

# NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting – Monday, June 14, 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, Jennifer Ball, Cooke and Myers. Willis was absent.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Joe Hicks, Marvin McCallister, Shawn Pickworth, Barry Overy, Kathleen Overy, Buddy Workman and Lynne Phillips.

The minutes from the May 24, 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 for approval of the agenda. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the agenda. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Kathleen Overy wanted to discuss their request to appeal the zoning permit for the building of a fence at 76 Third Street. Toby Thomas stated that the Overy's would be getting notification that their zoning appeal had been denied. The neighbor building a fence was not in violation of any village ordinances. The Overy's were questioning when the rules had changed and other concerns they had about their property and the neighbors property. Kathleen Overy stated she had come up with a possible solution but was not sure how to communicate the idea with the neighbors. Police Chief Joe Hicks proposed that both parties meet at the police department and discuss a solution that will appease both property owners. Kathleen and Barry Overy were fine with that option.

After a question by Stuart Cooke on the regulations for fences, Mr. Bond read what the current ordinance says. Kathleen and Barry Overy questioned the lack of a proper survey of the property lines and there was other discussion on the situation. In conclusion, Chief Hicks stated he would contact the Overy's and the neighbor and set up a date and time for a meeting.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth reported the following:

## Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Environmental is complete, at the end of June the County Commissioners will sign what is needed to get the funds released from the State. Once this happens, we will be able to go to bid for the project.
- Lead Service Line Replacement Project – crews have been out investigating/identifying services and working with engineers to be included in the project.
- Backflow/Cross Contamination Inspections – crews have been out in the Twp. conducting the annual inspections per OPEA rules and guidelines.

- Water Leaks – crews noticed that our water loss had been starting to rise over the last couple months. Crews began looking for leaks and were able to locate 2, one on Williams Street and one on Park Ave. Crews are preparing to fix the leaks tomorrow, June 15, 2021. Affected residents will be notified. The below statement was posted on the village’s social media page: The Village of New London Water Dept. will be repairing two water leaks on Tuesday June 15th which will result in low water pressure and or water being shut off. We will be starting at 8 am on Park Ave. which will affect 132 Park Ave. through 178 Park Ave, and 147 Park Ave through 193 Park Ave. After the repairs are complete on Park Ave. we plan on moving to James St. The affected area will include Council Chambers (11 James St) and 15 James St and also East Main from James to Walnut. James St. will be closed during times of repair. If in the event that the water is shut down a boil advisory will be handed out to the affected areas. If you have any questions please contact the village office at 419-929-4091.

#### Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Contractor has begun the process of ordering materials for the project.
- OWDA Refinancing program for USDA-RD Loan – it sounds like our application will be approved for this refinancing. I received an email last week from the funding agency and they are recommending for board approval that this loan be approved for an interest rate of .75%. Our present loan is at 2.125%. This will save the Village over \$835,000.00 over the life of the loan.

#### 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.
- First Street – contractor is scheduled to pave before the end of the month.
- West Washburn Project – engineers are recommending that we do some base and soil testing ahead of the project. We have received 2 proposals from different companies that do this type of work. Engineers are reviewing and will recommend which one we use.

#### Other

- The American Legion would like Councils permission to sell alcohol at the Rockin the Rez event for July 17, 2021.
- Copies – we have a policy that states all requested copies for public records requests for the Village is .05 per copy. We would like to change this policy to say anything over 19 copies, .05 per copy will be charged. I need a motion to allow us to do this.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow the American Legion to sell alcohol at the Rockin the Rez event on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to change the public records request policy to state the first 19 pages are free and after that, copies are \$.05 each. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke stated he had been contacted about pot holes on North Railroad Street. Shawn Pickworth replied that he would make sure they were fixed.

Toby Thomas stated he would like to give his report time over to Zoning Inspector Buddy Workman so that he could leave the meeting due to a prior commitment.

Buddy Workman presented the following report.

1. Have issued 5 permits and have 6 coming.
2. Have received over 23 complaints. Village council needs to decide how far they want to proceed on the matters at hand.
3. Would like to change the current zoning ordinance on the placement of fences. The current law states fences are allowed on the property line. That, in a lot of cases in New London, is a safety issue and/or is hampering the owner of neighboring property the inability to maintain their lots.
4. Health Department would like Fire Marshall to make a call on 92.5 South Main.

Buddy Workman

Steve Ball also informed council that the Zoning and Planning Commission was working on changing the zoning ordinance. Currently, a zoning violation or non-compliance is fined. The commission would like to change it to say that failure to comply with the zoning code would be a minor misdemeanor. There will need to be a public hearing to discuss the change, but Steve Ball felt that if the change is made, it will be easier to address certain issues of noncompliance.

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

Part-time officer Blake Gawlik has resigned his position effective immediately. Gawlik cited his reasons for resigning as his lengthy commute and his full-time job obligation.

I would like to replace Gawlik by hiring David Spanower as a part-time officer at \$12.00 per hour. Spanower currently works for Medina County Sheriff's Office as a corrections officer. He has previously worked for the New London Police Department between April of 2016 and December of 2018. He has a total of approximately 5 years of law enforcement experience.

John Longbrake, canteen manager of the New London American Legion, is requesting council's approval for alcohol sales during the Rockin the Rez concert on July 17th. Shawn and I have already signed off on this permit for submission to the state.

Over the past couple of weeks, myself, the Mayor, and both Village attorneys have had conversation regarding the creation of a couple of ordinances pertaining to **chronic nuisance activities** and **allowing drug abuse**. Mr. Bond has drafted the verbiage for these two tentative ordinances, which you should have copies of. Our desire is to have these become effective at the soonest possible date.

Janice Myers asked Chief Hicks about the Onewheel devices. She stated people had been riding them on the roads and wondered if they were allowed. They are motorized and wondered if they were legal to drive on the street.

After a discussion on the issue, Chief Hicks responded that he would need to check into them. He wasn't sure exactly what they were so he stated he would do some research and let council know what he finds out.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow the Chief of Police to hire David Spanower as a part-time police officer at \$12 per hour to replace Blake Gawlik. Gullett 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 stated she had a few things. Firelands Ambulance just had five individuals go through an EMT course. She wanted to thank and congratulate Brandon Schwinn, Melanie Cucco, Jake Paynter, Keith Bailey and Amanda Swords. They will be added to the Firelands Ambulance staff soon. Jennifer Ball then stated that Firelands Ambulance had been awarded a Pediatric Training Grant. It will be used to purchase equipment to train and to use. Firelands Ambulance will be the only training facility in Huron and Ashland County. Jennifer Ball concluded by sharing the run report for May.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Recreation.

Shawn Pickworth shared the following recreation report for Joe Thomas in his absence.

- Labor Day preparations have started. We are hoping for a great year this year. All the contracts have been sent out for all events, camping and vendors.
- The recreation park continues to be busy on a daily basis with all the youth leagues.
- Our first AA campout is June 24-27. This will be the 38 annual New London campout.
- The reservoir has been very busy the last 3 weeks. Memorial Day weekend we were booked. The past 2 weekends the new area by the cabins only had a couple sites open as well as the group area. The new water toys and the new water sprinkler are a big hit. Our beach attendance is going up every day. Last weekend June 5-6 our beach attendance was almost 700 people.
- The country concert is June 26. The first band is Aidan Albaugh at 3pm then Ava Rowland at 5:30 and then Vegas McGraw is at 8pm followed by fireworks. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 4-17 and ages 3 and under are free.
- I would like to thank the New London American Legion for donating \$1500 for lumber for new picnic tables. I would also like to thank Firelands Electric and operation roundup for giving us \$2000 to also go towards picnic tables.

Steve Ball asked Shawn Pickworth if he had heard anything about the Dairy Bar at the Recreation Park. Shawn Pickworth stated he believed they were having issues with permits. He would like to see them open soon and he assured council they would still owe their rent. Council discussed the delay in receiving permits due to employees still working from home.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-21 An Ordinance Amending Section 351.15 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Residential Parking Permits Within the Downtown Residential Area. Third Reading. Myers 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 2021-22 An Ordinance Amending Section 143.11 of the Codified Ordinances and the Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies, Relative to Hours Worked. Third Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the third reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-25 An Ordinance Authorizing Renewal of the Contracts with the County Sheriff to Conduct Dispatching Services for the Village Police Department and Fire Department

and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Cooke made a motion to approve the second reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-27 An Ordinance Amending the 2021 Annual Appropriations Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Certain Expenses and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-27 to be passed on an emergency measure. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Absent; 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 presented Ordinance 2021-28 An Ordinance Amending the 2021 Annual Appropriations Ordinance by Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Funds and Appropriations as Needed for Operations, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-28 to be passed on an emergency measure. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Absent; 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.

Council discussed the following two ordinances concerning chronic nuisance activities and allowing drug abuse. These ordinances will help Chief Hicks with repeat nuisance activities. Several other cities have similar ordinances.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-29 An Ordinance Enacting a New Section 521.13 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Chronic Nuisance Activities. First Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-30 An Ordinance Enacting a New Section 513.15 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Allowing Drug Abuse. First Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Cooke 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. Jennifer 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. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Willis, Absent; Gullett, Yes; Myers, Disqualify; Cooke, Abstain.

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

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

Steve Ball 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, Absent; Gullett, Yes.

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



Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas  
Mayor