

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, July 12, 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: Gullett, Steve Ball, Cooke, Willis, Jennifer Ball and Myers.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Joe Hicks, Shawn Pickworth, Buddy Workman, Ted Evans, Brad Booth, John Chapin, Mark Chase, and Lynne Phillips.

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

The minutes from the June 28, 2021 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Gullett 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.

Ted Evens stood and stated he lived at 57 Clyde Avenue. He recently filed a variance for a building he is trying to construct on his property. After a recent zoning meeting, there were some questions and he was asked to obtain an easement. He has spoken with several different attorneys and all of them stated they didn't know how he could obtain an easement because the building isn't going to be built on someone else's property. There is no way they can draw up an easement for something like that. The attorneys advised him that what he needed would be a variance which he has already filed. He stated he was in attendance at the meeting to request approval on his variance. The delay in the process has cost him around \$8400 since the beginning due to increasing prices of materials.

Stuart Cooke asked for opinions from Shawn Pickworth and Buddy Workman.

Shawn Pickworth stated that Ted Evans had accurately explained what had been taking place. The Zoning Commission had requested he get an easement because the building will be closer than five feet to the neighbor's property. Ted Evans' attorneys told him an easement couldn't be obtained because the building was not being built on someone else's property.

Members of council and Ted Evans discussed the location where the building was to be built. Ted Evans also stated he had obtained a letter from the neighbor stating he was fine with the building being closer than five feet to his property line. It would still be off the property line but only by a couple feet instead of the five feet that is required by the zoning ordinance.

Stuart Cooke asked Mr. Bond his opinion because he didn't think council could overrule what the Zoning and Planning Commission had decided.

Mr. Bond agreed and said that the Zoning and Planning Commission would have to approve the variance.

It was decided that Ted Evans should go back to the Zoning and Planning Commission and explain to them what he had found out from his attorneys and Mayor Toby Thomas stated he would call a special meeting to try to speed up the process.

Toby Thomas asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Brad Booth stood and stated he lived on West Washburn Street. He wanted to know whose responsibility it was to maintain Skellinger Creek.

Shawn Pickworth responded that by ordinance, it was up to the property owners to maintain the creek.

Brad Booth questioned some work the village had done to the bridge on Grant Street and how that was different.

Shawn Pickworth stated the village had done some work to the bridge that had caused some problems to the property owner so they were just fixing what they had caused.

Brad Booth then asked if West Washburn Street was going to be repaved this year.

Shawn Pickworth stated that hopefully it would be depending on funding.

Brad Booth asked if it was going to be ground down and then built back up.

Shawn Pickworth answered that yes it was.

Lastly, Brad Booth asked council to consider revising the ordinance that stated there were to be no ATV's or side by sides on the streets. Since golf carts were allowed, he asked council to consider allowing ATV's and side by sides as long as they were within the law.

Toby Thomas expressed his concern with the difference in the maximum speed of a golf cart as opposed to an ATV or side by side.

Brad Booth stated he realized they would have to stay within the law but he wanted council to consider his request.

Toby Thomas asked if there were any other public questions or comments.

Buddy Workman stood and stated he wanted to let council know that a new small business was going to be coming to town called Lifewise Academy. Lifewise Academy is a faith-based curriculum that will be coming to the school. Students will be able to enroll in the class during the regular school day. The academy will probably have three to four paid employees.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth reported the following:

#### Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Waiting for funds to be released.
- 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.
- West reservoir bank has some erosion issues. We have contracted with Morton's to come in and helps us address the issues. We have gotten dinged on our last 2 dam reports about the issues.

### Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Contractor has begun the process ordering materials for the project.

### Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.
- We are looking at some future projects addressing more problem areas within the Village. One being West Main before the tracks and another being North Main.

### 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.
- Johnson Drive – crews repaired the road on Johnson Drive and at the intersection of Johnson Drive and St Rt 162. Other locations planned for repair this week.
- West Washburn Project – Waiting on the funding agreement with the State and release of funds.

### Other

- Dr. Offices/Village Building – Fisher Titus has moved out of our building and it is now empty. I have continued to allow the Huron County Health Department to use the space 1 day a month for clinics. What would Council like to do?
- New London Eagles would like Council's permission to sell alcohol during our Labor Day Festival and the Friends of the New London Veteran's would like permission to sell alcohol at their event at the reservoir on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Applications for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act is now open. The Village of New London could receive up to \$247,003.00 in two payments. We are still learning what we can and cannot use the funds for. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like street paving will be an allowable use of these funds. I have signed up for a web training session on July 14<sup>th</sup> to learn more about this. Nancy will begin the process needed in order for the Village to receive the funds.
- Tipp Products will be having a ground-breaking ceremony on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. at their new address at 106 Industrial Drive. All members of council are invited.
- House Trailer located at our Reservoir Park – we have been talking about using the space that the trailer is located on for other purposes. The renter is a month by month renter with no long-term contract. If it is Council's wish we can send a letter to the renter informing them to remove the trailer from Village property.

Council determined that Shawn Pickworth would send a letter to the renter asking for the trailer to be removed by the end of the 2021 camping season.

Adam Gullett made a motion to allow the New London Eagles to sell alcohol during the New London Labor Day Festival and to allow the Friends of the New London Veteran's to sell alcohol at their event at the reservoir on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas stated he didn't have a report to share but he wanted to remind everyone of all the good things going on in New London. Some of them include the New London Community Club planning for Hometown Holidays; Inspire New London had their Christmas in July over the weekend; there are concerts and food trucks at the gazebo on Tuesdays; Rockin the Rez is coming soon; and Tipp products are having their ground-breaking ceremony. Toby Thomas stated he thought all of these events were great for the Village of New London. It is exciting to see.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from police. Joe Hick stated he didn't have anything except for the two requests for permits to sell alcohol that Shawn Pickworth had already discussed.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from fire. John Chapin stated that Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> was Rockin at the Rez and the following day would be the fire department's fundraiser, Spill on the Hill. It will begin around 10 a.m. John concluded by saying he has been driving by the point in town and it looks fantastic. Rachel has done a great job with it and it looks absolutely beautiful.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from the ambulance. Due to being out of town, Jennifer Ball had nothing to share. She stated that she would have a full report for June and July at the next meeting.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from zoning.

Buddy Workman presented the following report.

1. Have issued 3 permits.
2. Have received over 5 complaints.
3. 92.5 South Main court date keeps getting moved.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Recreation.

Joe Thomas shared the following report:

- Rockin the Rez is this Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. We have a great line up of music. Kaitlyn Spiecher is playing from 2-3, Renegade from 3-5, Bad JUJU from 5:30-7:30 and Second Helping from 8-10 with fireworks to follow. It is \$10 for adults, ages 4-17 is \$5 and 3 and under is free.
- The reservoir is booked for this weekend so if anyone is wanting to camp they can still make reservations for the rec park.
- The reservoir and the rec park have both been busy with camping. It is nice to see more campers at the rec park throughout the summer.
- Labor Day is coming fast. If anyone is interested in helping with gates this year Lana Bateson and Janny Myers are in charge of getting all of our gate workers. We would not be able to have this event without the help of our community.
- The Huron county FARM show will be July 23-25 this year at the New London Recreation Park.
- I would like council to start thinking about camping rates for next year. I would like to get with Nancy and give you guys a projection of where we will be at the end of the year to help determine what we need to do. If we could decide what rates will be by the first meeting in August, that will give campers time to decide what they would like to do.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-26 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into a Contract for the Acquisition of a Police Cruiser, and Declaring an Emergency. Third Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the Third reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-29 (Amended) An Ordinance Enacting a New Section 521.13 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Chronic Nuisance Activities, and Declaring an Emergency. 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 2021-30 (Amended) An Ordinance Enacting a New Section 513.15 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Allowing Drug Abuse, and Declaring an Emergency. Third Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the third reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-31 (Amended) An Ordinance Approving the Plat for the Subdivision of Certain Property Owned by New London West, LLC, and Accepting the Dedication of the Plat for the Extension of Industrial Drive, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-31 to be passed on an emergency measure. Gullett 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. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-32 (Amended) An Ordinance Amending the Village's Employee Handbook Relative to the Salary Schedule. Emergency Reading. Cooke made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-32 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. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-33 An Ordinance Creating the Position of Reservoir Campground Manager/Village Office Assistant, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-33 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. Cooke made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

There was none.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

There was none.

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

Toby Thomas then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule B. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes; Myers, Disqualify; Cooke, Abstain.

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

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

 

Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer

Toby Thomas  
Mayor