The salary range information is to provide Council with updated, competitive salary information, across the area, for all position.

(*M2) The Committee has reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of September.

Police Department – Police Chief Mike Couch

1. Chief Couch didn't have any personnel changes.
2. He stated that Officer Joshua Fullbeck was in a wreck that caused significant damage to the cruiser. A car came off US 52 and hit the cruiser. The cameras at Auto Savers captured the incident. Officer Fullbeck was injured but is ok.
3. Chief Couch still wants to hire two part-time offers.

Fire/EMS Department— Assistant Fire/ EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp standing in for Fire/ EMS Chief Vince Bee

1. Assistant Fire/ EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp spoke with Chief Vince Bee and they have one personnel change:
 - Hire **Kaitlyn Gayer** as a Part- time Firefighter/ EMT at the rate of \$12. 60 effective October 26, 2021. She'll serve the normal 1- year probation.
2. They're still trying to fill the full- time position.

Village Administrator – Greg Roberts

1. Greg stated the personnel administration requests by Chairwoman Allen were great, but in general, council has not paid attention to the revenue side to cover anticipated future expenditures.
2. Chairwoman Allen and others said she agreed, but it' s time for council to come up with a plan for future needs and make the appropriate decisions on how to fund them. She also said we should have a little more revenue due to:
 - Slightly higher property tax revenue from new homes
 - Slightly higher local income tax revenue due to the additional new residents
 - Slightly higher revenue generated from the two TIFs we recently approvedTiming on this isn't cut in stone, but we need to know what we need to do. Then when and if funding is available, we can move forward.
3. Greg also said he had created a document listing our accomplishments that he would forward to the Mayor, Council, and the Department Heads.
4. Greg said he and Andrew Gephardt, Zoning Administrator, were working on a modified capital budget proposal for Liberty Landing. They're working with KZF Engineering who helped develop Smale Park and a park in Ashland, Ky.

Comments from Guests. Ken Shearwood asked about new meters and Greg stated he had applied for an OPWC Grant.

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Councilman Gary Skeene was a little late, so the meeting started at 5:45 p. m. and ended at 6:45 p. m.

Re- submitted by Committee Chairwoman, Mary Allen, on November 4, 2021.

Items voted on at the 10-26--2021 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:

M2 Councilwoman Allen motioned to pay all bills for the month of September, 2021; seconded by Councilman Skeene. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

M3 Councilwoman Allen motion to hire Kaitlyn Gayer, as a Part-Time Firefighter/EMT, effective 10/26/2021, at \$12.60 per hour, on a one-year probation, Social Security, on condition of passing the physical and drug test; seconded by Councilman Feldkamp. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

Safety, Laws & Rules Committee report from the meeting held Monday, 10-25-2021 as reported by Committee Chair Richard Feldkamp:

Date 10/25/2021 Meeting started at 4:45pm
Present: Mayor Glenn Ewing, Mary Allen, Greg Roberts, Gary Skeene, Kathy Fuchs, Mike Couch, Dick Feldkamp, Tim Feldkamp, Rob Painter, Guest David Vornholt.

Administrator Greg Roberts
1. Greg Roberts gave his report first. He stated that all Officials must operate in a good ways and means. We need a way to keep up with the added business, people and automobiles.

Zoning Administrator Andrew Gephardt
1. Mentioned a building located at 324 Quarry Steet. The building is falling down from the inside out.

Police Chief Mike Couch
1. He mentioned the house being rehabbed at Sycamore and Front Streets. A nude male was found laying on the bed with a can of beer.

Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp
1. Talked about the Open House at the Firehouse on October 16th. Police, Fire, and EMS showed off their equipment, worked with the dog. This event was well attended.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.
Submitted by Chairman Richard Feldkamp

Comments made and items voted on at the 10-26-2021 Council meeting after the Safety, Laws, Rules Committee report:

Councilman Skeene: 324 Quarry Street is a dangerous situation.

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Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report from the meeting held Monday, 10-25-2021 as reported by Committee Chair Larry Prues:

Attendees: Andrew Gephardt, Becky Ploucha, Larry Prues, Greg Roberts, Melanie Slade

Guests:

Meeting Opened 6:30

New Business

- Becky mentioned there were several complaints because people were not able to get to Post Office because of route for Pumpkin Run. Becky recommended the route be simplified for 2022
- Melanie asked if a Dollar General was going in next to Taco Bell. No, that is just a rumor.
- Knothole Property Sale - Bid Openings November 4th
- Administration is applying for grants for smart water meters to the Ohio Public Works Commission
- Administration is also applying for low cost Loans for smart water meters, Ohio Water Development Authority
- New homes are having the smart meters installed

Old Business

- Review of Vacant Property ordinance-Greg to send copy of draft ordinance to council.
- Mitigated Property for Dog Park- Willow & Market Street- Approximately 2 Acres, Grant Submitted to Purina by Sandy Crawfis, Purina has requested additional forms be completed
- Update on Complete Streets- Greg stated the ODOT culverts would need to be replaced as part of the project, this may require additional funding.
- Status of Hamilton St. Sidewalk Project, County likely will begin work spring/summer of 2022
- Status of Rose Vesper Park Lighting
- Status of Sidewalk Repair Ordinance
- Status of Liberty Landing Infrastructure, Electric to be completed in next few weeks
- Update on Riverview Bluffs
- Update on Lights Pointe

Becky made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Melanie.

Meeting closed 6:55

Submitted by Chairman Larry Prues

Comments made at the 10-26-2021 Council meeting after the Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report:

Taco Bell: Administrator Roberts - there is no information received at Village Hall indicating as to what will be going in next to Taco Bell.

Economic Development Committee meeting on hold till 2022.

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DEPARTMENT HEADS

Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

- Utility Billing Software: We are beginning to transition to the new software provider.
- Upcoming Events: Trick or Treat Saturday the 30th 6-8 pm.
- River Town Review / National Park Service Resolution: We have a first reading of Resolution 2021-19 formally acknowledging partnership with the National Park Service Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail promotional efforts aimed at enhancing tourism and outdoor recreation in communities along the Lewis and Clark Trail. As a side note, I will be traveling to Columbus tomorrow to testify in favor of House Bill 340 co-sponsored by Representative Adam Bird that would declare future months of September as International Underground Railroad Month in Ohio. This is part of an initiative by the National Park Service Network to Freedom Program to promote research and documentation of Underground Railroad sites and related heritage tourism.
- (*M4) Liquor Control Notice: Apparently Speedway is changing their corporate name and, as a result, updating their liquor permits. The clerk has received notice for the legislative authority (Council) from Ohio Liquor Control to indicate whether or not to request a hearing. I recommend a motion to instruct the clerk to check the box indicating no hearing requested and return to Ohio Liquor Control.

Additional comments made by Administrator Roberts and the audience:

Liberty Landing: Zoning Administrator Andrew Gephardt and he met with Mike McNamara on Friday. The Capital Budget Proposal is due Friday.

- *KZF is an excellent company to work with.*

Councilman Feldkamp – will the Tom Boyle property be included in the River Town Review? Administrator Roberts – The property would need to have strong documents that the property was part of the underground railroad to be considered. Smart Meters: another reason why administrator Roberts went with the new utility billing software company.

House Bill 340: Ohio's 66th District State Representative Adam Bird to sponsor bill declaring that the month of September be designated International Underground Month in Ohio. The village of New Richmond has 3 National Park Service Network to Freedom underground railroad sites.

M4 Councilman Prues motioned that the *We Do Not Request a Hearing* box be marked by Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs, on the notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for an Application for Change of LLC Membership Interests and return the notice to the Ohio Department of Liquor Control; seconded by Councilman Feldkamp. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

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Police Chief Mike Couch:

- River Valley Blvd – Pierce Twp assisted with a 14 year old female when the female struck a Pierce Twp Patrolman with a box of cereal. Several charges are to be filed.
- Bethel New Richmond Road – A gun was stolen by the resident's granddaughter. Charges are to be filed. The female is not in custody.
- Halloween – There were four units, six patrolmen were giving out candy while utilizing their light bar to slow drivers down during the hours of 6p.m.-8p.m.
- An unclothed male was found in a residence where he had possession of a beer can. DNA revealed the identity of the male. His confession has been given and charges are to be filed.
- Crash on US 52 and Pond Run Rd with a box truck and small vehicle causing US 52 to be closed for 3 hours.

Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp standing in for Chief Vince Bee:

- Year to date runs:
 - Ohio Twp (contracted) 31
 - Mutual Aid 68
 - Village 487
- The high-impact US 52 and Pond Run accident knocked the axle out from the box truck.
- Insurance – He recently discovered the vehicle insurance did not cover the replacement cost of the vehicle nor any of the equipment on the vehicles. This issue has since been resolved.
- The Fire Department Open House went very well and was well attended. Everyone had a good time.
- Cadet Program – He introduced a new **Cadet Luke Kroener**. The Cadet Program is for boys or girls under 18 years of age and are brought on the department to begin learning about the Fire Service.

Mayor Glenn Ewing:

- The New Richmond Fall Bash event held at the Bandstand was very success.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann:

- Notice of the Regatta and Ashburn Woods District TIFs paperwork has been submitted to the Ohio Director of Development and DTE 24 forms will be submitted to the Clermont County Auditor by the November 23rd, 2021 meeting.
- Records Retention Commission Meeting was set for Tuesday, November 23, 2021 @ 6:45 p.m. with Administrator Roberts, Solicitor Sollmann, David Vornholt (citizen), Mayor Ewing.

Clerk of Council, Kathy Fuchs:

- September 2021 Financial Report from Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird to be signed by Council and Mayor. The report has been placed on the Village website and a copy can be reviewed in the Administration Office.

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LEGISLATION: read by Mayor Ewing.

First Reading:

RESOLUTION 2021-19 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND'S PARTICIPATION IN A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Second Reading: Nothing to read.

Third Reading: Nothing to read.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Larry Prues – thanked the Personnel and Finance Commission for working on the budget.

Mary Allen – wished all the council candidates well in the upcoming November 2, 2021 election.

Becky Ploucha – Nothing to report.

Gary Skeene – Nothing to report.

Melanie Slade – Nothing to report.

Richard Feldkamp – Nothing to report.

COMMENTS from the Audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

David Vornholt – thanked Councilwoman Allen for her leadership.

Chief Couch – 324 Quarry Street needs to be boarded up.

- *Administrator Roberts – The Village will need to follow proper channels by notification to the owner first.*

M5 Councilman Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.; seconded by Councilman Prues. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

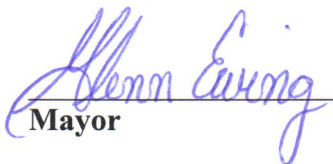
Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk of Council