

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, March 8, 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: Myers, Willis, Gullett. and Jennifer Ball. Steve Ball and Stuart Cooke were absent.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Joe Hicks, Joe Thomas, Marvin McCallister, John Chapin and Lynne Phillips.

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

The minutes from the February 22, 2021 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Gullett made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Marvin McCallister stated the downtown area was becoming exceedingly busy which at times is making parking an issue. He stated there were some cars parking downtown permanently and he believes the parking spaces are a maximum of two hour parking. He also stated one of the parking spaces being taken up permanently is a handicap space and he thought those spaces would be a maximum of two hours as well.

A short discussion was held and it was determined Police Chief Hicks would follow up on the situation.

Ellen Simmons then announced there would be a Community Club meeting the following day at 2:15 p.m. at the Wildcat Café. The club decided to move their meetings to the afternoon in hopes of having better attendance.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Water/Sewer Superintendent John Chapin presented the following report in the absence of Shawn Pickworth:

EPA inspection at the Water Treatment Plant March 3rd. Walk through inspection only. Everything was OK.

Main cylinder went out on one of the garbage trucks, \$3000.00 to repair it. Don took it to a repair shop in Savannah and got it fixed for \$400.00.

We are filling the reservoir. Should be full by the weekend.

Power outage yesterday went well with all the village buildings and plants.

Pre-bid meeting tomorrow March 9th at 10:00 at the Wastewater Plant if any of you wish to attend.

Concerning the power outage, Chief Hicks asked John Chapin about a way to keep power to the police garage during an outage. They had not realized that there was no generator for the police garage and they had a difficult time getting the cruiser out of the garage while the power was off.

John Chapin stated he was not sure how that would work but he will check into it.

Toby Thomas stated he did not really have a report for the meeting but he gave a short statement about Covid as he is hoping the restrictions will soon be coming to an end. He stated he appreciated everything the village employees had done to follow guidelines to keep everyone safe.

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

I would like to start off by thanking Village Council and Mayor Thomas for their decision to promote me to the position of Chief of Police. I appreciate their support along with the support of my family, the community, the officers within, and my law enforcement colleagues around the area. Although I will be leading the department, it will take a team effort to maintain success. I'm confident we have the staff to do it.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have received four new Panasonic Tough Book computers (MDT's) with docks. These will update the current MDT's that are at least six plus years old. The new computers were purchased with Covid Funds. I would like to thank Shawn, John, and Nancy for their insight there. We hope to continue making improvements as time and funds allow.

Reserve Officer Arik Ubienski, who was hired in December 2020, has notified me he is taking a paid position with the Creston Police Department and will be resigning later this month.

Lastly, in an effort to be as transparent as possible, I would like to ask Council what their desire would be when it comes to the hiring and resignations of reserve officers. The turn over with these positions is frequent. I know in the past these hires and resignations have not always passed through Council. In the short time I've been in charge, I've presented several roster changes, primarily involving reservist.

Do you wish to have me continue this format with our volunteer officers or would you rather I only bring it to you when requesting to hire part-time and full-time officers, or have received their resignation?

Through Mr. Bond's insight, it was determined reserve officers just need to be passed through the mayor so Chief Hicks stated he would not bother council with the turnover of the reserve police officers.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from fire. Fire Chief John Chapin said it had been quiet so he had nothing to report.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she had nothing at this time.

There was no zoning report.

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

- Would like council to approve the following employees for the reservoir 2021 season. Kelly Deppen, Brittany Roeder, Grace Popa, Baylee Cucco, Charley Crawford, Frank Murr, Andy O'Dell and Jori Hunter.
- I would like council to approve the following employees for the recreation park for the 2021 season. Tom Howell and Eric Mitchell.
- We have been working very hard on all the projects at the reservoir. We have put in all the sewer main line and all the laterals, which is more than 1500 feet of pipe for phase 1 of the sewer project at the reservoir. The lift station has been placed in the ground and the 2" line was directional drilled this past Saturday. The 2" line goes from the lift station to a man hole up by the sled hill which then gravity feeds into the main sewer system. We have also put in 350' of conduit to run the electric line in for the lift station. BCU started today installing the electric for the new sites down by the cabins. Those 12 sites should be complete here in the next 2 weeks.
- I hope everyone at the reservoir will be patient with us during the cleanup process. It is very hard to not make a mess this time of the year. We will get everything leveled, seeded or more gravel added to all the areas needed.

- With the weather starting to get a little nicer, we have had a lot of people at the park. I would like to remind everyone that they need to be very careful while driving in the park. The speed limit is 10MPH in the park. It is posted at both entrances.

Janice Myers made a motion to hire Kelly Deppen, Brittany Roeder, Grace Popa, Baylee Cucco and Jori Hunter to work in the Reservoir office for the 2021 camping season. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Mike Willis made a motion to hire Frank Murr, Charley Crawford, Andy O'Dell, Tom Howell and Eric Mitchell for parks/reservoir maintenance and lawn care. Jennifer Ball 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 Pott's Mowing Service for the 2021 Mowing Season. 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 2021-09 An Ordinance Repealing Section 901.04 of the Codified Ordinances Relative to the Village-Wide Sidewalk Construction Program. Second Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the second reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-10 An Ordinance Amending Section 143.08 of the Codified Ordinances and the Village Employee Handbook, Relative to Sick Leave. Second Reading. Gullett made a motion to approve the second reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Absent; Myers, Yes; Willis, No; Steve Ball, Absent; 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. First Reading. Myers 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 2021-13 An Ordinance Adopting the 2021 Permanent Annual Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures for the Operation of the Village of New London and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading.

With only four council members present, a first reading was done instead of an emergency 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 2021-03 A Resolution Approving the Amendment of the Community Reinvestment Area Agreement Between the Village of New London, Ohio and Firelands Electric Cooperative Inc. and Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Amendment to the Agreement, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading.

With only four council members present, a first reading was done on this ordinance as well.

Myers 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 presented a proposed ordinance enacting the Memorial Committee for council's review. Members of council agreed that the ordinance should go forward with approval. The ordinance will be on the agenda at the next council meeting for a first reading.

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

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

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

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas
Mayor