

New London Council Workshop April 10, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

Present: John Martin, Janice Myers, Mike Willis, Bill Curtis, Marion Paramore, Neil Winslow, John Chapin, Don Patton, Shawn Pickworth and Steve Bond

The workshop was held to go over changes in Chapters 921, 925 and 927 of the Codified Ordinances concerning Water, Sewer and Utility rules. The workshop started with John Chapin presenting some minor language changes that needed updated. He then talked about looking at increasing the bulk water price. Currently the rate for bulk water is \$5 per 1,000 gallons. John stated that since the water rates were going to be increased, he thought the bulk water rate should be raised also. Another issue John talked to council about was keeping all water accounts in the owner's name. Water accounts would no longer be in the renter's name. All accounts currently in the renter's name would remain that way until the current renter leaves. At that point, the water would be put in the owner's name.

John then discussed increasing the price of a meter test to \$40. Currently the cost is \$10 to check the accuracy of a meter. In addition, the cost for a frozen meter would increase from \$25 to \$50. If the water meter is located in a basement or under a mobile home, it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure the meter does not freeze. If the meter is in a pit in the tree lawn, it is the village's responsibility. Council members stated they would like more detail put into the ordinance explaining this and Mr. Bond agreed to include more information in the ordinance.

Next, John went over changes in the sewer ordinance. There were no major changes other than some minor word changes to clean up, but there is an issue that is already stated in the current ordinance that John would like council's help to start enforcing. The sewer ordinance states that sump pumps may not be hooked into the sanitary sewer. Janice Myers voiced a concern about where the water would go since it wasn't allowed to go in the neighbor's yard or on the sidewalks. John stated he realized that was an issue and he didn't really have an answer although he explained that it was no difference than the gutters on people's homes.

The most significant change in the sewer ordinance would be the increase in the road excavation permit fee. The fee would increase to \$500 for any excavation up to halfway across the roadway or \$1,000 if the excavation is more than halfway across the roadway. These fees are currently \$200 and \$300 respectively.

The next issue discussed was the criteria for turn off procedures for utilities. Currently, a delinquent notice is sent out to all customers that have not paid their bill by the due date. John would like to do away with the delinquent notices and provide the information and dates for shut offs on the original bill received at the beginning of each month. Customers would receive only one bill each month, but the bill would include disconnect

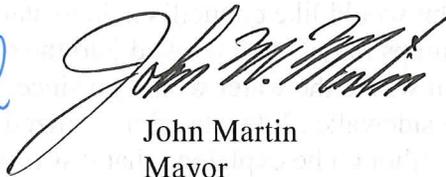
information so that customers are aware. John would like to make the shut off criteria very cut and dry and he would like council's support in enforcing the criteria. There was a discussion on whether shut offs should occur after 30 or 60 days of nonpayment. Council agreed it should be 30 days unless a signed payment plan has been received by the village. Payment plans have always been in the ordinance but they have never really been enforced. In addition, the reconnection fee to have water turned back on would increase from \$25 to \$50.

Shawn Pickworth then took over the workshop and discussed the changes he would like to see in the sanitation portion of the ordinance. He discussed with council the popularity of dumpster rentals in the village. Currently, they have a problem with customers keeping the dumpsters for long periods of time. Shawn would like to allow dumpster to be rented for two week intervals only. If the customer keeps the dumpster longer than two weeks, their rental rate would increase to the price a business pays to have a permanent dumpster. Shawn also discussed extra pickups. He would like to go to a three tier system of \$5, \$10 and \$20 depending on the item. He gave examples of items with Freon in them and very large pieces of furniture as \$20 items. The smaller items would have \$5 and \$10 prices. He also brought up the idea of incorporating a sticker system. Customers would prepay for extra pickups and receive a sticker. On collection day, sanitation workers would see the sticker and know it was okay to be picked up. Shawn also would like to enforce a rule that all garbage containers at apartments and duplex's be marked. Renters tend to make one pile of garbage and if there are extra items it is hard to tell who should incur the extra charges. He would like it to be easy to identify which garbage belongs to which renter. In closing, Shawn asked council to go down and check out the village's sanitation area. There have been many improvements. Several council members have been down to look and they all agreed that it looks very good.

Workshop was adjourned.



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



John Martin
Mayor