

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, March 22, 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: Willis, Gullett, Steve Ball, Cooke and Jennifer Ball. Janice Myers was absent.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Joe Hicks, Marvin McCallister, Shawn Pickworth, Naomi Hicks, Denise McConnell, April Hicks, Carter Hicks, Ethan Hicks, Ruben Hicks, Coty Bravo, Lance Capiot, Cheryl Householder, Duane Householder, Barb Graham and Lynne Phillips.

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 March 8, 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 March 10, 2021 special meeting were then presented for approval. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call: Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Abstain; Jennifer Ball, Yes; Myers, Absent.

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

There were none.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Got some great news last week. The Village of New London’s application has been selected to receive the PY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Funding in the amount of \$480,300.00 for this project. This is one of 11 projects funded out of 18 applications throughout the state. This was the third time this project was submitted for funding and persistence did pay off. We would like to thank all the residents who submitted letters supporting this project. I would also like to thank Angie McConnell from GLCAP for all the help getting this application right, Alex White from GRW Engineering for all his hard work and our County Commissioners Terry Boose, Skip Wilde and Joe Hintz for their support and allowing the Village to apply for this funding 3 times in a row.
- A low service pump was pulled from our pump station and sent in for repairs.
- Annual Sanitary Survey – the OEPA conducted their annual survey at our water plant on March 3, 2021. No major issues.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – a pre-bid meeting was held on March 9, 2021 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Bids are due in our office by March 23, 2021 @ 1:00 pm. Bid opening will be held in Council Chambers. Bids then will be turned over to Jones & Henry Engineering for review. Building permits picked up from Richland County.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

Sanitation

- No major issues.
- **Spring Cleanup** – The Village will be having spring cleanup this year starting Sunday, April 18 – Saturday, May 1, 2021. This year spring cleanup will be a little different. We will have set times that rubble can be brought to the City Garage, 101 West Fir Street, adhering to the guidelines that follow. Dumpsters will be set out behind our fenced in area where New London residents (only) will be able to bring their rubble. We will have an employee onsite to direct residents and to check drivers' license. The times are as follows:
Weekend Hours - Sunday, April 18th, Saturday, April 24th, Sunday, April 25th and Saturday, May 1st – hours of operation will be **9 am – 7 pm**.
Weekday Hours – Monday, April 19th thru Friday, April 23rd and Monday, April 26th thru Friday, April 30th - hours of operation will be **8 am – 7 pm**.

There will be no curbside pickup.

Rules:

1. **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CAN NOT BE DISPOSED OF IN THE DUMPSTERS:** Asbestos materials, Gas or Fuel Tanks, Chemicals, Paint, Yard Waste, Sod/Dirt/Rocks/Concrete, Tires or Batteries.

Note: Brush Clippings will be picked up at a different time.

This cleanup is for New London Village Residents Only.

Street

- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not being addressed. 419-929-4091.
- We are in the process of restocking our salt supply. We will put 100 tons into storage this week for next winter and Council has before them tonight legislation to allow the Village to enter into contract with ODOT for the 2021-22 salt bids.

Other

- CRA Housing Committee – committee met tonight before Council to discuss the possibility of offering Residential Housing to our CRA program.

Toby Thomas stated he did not really have a report but he shared the following recreation report in the absence of Joe Thomas:

- Phase 1 of the sewer project is complete at the reservoir. We just have a little cleanup to do. We are hoping to start phase 2 this year sometime after the power is turned on so we can locate everything.
- BCU electric finished the electric on the new sites by the cabin and it was inspected and passed last Friday.
- We are planning to turn the water on at the recreation park next week.

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

I conducted some follow-up to the downtown parking complaint made at the last council meeting on 03/08.

On 3/17, 3/18, and 3/19 I gave special attention to the downtown parking areas along E. Main St. as well as the parking area to the rear of the building on the North side. I conducted periodic checks and noted parking along the storefronts of E. Main St. was busy at times, but for the most part the vehicles appeared to be in compliance with the 3-hour parking restriction.

The rear parking areas were utilized to capacity in most cases, excluding private property. The vehicles parked at the rear were normally business owners, employees, or downtown residents.

In regard to handicapped parking: I noted one space commonly being utilized by a downtown resident, who possesses a handicap placard. Even this vehicle was moved off E. Main St. in most instances and was using the designated handicapped spot along Railroad Ave. Additionally; another downtown resident was also using the secondary street for parking most of the time.

A "residence parking permit" is available to individuals who live downtown and comes at no cost. The permit can be obtained from the police department and is good for one year. Interested parties need to provide their current address along with the vehicle information.

I would also like to make a request to fill our final full-time roster position with Ofc. Ryan Ginley who will be returning from boot camp in GA on 03/25. Ginley has worked with our agency since 03/19/2020. Prior to that, he worked with N. Olmsted PD for 1.5 years. During his time with us, he has demonstrated he is very capable of handling anything that he has been faced with.

Adam Gullett made a motion to allow Chief Hicks to hire Ryan Ginley as a full-time police officer for the Village of New London. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Steve Ball asked Chief Joe Hicks if there was anything new on the status of the police department's Facebook page. The police department had been blocked from using Facebook recently. Joe Hicks stated he did not know how long it would last. He has not gotten any notifications about it. Chief Hicks added that he had no idea why Facebook had even suspended them.

Toby Thomas then stated he would then give Chief Joe Hicks the oath of office making him the permanent Chief of Police for the Village of New London. April Hicks came forward with Chief Joe Hicks while Mayor Toby Thomas swore him in.

Shawn Pickworth asked Toby Thomas if they could go back to his Administrator's report because he had mistakenly skipped over a topic he had wanted to discuss.

Toby Thomas said that would be fine.

Shawn Pickworth reported the following:

- Lead Service Line Replacement Project – RFQ's have been reviewed. I am asking Council's permission to allow us to hire Poggemeyer Design Group for this project. We have worked with Poggemeyer in the past on a number of projects and feel they will do a good job with this project. The first step is nomination of the project to State and Funding Agency.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to hire Poggemeyer Design Group for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. Jennifer Ball 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 the February run report to share. There were 45 runs for February. There were 28 runs in the Village of New London; 2 in New London Township; 8 in Fitchville Township; 3 in Troy Township; 3 in Ruggles Township and one mutual aid.

Toby Thomas stated they would be discussing zoning later in the council meeting, but he wondered if Shawn Pickworth had anything he wanted to report on zoning.

Shawn Pickworth stated that zoning had been steady over the last couple of weeks. He had been receiving many calls on zoning issues.

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. 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 2021-10 An Ordinance Amending Section 143.08 of the Codified Ordinances and the Village Employee Handbook, Relative to Sick Leave. Third Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the third reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Absent; Willis, No; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-12 An Ordinance to Approve Current Replacement Pages to the New London Codified Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the second reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-14 An Ordinance Enacting a New Chapter 957 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to the Memorial Committee. First Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-15 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 2021-15 to be passed on an emergency measure. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Absent; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Steve Ball 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 2021-04 A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded in 2021. First Reading. Willis 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 2021-05 A Resolution in the Matter of Determining Emergency Management Service for the Political Subdivision of the Village of New London. First Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the first reading. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2021-06 A Resolution Allowing the Village of New London to Apply for Financial Assistance Through the Ohio NatureWorks Program. First Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the first reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

Toby Thomas stated he had emailed to all members of council a resume from Buddy Workman. So far, this is the only resume they have received for the zoning position. Toby Thomas asked council how they wanted to proceed. Members of council decided they would like to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to further discuss the zoning applicant.

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. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Steve Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the possible employment of a Zoning Inspector. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Absent; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

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

Cooke made a motion to hire Buddy Workman as the Zoning Inspector for the Village of New London. Gullett 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

