

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, February 8, 2021 @ 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: Myers, Jennifer Ball, Willis, Gullett. Cooke and Steve Ball.

Also present: Shawn Pickworth, Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Joe Hicks, John Chapin, Don Patton, Deedee Marschall, Dale Marschall and Lynne Phillips.

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

The minutes from the January 25, 2021 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Gullett made a motion to approve the minutes. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Deedee Marshall addressed Council regarding late fees applied to her utility bill due to USPS delays. She provided documented proof that the bank had sent the check prior to the due date. Council discussed the matter as well as looking into the Village being able to accept electronic bank fund transfers to eliminate postal delays from the equation. After discussion, a motion was made to refund Mrs. Marshall's late fees and late fees for other residents who could provide proof that postal delays were the reason for late payment. Motion – Gullett, 2nd by Willis Roll call: J. Ball yes, Gullett yes, Willis yes, S. Ball yes, Myers abstain, Cooke abstain.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth then reported the following:

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Critical Infrastructure Grant funding application has been submitted to the State.
- Crews installed 2 large meters in the water plant.
- Add will be in papers this week requesting RFQ's from potential engineering firms for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. RFQ's are due by February 25, 2021 @ 3:00 pm.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Council has some legislation before you tonight required for the USDA-RD funding. Received prints and spec. books to be delivered to Richland County Building for permits needed.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

Sanitation

- No major issues.
- Don Patton and I interviewed potential candidates for our opening in our Street & Sanitation Department last Tuesday.

Street

- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091.
- An email was sent to all the Villages of Huron County Mayors regarding OPWC, District 9 Representative. The Mayors of the County are to nominate and vote on who they want to be this representative. This is a 4-year term.

Other

- Terry Wilson Deck – contract and notice to proceed has been sent to Janotta & Herner. I expect construction to begin sometime this spring.
- Joe Thomas and I met with Representatives from Poggemeyer Design Group last week to discuss potential Nature Works Grant projects through ODNR. Applications are due in May.
- Mowing – we need Council approval to enter into contract with Pott’s Mowing Service for the 2021 mowing season for the amount of \$15,500.00.
- On February 22, 2021 the Village will have moved from ACC Norwalk to Great Lakes Computer for IT support.

After Shawn Pickworth’s report council discussed web hosting for the Village of New London’s webpage and the money ODNR owes the village which had been reported at the last council meeting.

Toby Thomas stated he didn’t really have anything to report. He asked if anyone had any questions for him. There were none.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the police. Chief Joe Hicks gave the following report.

The past 2.5 months have been very busy for the police department on the administrative side. In early December an audit of the evidence room was conducted by an outside contractor, at my request. A great deal of time has been spent in correspondence with OPOTA to get certain paper work updated. This is still on-going as responses have been slow due to COVID.

The police department recently had our new radio system installed by Cleveland Communications. This included a new station antenna, a base unit for the office, 4 cruiser radios, and 17 portable units. The system, once in operation will be digital, allowing for clearer communication. It will also allow for a more stream-line communication with all agencies in the county and fewer dead spots.

This has been funded by the 911 levy, which also now covers the cost of our dispatching fees paid to the sheriff's office, saving us over \$5,000.00 a year. To be 100% operational we are waiting for dispatch to be equipped with their base unit and are awaiting price quotes for the portable radio cases. At the same time calls for service continue and we are at a rate more consistent to our pre-COVID numbers.

Training is a high priority for myself and the officers. Sgt. Lance Capiot attended a first-line supervision course in January to assist him with his recent promotion. He and Ofc. Coty Bravo will also need to attend an evidence technician school to assist them with newly appointed responsibilities. I will need to attend a Chief's school, which is put on by the state at least bi-annually. This became a requirement in 2018 and is required to be done within 6 months of appointment.

Furthermore, we will be holding in-service training on Saturday, February 27, 2021. With the assistance of Mr. Bond, all officers will receive certification to administer oaths. We will also conduct our annual taser recertification and discuss general departmental changes and procedures.

I want to conclude by thanking several of our local first responder entities for their recent assistance from funeral processions and traffic control to police coverage and lifesaving efforts: Sheriff Corbin and his staff at the Huron County Sheriff's Office, Lt. Hoffman and his staff at the Norwalk Post of Ohio Highway Patrol, Chief Dorsey and Ofc. Aaron Smith of Greenwich Police Department, and the staff of Firelands Ambulance for all of their efforts back on January 17th.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from fire. Fire Chief John Chapin stated the report Chief Joe Hicks had given on the radios was the same for the fire department except the fire department's funding was different. John Chapin explained the radio system and how it was going to work.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball shared some details of the January Run Report for Firelands Ambulance.

There was no zoning report.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Recreation. Joe Thomas gave the following report.

- We just went today and picked up the lift station for the sewer project. We are hoping to start as soon as the temps get a little warmer.
- I have been working on some of the events for the summer. Rockn the Rez is scheduled for July 17th. The bands will be TAGR, Bad JuJu, and Second Helping (Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute). Country Music Concert is scheduled for June 26th. The bands are Aiden Albaugh, Ava Rowland, Vegas McGraw (Tim McGraw tribute). Both concerts will be at the New London Reservoir. There will be food vendors, a beer tent and fireworks for these concerts. For any camping, please call the reservoir at 419-929-8609.
- I am also working on another concert for Sept 25th called 3 Decades of Rock. The 3 bands will be a 70's band, 80's band and a 90's band. Still working on the details for this one.
- I booked a second AA campout for the summer august 5-8 and looking at doing a golf outing on October 2nd.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-03 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2019-24, Setting the 2021 Fees for Campsites at the New London Reservoir and Recreation Parks, and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Myers 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 2021-04 An Ordinance Authorizing a Restated Contract with the Township of Fitchville to Provide Fire Response Services and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Steve 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 2021-05 An Ordinance Authorizing a Restated Contract with the Township of Clarksville to Provide Fire Response Services and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the second reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-06 An Ordinance Authorizing a Restated Contract with the Township of New London to Provide Fire Response Services and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Willis made a motion to approve the second reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-07 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into a Contract with the Lowest and Best Bidder for the Replacement of the Terry Wilson Memorial Deck, and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the second reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-08 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into a Contract with Potts Mowing Service for the 2021 Mowing Season. First Reading. Cooke made a motion to approve the first reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2021-01 A Resolution of the Village Counsel of the Village of New London, Ohio Huron County Authorizing and Providing for the Incurrence of Indebtedness for the Purpose of Providing a Portion of the Cost of Acquiring, Constructing, Enlarging, Improving, and/or Extending its Wastewater Plant Upgrades Facility to Serve an Area Lawfully within its Jurisdiction to Serve. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Resolution 2021-01 to be passed on an emergency measure. Jennifer Ball 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.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2021-02 A Resolution Adopting a Drug-Free Workplace Policy for Employees of the Village of New London. Emergency Reading. Cooke made a motion to allow Resolution 2021-02 to be passed on an emergency measure. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

The Mayor opened discussion about whether to open Council meetings to the public. After discussion motion made to open meetings to the public with limited attendance to ensure social distancing, Mayor and Administrator to work out seating detail by Cooke, 2nd by Gullett, all aye no opposed

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

There was none.

Bills were not ready at meeting time, arrangements will be made for a quorum of members to sign the bills at village hall and formal approval at next regular meeting.

Jennifer 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; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.


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

Motion to approve offering the open sanitation position to Clint Cherry first and if he declines to Derek Smith by Gullett, 2nd by Myers, all aye no opposed.

Motion to set the Chief of Police starting salary to \$57,000.00 per year by Gullett, 2nd by Willis, all aye no opposed.

Cooke made a motion to adjourn. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer


Toby Thomas
Mayor