**March 24th, 2020**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers in regular session on Tuesday March 24th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. **Present** - Mayor Glenn Ewing; Council Members: Mary Allen, Gary Skeene, Larry Prues, Melanie Slade and Becky Ploucha; Village Administrator Greg Roberts; Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh; Police Chief Mike Couch; Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee\* and Solicitor Scott Sollmann\*

(\*via teleconference)

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the March 10th, 2020 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve the Minutes of March 10th, 2020 Regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Ploucha.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

**Visitors**: Ryan and Sophie Woodruff

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Greg Roberts**:

* Presented the Rose’s harbor Plan of Operation for review.
* Shared Papa John’s is now open for business.
* Requested a motion to accept the bid by Brown County Construction as the lowest and most responsive bid for 2020 paving project.
* Requested a motion to contract with Robert Lindhorst as a seasonal worker at a rate of $10.50 hour. Details contingent on budget review and approval of Solicitor.

Councilmember Skeene motioned to approve bid by Brown County Construction for the 2020 paving project; seconded by Councilmember Slade.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve a contract with Robert Lindhorst as a seasonal worker at a rate of $10.50 hour; details contingent on budget review and approval of Solicitor; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

**Police Chief Mike Couch**:

* The NRPD is staging for medical type runs and has masks/gloves in each patrol car.
* An arrest was made yesterday at 708 Front St. resulting in 6 felony charges. I commend Officer Frasure’s actions during this arrest; he did a great job handling this situation.

**Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee**:

* Access to both the Fire Dept. building and the Police station are restricted due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Employees’ temperatures are taken upon reporting for their shift.
* All community classes such as CPR training etc. have been cancelled.
* Chief has been teleconferencing daily with the Clermont County's Emergency Management Agency. Councilmember Allen asked Chief Bee to confirm the Village has an emergency preparedness plan. Chief Bee confirmed we do have an emergency action plan in place. Councilmember Prues asked if the Fired Dept. has all the supplies they need. Chief Bee said they are in pretty good shape; he is trying to get more masks.
* The Fire Dept.’s 2009 Ford ambulance has on-going issues. To resolve, we can either re-chassis the ambulance for a cost of approximately $70,000. or buy a new vehicle costing between $150,000 to $160,000. Chief Bee asked Council to approve the Resolution\*\* providing funds to re-chassis of the life squad ambulance.

Councilmember Allen made the motion to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 2020-08; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

Comments: Councilmember Prues asked if it was appropriate to handle this type of request as an emergency. Councilmember Allen replied that it was as this has been under discussion since last November/December and keeping the vehicle viable is in the best interest of the public, health, and safety of the community.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

Councilmember Skeene motioned to approve **RESOLUTION 2020-08** A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATIONS; seconded by Councilmember Allen.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

**Mayor Glenn Ewing**: Nothing to report

**Solicitor, Scott Sollmann**: The New Richmond Police and Fire/EMS departments should utilize the Clermont County Health Department to interpret the recent Stay at Home Order issued by the Ohio Director of Health obtaining answers in writing to as a reference when interpreting and enforcing the Order. Chief Couch asked if the people moving back into River Pines were violating the stay-at-home order. Scott reiterated any concerns regarding possible violations be directed to the Clermont County Health Department for written guidance.

**Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh:** The Division of Liquor Control has mailed out their annual notification that all liquor permits with the Village expire June 1, 2020. The Village has until May 4th, 2020 to file an objection to any renewal.

**Councilmember Allen** made the motion to pay February 2020 bills.

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve paying the bills of February 2020; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

**LEGISLATION**

**First Reading:**

**RESOLUTION 2020-07** A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND, CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

Councilmember Skeene made the motion to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 2020-07; seconded by Councilmember Allen.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

Councilmember Skeene motioned to approve Resolution 2020-07; seconded by Councilmember Prues.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

**RESOLUTION 2020-08** A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATIONS \*\*see passage above under Fire/EMS Chief Bee’s discussion.

**Second Reading:**

**ORDINANCE 2020-05** AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A RENTAL HOUSING CODE FOR THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND OHIO

**Third Reading:**

**RESOLUTION 2020-03** A RESOLUTION CREATING A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA FOR NEW RICHMOND’S CORE VILLAGE AND ENACTING REGULATIONS

Comments: Councilmember Allen noted, while she feels this is the right thing to do for the Village as far as furthering economic development, she wanted to acknowledge she has some concern that parts of the DORA are in the residential area.

Councilmember Prues motioned to approve Resolution 2020-03; seconded by Councilmember Ploucha.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

**CALL OF MEMBERS:**

**Larry Prues** – Asked Greg Roberts how soon the Village can get the DORA in place. Greg replied it may take some time now due to the pandemic.

**Mary Allen** – Meetings with the owner of 1070 Bethel-New Richmond Rd. are postponed due to the coronavirus; they will take place sometime in the future. Asks that Council meet just once in April due to the current pandemic, preferably the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

**Becky Ploucha** – We’ve been fortunate having a lot of volunteers helping out in the Village; does this create a liability issue? Greg Roberts asked that volunteers sign a volunteer waiver form available in the administrative office.

**Gary Skeene** –Nothing to report

**Melanie Slade** – Nothing to report

**Administrator Greg Roberts** asked Council for a motion to approve the liability insurance proposal received earlier today. The insurance will cost the Village $45,000. for the year, which is an 8% increase from last year’s cost.

Councilmember Allen made the motion authorizing Administrator Roberts to accept the liability insurance contract costing the Village $45,000. a year; seconded by Councilmember Slade.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

**Comments from audience**: No comments

Councilmember Skeene moved that Council and Administrator Greg Roberts go into executive session in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment of a new council member and also that council go into executive session in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(2) to consider the sale of property at competitive bidding.; seconded by Councilmember Allen.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

Executive session was entered at 7:50 p.m.

Councilmember Prues motioned to return from Executive Session to regular Council at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Ploucha.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

Councilmember Allen motioned to appoint Jonathan Millhouse as the new Councilmember, filling the Council seat vacated by Richard Feldkamp; seconded by Councilmember Ploucha.

Comments: Councilmember Allen stated Mr. Millhouse’s qualifications, in particular his technical writing skills, would be beneficial to the Village for grant writing and the Economic Development’s marketing brochure.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

Councilmember Skeene motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20p.m., seconded by Councilmember Slade.

Mrs. Slade yes Mr. Prues yes

Mr. Skeene yes Ms. Ploucha yes Ms. Allen: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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**Mayor Clerk of Council**