

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting – Monday, July 13, 2020 @ 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, Cooke, Gullett, Jennifer Ball and Steve Ball. Willis was absent.

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Ellen Simmons, Marvin McCallister, Megan Sherlund, Steve Bond, Lynn Phillips and Bob James.

Toby Thomas then 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 22, 2020 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked for any public questions or statements.

Toby Thomas stated he had received a text that day from John Martin. He was asking the mayor about his transparency with village residents and council. Toby Thomas answered his question by saying he tries to get out and do things. He attends events with the Golden Agers, the New London Alliance Senior Luncheon, Rotary, CIC and Community Club. He also corresponds with residents through his Facebook page. As far as being transparent with council, Toby Thomas continued by saying he thought council knew he tried not to pull punches and didn't go behind their backs to do things. He restated what he had said in a previous council meeting. He believes members of council need to do their job and he needs to do his job. He thought that was as transparent as he could get. He concluded by saying he hoped that answered John Martin's question. He hoped he was listening and he thanked him for asking it.

Stuart Cooke stated he would like to make a statement as a resident and business owner in New London. He brought up a meeting the mayor had asked him to attend where residents could come in and ask questions to the Chief of Police candidates. He explained to the mayor that he wouldn't be a part of the meeting unless all of council was part of it. He was upset that there were only two people in attendance that were from New London. In addition, Stuart had thought that Chief Marko should have been a part of the meeting since he has over 40 years of law enforcement experience and 30 years with the police academy training officers around the state. When Chief Marko started at the village, he reduced the police budget. While he has been chief, he remodeled the entire police department and built a police garage while staying within the reduced budget. Stuart Cooke thought Chief Marko was not only an extraordinary police officer, but very knowledgeable with the budget as well and he wanted the papers to hear what he had to say. Stuart thought that out of everyone, Chief Marko should have been on the panel for the hiring of the new police chief.

Toby Thomas thanked Stuart Cooke for his comments.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn then reported the following.

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Found out we will not hear from the State on funding until sometime in September. We are ready to go to bid once this happens.

- GIS Project – project continues.
- Water Tap Repair – crews dug up and repaired a water tap on Third Street.

Wastewater

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

Storm Sewers

- Crews have been out cleaning some storm sewers.
- Grant Street – project started today. Should be done by the end of the week or early next week.

Sanitation

- No major issues.
- Freightliner Garbage Truck – truck has been in the shop for a couple of weeks. New front axle installed. Hoping to get the truck back in service this week.
- Two new hires started last week. We want to welcome Jacob Paynter and Trent Yates to the team. Clayton Englet has moved to the Water & Wastewater crew today.

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 continues. Restoration crews have started repairing properties today.
- Care Act Funding – the Village has been granted \$85,985 from the Cares Act for Covid-19 costs. Anything we have spent for Covid-19 we can reimburse ourselves for, and we need to buy anything we need for Covid-19 from now until the end of the year. Any monies left over the Village has the option to give as grants to local businesses up to \$10,000. The County Commissioners have offered the option to pool the extra monies with theirs and that would give New London access to a larger amount and we could help more businesses. There are some restrictions on who can get the grants. 1. Must have less than 50 employees. 2. Grant must be for the creation or retention of at least one employee. 3. Business must have a yearly revenue of less than \$1,000,000. 4. Business cannot have applied for and taken any other funds due to Covid-19. We need to be very aggressive in using this money up as quickly as possible due to the fact if we do the Village would be eligible for additional funds late October early November.

- Utility Bills – the OEPA and State of Ohio have lifted the restrictions starting July 1st on delinquent fees and shut offs. The Village will begin enforcing our Ordinances and rules in July. The late fee will apply after July 15th and shutoffs will begin July 27th.

Steve Ball asked Shawn Pickworth if he had any idea how much money the village had spent already on safety items for the coronavirus.

Shawn Pickworth stated that he would estimate it to be around \$8,000. He then told council that if they did not want to pool the village money in with the county's money that was fine. He wanted to let council decide what they wanted to do. He also let them know that they didn't have to offer the entire \$10,000 grant amount to businesses. They could divide it up into smaller amounts to be able to help more small businesses.

Stuart Cooke asked Shawn Pickworth if they pooled the village money with the county what the chances were that any of the money would be used in the New London community.

Shawn Pickworth stated that they had created a board and they would make sure that someone from the village would be part of the board so they would have a say on where the money was spent.

Stuart Cooke replied that the village had been on other boards in the past and it didn't help them get anything.

Shawn Pickworth and members of council discussed the Cares Act money and different ideas on using the money. In the end, it would be up to council to make the decisions about the money. It is also possible that the village will receive additional money through the Cares Act that could have fewer restrictions for its use.

Toby Thomas then reported that the search for the new police chief was ongoing. He concluded the interviews with the panel discussion. He did not have a recommendation yet but he would let council know when he did.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he had a few things. Chief Marko asked council for their permission to promote a reserve officer to part-time status. Ben Keener had been working for the village as a reserve officer for the last few years and he would like to promote him. Also, Chief let council know they had issued a criminal summons to a property on First Street who failed to clean up their property. Chief noted this was the third time the resident had been issued a criminal summons. He thinks there could be jail time after this instance. He should find out the outcome the next day.

The last thing Chief wanted to discuss with council had occurred back in March. He found out on a Sunday that one of his officers had tested positive for COVID. Because of the positive test, it had been necessary to promote two reserve officers to part-time. Chief had received permission from council president, Stuart Cooke, to promote the officers but nothing had ever been formally done in a council meeting. Blake Gawlik and Ryan Ginley were promoted to part-time at a full-time pay rate because of the additional hours worked due to COVID 19. Once the additional hours were no longer needed, they would return to the regular part-time rate of pay.

Toby Thomas asked Shawn Pickworth if John Chapin had given him anything to report for the fire department.

Shawn Pickworth reported that the house fire training they had done while burning down a house on West Main Street had gone very well. There were many trainees who received much experience.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she had the June report. There had been 51 calls for service. She also broke down the number to correlate with the area the service call was in.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James stated he had turned 137 High Street and the property on Park Avenue owned by Tax Ease over to the police to be issued a criminal summons for their failure to clean up the properties. Bob had also received a complaint on another property in town which he had given a certain amount of time to comply. The resident at the property had asked Bob James for some additional time to finish due to the heat. Bob James allowed the additional time as long as he could see that the work was continuing.

The last thing Bob James discussed was about zoning meetings. He had not known about the previous zoning meeting that had been planned. There currently are some issues with Rails to Trails and there are some new ordinances in the works so he asked if he could be informed of any zoning meetings in the future.

Toby Thomas stated that Jim VanSickle was the head of that committee and with the changes in the status of the county with the Coronavirus, he had decided to cancel the meeting.

With the problems with Rails to Trails, Bob James is getting questions and he doesn't know how to answer them and he would really like to be informed of any meetings so he can address different questions.

Stuart Cooke thought the village had a property that had the same thing that the Rails to Trails property had.

Bob James agreed that it did but that zoning didn't pertain to village property. That was why they were trying to make some changes to the zoning ordinances.

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

The contract with Coles for propane is saving us almost \$0.50 per gallon, also adding a propane exchange cage to the office by the reservoir.

We have received the diagram and installation instructions for the swing set for the reservoir.

We have to take down the wooden playground in the middle of the reservoir due to safety precautions but I am preparing applications for grants to replace it with commercial graded equipment.

We have filled the reservoir camping for three weekends in a row and are continuing to put more and more people at the Rec Park.

I will be updating Google and our websites to add campground at the end of the name for recreation park so people can find it when googling campgrounds. Rebecca with Maad Impressions is making a metal sign that will hang below the existing sign on Euclid that will say if interested in camping here go to reservoir office to register.

Events we have upcoming are:

Social distancing concert with Bad Juju this Saturday hoping to start at 5:00 p.m. but we'll push back if it's too hot. There will be a \$5 admission. We will have our park shirts that were designed by the help of the public for pre-order. We will have a few food stands, corn hole boards, horseshoes, and Jill Crandall has volunteered her time to run a couple 50-50 raffles.

We would like to start a softball league, volleyball league and corn hole league in the beginning of August.

On August 22nd we will have a fishing tournament. Registration will be from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Fishing will be from 7:00 a.m. and last boat in at 2:45. Details, rules and regulations will be posted on our website

September 11th, 12th and 13th will be a camp and sell event at the park for small businesses or anyone to come. It will cost \$25 a night. You can camp at your site or you can just set up a booth. We will not charge an entry fee but we will have raffle baskets that people can purchase tickets to win.

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. Third Reading. Steve 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 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. Second Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the second reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2020-05 A Resolution Establishing a New Local Coronavirus Relief Fund, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Resolution 2020-05 to be passed on an emergency measure. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Absent; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the emergency 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.

Steve Ball asked if the Frontier charges on the Approval of Bills report were for long distance charges.

It was explained that the charges were not for long distance. They were for fax lines, credit card lines and regular telephone lines.

Steve Ball replied that answered his question. He just wanted to make sure the village wasn't spending a lot of money on long distance charges.

Steve Ball then made a motion to promote Ben Keener from Reserve Officer to part-time status. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to retroactively allow Chief Marko to promote Blake Gawlik and Ryan Ginley to part-time at a full-time pay rate because of the additional hours worked due to COVID 19. Once the additional hours are no longer needed, they will return to the regular part-time rate of pay. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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 bills for approval under Schedule B. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Gullett – yes; Steve Ball – yes; Jennifer Ball – yes; Willis – absent; Cooke – abstain; Myers – disqualify herself.

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas
Mayor