

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of *New Richmond Village Council*

Meeting

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

Held November 10, 2020 20

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers and via Zoom teleconference in regular session on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting followed rules and guidelines established by the Ohio General Assembly for public meetings established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and state and federal restrictions for public gatherings.

**Present in Council Chambers:** Mayor Glenn Ewing Council Members: Gary Skeene, Larry Prues, and Richard Feldkamp Administration: Village Administrator, Greg Roberts Department Heads: Police Chief Mike Couch  
**Present via Zoom teleconference:** Council Members: Mary Allen, Melanie Slade, and Becky Ploucha Administration: Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh; Solicitor, Scott Sollmann Department Heads/Additional Personnel: Asst. Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp Absent: Fire/EMS Chief Vince Bee; Sgt. Jason Mallott

**Guests present via Zoom teleconference:**

- Marsha Delaney - resident
- Megan Alley – Clermont Sun
- Todd Wuerdeman – resident
- David Vornholt – resident
- Molly
- Mindy Hogan – business owner
- Joby Houck – business owner

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes of the regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Slade.

|                 |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 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 meeting held 11-09-2020  
Finance/Budget - Fiscal Officer Lynn Baird

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- Received a \$44,536 year-to-date rebate from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC). This is money from the state to help with COVID expenses.
- Received \$233,000 from the Cares Act which went toward the Fire Chief and Police Sergeant salaries (both spend a significant amount of time on COVID-related things.) Some of the money was used to purchase power cots. The remaining \$2,000 will be spent on items for Village Hall such as touchless soap dispensers, etc.
- An ordinance approving appropriation changes is up for a vote later this evening. The changes outlined in the ordinance are: (1) expenses adjusted down due to lower revenue and (2) an adjustment for additional funding related to the Cares Act money.
- We will have the first reading of a temporary appropriations resolution allowing for spending through the end of March 2021; legislation approving permanent 2021 appropriations must be approved by the end of March 2021.
- The Personnel & Finance Committee reviewed all checks and electronic payments for the month of October 2020; we need a motion to pay these bills. \*

#### **Village Administration – Greg Roberts:**

- Norm Collins, Bobbi Phillips, and the street crew have been working together while Ken Shearwood was recuperating from his recent illness.
- Continues to work with Solicitor Scott Sollmann on next steps for the use of the U.S. 52 safety cameras.
- Greg and Andrew are in discussion with ODOT as to who best should handle the project management for the U.S. 52 complete streets project (dedicated bike trail and roundabouts). Federally funded projects such as this are subject to an incredible amount of regulations and documentation. ODOT possesses the experience and staffing well beyond village resources. Mary suggested that communications be handled by, or at least include, the Economic Development Committee. The rationale is (1) this project will have economic effect on the Village and (2) we need to “over communicate” the importance of the roundabouts.

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

- John Amole is doing well after a man he was attempting to arrest spit in his face.

#### **Fire/EMS Department – Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp:**

- Assistant Chief Feldkamp requested the following personnel changes:
  - Reclassify Camron Pelzel from part-time firefighter paramedic to full-time firefighter paramedic at a pay rate of \$15.50 an hour effective November 20, 2020. He will serve a one-year probation. This change fills the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miranda Vearil in October. \*\*

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o Hire Tracy Wright and Chad Evans as part-time firefighter EMTs at a pay rate of \$12.60 an hour effective November 10, 2020. Each will serve a one-year probation. \*\*\*

- The new cots for the ambulances have been ordered and were paid for with the Cares Act money that the Village received. The cots cost \$90,220.64 plus \$3,600 to have them installed. The cost to the Village is around \$10,000; there is money in the budget for this.
- New airbags have been purchased due to a catastrophic failure during training. The price of this set was \$7,052. This was an unforeseen expense, so money was moved from funds set aside for vehicle repairs to the operating funds category to cover the expense.

**Comments from Guests**

David Vornholt agrees having the Economic Development Committee help with communications related to the roundabouts would be a good idea.

Items voted on at the 11-10-2020 Council meeting, as requested during the Personnel & Finance Committee report:

\* Councilmember Allen made the motion to pay the October 2020 bills; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

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

\*\* Councilmember Allen made the motion to reclassify Camron Pelzel from part-time firefighter paramedic to full-time firefighter paramedic at a pay rate of \$15.50 an hour effective November 20, 2020. He will serve a one-year probation; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

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

\*\*\* Councilmember Allen made the motion to hire Tracy Wright and Chad Evans as part-time firefighter EMTs at a pay rate of \$12.60 an hour, effective November 10, 2020. Each will serve a one-year probation; seconded by Councilmember Skeene.

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

**Safety, Laws & Rules Committee report from meeting held 11-09-2020**

Administrator Greg Roberts talked about the problem of vehicles parking on the grass on both public and private property resulting in ruts and mud holes. Roberts will be reviewing legislation from other communities designed to address this problem.

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## Fire/EMS Asst. Chief Tim Feldkamp:

- Three air bags (two large and one small) were purchased to aid in lifting patients.

## Police Chief Mike Couch:

- One problem at 1070 Bethel-New Richmond Rd. since our last Council meeting.
- Asked the solicitor to provide an update on speed camera rulings. Solicitor Sollmann relayed the City of Dayton's speed camera case filing is set for an oral argument on December 8th in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Appeals. Given anticipated conflicting District Court rulings, the Ohio Supreme Court will likely grant certiorari and issue a ruling as to the constitutionality of new legislation. Overall, this is a long process, and he feels the Village should wait to see what happens with the City of Dayton's case instead of filing our own injunction in Clermont County Common Pleas Court.
- Drug activity at the Family Dollar has been taken care of
- Officer Frasure handled a dispute over a ladder

## Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee report from meeting held 11-09-2020

### Administrator Greg Roberts:

- He and Andrew met with ODOT to discuss the Complete Streets Project (roundabout as well as the hiking/biking trail on U.S. 52).
- The Union Station park/playground is completed.
- A camera with the ability to check the infrastructure will be used to investigate what is causing the sinkhole at Front and Walnut Streets.

Councilman Larry Prues asked if the Village has received an update on the development of the Beckjord property. Administrator Roberts reported we might not necessarily be kept in the loop since most of the property is in Pierce Township; the portion located in the Village is mainly the ash pit area.

## Economic Development Committee report from meeting held 11-10-2020

- Discussion centered around what the committee's focus would be in 2021.

## DEPARTMENT HEADS

### Village Administrator Greg Roberts:

**A big thank you to all veterans who have served and continue to serve this great country of ours.**

- **Regatta:** HPA Development has made great progress in clearing the property for the completion of the Regatta at Light's Point subdivision this Spring. HPA is looking to develop other properties on Bethel-New Richmond Road.
- **Union Station:** All the punch list items have been completed in Union Station Phase 2 (Junction Point), including the completion of the surface course paving and all curb repairs. Requesting a motion to accept the release of the bond to HPA Development in the amount of (\$38,207.57).
- **The Promenade:** The Susanna Way Improvement Project has commenced as of today. Besides a new curb and sidewalk on the river

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side of Susanna Way, much needed improvements in stormwater drainage are included in this project.

- The owners of the former "Festival Park" are in the process of obtaining permits to develop the property as a high-end RV Park.
- Ken Shearwood has been released to return to work on light duty.

**Police Chief Mike Couch:**

- Would like to participate in future development planning of the RV Park.
- Provided crime statistics including a 56% decrease in crime, 40% decrease in theft reports and 120% increase in business checks from this time last year. 63 traffic violations were issued this month.

**Asst. Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp:**

- Would like to be involved in the RV Park discussion.
- The new air bags, classified as lifting bags, replaced our old ones dating back to the 1980's.
- The new cots are a great addition, especially during the pandemic as they require less personnel needed to lift a patient thereby lessening the possible exposure to COVID.

**Mayor Glenn Ewing:** The Mayor will undergo his 2<sup>nd</sup> chemo treatment on Monday and surgery will follow.

**Solicitor, Scott Sollmann:** Next steps for the Revitalization District are: (1) a survey of the district and (2) awaiting population count as determined by the 2020 census with respect to certain population requirements set out by the statute. Additional advances are dependent upon a request for a D5L liquor permit made to the Village.

**Clerk of Council, Theresa Leigh:** Nothing to report

## LEGISLATION

**First Reading:**

### **ORDINANCE 2020-13 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING APPROPRIATION CHANGES**

Councilmember Skeene motioned to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2020-13 An Ordinance Approving Appropriation Changes; seconded by Councilmember Allen.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

Ms. Ploucha: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Councilmember Skeene motioned to approve Ordinance 2020-13 An Ordinance Approving Appropriation Changes; seconded by Councilmember Allen.

Mrs. Slade: yes

Mr. Prues: yes

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Mr. Skeene: yes

Ms. Allen: yes  
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

**RESOLUTION 2020-22** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A REQUEST FOR ADVANCE OF PROPERTY TAXES PAID IN 2021 TO THE CLERMONT COUNTY AUDITOR

**RESOLUTION 2020-23** A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2021 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS

Second Reading:

**RESOLUTION 2020-21** A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF ALL FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FUND PURSUANT TO H.B. 481 AS AMENDED BY HB 614 TO COVER COSTS CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 5001 OF THE CARES ACT

Third Reading:

**CALL OF MEMBERS:**

**Larry Prues** – Inquired into the status of the ballpark and other property we are going to put out for bid. Solicitor Sollmann stated Council will need to vote on putting the property up for bid; he will craft the legislation.

**Mary Allen** – Nothing to report

**Becky Ploucha** – Nothing to report

**Gary Skeene** – Inquired into the reason for barriers located at the bottom of Beckjord bridge. Administrator Roberts stated repairs are being done on the bridge.

**Melanie Slade** – Nothing to report

**Richard Feldkamp** - Nothing to report

**Comments from audience/Visitors wishing to address Council:**

Molly asked why there is no statute of limitations on liquor licenses from the date of acquisition to the date of use. Solicitor Sollmann replied he is not aware of any such statute of limitation.

David Vornholt requested a meeting with at least one elected official to discuss the work being done on Susanna Way. Councilmember Skeene agreed to meet with David tomorrow to address his concerns.

Councilmember Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Ploucha.

Mrs. Slade: yes  
Ms. Ploucha: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Prues: yes  
Ms. Allen: yes  
Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

*Glenn B. Evonig*  
Mayor

*Theresa Leigh*  
Clerk of Council