

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, January 10, 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, Roeder and Jennifer Ball.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Joe Hicks, Steve Bond and Shawn Pickworth.

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

The minutes from the December 28, 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.

The minutes from the January 4, 2022 special meeting were then presented for approval. Steve Ball 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.

Since the council meeting was closed to the public due to the spread of illness, Toby Thomas asked anyone with any questions or comments to please call his cell phone.

There were no calls.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth shared the following report:

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – We will be going to bid by the end of January. Bid opening is scheduled for February 17, 2022.

- Lead Service Line Replacement Project – We are out to bid right now for this project. Bid opening will be January 13, 2022 @ 2:00pm.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – construction continues. Progress meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2022.

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 – hoping to go to bid late January, early February.
- Downtown Improvements – working on final application.

Other

- The Village Office is closed to the public at this time for illnesses. We are and have been battling a number of Covid cases within all our crews. Please be patient with us. We hope to open back up in a couple of weeks.

Toby Thomas stated he didn't really have anything but he emphasized the importance of keeping everyone safe during this time of increased Covid cases.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the police.

After welcoming new members of council Alison Chapin and Steve Roeder, Police Chief Joe Hicks gave the following report:

The New London Police Department concluded the 2021 year with 3,344 service calls. That is exactly a 500-call increase from the 2,844 calls we fielded in 2020 and down 330 calls from the 3,674 handled in 2019.

The year posed some challenges and many unanticipated twists and turns, but also some positives. Some of the challenges have been turn over and covering shifts due to COVID, which we are still contending with.

The positives included the opportunity to work in conjunction with New London Schools to put a full-time officer out there, the purchase of a new cruiser (although, that too has posed a challenge because we are still waiting on its arrival nearly 9 months later). With council's approval we were able to get part-time and full-time officers wages increased to be slightly more appealing to outside applicants and be somewhat more competitive with other surrounding agencies, but still feel there is work to be done in this area.

We appreciate our community and look forward to what 2022 will bring.

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

Steve Ball commented that John Chapin had emailed everyone a full run report for the 2021 year so anyone interested in seeing that report can request a copy.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated Firelands Ambulance had 862 calls in 2021. This is the busiest year on record. There was about a 200-call increase from previous years. Jennifer thanked Firelands Ambulance for providing this service to the community.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from zoning. Buddy Workman absent.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from recreation. Joe Thomas was absent but provided the following report:

- The Reservoir is full for seasonal campers for the 2022 season. At the end of the 2021 season we had to fill 5 spots and Dusty has done a great job of getting them filled. We have also booked a couple of seasonal campers that will be staying at the recreation park this year. We are hoping to get around 5 or 10 seasonals for the park.

- We have been working on getting some of the events and contracts out for the 2022 Labor Day Festival already.
- The country concert is booked for June 25th. We are opening with Aiden Albaugh and then Terry Lee Goffee (a Johnny Cash tribute) will play next and our head liner for the night will be No Fences a Garth Brooks tribute band. I think this could be one of our biggest country concerts yet. If you are interested in camping I would call and get your spots now.
- We have also booked the Rocking the Rez concert which will be on July 16th. Mike Stevens (TARP) will be opening. Playing second will be Monica Robins and the Whiskey Kings. Monica Robins is a channel 3 news anchor. The head liner for the concert is Pendulum which is a Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute band.
- We are reaching out to local businesses and any business in the surrounding areas that would like to be a sponsor for any and all of the park's events. If you are interested and do not receive a letter please contact me at the village office.

Toby Thomas explained a little bit about the ordinance procedure to the new members of council.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-53 An Ordinance Amending and Restating the Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies Relative to the Uniform Allowance. 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 2021-54 An Ordinance Amending and Restating Section 143.09(B) of the Codified Ordinances and the Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies, Relative to a Health Insurance Supplement Benefit. Third Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the third reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas skipped Ordinance 2022-01 for the time being and presented Ordinance 2022-02 An Ordinance Amending and Restating the Chapter 955 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Parks. 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 moved back to Ordinance 2022-01 an Ordinance Amending and Restating the Rules of Village Council. First Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Gullett seconded the motion.

Steve Ball then made a motion to amend the following in Ordinance 2022-01: Paragraph 1.3 to strike residing officer and put mayor or president pro-tempore.; Paragraph 1.5 strike remainder of sentence and insert canceled in agreement of mayor and president pro-tempore; Rule 5 paragraph 5.2.1 stay at 5 minutes instead of 3 minutes. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas stated that before he took a vote on approval of the first reading of Ordinance 2022-1 he wanted to discuss with council the possibility of moving to one meeting a month and also the possibility of moving council to a different day of the week.

These topics were discussed with pros and cons and the final decision was to leave council meetings as two times per month and they would also remain on Monday evenings.

Roll call was then taken to approve the first reading. All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

There was none.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

Toby Thomas went over all the committees and council appointed open seats.

For the cemetery board, Tom Neal's seat was up. Terms for the cemetery board are three years. Council requested that Toby Thomas reach out to Tom Neel and see if he would be interested in serving another term. Toby Thomas agreed to reach out to Tom Neel.

April Maple's term on the Board of Income Tax Review was up. Council again asked Toby Thomas to reach out and see if April Maple was interested in remaining on the Income Tax Board for another term. Toby Thomas agreed to reach out to April Maple.

Steve Ball's term on the Monument Committee was complete. One member of council serves on this board. Adam Gullett made a motion to have Steve Ball serve another term on the Monument Committee. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The Recreation Committee is in the process of being revised with Ordinance 2022-2.

Council then discussed how they would like to receive information for council meetings. It was determined that council would receive physical copies of the agenda and approval of bill report. Everything else will just be emailed

Toby Thomas then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Gullett 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.

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer

Toby Thomas
Mayor