

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, April 11, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

Mayor Toby Thomas 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: Steve Ball, Gullett, Chapin, Blanton, Jennifer Ball and Roeder.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Joe Hicks, Steve Bond, Lynne Phillips, John Chapin, Joe Thomas, Don Patton, Wendy Kidd and Shawn Pickworth.

Toby Thomas asked for approval of the agenda. Gullett made a motion to approve the agenda. Roeder seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the March 28, 2022 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Gullett made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked if there were any public questions or statements.

Toby Thomas stated that Marvin McCallister had submitted some questions for Toby to present at the meeting.

Marvin's first question was why was the ordinance for the Dump truck passed on an emergency measure.

Shawn Pickworth stated that it really wasn't an emergency. The main thing was to get the new truck on order. Even though the truck has been ordered, it will not be arriving until next spring or summer. The longer it took to pass the ordinance, the longer it would take to get the truck.

Marvin McCallister's second question was if the water and sewer rate increase would be passed on to the campers at the reservoir.

Shawn Pickworth responded that no the water and sewer rate increase has nothing to do with the campers. Camping rates are determined separately.

Marvin McCallister's third question was why the FBI had been in town.

Police Chief Joe Hicks stated he could not disclose that information.

Ellen Simmons then stated that the Community Club would be meeting the next morning.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth shared the following report:

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – contracts are being signed. Hopefully we will receive a “Notice to Proceed” this week.
- Two main line valves on Walnut Street are scheduled to be replaced on April 12th.
- Lead Service Line Replacement Project – contractor to start soon.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – project continues to be on schedule. Start up on the first rebuilt trickling filter went well and it was put into service, 2nd filter taken out of service for rebuild.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

Sanitation

- No major issues.
- Spring Clean Up – April 2nd -April 15th. Monday – Friday 8:00am – 7:00pm, Saturday & Sunday 11:00am – 7:00pm. Please check our website & Facebook page for additional information or contact the office at 419-929-4091.

Street

- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091.
- West Washburn Project – Council has legislation before you tonight to award and allow us to enter into contract with Erie Blacktop.
- I would like to ask Council to allow us to use \$20,000.00 from the CSX fund to be used for road repairs. Targeted streets are Hooker, James, East, Clinton & Akron.
- Downtown Improvements – Haven’t heard anything yet.

Other

- Safe Built – I met with community leaders throughout the county to discuss the possibility of moving away from Richland County for our Commercial Building Inspections. What would happen is Huron County would create their own building department then contract a third party (Safe Built) to handle all commercial building permits. One of the concerns is the initial cost of \$50,000.00 to set this up and who is going to pay it? We are also getting some references from other counties that already have contracts with Safe Built to see what they like or don’t like about the company and process. More to come.

Toby Thomas asked if the issue with Richland County is the fact that it takes them a long time to issue the permits.

Shawn Pickworth stated yes but the biggest issue with Richland County is that they are hard to work with.

- The Village heard talk of a farmer on Townline Road 189 that has plans to build commercial chicken barns. These barns if built will fall within our Water Protection Area. Don Patton has been working with ODNR, OEPA, Water & Soil to voice our concerns about this. The Village's pump station that is used to fill the reservoir is just downstream and we believe the nutrients added to the stream will cause an adverse effect on our raw water quality.

Shawn Pickworth turned things over to Utilities Foreman Don Patton.

Don Patton presented the following information to council.

- We have found out that chicken barns are going in at 1439 County Rd 16, New London (the old Walter Payne property).
- This location is 1.6 miles upstream from New London's pump station, where we pump water from Buck Creek to the up-ground reservoir. It is also 1.5 miles southwest of the New London Schools and in very close proximity to the Village, Recreation Park, and Millstone Hills Golf Course.
- The primary concern is for the safety of the drinking water for the Village and the surrounding areas that we service. Chicken farms produce high amounts of nitrogen, phosphates, and ammonia in the manure. These chemicals could potentially runoff into Buck Creek, the Vermillion River, and eventually Lake Erie contributing to the formation of harmful algae blooms.
- The reservoir holds 1.4 billion gallons of water. We normally pump into the reservoir from Buck Creek when the level is roughly 3 feet low. It usually takes a month to fill, pumping 24/7 at a rate of 4,200 gallons per minute around .3 billion gallons annually. We draw and treat water from the reservoir approximately 1 million gallons per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.
- Our total chemical cost to treat the water at our water treatment plant costs approximately \$64,000 per year. Currently, we spend roughly \$6,000 per season (May through October) at the water treatment plant just to treat the reservoir for algae blooms. This is done with a product called Green Clean Pro. The product costs \$64.00 per bag and 10 bags are normally used for each treatment. Also, we spend around \$10,000 per year at our sewer treatment facility for ferric chloride to remove the phosphorus in the water before we discharge it to the Skellinger Creek.
- We have voiced our concerns to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the EPA, the Ruggles Township Trustees, several Ashland County departments, Case Farms, and the landowner.
- It is our understanding that the Ohio Department of Agriculture regulations apply to any farms over 125,000 chickens and 3 barns. Since the chicken farm is agricultural the local zoning laws don't apply. The planned farm is to consist of 2 barns and 125,000 chickens or less. According to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, they have zero regulations for this size facility. The concern is that they will

fall between the cracks of any governmental regulations for the quantity or the quality of the manure runoff that will possibly leach into our source water protection area.

Adam Gullett asked Don Patton what the EPA thinks about the situation.

Don Patton replied that the village currently is checking with different EPA agents. He also has telephone numbers if anyone is interested in calling and voicing their concerns. The owners of the chicken farm will not be regulated putting the chicken barn in but the village will be highly regulated to get the chemicals out of the drinking water.

Steve Roeder asked if there was anything they could do as members of council.

Don Patton stated he was trying to make his concerns public and inform residents about the situation. If any members of council would be willing to call and voice their concerns he has numbers for them to call.

Shawn Pickworth then played a video about the pollution flowing into our water that comes from chicken farms and the increasing problem it has become.

Ellen Simmons asked Don Patton if he knew anything about the H2Ohio program. It is a state program. She stated it may be worth looking into.

Don Patton replied that he would look into it.

Ellen Simmons stated she had written a couple articles on the program and she would send them to Don Patton.

Steve Ball then made a motion to allow the village administrator to use \$20,000.00 from the CSX fund for road repairs with targeted streets being Hooker, James, East, Clinton & Akron. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas stated he did not have anything to report. He then asked for a report from the police. Police Chief Joe Hicks stated he also did not have anything to report.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from fire. Fire Chief John Chapin presented the following report:

I want to say a big Thank You to all that donated their time and money at the pancake breakfast for the Shupp family. It was a great turnout and we will be able to help the family with some needed expenses.

I would also like to thank Firelands Electric Operation Roundup for helping us purchase 2 new thermal imagers for the Fire Department. They will be a big help in the future.

We have ordered a new set of battery-operated Jaws-of-Life. They should be here by the end of the month with training to follow. We did use our current Jaws last week to free an occupant pinned in a vehicle at a 2-vehicle crash on Rt. 162 west of 250. The firefighters did a great job.

We are getting ready to order 25 new SCBAs and 25 spare bottles. We received an AFG grant to cover 95% of the cost. Total cost was \$180,000.00.

Hopefully in the next month we will be putting into service 25 new portable radios we received through a countywide AFG grant in which we still owe around \$9,000.00. Our share of the grant was \$76,000.00. I still have 2 grants out there. One for new gear and one to replace our grass truck.

We recently purchased a brush truck. It came back today from being painted and will be put into service very soon. I should be able to bring it to the next meeting for you to see.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball shared the March run report for the ambulance service. There were 61 total runs for the month.

Toby Thomas stated there was nothing for zoning until the executive session.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from recreation. Joe Thomas shared the following report.

- The water to the park and to the reservoir are now on. Mother nature threw us a curve ball with some extra cold weather. We had a couple of leaks from the freeze we had but everything is up and running.
- The next 2 weekends at the reservoir are cleanup weekends. Things are looking good out there right now. We are hoping by the end of the month we will be doing the paving. The entrance to the reservoir is in really bad shape so hopefully everyone can bear with us for a couple of more weeks and we will get it repaired.
- Our new batting cages should be delivered in the next couple of weeks. Once they are here there is a company that will be doing the installation for us.
- I attended an awards banquet Friday at the Huron County Chamber of Commerce. We received an \$8,500 grant from Ralph and Ann Walters. Ralph and Ann were lifelong member of our community. There was money left for the park system in an account that is being handled by HCCF (Huron County Community Foundation). Each year we will receive the interest from that account.
- Park place, which is known as the Dairy Bar will be opening. Natalie Bowers will be running the concession stand this year. She has put a lot of time and money into the building and it is looking great.
- I want to thank all the park board members and Dusty Swiger that helped put on the pancake breakfast with the Easter Bunny yesterday. It was a very successful day.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2022-09 An Ordinance Revising the Job Description for the Village Administrator to Clarify that the Contracting Authority Shall Follow the Standard Provision of State Law. Third Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the third reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2022-11 An Ordinance Amending Sections 1519.04 and 955.22 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Fireworks. Second Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the second reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2022-12 An Ordinance Amending Sections 921.10(a), 925.07(b), 931.02(d), and 959.10 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to the Rates for Utility Services.

Second Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the second reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2022-14 An Ordinance Amending Sections 181.02, 181.03, and 181.09 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of New London, Renewing the Additional .50% Increase in the Income Tax by and for a Period of an Additional Four Years Only and Providing that the Revenues Generated by Such Additional Tax Would be Used for Police and Fire Operations. First Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2022-15 An Ordinance Amending and Restating Section 143.06 of the Codified Ordinances to Add Juneteenth as a Holiday. First Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the first reading. Chapin seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one Opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2022-16 An Ordinance Authorizing Expenditures from the ARPA-Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2022-16 to be passed on an emergency measure. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Roeder, Yes; Chapin, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Blanton, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2022-17 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Police Chief to Dispose of a Police Cruiser Which is No Longer Needed for Public Purposes, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2022-17 to be passed on an emergency measure. Chapin seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Roeder, Yes; Chapin, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Blanton, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Blanton seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2022-18 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with Erie Blacktop, Inc., for the Construction and Installation of the West Washburn Street Improvements, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2022-18 to be passed on an emergency measure. Chapin seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Roeder, Yes; Chapin, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Blanton, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2022-02 A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded for 2022. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Resolution 2022-02 to be passed on an emergency measure. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Roeder, Yes; Chapin, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Blanton, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2022-03 A Resolution Directing the Board of Elections of Huron County to Place Upon the New London Village Ballot at the General Election to be Held on November 8, 2022, the Question of Renewing the Levy of an Additional Fifty Hundredths of One Percent (.50%) Municipal Income Tax in Excess of the One Percent (1%) Income Tax Now in Effect, Providing that the Revenues Generated by Such Additional Tax Would be Used for the Purposes of Police and Fire Department Operations Only for a Period of Four Years Only. First Reading. Gullett

made a motion to approve the first reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business

Chet Blanton stated he had been approached by someone concerning a grate on Euclid Road.

Shawn Pickworth and Don Patton replied that they are working on it but it takes time. It will look really nice when it is finished.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

There was none.

Toby Thomas then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Chapin seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented the bills under Schedule B, Then and Now. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Steve Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment of a village employee or official. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Roeder, Yes; Chapin, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Blanton, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Steve Ball made a motion to return to regular session. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Roeder, Yes; Chapin, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Blanton, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Steve Ball made a motion to appoint Gary Hopkins Jr. as Zoning Commissioner. Roeder seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Gullett made a motion to adjourn. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer


Toby Thomas
Mayor