**PUBLIC HEARING ON DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA)**

**March 10, 2020**

**Council in attendance:** Mayor Glenn Ewing, Richard Feldkamp, Mary Allen, Gary Skeene, Melanie Slade and Becky Ploucha

**Also present:** Village Administrator, Greg Roberts

**Guests wishing to speak during DORA Public Hearing:** Dan Knecht, Nancy Swats, Marcia Delaney, Bob Hornbuckle and Mary Beth Wulker

**Mayor Ewing called the DORA public meeting to order at 7:05p.m.**

Administrator Greg Roberts began the discussion explaining how several weeks back, the Planning Commission submitted a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) application to Council for their consideration.

According to the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 4301.82, a municipality such as the Village of New Richmond with a population of less than thirty-five thousand is permitted to create a DORA as long as the proposed area will include at least four qualified permit holders and be composed of one hundred fifty or fewer contiguous acres. The Planning Commission feels an approval of the DORA will serve to enhance the experiences of the patrons of the business establishments and the special events within the New Richmond core village area.

A requirement is beer and intoxicating liquor shall only be served in plastic bottles and/or other plastic containers within the DORA as set forth in the DORA Application as required pursuant to R.C. Section 4301.82 (F)(1)(g) and orders that such plastic bottles and/or other plastic containers shall be provided by the qualified permit holders in a readily-identified container as approved by the Village Administrator that identifies the name of the establishment that is serving the beverage.

Milford, Loveland, Mason, Middletown and Hamilton currently have DORAs. If this legislation is passed, we believe we would be the first Village community to establish a DORA in the state of Ohio.

**The meeting was opened up for discussion and public input**:

Councilmember Allen: Is all of Washington St. in the DORA?

Administrator Roberts: Washington St. from Augusta to Union St., is included in the DORA.

Councilmember Allen: Will DORA require a minimum of four qualified permit holders throughout its continuum?

Administrator Roberts: Not sure if a minimum of four qualified permit holders is required throughout its continuum, but it would behoove the Village to ensure the area retains at least four permit holders.

Councilmember Ploucha: Would a DORA increase the allowable number of liquor licenses?

Administrator Roberts: No, a DORA does not increase the allowable number of liquor licenses.

(Resident Becky McKannon): What about the trash?

Administrator Roberts: One, we will have to have more trash cans.

Councilmember Allen: Does the DORA portion of Susanna Way include up to Augusta St.?

Administrator Roberts: Yes, Susanna Way up to Augusta St. is part of the DORA.

Councilmember Slade: Will this be 7 days a week?

Administrator Roberts: Yes, 7 days a week.

Resident Marcia Delaney: What if people are drinking from non-DORA cups?

Administrator Roberts: It would be the same as an open container citation.

Dan Knecht, owner of Buck’s BBQ: Buck’s does not have a liquor permit. The State of Ohio prohibits someone bringing liquor into our establishment – the “BYOB” law. With a DORA, our patrons can bring their drinks in a DORA cup into our establishment and we are protected from the BYOB law.

Resident Mary Beth Wulker: In tandem with the DORA, I think we should push New Richmond as a very safe place to be and to visit.

Resident Bob Hornbuckle: I just bought a house on Sofia St. Prior to this I, nor my friends, had ever heard New Richmond had a drug problem. I’ve heard nothing but good things about New Richmond.

**Mayor Ewing closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 7:33p.m.**