

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, June 22, 2020 @ 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: Myers, Cooke, Gullett, Willis, Jennifer Ball and Steve Ball.

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Ellen Simmons, Marvin McCallister, Megan Sherlund, Don Patton and John Chapin.

Toby Thomas then asked for approval of the agenda. Myers made a motion to approve the agenda. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

The minutes from the June 8, 2020 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked for any public questions or statements.

Toby Thomas noted that no one had posted any questions online so he stated they would move on with the meeting.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn then reported the following.

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – We should hear from the State by the end of this month on funding.
- GIS Project – project continues.
- Tower Improvement Project – Project complete.
- Train 4 – New media was installed last week; crews are working to get the train online now.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Plans submitted to the OEPA for PTI approval.

Storm Sewers

- Crews have been out cleaning some storm sewers.
- Grant Street – we have hired Ott’s Excavating to do some work in the waterway on the west side of the bridge. A couple of years ago we had some work done that has caused some issues downstream that we feel needed to be addressed by the Village.

Sanitation

- No major issues.

- During summer heat, crews might elect to start the routes earlier in the mornings. Make sure you get your trash out early, best by 6:00 am.

### Street

- Potholes – with the crazy up and down temps. and the amount of moisture that is under the road we are going to have a lot of potholes. Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091.
- Crews have been out patching potholes.

### Other

- Columbia Gas Project – project is in full swing. Ours crews have been busy with locates, catch basin cleaning & storm sewer cleaning.
- Audit – the state audit has been completed and results have been emailed to you from Nancy. Does Council want a post audit meeting with the Auditors?
- Utility Bills – the OEPA and State of Ohio has lifted the restrictions starting July 1<sup>st</sup> on delinquent fees and shut offs. The Village will begin enforcing our Ordinances and rules in July. Late fees will apply after July 15<sup>th</sup> and shutoffs will begin July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Toby Thomas asked council what they would like to do about a post audit meeting. Members of council and the Fiscal Officer discussed the audit and what had been noted by the auditors and it was determined they would not need to proceed with a post audit meeting.

Toby Thomas stated he had been holding interviews for the police chief job and he only had one more to do and the first round of interviews would be complete. He continued by saying that once he had completed the last interview he will determine what will be done for the second round of interviews. The second round will all be in person interviews.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he had a few things. The first thing he wanted to discuss were the bones that had been found in the old barn across the street. The project that has the bones have been able to find a full DNA profile. They will see what happens. They may know something soon or it may be years down the road but at least things are moving forward. He is very thankful for New Life Project and the work they are doing to help find answers on the bones.

Next, Chief Marko discussed three interesting calls for service in the last week and a half. The first call was anonymous about a suspicious male at Dollar General. Officers quickly were at the scene and upon running the license plate, they found the car the suspicious male was driving to be stolen. The male had a warrant out for his arrest. As they began to pad him down, they found a very realistic BB gun in his pocket. Chief Marko was very confident the man had intended to rob Dollar General even though he wouldn't admit to it. He stated the police department was very thankful for the anonymous caller that reported the suspicious male.

The second call was to report an unconscious lady slumped over in her car. The officers found her to be overdosing. She was administered Narcan and was brought back to life. Chief Marko stated it was excellent police work on the officers' part. The woman later came into Chief's office to thank him for what the officers had done for her. While she was there, Chief asked her if she would like to see the body cam footage of the officer bringing her back to life. She and a friend came in to watch the footage. Upon viewing the video, both women became very emotional and Chief is hoping the footage will help the woman make better

choices in the future. Chief was pleased with how quickly the officers were on the scene and that they knew exactly what to do.

The third call was on a male and a female fighting on Westwood Drive. The officers went down to check things out. Neither party was cooperative. After the male's information was run in the system, they saw he was wanted in Florida on several felonies. The male was 33 years old and had a 48-page criminal history. He had everything from murder to passing bad checks on the report. There was excellent police work on this call as well.

To commend the officers on a job well done, Chief Marko issued a Meritorious Service Unit Citation commending each officer. Chief read the citation and stated it was for every officer in the New London Police Department because it takes a team to provide such commendable service.

Toby Thomas thanked Chief Marko and asked if anyone had any questions for the chief.

Stuart Cooke stated he didn't have a question for the chief but he did have a question for the mayor. He wanted to know how many interviews the mayor had done for the police chief position

Toby Thomas responded by saying he had done five interviews and he had one more to do.

Stuart Cooke thought that he had said previously he would be doing four interviews.

Toby Thomas stated that at the last council meeting he had said he would be holding six interviews. Three of the interviews were long distance and three were fairly local.

Stuart Cooke and Janice Myers had not thought they had discussed that, but they were going to check through paperwork from previous meetings.

Stuart Cooke asked Toby Thomas how many of the five interviews he had done had been in person.

Toby Thomas answered that two had been in person and three had been through Zoom. He talked to all three candidates that had their interview by Zoom and explained to them that three of the interviews would be over Zoom and three would be in person and they were all fine with it. He continued by saying that it was just the first interview to narrow the field down.

Stuart Cooke wanted to make sure that all second interviews would be held in person.

Toby Thomas replied that yes they would all be in person.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from Fire. Chief John Chapin stated he had one thing. The house at 107 West Main has been in the process of being torn down. It belongs to Rails to Trails. On July 11<sup>th</sup> they will be doing a county wide live fire training. They will start early in the morning and then at the end of the day they are going to burn the house down. During the training, they will have one lane closed on West Main. When they go to burn the house down, they will have to have both lanes closed for a while.

Toby Thomas thanked John Chapin for everything the fire department does and asked him how many different fire departments would be involved in the training.

John Chapin replied that there would be as many as 10 different departments involved.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated that she didn't have anything but she would have a full report at the next council meeting.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James absent. Toby Thomas thought Bob James was planning a zoning committee meeting to be held before the next council meeting to discuss a few things.

Toby Thomas then asked Megan Sherlund for a report for the Recreation Department. Megan Sherlund shared the following report.

1. Chicken BBQ on June 14<sup>th</sup> raising money for new sewer sites at the reservoir made \$831. Money given to NLPIC to hold until full amount raised.
2. Another BBQ scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
3. Concert on July 18<sup>th</sup> with one band, no bar, multiple food vendors, t-shirt vendor, also other game tournaments, horseshoes, corn hole. Will be paid for by NLPIC and donors.

Megan also shared with council a report showing how she was managing the hours of the seasonal employees. She showed a comparison of the previous year and the current year and how she had reduced hours and eliminated overtime while still making sure the office was fully staffed. She also showed council how she was under budget in almost every line item in the recreation fund. Due to the virus, the village had to refund several campers due to a delay in opening. Megan Sherlund wanted to make council aware that the recreation department was taking every precaution to reduce spending.

Stuart Cooke asked where the reservoir got its propane from and how much it cost them.

Shawn Pickworth answered that they purchase their propane from Linden's and he would have to check on what the price was.

Stuart Cooke stated there was a new propane company that had just started up and suggested the village check into them because he had heard their propane was very inexpensive.

Megan Sherlund said she knew about the company and would contact them for more information.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-14 An Ordinance Authorizing Agreements with Special Counsel and Chicago Title Agency of Huron County, Inc., in Connection with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project, and Declaring an Emergency. Third Reading. Cooke made a motion to approve the third reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-15 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Execute an Agreement for and Participate in the Ohio Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network. 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 2020-16 An Ordinance endorsing the State Policy Against Using Public Funds for Political Actions and Amending the Village's Employee Handbook Relative to the Same. Second Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the second reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-17 An Ordinance Enacting a New Section 123.06 of the Codified Ordinances Relative to Deposit of Public Money Pursuant to Revised Code Section 9.38. First Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the first reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-18 An Ordinance Amending the 2020 Annual Appropriations Ordinance by Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Funds and Appropriations as Needed for Operations and

Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Cooke made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-18 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. Myers 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 2020-04 A Resolution Authorizing the Village to Receive Funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Resolution 2020-04 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. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

Toby Thomas brought up whether they should consider opening council meetings back up to the public since wedding receptions and other such events are now allowed. He thought they could separate everyone. They should be able to allow around 25 people in the meeting and still observe social distancing.

Stuart Cooke wondered if they should consider limiting the number of people allowed in the building.

Toby Thomas agreed and stated that Chief Marko could possibly be at the door and not let anyone else in once the chairs are full.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to open council meetings back up to the public with social distancing being observed which could limit attendance. Janice Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

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

Jennifer Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment and discipline of a village employee. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

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

Steve Ball made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to hire Trent Yates and Jacob Paynter for the Street/Sanitation Department pending a background and drug test. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to move Clayton Englet from the Street/Sanitation Department to the Water/Sewer Department effective June 29, 2020. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Council concluded the meeting by discussing Labor Day. They affirmed that the 2020 Labor Day Festival would be postponed until 2021. Other groups may plan their own events however.

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



Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas  
Mayor