

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, February 22, 2021 @ 7 p.m.**

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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, Willis, Gullett. Cooke and Steve Ball. Jennifer Ball was absent.

Also present: Shawn Pickworth, Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Joe Hicks, Joe Thomas, John Martin, John Longbrake and Lynne Phillips.

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

The minutes from the February 8, 2021 workshop 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.

The minutes from the February 8, 2021 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Cooke made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

John Martin stood and requested a waiver on the three-minute rule because he believed his topic would take longer to discuss than three minutes. Toby Thomas granted him permission to exceed three minutes for his statement.

John Martin then read the following statement:

Although the monument committee has no ordinance covering said committee, this committee has been filled since the 70's when a legion member asked about placing a fence around the existing monument and installing a sidewalk. I am not certain as to who this member was but he was on the monument committee along with a Village Council member until he resigned and Mr. Vaughn Neel became a part of this committee along with a member of Village Council. Vaugh remained on this committee and I was assigned to this committee as the Village Council member in 2006.

In the fall of 2014, a group had presented plans to dedicate a memorial for a soldier that died in the Gulf Wars. This group presented these plans to the Village. The monument committee had told them it was not proper to dedicate a spot in the park to any one person and the monument was to honor all. The group decided to take their request to the American Legion to be erected there, but the same decision was made there. The monument committee was brought back in and changes were made to upgrade the existing memorial site to accommodate all that served from the community along with those serving the community in safety.

The monument committee made decisions concerning the monument park and were then presented to Village Council for approval. The subject of criteria so names could be added to the stones was contested and the monument committee set up a Criteria Committee that wrote up the criteria needed, signed off on the criteria and presented it to Village Council for approval on July 25, 2016. Council approved the criteria format, signed the format and adopted the same date. It was then given to the Mayor for acceptance.

On the oversight portion of the Criteria, it stated:

The Memorial Committee may review all submissions. This committee has the power to turn down a nominee or reject paver/brick wording as inappropriate. Fees will be refunded in such cases if the applicant does not make changes suitable to the Committee.

The Memorial Committee is appointed by the Mayor and consists of (1) council Member, (1) American Legion Member and (1) New London Village resident. This Committee makes the final decision on any additions but may be overruled by New London village Council if they chose to hear an appeal.

I understand the Mayor has turned over the care of the memorial to the Village Administrator and am sure the administrator can handle names to be added to the Safety Forces in the event of a loss while serving New London, but then may have to ask for assistance where a military loss comes into play.

I am respectfully asking you to consider re-establishing the Monument/Memorial Committee along with an ordinance to protect the committee in the future.

John Longbrake then stood and said he was representing the American Legion. He wanted to know why it had been decided to discontinue the monument committee and who would represent the different factions and maintain the criteria that was established for the monument committee.

Members of council and Mr. Bond discussed the matter and the future of the committee. There were a couple different opinions but nobody had wanted anyone to feel like the committee was not wanted. They had just thought it was not needed any longer. After much input, it was determined the signed criteria that had been signed by council members would be given to Mr. Bond in order to write an ordinance concerning the Veteran's Memorial Committee.

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 repaired a major water leak on Johnson Drive last week. Job Well Done.
- 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 again has some legislation before you tonight required for the USDA-RD funding. Prints and Spec. books delivered to Richland County for permits needed. We are out to bid for this project. Bids are due at the Village Office's by 1:00 pm, March 23, 2021. A pre-bid conference/meeting will be held at 10:00 am, March 9, 2021 at our Maintenance Facility (Hover Building) at 101 W. Fir Street, New London, Ohio 44851.

#### Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

#### Sanitation

- No major issues.

## Street

- I would like to say Thank You and Job Well Done to the Village Employees who worked snow removal last week. We had two trucks out starting at 8:00 pm Sunday night with three more coming in Monday morning at 3:00 am and normal operations starting at 7:00 am.
- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not being addressed. 419-929-4091.

## Other

- We would like to welcome Clint Cherry to the Village. Clint was offered and accepted the Street & Sanitation position. Clint started last Tuesday.
- I would like to recommend to Council to remove Daison Gough & Raymond Goostree from probation and to hire both fulltime.
- There is some interest in the old school property. Would Council be willing to take proposals on use and development of this land?

Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to remove Daison Gough and Raymond Goostree off probation and hire them on at full-time status. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to move forward and gather more information concerning selling the old school property. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas stated he did not really have a report for the meeting but he wanted to second what Shawn had said about the excellent job village employees had done with the snow removal during the last snow event. He appreciated the hard work they put in.

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

During December 14th's council meeting, I had requested and received approval to hire a full-time officer to replace the vacancy of Ofc. Jacob Johnson, after he chose to resign his position. After consulting with our two other F.T. officers it was the general consensus that Ofc. Zach Ingraham would be best suited to fill that role.

Ofc. Ingraham graduated from the Medina Police Academy on August 28, 2018. He has been with the department since April 26, 2019. He has proven to be a quick learner and was promoted to part-time status within 4 months of his appointment date. He is a young, physically fit officer with great communication skills and a natural instinct for the job.

In addition to his OPOTA certification, he possesses a vast educational background for a young officer. This includes:

- \* Fire 101 Certification (served as fire explorer in CA. and fire cadet in AZ.)
- \* EMS Training (First Aid and CPR certified)

Some of you may recall in late July of 2019 a Village resident called 911 because she was in labor. Ofc. Ingraham was involved in that call and that child was successfully delivered on the sidewalk of a S. Main St. business, putting him in the national spotlight, with an appearance on Live PD.

I am asking council to approve this request and allow Ofc. Zach Ingraham to be appointed to full-time status, effective immediately. This would bring our F.T. staffing back up to 80%.

Adam Gullett made a motion to allow Chief Hicks to hire Zach Ingraham as a full-time police officer beginning February 23, 2021. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from fire. Fire Chief John Chapin absent.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball absent.

Toby Thomas asked for an update on zoning. There have been no applications submitted for the Zoning Inspector position. Shawn Pickworth has been handling all zoning issues.

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

- Things have been a little slow with our projects at the reservoir due to the weather.
- We are starting on the sewer project at the reservoir tomorrow. We will set the lift station first and then start putting in the pipe.
- We are going to have our first golf scramble for the parks system this year on October 2nd at millstone hills golf course - 8 am start \$75/person.

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. Third Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the third reading. Willis 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. Third Reading. Cooke made a motion to approve the third reading. Myers 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 Clarksfield to Provide Fire Response Services and Declaring an Emergency. Third Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the third reading. Steve Ball 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. Third Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the third reading. Willis 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. Third Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the third 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. Second Reading. Willis made a motion to approve the second reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-09 An Ordinance Repealing Section 901.04 of the Codified Ordinances Relative to the Village-Wide Sidewalk Construction Program. First Reading. Steve 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 2021-10 An Ordinance Amending Section 143.08 of the Codified Ordinances and the Village Employee Handbook, Relative to Sick Leave. First Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the first reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Absent; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, No; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-11 An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,156,000 Sanitary Sewer System Mortgage Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 by the Village of New London, Ohio, Pursuant to Section 12, Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution for the Purpose of Paying Part of the Cost of Certain Sanitary Sewer Improvements of the Village; as Additional Parity Bonds Secured by the Provision of Ordinance 13-27, Passed December 9, 2013; and the Mortgage and Franchise Authorized Thereby Dated December 16, 2013, Prescribing the Form of Such Bonds; and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Cooke made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-11 to be passed on an emergency measure. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Absent; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Myers made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

Toby Thomas recommended that council hire Joe Hicks permanently as Chief of Police.

Willis made a motion to permanently hire Joe Hicks as the Chief of Police for the Village of New London. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

There was none.

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

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

The bills from the February 8, 2021 Council meeting were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the bills from February 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 and compensation of a village employee or official. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Absent; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

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

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



Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas  
Mayor