

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, August 24, 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, Willis and Steve Ball.

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

Toby Thomas then asked for approval of the agenda.

Stuart Cooke stated that he saw there was an executive session on the agenda. He asked Toby Thomas if the executive session was about the police chief.

Toby Thomas answered that yes it was.

Stuart Cooke continued by saying he thought Toby Thomas had alienated council from the process of hiring a new police chief but members of council were the ones who had to approve the new police chief.

Toby Thomas replied that was why they were having an executive session, so that members of council could meet with the candidate.

Stuart Cooke stated that the mayor had left council out of all the interviews and had alienated them so until he allowed council to be a part of the process, he would not be able to get any candidates approved. He then made a motion to take the executive session off the agenda for the evening. Janice Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, No; Steve Ball, No; Willis, No; Myers, Yes; Gullett, Yes, Cooke, Yes.

Since the vote was tied, the mayor made the determining vote. The executive session was left on the agenda.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the agenda. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Willis, Yes; Myers, No; Gullett, No, Cooke, No.

The vote was tied again so Toby Thomas made the final vote to approve the agenda.

The minutes from the August 10, 2020 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked for any public questions or statements.

Ellen Simmons stated the next Community Club meeting would be September 10th at 9 a.m. at the Wildcat Diner.

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.
- Grove Street Project – project went very well, good job of planning and execution.
- St. Rt. 60 & Section Line – another valve was found to be leaking. Crews repaired this today.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – The OEPA has approved the plans, now the plans will go to the USDA-RD for approval.

Storm Sewers

- Crews have been out cleaning some storm sewers.

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.
- CSX Rail Crossing, St. Rt. 60 – it appears that CSX will be repairing the crossing sooner than we were told. As of right now the crossing is slated to close on Monday, August 31st. Estimated completion is Saturday, September 5, 2020.
- Painting – crews have begun painting the parking spaces, cross walks, stop bars, etc. This is expected to last a couple of weeks, weather depending.

Other

- Columbia Gas Project – project continues. The office entrance off East Main will be closed tomorrow, August 25, 2020 due to crews installing a new service line to our buildings. Customers can enter the Village parking lot off Williams Street.

Toby Thomas stated he had been asked to remind council and the people of New London that September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. This year approximately 191,930 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in the United States alone and roughly 33,330 will die this year from the disease. In Ohio an estimated 7,030 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and an estimated 1,200 deaths will occur in 2020.

Toby then reported that Hometown Holidays is well underway. The Community Club is planning on focusing most of the activities in the Downtown area and the Hileman Building on the first Saturday in December. In conclusion, Mayor Thomas stated the Rotary Club had been having some discussions about the replacement of the Terry Wilson Observation Deck and he will be discussing it more with Shawn Pickworth.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated a couple months ago, Bob James had handed over a couple properties to the police department for criminal prosecution. One property was on Park Avenue and the other on High Street. Steve Palmer, the village's prosecutor, was reluctant to file charges on a holding company on a foreclosed property. His suggestion was for the village to file a civil

nuisance abatement. Chief Marko commented that Steve Palmer was a very good prosecutor so he wanted to stand behind him and support his decision.

Chief Marko continued by saying that around two or three times a week, the police department receives goodies from supporters of the New London police. A lot of the time, they will leave them in the lobby with a note and they usually want to remain anonymous. Chief Marko wanted to tell the donors how much he and the other officers appreciate their support.

Toby Thomas asked Chief Marko if he could get the information to Mr. Bond on the two foreclosed properties so they can begin looking into filing a civil nuisance abatement.

Chief Marko said he would do that.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from fire chief John Chapin. John Chapin was absent.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she would have a report at the next council meeting but Firelands Ambulance was remaining very busy. She also wanted to let everyone know that Firelands Ambulance had a Facebook page and they would be starting something called Firelands Facts where they would post little bits of information and fun facts about the ambulance service.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James stated that the previous Monday the Zoning and Planning Commission had held a meeting to review amending the zoning ordinances to allow the New London-Greenwich Rail Trail property to be zoned as a Public Parks and Open Space Zoning Use District. The commission voted unanimously to amend the ordinance. A Zoning Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, September 21st at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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

1. Concert this Saturday is Roxie Mae & TARP
2. Concert Sept 26 is TAGR and Bad Juju
3. Labor Day – free Fireworks; Inspire New London will have Food Trucks and Bands; Steven Fawcett would like to rent the Hileman building for a Little League fundraiser on Monday as well
4. September 11-13 is the camp & sell flea market
5. We have purchased some product to put on the gravel roads at the reservoir that will help with dust/debris
6. Streets/Sanitation/Water Depts. helped fix the swings at the rec park, they have sunk over time and became unlevel
7. Duck Blind drawing will be August 31 at 6 pm at the reservoir. Letters will be mailed out to previous applicants and notices will be put on Facebook, the website, and at local stores. Ordinance on agenda for changes to regulations.
8. Hire Jori Hunter to replace Zoe Farnsworth

Council discussed the duck blind drawing and different ways to handle the hunters that do not take down their duck blinds at the end of the season. The ordinance on the agenda that night would make it so any hunter not removing their blind would be unable to return and have a blind at the reservoir. Members of council were in agreement that was the best way to handle the situation.

Adam Gullett made a motion to allow Jori Hunter to be hired as a seasonal campground employee. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-21 An Ordinance Amending the 2020 Annual Appropriations Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Certain Expenses and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-21 to be passed on an emergency measure. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; 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 Ordinance 2020-22 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. Jennifer Ball made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-22 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. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-23 An Ordinance Amending and Restating Section 955.24 of the Codified Ordinances. Emergency Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-23 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. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2020-06 A Resolution Authorizing Administrator, Shawn Pickworth, Village of New London to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to Execute Contracts as Required. Declaring it an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Resolution 2020-06 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. Gullett 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.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow Chief Marko to be in the executive session. Gullett 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. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented the then and now bills for approval under Schedule B. Steve Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment of a village employee or official. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, No; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Cooke 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, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-24 An Ordinance Amending Section 129.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of New London Relative to Conditions of Employment Relating to Chief, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-24 to be passed on an emergency measure. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Mike Willis made a motion to appoint Lt. Joe Hicks as the new police chief of the Village of New London. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, No; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, No; Myers, No; Willis, Yes; Gullett, No.

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas
Mayor