

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, August 23, 2021 @ 7 p.m.

Council President Stuart Cooke called the meeting to order in the absence of Mayor Toby Thomas. He then gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was then taken with the following members present: Gullett, Willis, Cooke, Jennifer Ball, Steve Ball and Myers.

Also present: Shawn Pickworth, Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, John Martin, Joe Hicks, Joe Thomas, John Chapin, Scott Carroll, Jayne Carroll, Marvin McCallister and Lynne Phillips.

Stuart Cooke asked for approval of the agenda. Gullett made a motion to approve the agenda. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the August 9, 2021 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the August 16, 2021 special meeting were then presented for approval. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke asked if there were any public questions or statements.

John Martin from 37 Park Avenue stood and stated he was a member of the Monument Committee and he had brought price quotes for the items he had requested be taken care of at the previous council meeting. He shared the quoted amounts with members of council. He recommended using Ashland Monument for the plate for Officer Wilson Velazquez and to repaint the lettering on the monument. He was happy with their price. He is trying to get everything completed by October 2nd which is the date Officer Velazquez's family is holding a 5K run in the village.

John Martin continued by stating he had contacted nine different nurseries about Red Maple Trees. Windmill Nursery in Plymouth had given him the best price while speaking with them on the phone.

Ellen Simmons then announced that the Community Club would be meeting at 9 a.m. on August 31st at the Wildcat Diner. She also stated that she heard there had been complaints of Main Street being closed too often on the weekends. She asked members of council if they had heard anything. The Community Club had anticipated requesting to close Main Street for Hometown Holidays this year but since she had heard about complaints, she wondered what members of council thought.

Janice Myers replied that she had not heard any complaints about the road being closed but she had heard complaints about there being no empty parking spots when the venue downtown was rented for an event.

Stuart Cooke asked if there were any other comments.

John Martin raised his hand and stated he had forgotten to mention one thing. It had been suggested at the last council meeting for the memorial committee to request donations for some of the projects they were requesting the village to complete. He wanted to inform everyone to forward all donations to the village office.

Steve Ball then suggested they go back to the topic of the closure of Main Street. He thought that Hometown Holidays is a large enough event to close the street. He also thought maybe moving forward council should consider which future events warrant Main Street being closed and which events should allow the road to remain open.

Stuart Cooke then asked for a report from police. Police Chief Joe Hicks reported the following: The American Legion Broom-Wood Post 292 has requested a liquor permit for the 3 Decades of Rock concert at the NL Rez. on September 25th.

A job description for the New London Local Schools SRO position has been created and was posted to Indeed last week. We have received 3 inquiries as of this afternoon and we will begin looking into these applicants along with any others we receive.

Officer Coty Bravo has submitted a letter of resignation with an effective date of 09/06/2021. He will start with Huron County Sheriff's Office on 09/07/2021. Ofc. Bravo has served the department well since 04/06/2017. Upon his resignation it would be our desire to promote an officer from within to fill the full-time vacancy.

An Indeed posting has also been created to help supplement our reserve and part-time staffing levels as well. Those positions would be dependent on prior experience.

Stuart Cooke asked for a report from fire. Fire Chief John Chapin stated he didn't have anything unless anyone had any questions for him.

Stuart Cooke asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she had nothing at this time.

Stuart Cooke asked for a report from zoning. Buddy Workman was absent but had given members of council the following report:

1. Have issued 1 permit and 1 variance meeting request.
2. 92.5 South Main Street's court date was moved at Plaintiff's request.
3. Village Employees cleaned up 100 South Main.

Stuart Cooke then asked for a report from Recreation. Joe Thomas reported the following:

- They are busy getting ready for Labor Day. Gate workers are still needed for the festival. Anyone interested should stop at Gilbert Hardware and sign up for a time or contact Lana Bateson.
- September 25th is the Three Decades of Rock concert at the reservoir park. Admission will be \$5 per person.
- The Gun Raffle will be November 20th. Tickets will be available at the Marathon, Gilbert Hardware and through any park board member.
- He will be meeting with the ride company before Labor Day to go over everything since the festival had not been held the previous year.

Stuart Cooke then presented Ordinance 2021-35 An Ordinance Authorizing the Establishment of an "American Rescue Plan Act 2021-Local Fiscal Recovery Fund". Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-35 to be passed on an emergency measure. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Myers made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke then called for Old Business.

Steve Ball made a motion to approve the expenses John Martin requested for the Veteran's Memorial including a plate for Officer Wilson Velazquez, repainting the lettering on the memorial and purchasing two Red Maple Trees. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke realized the administrator's report had been overlooked.

Shawn Pickworth reported the following:

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Right now we aren't planning to go to bid for this project until later this year, early next.
- Lead Service Line Replacement Project – crews have been out investigating/identifying services and working with engineers to be included in the project. Finishing up the funding paperwork.
- Backflow/Cross Contamination Inspections – crews have been out in the Twp. conducting the annual inspections per OEPA rules and guidelines.
- We met with the contractor that will be repairing the banks on the North and West sides of the Reservoir. Work is expected to begin this week.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Contractors have been working on the new fence installation. Crews are also slip lining tile going into our treatment plant.
- New London Ave Project – we have met with engineers and have gotten some preliminary engineering and costs. We then submitted this information to the County and have made the list to submit an application to the State for funding. We are hoping to install new sanitary sewers, new storm sewers, as well as paving the road when completed.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

Sanitation

- No major issues.

Street

- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091.
- West Washburn Project – Engineering continues with this project. The way it is looking, most of this project will not be done until spring of 2022. A lot of things come into play when planning and bidding a project. Also, I was contacted by Columbia Gas and they are planning on doing a small project on West Washburn during the 4th quarter of this year in which we would want completed before we begin the road project.

Other

- School is starting next week. Watch out for the kids going to school and your speeds through the school zones.

- The Legion would like permission to sell alcohol at the Decades of Rock concert planned for September 25th @ the Reservoir.
- We now have more than one person interested in the old school property which will force the Village into taking bids and proposals on land use for the property. If Council wishes to move forward we can advertise and set a date for bids/proposals to be turned in. The Village reserves the right to refuse any and all proposals.

Stuart Cooke then called for New Business.

Myers made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to take bids and proposals on land use for the old school property. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow the American Legion to sell alcohol at the Decades of Rock concert at the New London Reservoir on September 25th. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Stuart Cooke then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule B, Then and Now. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment and compensation of a Village Employee or Official. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to return to regular session. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to hire Dusty Swiger for the Campground Manager/Office Assistant position at an annual salary of \$31,200. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to change the Parks Director position to an exempt, salaried position from hourly. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the employee wage increases as proposed by the Village Administrator and amended for the Village Administrator position. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

 

Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer

Stuart Cooke
Council President