

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, October 9, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Mayor John Martin called the meeting to order. He then asked Pastor Toby Thomas to do the invocation. Pastor Thomas' prayer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was then taken with the following members present: Curtis, Myers, Willis, Cooke and Winslow. Paramore was absent.

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Marvin McCallister, Bob James, Don Patton, Lynn Phillips, Ellen Simmons, Joe Thomas, Kenneth Fannin, Toby Thomas, Emory Bateson, Gayle Ashbaker, Mark Roeder, Tommy Hall, Nell Hall, Brittany Roeder, Sandra Sword, Brad Booth, Eric Ebinger, Sarah Didion, Susan Miller, John Benci, Hettie Rohwer, Courtney Shepherd, Tracey Logan, Richard Logan, Denver Moore, Jean Moore, Deb Ratajczak, Bob Ratajczak, Sherry Barber, Jill Mitchell, Eric Mitchell, Dawn Hess, Jessica Hostetler, Amanda Swords, Dick Sutherland, Sam Heydinger, Dalee Speicher, Suzanne Cooke, Duane Crandall, Jill Crandall, Rita Martin, Steve Roeder, Adam Roeder, Linda Roeder, Keaton Ruggles, Teresa Hunter, Evan Clemmons and Carol Skillicorn.

John Martin then asked for approval of the agenda. Myers made a motion to approve the agenda. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

The minutes from the September 25, 2017 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; no one opposed.

John Martin stated that before he turns the floor over to the public for questions and statements he would like to bring to everyone's attention that no employee has been written up, no employee's position was in question and no action has been taken. This issue has been handled in house and no further discussion is necessary. Let us please move forward.

John Martin then said he was opening the floor for any public questions or statements. Please stand, state your name and you will be allotted three minutes of your time. After your three minutes are up, I will thank you for your comments.

Sandy Sword stood and stated that she wanted to start with zoning back to square one. In June of 2017 they were given a paper that was seventeen parcels that were going to be proposed edits. When did we start changing to change zoning districts? Her other question was when they presented the map, what was the golf course zoned as? In my meeting of our ordinance it says that a golf course needs to be under the PPOS which is Public Parks and Open Space. I do not see anything in the Commercial that supports that though I understand it's zoned now Commercial so I think that does not follow our ordinance at all. And also, just on a personal note, when this petition went around, petitions really don't hold any weight if they don't have a specific reason why they are petitioning and it usually falls in the favor of the property owner, not just because you don't like what you think is going to happen. And also, congestion/traffic-it doesn't hold because the courts will say you expect that in strong urban areas. And also, you devaluated our land. The paper you gave us back in June that shows the demographics of New London for the last I don't know how many years shows that we are below average in income and housing prices are low so now you have limited us to low housing and I think that's wrong for a large parcel. I think it ought to have other ways of making money and according to the law which you...it was the Eminent Domain and everyone said well this isn't. No this isn't Eminent Domain but if you would have read further to the conclusion of the report what it says is what the rights of a property owner are and you cannot devalue your land without compensation which is called the Taking Clause. So I know it's not Eminent Domain. I know what that is but I also know what the

court's decision was and it's not what you guys think. That's all I have to say on that and my question is what was that property zoned as when this was presented to the public? In the golf course? Mayor John Martin stated that he could not answer that. I do not have that map in front of me.

Shawn Pickworth replied that he believes at one time it was proposed to be zoned.

Mrs. Sword asked why was it changed and was it public knowledge?

Shawn Pickworth stated it was because of the land use. It is a Commercial property.

Mrs. Sword said if you look under our zoning for New London, golf courses are not under that. It is under private or nonprofit that can be used. This does not apply. If you look under the PPOS, golf courses are pointed out. That's distinct. If that was changed without the public's notice, then I think your vote last week is wrong and should be void. I think you deceived your public by not telling that you did change a zoning district.

Shawn Pickworth replied that it wasn't changed. It has always been Commercial.

Mrs. Sword stated that it was proposed to be PPOS and that's what you showed the public but then when you voted you turned it to Commercial and we had no say on that and that's wrong. That shows almost favoritism and that's what I have to say on that.

John Martin stated that he thought that question would have to be taken up with the Village Solicitor. I cannot answer that one.

Mrs. Sword stated that she will be calling the development department tomorrow because this has to be turned into them so I will be calling them.

John Martin thanked Mrs. Sword.

Mrs. Sword replied, "You're welcome."

John Martin then asked if there were any more questions or statements.

Sarah Didion stood and said she knows it wasn't to be about the employees but I've been at the New London Reservoir now for years and I've seen a lot of changes. Joe has done more for that reservoir than anybody else in all the years that I have been there. Many people started clapping and someone said "Amen". Sarah Didion continued by saying if you ask him to do something, he might not get it done right then but he will get it done and I bet everyone here in the room can vouch for that. Several people replied "yep" and "yes" and there was more clapping.

Mayor Martin thanked Sarah Didion.

Nell Hall then stood and stated she and her husband had been camping at the reservoir for fourteen years and she just wanted to say thank you for the beautiful campground that they have and to thank Joe for taking care of it and thank you Shawn for giving him the privilege of taking care of it. We have never had it so good out there and we want to thank you guys very, very much.

John Martin replied, "Thank you" and if there were any other questions or comments.

Gayle Ashbaker then stood and said she had a couple questions she needed to ask. On this rezoning project, whose idea was it and what did it accomplish?

Shawn Pickworth explained that it brought the village up to date. It brought our zoning map up to date to match our codes. We updated our codes here back in 2014.

Gayle Ashbaker responded, "yes, but you aren't following them."

Shawn Pickworth continued by saying the village needed to update the map to match the codes.

Gayle Ashbaker asked how much the zoning project cost the town.

Shawn Pickworth stated that it cost over \$10,000 for the map alone.

Gayle Ashbaker replied, "The map alone; not his trips out here for these meetings and everything. You know I am zoned a single family dwelling and there is a set of houses that have apartments in it so what good was this? You could have spent the money more wisely I think. And why does the cemetery budget pay to mow the library lawn and the triangle?"

John Martin stated that it did not.

Shawn Pickworth also stated that it did not.

Gayle Ashbaker asked if they were sure.

Shawn Pickworth answered, "yeah."

Ellen Simmons replied that she was positive it did not.

Gayle Ashbaker asked Ellen Simmons why she was sure.

Ellen Simmons stated because I am on the Library Board and we choose somebody to mow our lawn every year and we pay them.

Gayle Ashbaker asked, "And you can pay for that?"

Ellen Simmons replied, "Of course."

Gayle Ashbaker stated that was a little strange but okay. Still on the cemetery, you do realize that those small mausoleum's roofs are in bad shape. The city owns the cemetery. The families gave money to the city and is in a trust fund to fix those roofs. I would like to see them fixed. I think we should honor all of our dead in New London and not let gaping holes in those cemeteries. I also am suggesting that...you know several years ago we were run by a Board of Public Affairs. It was a three-man committee and one of them got out of hand so the town got rid of it and appointed our government to be a Village Administrator. I'm not so sure we shouldn't go back to the BPA. Gayle then addressed the mayor and said, "And I wonder, John, why you went out to the reservoir when a church was having a picnic to see if they had paid for that picnic and you were told that they were going to pay when the picnic was over and you made two more trips out there that day to see if they had been paid. Did you think the church was going to run out at night and not pay you? I would like to know whose church was that? Was it your church or was it Joe's church?"

John Martin replied that it was not his church and he was sorry.

Mark Roeder stated, "That's right that was my church and then you got caught lying about it."

John Martin answered, "At this time, I've got no comments on that."

Gayle Ashbaker replied, "Okay well let's try this one. The fire department isn't broken. You don't need to fix it. Okay, if you want to take charge of the fire department, join it and when the siren rings, you risk your life the way they do."

Someone said, "Amen." Many people started clapping.

Gayle Ashbaker continued by saying she had one more statement. Your administrative code is very clear on harassment. Very clear. It also says it is illegal to harass any employee. It asks that everyone contact the person in charge. All of you councilmen I know have been contacted about what is going on in this town and nobody has done anything about it until Friday. So, it is my suggestion John that you resign immediately tonight or council can replace you and you can go into executive session because you are breaking the law or I will pass a paper around tonight and we will collect money and we will take you to court because you are not doing the job you are supposed to do. You're far from it. You're an embarrassment and you do not harass people. Ever! You're a bully.

Many people began clapping.

Susan Miller then stood and stated she stands up for Joe and the city even though she isn't a representative. She stated that she had talked at the last council meeting. She lives at the campground six months a year. No, I am not a resident but I chose this place for the people that are in that campground. This is not good for our campground. You are going to turn people away and it doesn't matter who is going to be there. Joe may be there. You may push him out and put someone else there but the one thing is and the only thing is you are going to end up shutting your own campground. And that's the way it is going to be if you keep harassing people. God is the only one that controls all and you're not Him.

John Martin thanked Susan Miller.

Hettie Rohwer stood and said I've been at the New London Reservoir five years and it has never been better. Not only does Joe manage it well, he knows how to deal with people. He makes us want to do our best there and he does his best there. You ought to think hard and long about making any changes. You are going to lose a lot of campers and what we have, we have because of Joe. She then stated she was at lot 89 and come to visit any time.

Mayor Martin thanked Hettie Rohwer.

Hettie Rohwer continued by saying and all of us...I think you would have had to add a room on if more of us would have heard about this incident. Myself, I didn't know a thing about it until late last night and I stayed over just to come to this meeting and I'm sure others would have too had they known. But you should treasure what you've got in Joe.

Dawn Hess stood and she stated she was a seasonal camper and she is also on the board of the Seasonal Campers Association. What happened a couple weeks ago in front of my children...we teach our children not to be a bully, you the mayor did bully Joe and I stand behind that man because ever since that campground and that park has not been run by other people, he has changed it and we are proud of him.

Many people began clapping.

Mayor John Martin thanked Dawn Hess.

Mark Roeder then spoke. He stated that this bullying and harassing that everyone is talking about has been going on since January. There is a list of every single thing that has happened. I don't have the list right now. I tried to get the list but it was under lock and key and you wouldn't give it to me. It really, really, really needs to stop and I really don't know what else to say. We have tried and tried and tried. John, it's not your job. It's really not your job. Your job should be, as a small town mayor, should be to promote the Village of New London and bring jobs to our town! I'm done.

John Martin thanked Mark Roeder.

Sherry Barber then stood and stated she wanted to ask council, each one of them. If somebody was harassing your family, like Joe has been harassed, I want to know where you stand. Are you standing behind the mayor being a bully? Because I guarantee you wouldn't have it if it was your family. The reservoir... people are coming back swimming. When Hoppy ran it, God love him, he was at the depot sitting on his butt 24/7. I cannot believe, John Martin, you have done this. You're the one that stood up here yelling the Barbers need to put a sidewalk in, the Barbers need to put a sidewalk in and then people get on the board and you table it? Am I getting my \$675.00 back for the concrete you guys made me lay? You need to back off. This personal vendetta because Zach didn't get invited to Lili's 16th birthday and your wife put it on Facebook...Karma? You need to get a grip. What are you doing for New London other than tearing your employees down? What have you done? You run around like a hen pecking at everybody. Why are you not encouraging? I've lived in this town for a very long time and I have never seen this crap ever. What do you have to say for yourself John?

John Martin stated, "No comment Sherry. No comment."

Sherry Barber commented that he should stick to that because there are laws and you broke them. And everybody on council could be held accountable. Are you aware of that?

John Martin said, "Thank you Sherry."

Sherry Barber replied, "You are more than welcome."

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

Water

- Fixed a water leak on Third Street.
- Crew is looking for a water leak near the intersection of South Main and Clyde Ave.

Wastewater

- No major issues.

Sanitation

- No major issues.

Street

- No major issues.

Parks

- Gun Raffle Tickets -- on sale now at the Village Office. The gun raffle will be held on November 4, 2017 at the Hileman Building starting at 12 noon. Doors will open at 11 AM.
- Country Roads Music Fest -- Had a great turnout for our first country concert. Everyone seemed to have a good time.
- The next Park Board meeting will be held in council chambers on October 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Other

- New Billing Software -- October is the month we plan on moving to our new software Muni -- Link. This is new for all of us and I am sure there will be some unforeseen hiccups. Please be patient, the ladies in the office and John Chapin have been working on this for a year now trying to make this transition as smooth as possible.
- Biglow Parkway -- the Mayor, Mr. Bond and I met with representatives from Huron County about the ownership of this road. We will meet again on October 20, 2017.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he had nothing to report unless someone had something for him.

Mark Roeder stated that he really wanted to thank the police for all their help at all of their events they have out at the park. After much clapping, Mark Roeder continued by saying it's really awesome and well appreciated having you guys around.

Chief Marko thanked everybody.

Sam Heydinger then stood and stated he worked at the funeral home and he wanted to thank the police department. Today we had a big funeral for John Sands and the department helped us out quite a bit. John wanted to be a police officer and the guys really stepped up and shut down roads for us and made everything go real smoothly so thanks.

After a round of applause, Chief Marko thanked Sam Heydinger for his comments.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin stated he had nothing to report unless there were any questions for him.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported there were 50 runs for September. There were 28 in the Village of New London; two in New London Township; four in Ruggles Township; six in Troy Township; six in Fitchville Township. There were three Mutual Aids (2-Greenwich Twp., 1-Greenwich Village). There were seven motor vehicle crashes: three in Fitchville, two in New London Township, one in Troy Township and one in Ruggles Township. It was a busy month.

John Martin then asked for a report from zoning. Bob James had nothing to report.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-24 An Ordinance Amending the Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies Relative to Adopt a New Policy on Social Media. Third Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the third reading. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Resolution 2017-09 A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Curtis made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Resolution 2017-09 to be passed on an emergency measure. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Absent. Myers made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

John Martin reported that nothing has been heard from any CSX Road master as they said they would about the West Main Street and North Main Street sidewalks at the railroad crossings. He is working with the track engineer and hopefully he will get in touch with him in the next week out of Indianapolis to take care of this. So he is waiting on that.

John Martin then called for New Business.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow the park board to sell beer at the gun raffle. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Joe Thomas stood and stated they had a park board meeting that night and they did vote for the new president. Mark Roeder is the new president and Brittany Roeder is the secretary. They are going to have another park board meeting on October 30 at Council Chambers at 6:30 to discuss the gun raffle.

John Martin then said he had a proclamation on drug addiction awareness dated October 9, 2017. Whereas, the Village of New London acknowledges partnering with The Huron County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services along with other county elected officials, healthcare, law enforcement, court, education and social service systems to expand prevention, treatment and recovery programming for individuals and their families who are suffering from addiction and mental health disorders; and Whereas, Addiction is a disease of the brain, with drug overdose deaths increasing across Huron County, Ohio, with 20 so far in 2017; and Whereas, By working together, our community will reduce stigma; and Whereas, Understanding and supporting those addicted, one can hope for a healing to overcome this powerful disease. Now, Therefore Be It Proclaimed, that I, John W. Martin, Mayor of the Village of New London, Ohio, do hereby proclaim beginning October 9, 2017 and looking into the future, as “Drug Addiction Awareness in New London”; and I call upon all citizens to recognize the serious problem facing our county, and support those addicted, for the health, safety, comfort and quality of life our community deserves. This proclaimed the 9th day of October, 2017.

Bill Curtis made a motion to allow Chief Marko to promote Seth Miracle to Sergeant and to allow him to create the position of Crime Scene Investigator and to promote Lance Capiot to Crime Scene Investigator effective October 24, 2017. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Myers made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

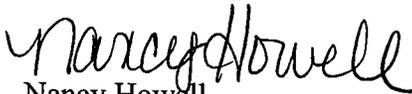
John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule B. Curtis made a motion to approve Schedule B. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Paramore – absent; Winslow – yes; Willis – yes; Curtis – yes; Cooke – abstain; Myers – disqualify herself.

John Martin then asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to consider the compensation of a village employee or official. Curtis made a motion to enter into executive session. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Absent.

John Martin then asked for a motion to return to regular session. Curtis made a motion to return to regular session. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Absent.

Janice Myers made a motion to accept the pay raises submitted by Village Administrator, Shawn Pickworth effective October 9, 2017. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; no one opposed.

Cooke made a motion to adjourn. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer


John Martin
Mayor