

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, November 27, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Mayor John Martin called the meeting to order. He then gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: Chief Marko, Lynn Phillips, Ellen Simmons, Bob James and Don Patton.

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

The minutes from the November 13, 2017 Fire, Water and Sewer Budget meeting were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; no none opposed.

The minutes from the November 13, 2017 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Cooke made a motion to approve the minutes. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; no one opposed.

John Martin asked for any public questions or statements.

Ellen Simmons stated that Saturday is Hometown Holidays. There will be a lot going on and I wanted to thank in advance the Fire Department and the Police Department for their help that day and everybody else that's pitching in. It's a lot of work. And I just had a question. I drove into town tonight and I could see the lights at the Rec Park. Are we doing the Holiday Lane thing? I've not heard anything.

Bill Curtis answered yeah Joe was going to start setting it up this weekend and he was hoping people would contact him.

Ellen Simmons asked if they should let people know they can start doing their displays.

Bill Curtis stated yes have them contact Joe.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator. Shawn Pickworth absent due to an illness.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he didn't have anything unless someone had something for him.

Mayor John Martin asked how was the turnout for the children ID's.

Chief Marko stated it was very successful. Every year we have a lot of children come in. He said they had well over thirty.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin absent.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis stated he had nothing new to report at this time. He stated he would have a report at the next meeting.

John Martin then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James stated he had nothing to report unless someone had something for him.

John Martin stated he did have one question. When we changed the zoning and planning commission and the zoning board of appeals and combined them, do you know if all those members are under the mayor's appointment or does it have to be the mayor's appointment with council's approval?

Bob James stated he didn't know.

John Martin replied the board of zoning appeals was mayor's appointment and council's approval and the planning and zoning commission was just under the mayor's.

Bob James said he would say with appeals it would have to have council's approval.

John Martin thanked Bob James.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-28 An Ordinance Providing for the Appointment of the Village Solicitor. Second Reading. Curtis made a motion to approve the second reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-29 An Ordinance Amending Various Provisions of the Tax Code to Incorporate Recent Revisions in the State Code, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Paramore made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2017-29 to be passed on an emergency measure. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Cooke made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-30 An Ordinance Amending the Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies, Relative to Employee Leaves, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2017-30 to be passed on an emergency measure. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Cooke made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-31 An Ordinance Changing the Rates for Utility Services, and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.

Bill Curtis stated he had a quick question. He wanted to know why Ordinance 2017-31 was declaring an emergency. He wanted a chance to discuss it.

It was explained that when it says declaring an emergency it means it will go into effect immediately after its approval. The Ordinance would still have three readings. If it didn't say declaring an emergency, it would not go into effect until 30 days after its approval.

Curtis made a motion to approve the first reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes: No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

Bill Curtis had a question about the property downtown where the sidewalk has sunk in front of the VonKamp property. I noticed the other day it was full of water and it was froze. Who is responsible if somebody falls on that and gets hurt. I think it's almost to the point it's going to have to be a forced issue.

John Martin said yes, Steve Bond is out of state right now and I was going to address that with him next Monday.

Bill Curtis stated he puts nice little ramps on it. Somebody is going to get hurt.

John Martin answered but it still holds water.

Lynn Phillips stated that one of their employees just about took a header on that again. It's been a problem ever since I've been here. It freezes. It's awful. We salt it. It melts. Then there's water. It's constant.

Bill Curtis replied that he noticed behind the building is not being maintained either. There's weeds three foot high back there.

Bob James stated the reason it's buckling needs to be addressed. I mean, I've talked to Shawn about it too because he claims that that's not an old coal shoot which a lot of these sidewalks had. But it's still sinking so what's causing it to sink? Is it washing out underneath? It could be a sewer leak. What is it? Something is causing that concrete to buckle. Stuart knows it just doesn't do that laying on the solid ground.

Stuart Cooke stated he thinks it is an old coal shoot.

Bob James stated that the owner claims not.

Stuart Cooke replied that every one of those buildings in the front had coal shoots clear into the basement.

Bob James stated that is typically what happens. The wood laid underneath the concrete rots away and then the concrete starts to buckle.

Stuart Cooke then stated that whether it is a coal shoot or not there's something under the ground broke down.

Bob James said exactly. The liability to answer your question, should lie on the property owner.

John Martin said he wanted to go to the railroad crossing. I have heard nothing since the last communication with the Maintenance of Way Engineer in Indianapolis and he stated that it was CSX facilities that would have to do the work and I don't know if it's going to be that kind of work that can be done this year. We were talking about adding concrete sidewalks up to a certain point to the railroad. I've got to make contact with them again to find out what's going on so I can explain it a little better.

Neil Winslow asked since the Flower Club was no longer taking care of the gazebo and the point, is the city going to put lights up around the gazebo this year or not?

Marion Paramore inquired about the tree.

John Martin stated the cemetery was going to be doing the tree and he asked Ellen Simmons if he was right.

Ellen said yes.

John Martin stated the cemetery board would be doing the tree but other than that he did not know. I will have to look into that.

Neil Winslow stated he had spoke with someone in the Garden Club and he was told they would not be doing any decorating at the gazebo this year. He stated he was going to talk to Shawn because he had some icicle lights he was willing to put around the gazebo. He wanted to make sure that wouldn't violate any city ordinances.

John Martin then called for New Business.

John Martin stated we do have a budget meeting scheduled for December 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Ellen Simmons asked if the budget meeting was for any particular department.

It was stated that it would basically be to go over the General Fund. It was supposed to have been discussed at the budget meeting held earlier that night but since Shawn was ill they had to move it to a different night.

John Martin then stated that the Volunteer Firefighters' Dependents Fund Board is needing two council representatives for 2018. I am going to remove Bill Curtis and Janice Myers from it and I need a motion to approve Stuart Cooke and Mike Willis to be on that board.

Janice Myers made a motion to elect Stuart Cooke and Mike Willis to the Volunteer Firefighters' Dependents Fund Board. Bill Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All Ayes; no one opposed.

John Martin then stated the mayor is looking for letters of intent for one resident to fill an open seat on the Zoning and Planning Commission for a three-year term that is presently held by Sandy Sword whose term expires December 31, 2017. He would like to receive the letter of intent by the 11th of December.

John Martin asked if there was any more New Business.

Ellen Simmons said she was sorry to break in but she needed to thank Firelands Ambulance for letting them use the building for Hometown Holidays and also for the staff at the town office that are helping us with printing.

Bill Curtis then stated he had one more thing to add as well. Firelands Ambulance is still having their membership drive. If anybody is interested it is \$50.

John Martin asked when the last day was that they would be accepting memberships.

Bill Curtis replied that he wasn't sure but he knew they would be accepting them through the first part of the year.

John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call: All Ayes; no one opposed.

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



John Martin
Mayor