

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Village of New Richmond Council

Meeting

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

Held

December 14, 2021

20

**DECEMBER 14, 2021**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond Ohio, in Regular session on Tuesday, December 14, 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 to be taken 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: Administrator Greg Roberts, Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs

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

Additional personnel: Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp

Absent: Solicitor Scott Sollmann – due to prior work commitment

**Guests present in Council Chambers (\* Residents):** \*Dennis Dalton, \*Jon Tharpe, \*Lisa Tharpe, Clermont County Commission David Painter, \*Bob Lees, \*Jen Mulholland, \*Ryan Woodruff and \*Sophie Woodruff.

### **SWEARING IN of newly elected Councilmembers**

Clermont County Commissioner David Painter performed the swearing in of the Oath of Office for the newly elected Councilmembers Mary Allen, Ryan Woodruff, Dennis Dalton, and Jon Tharpe while placing their hands on the Holy Bible.

### **COMMUNICATIONS** - No one wished to speak

### **MINUTES**

(\*M-1) Minutes of the November 23, 2021 Regular Council meeting was presented for approval.

**M-1** Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve Minutes of the November 23, 2021 Regular Council meeting, as written; 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

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Personnel & Finance Committee** report from the meeting held Monday, 12-13-2021 as reported by Committee Chair Mary Allen:

This provides a summary of the December 13, 2021 Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting. The meeting started at 4:35 p.m. and ended at 5:25 p.m.

Members present: Council Members: Gary Skeene, Richard Feldkamp, and Mary Allen, Committee Chair. Mayor Ewing. Police Chief Mike Couch, Police Sergeant Jason Mallott, EMS/Fire Chief Vince Bee, Assistant EMS/Fire Chief Tim Feldkamp, Village Administrator Greg Roberts, and Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird. Guests: Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs. Employees: Ken Shearwood, Rob Painter. Residents: Ryan Woodruff and Dennis Dalton.

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

#### **Finance Committee** - Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird

1. We had a high-level discussion on the Temporary Appropriations for 2022. Planned budget needs should be given to Lynn asap. This includes:
  - Any anticipated equipment or vehicle purchases, maintenance, repairs for 2022
  - Any expected grants or grant matches for 2022
2. Lynn provided some good news.
  - 2020 Dispatch fees payable in 2022 are \$12,000 under budget
  - Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC) premium was \$10,000 under budget (the true up to be paid in early 2022)
3. The Bonus Pay run total was \$48,803.77 (couldn't exceed \$57,976) – will require an appropriation change
  - Grossman – returned his money to the Village - \$400
  - Amole – wasn't initially scheduled to receive one, but he's going to receive the \$400 Grossman returned
4. Lynn advised that the State will not be doing the first responder's bonus this year.

(\*M-2) The Committee has reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of November.

Motion: Motion to pay the bills.

#### **Police Department** – Police Chief Mike Couch

Chief Couch had three personnel changes:

- (\*M-3) Jason Spradlin is being reclassified from auxiliary to paid part-time at \$15 per hour effective November 18, 2021
- (\*M-4) James Clements is being reclassified from auxiliary to paid part-time at \$15 per hour effective December 14, 2021
- (\*M-4) Ken Grossman is being reclassified from auxiliary to paid part-time at \$15 per hour effective December 14, 2021

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Motion: Motion to reclassify Jason Spradlin as a part-time officer at the rate of \$15.00 per hour effective November 18, 2021

Motion: Motion to reclassify Ken Grossman as a part-time officer at the rate of \$15.00 per hour effective December 14, 2021

- Chief Couch advised we've received \$31,900 for the new patrol car and an additional \$7,800 for the needed equipment.

**Fire/EMS Department** - Assistant Chief Tim Feldkamp standing in for Fire / EMS Chief Vince Bee: Chief Bee had two personnel changes:

- **(\*M-5)** Accept the resignation of Daniel Cayse effective 1/1/2022
- **(\*M-6)** Hire pay-per-call Firefighter/EMT Molly Burdine

**(\*) Motion**: Motion to accept the resignation of Daniel Cayse effective

**(\*) Motion**: Motion to hire pay-per-call Firefighter/EMT Molly Burdine at \$15 per run effective 12/14/2021.

**Village Administrator** - Greg Roberts:

Greg thanked Councilman Skeene for 16 years of service.

1. Looks like we're in the running to receive an OPWC grant – this one is for digital water meter readers.
2. We've signed the loan agreement to work with the Ohio Water Development Authority. This is in regard to the new EPA requirement for asset management plans.
3. Greg met with Councilman Prues and the Solicitor to provide bid specs for recycling and waste pick up. Once awarded, this will be a five-year agreement.

**Comments from Guests**: Employees in attendance stated they're happy to have received the bonuses.

Submitted by Committee Chairwoman, Mary Allen, on December 14, 2021.

*Items voted on at the 12-14-2021 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:*

**M-2** Councilwoman Allen motioned to pay all bills for the month of November, 2021; 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

**M-3** Councilwoman Allen motioned to change the status of Police Officer Jason Spradlin from Auxiliary to Part-Time on a "Call In" basis at the rate of \$15.00 per hour; 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

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**M-4 Councilwoman Allen motioned to change the status of Police Officers Ken Grossman and James Clements from Auxiliary to Part-Time on a "Call In" basis at the rate of \$15.00 per hour; seconded by Councilwoman Slade. 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

**M-5 Councilwoman Allen motioned to accept the resignation of Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Cayse effective 01/01/2022. Daniel leaves in good standing; 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

**M-6 Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve the hiring of Molly Burdine as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter-In-Training /EMT, at the POC rate of \$25/per run, effective 12/14/2021, on a one-year probation, paying into Social Security; 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

**Safety, Laws & Rules Committee** report from the meeting held Monday, 12-13-2021 as reported by Committee Chair Richard Feldkamp

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Glen Ewing, Gary Skeene, Mary Allen, Dick Feldkamp, Greg Roberts, Andrew Gephardt, Mike Couch, Jason Mallott, Tim Feldkamp, Vince Bee, Dennis Dalton, Ryan Woodruff

Greg Roberts: Situations are being found in New Richmond and are being observed. Further reviews on Golf Carts and Campers were discussed.

Chief Couch: stated that Police calls have dropped off. He talked about calls overall dropped again this month.

Andrew Gephardt: talked more about abandoned cars, trucks, and trailers.

Vince Bee thanked everyone for their attendance at his Mom and Dad's

Comments made and items voted on at the 12-14-2021 Council meeting after the Safety, Laws, Rules Committee report: None

**Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee** report from the meeting held Monday, 12-13-2021 as reported by Committee Member Melanie Slade

Present: Councilwoman Melanie Slade, Councilwoman Becky Ploucha, Village Administrator Greg Roberts. Absent: Committee Chair Larry Prues. Larry was absent for a good reason – it was his wife's birthday! Guests: Councilman-elect Dennis Dalton, Councilman-elect Ryan Woodruff

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The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

Greg Roberts led a discussion regarding the Liberty Landing project. We discussed the multiphase project and the process involved in seeking funding for future phases. Phase 1 would include the performance venue in Haussermann Park, sidewalk improvements, and the Walnut Street gateway including the grand staircase.

Updating Zoning Ordinances work sessions continue on simplifying and combining ordinances.

Bid Specs have been finalized for waste removal and recycling.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> application has been submitted for the Ohio Public Works grant for replacing current water meters with drive-by water meters.

RNR (Renaissance New Richmond) continues to seek funding and in-kind donations for the dog park project.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

Comments made at the 12-14-2021 Council meeting after the Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report: None

**Economic Development Committee** meeting on hold until 2022

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**Village Administrator** Greg Roberts:

Administrator Roberts began by thanking Commissioner Painter for attending and performing the swearing-in of New Richmond's newest Councilmembers and then gave his report:

- Thanks & Welcome: Thanks to Gary, Becky, and Melanie for their service to the Village. Welcome to newly elected Council members Ryan, Dennis, Jon, and Mary. Assuming Council will choose to cancel the December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting per tradition, I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- (\*M-7) Union Station Bonds: Earlier this fall our contract subdivision review engineering firm, Choice One, created a punch list for completion and acceptance of street and sidewalk work at Union Station. Over 80% of the punch list has been completed with only a few remaining. We currently have \$82,909.03 in combined bonds for Sections 3 & 4 of Union Station for street and sidewalk performance completion. I recommend, and Choice One concurs, that a request from the developer to release \$62,909.03 now and hold \$20,000 for the remaining few items to be completed be accepted as fair and reasonable. \$20,000 is more than sufficient to cover the costs of the costs if the items are not completed. I request a motion to release \$62,909.03 of the bond now and hold \$20,000 of the bond for the remaining few items to be completed at Union Station.
- Regatta: Section 1 is nearing completion. Sales for Section 2 will begin soon.
- Tree City: I commend, Clerk of Council Kathy Fuchs for her work on completing the Village's annual Tree City application. If accepted, 2021

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will be the 19<sup>th</sup> year that the Village has qualified as a Tree City by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

**M-7 Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve Administrator Roberts recommendation to release \$62,909.03 of the bonds for Sections 3 & 4 for street and sidewalk work at Union Station now and hold \$20,000 of the bond for the remaining few items to be completed at Union Station; 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

**Police Chief** Mike Couch:

- Below are the statistics for November, 2021 compared to November, 2020.

NOVEMBER, 2021 New Richmond Police Department statistics					
Enforcement	2021	2020	Highlights		
Total Crimes Reports	2	7	Menacing Threats	1	arrest
Total Arrests	2	7	Possession of Marijuana	1	cited
Misdemeanor Citations	1	1	Missing Juvenile	1	return
Traffic - Stops/Citations	62/26	65/46	Criminal Damaging	1	referral
Warrants Served	2	3	Death Investigation	1	HCCO
Total Calls for service	219	464			
Business Checks	14	92			
Residential Checks	11	110			
School Checks	1	23			
Assist Fire/EMS Units	12	8			
Investigate Complaints	28	38			
Theft	2	1			
Abandoned Vehicles	4	11			
Incident Reports	11	3			
Crash Reports	2	3			
Domestic Complaints	5	5			

- As reported in the Personnel and Finance Committee report Chief Couch reiterated the Village will receive \$31,900 to use towards the replacement patrol car and an additional \$7,800 for the replacement of the damaged equipment. The department is searching for a replacement.
- “Shop with a Hero” this weekend with 6-10 children.
- Death investigation at 310 Susanna Way
- Person at 310 Susanna Way with felony warrants was transported to Clermont County Jail.
- David Vornholt properties found to have nuisance violations.
- A prisoner from a jail up north has been sending threatening emails to a New Richmond resident. Charges are pending.
- Chief Couch thanked Council for the bonuses which came in handy during the holiday season.

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**Fire/EMS Chief** Vince Bee:

- Their reporting system is down, Chief Bee will supply Council with a printed copy of monthly and yearly statistics when the system is up. Tonight, he gave verbal numbers as seen below.
- He thanked Council for the bonuses. The Fire and EMS Departments are very appreciative.
- He thanked everyone for their support during the passing of his mother and most recently his father, and for the donation to the Cincinnati Fire Museum.
- He thanked the outgoing members and welcomed back Mary Allen and the newly elected members.

New Richmond Fire/EMS Department Statistics					
NOVEMBER, 2021	Month	Y-T-D	NOVEMBER, 2021	Month	Y-T-D
Ohio Township (contracted)	5	37	Fire	1	25
Out of District (mutual aid)	6	76	Rescue & Emergency Medical	63	557
Village of New Richmond	56	557	Hazardous Condition (no fire)	0	11
TOTALS	67	670	Service Call	1	13
			Good Intent Call	1	47
			False Alarm/ False Call	1	11
			Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	0	1
			Special Incident	0	4
			TOTAL	67	669

**Mayor** Glenn Ewing:

- He thanked the outgoing Councilmembers and welcomed the newly elected members.
- He presented Gary Skeene with a card from Council for his over 20 years of service to the village on the Fire Department, on Council and his overall work for the betterment of the Village of New Richmond.
- **(\*M-8)** A discussion was held by Councilmembers, and the decision to cancel the second regular meeting on December 28, 2021 was made unless other business arises.

**M-8** Councilman Prues motioned to cancel Council’s second regular meeting on December 28, 2021 unless other business arises; 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

**Solicitor** Scott Sollmann - absent due to prior work commitment

**Clerk of Council** Kathy Fuchs – She stated that since she began working for the village this year everyone has welcomed her and helped her to learn the area. She looks forward to working with the newly elected Councilmembers.

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LEGISLATION read by Mayor Ewing

First Reading:

(\*M-9 and M-10) RESOLUTION 2021-22 Resolution amending the 2021 appropriations, by emergency passage.

M-9 Councilwoman Allen motioned to suspend the three-read-rule for RESOLUTION 2021-22 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATIONS, by emergency passage due to the cancellation by Council of the second regular meeting on December 28, 2021 for the holidays; 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

M-10 Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve RESOLUTION 2021-22 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATIONS, by emergency passage due to the cancellation by Council of the second regular meeting on December 28, 2021 for the holidays; 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

Second Reading:

(\*M-11 and 12) RESOLUTION 2021-21 A resolution approving the 2022 temporary appropriations, by emergency passage.

M-11 Councilman Feldkamp motioned to suspend the three-read-rule for RESOLUTION 2021-21 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2022 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS, by emergency passage due to the cancellation by Council of the second regular meeting on December 28, 2021 for the holidays; 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

M-12 Councilman Feldkamp motioned to approve RESOLUTION 2021-21 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2022 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS, BY EMERGENCY PASSAGE by emergency passage due to the cancellation by Council of the second regular meeting on December 28, 2021 for the holidays; seconded by Councilwoman Slade. 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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Third Reading:

(\*M-13) Resolution 2021-20 A resolution declaring the structure located at 208 Susanna Way, a.k.a. parcel# 260909.235a, New Richmond, Ohio to be a public nuisance, and authorizing the zoning administrator to cause removal of such lawful conditions if said owners(s) fails to do so within forty-five days of notice

M-13 Councilwoman Allen motioned to approve RESOLUTION 2021-20 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 208 SUSANNA WAY, A.K.A. PARCEL# 260909.235A, NEW RICHMOND, OHIO TO BE A PUBLIC NUISANCE, AND AUTHORIZING THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR TO CAUSE REMOVAL OF SUCH LAWFUL CONDITIONS IF SAID OWNERS(S) FAILS TO DO SO WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF NOTICE; 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

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues – mentioned the video Ryan Homes has online promoting the homes they have available in the Village of New Richmond.

Richard Feldkamp – Nothing to report.

Mary Allen – Thanked Becky, Melanie, and Gary and wished them well in their futures. The Christmas Parade went very well.

Becky Ploucha – Thanked everyone for a really amazing 3 years and welcomed the new Councilmembers.

Melanie Slade – Thanked everyone for their support and expressed that being a Councilmember was a great opportunity.

Gary Skeene – Thanked everyone and the residents for their support. He was on the Fire Department for several years also. He thanked Council for the cards and gifts.

Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:

Chief Couch asked if Council would also like to write a letter of appreciation to OBCI (Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation) for their assistance in helping the New Richmond Police Department in solving the murder of resident Robert “Bobby” Farrell. He thanked Council for their support during that time.

Dennis Dalton – There is a large pothole on Front Street near US 52 that needs fixed.

Ryan Woodruff – He thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their service. He commented that the idea of serving is great.

M-14 Councilman Prues motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.; seconded by Councilwoman Slade. 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 8:45 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk of Council