

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, September 14, 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, Jennifer Ball, Willis and Steve Ball. Gullett was absent.

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

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

The minutes from the August 24, 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. He stated there was one person who had joined the Google Meet but there had been no questions submitted. He then continued to say that he had received around 41 letters and emails in support of Lt. Joe Hicks. Toby Thomas read a couple of them and asked council if they would like him to read each one. Council agreed that they had received the same letters and emails so it wouldn't be necessary for him to read each one.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn then reported the following.

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Got an email last week from the State informing us that we did not get funded for this project. We are now looking at other sources of funding.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – The OEPA has approved the plans, now the plans will go to the USDA-RD for approval. I would like to schedule a workshop with Council on September 28, 2020 at 6:30 pm to discuss the project.
- Prospect Street – crews dug up and repaired a sewer.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

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 – project is complete.
- Painting – crews will continue with this project. We had a paint issue that set us back a bit.
- Salt Storage – a new owner has bought the building we store our winter road salt in. When we first started to rent this space we paid \$400/per/quarter, it was increased to \$460/per/quarter last year and this year it increased to \$400/per/month. I believe we can build our own storage facility at this rate. I have been getting price estimates to make this happen and will present to Council once I have all the information.
- OPWC Funding – we are working on the funding application for the West Washburn Improvement project. Applications are due first week of November.

Other

- Columbia Gas Project – project continues. Our entrance to our parking lot from East Main will be closed starting September 16, 2020 and will be closed for at least 1 week. Customers can use the Williams Street entrance.
- Employee Insurance – Met with Vicki Missler last week and she was able to get a plan, very similar as last years for our employees saving the Village and employees around 10% compared to renewing our current plan. This plan runs from January to January instead of November to November so it will have to be renewed at the first of the year. Council has legislation before you tonight to approve this.
- Cares Act Money – the Village received \$85,985 in funds from the Cares Act and we will be getting another \$40,000 in funds supposedly this week. I would like to suggest to Council that we put up \$90,000 for grants to Community Businesses and 501 (C)(3) organizations that qualify. I would like to have HCDC administer the grant process like they are doing for the County and the City of Willard. I believe Willard has agreed to pay the amount of 10% of the total amount of money granted. This will leave the Village with over \$35,000 to do what we need to do within the guidelines of what we can use the money for. This is still the first round of funds, word is that a second round will be coming sometime in late October, November.
- Bonding – the State has passed a bill that we can now bond our employees through our insurance company, and it would be renewed every year along with our policy. This is bonding the position not the individual.

Toby Thomas then let council know that he would be going on vacation beginning Monday, September 21st. He would be back before the next council meeting. He also stated that since Adam Gullett was on vacation, he had asked that there be no discussion about the new police chief until he returned. That way all six members of council could be in attendance. Toby Thomas concluded by saying they would revisit the police chief position at the next council meeting on September 28th.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated the police department had resumed their in-service training and he would like to promote reserve officer David Jones to part-time status.

Toby Thomas asked Chief Marko if he could tell them a little bit about David Jones.

Chief Marko explained that David Jones was an experienced officer with a number of years in the police force. Chief thought he probably had about nine years of experience. He thought the only thing he would need to learn is the lay of the land in New London. Chief added that the community had always been very supportive of all the officers. Chief Marko then continued by saying he had heard that his integrity was being questioned on social media. Chief Marko thought his record speaks for itself. The police officers are well trained and well educated. He did not think his integrity should be questioned.

Toby Thomas replied that he was not questioning Chief Marko's integrity but it seemed to him that David Jones had some issues a few years ago when he was working in Vermilion. He asked Chief Marko to tell them about those issues.

Chief Marko explained some questionable behavior about the officer dating a dispatcher but he thought some of the claims were rumors and untrue. Chief Marko talked to the police chief for Vermilion and he gave David Jones a good recommendation.

Toby Thomas asked if David Jones had been fired.

Chief Marko thought he hadn't been fired but he resigned. Chief Marko determined it would be up to council whether they would let him be promoted to part-time status or not.

Toby Thomas just thought everyone should know about the allegations. He then asked Chief Marko if the dispatcher involved had been fired.

Chief Marko stated he did not know that information but he continued by saying if he went by skeletons in the closet there probably would be no police officers wearing a badge. There are times when there is a police officer with a questionable past. Over the years he has been able to let things like that go and he has always had excellent officers. He would never hire anyone for the village that he thought wouldn't make a good officer but that was up to council on what they would decide. If they didn't feel they should allow him to work as a part-time officer that was fine with him but Chief Marko felt he would make a good officer and do an excellent job.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Fire Department. Fire Chief John Chapin absent.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she had nothing to report.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James absent.

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

1. I would like to thank the Boy Scouts and their leader Dick Murr for all the amazing work they do around the recreation park for us each year. They cut down trees and use to sell for their own fundraising but also they have helped with firewood at the reservoir campground. They clean up the campground area as well as the playgrounds etc.
2. Camp & Sell Flea Market went well. We are looking at doing a few more next year
3. Concert on Sept 26 at Reservoir
4. Fishing Tournament Sept 27 at Reservoir

5. Trunk or Treat October 24
6. A few seasonal campers would like to ask the council to keep the reservoir park open a week or 2 longer than the original close date of October 17th. This would be either Oct. 23rd or 30th. I recommend if you decide to allow this they pay the weekly rate of either \$200 or \$300

Council discussed with Megan Sherlund some of the pros and cons of extending the camping season. After their discussion, they determined they would extend the camping season for seasonal campers only.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to extend the camping season for seasonal campers only who would then pay the regular weekly rate until October 31, 2020. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Steve Ball then made a motion to promote officer David Jones to part-time status for the New London Police Department. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Council then had a short discussion about giving grants with the CARES Act money. It was determined that no motion was necessary until it was decided who would be receiving the grant money and the amounts of the grants. Shawn Pickworth wanted to make sure the word got out to all small businesses and 501(c)3 organizations. He wanted to encourage everyone eligible to apply for a grant.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-25 An Ordinance Authorizing an Agreement to Renew Employee Health Insurance Provided by United Healthcare, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-25 to be passed on an emergency measure. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Absent. 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 Ordinance 2020-26 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. Steve Ball made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-26 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, Absent. Myers made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-27 An Ordinance Amending the 2020 Annual Appropriations Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Certain Expenses and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Willis made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-27 to be passed on an emergency measure. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Absent. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-28 An Ordinance Authorizing an Agreement with the Ohio Attorney General for Delinquent Debt Collection Services. First Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Myers 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 wanted to determine what the village should do about trick or treat. He wanted to see if they should have trick or treat and the parade. He also thought they should discuss switching the parade before trick or treat to allow more time and so families didn't have to rush to make it to the parade in time. It was

also noted that the Recreation Committee would be holding Trunk or Treat at the Recreation Park on October 24th.

Ellen Simmons then added that the Community Club was waiting to see what the village was doing about Trick or Treat before they decided what they would do about the parade. If there isn't going to be Trick or Treat, then there isn't going to be a parade.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Trick or Treat would be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on October 31, 2020 with the parade being before that time. The Community Club would determine how much time before Trick or Treat they would need and then decide on a time for the parade.

Toby Thomas asked if there was any more New Business.

Shawn Pickworth stated he would like to thank Vicki Missler for all she does to help them renew the village insurance every year.

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

Toby Thomas then presented the then and now bills for approval under Schedule C. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule C. Cooke 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, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Absent.

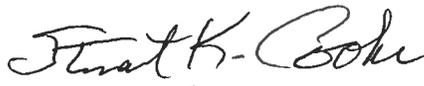
Cooke made a motion to return to regular session. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Absent.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to schedule a workshop for 6 p.m. in Council Chambers on September 28th before the next council meeting. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer

Toby Thomas
~~Mayor~~


Stuart Cooke
Council President

mayor absent