

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, October 11, 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: Gullett, Steve Ball, Jennifer Ball, Cooke and Myers. Willis was absent.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Steve Roeder, Shawn Pickworth, Joe Thomas, John Martin, Buddy Workman, Jen Hess, Kristina Moffit, Chet Blanton, Joe Hicks and Lynne Phillips.

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

The minutes from the September 27, 2021 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Gullett made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the September 29, 2021 special meeting were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Chet Blanton stood and stated it had been brought to his attention that he needed to come and talk to council about the angel wings being painted on the side of his building downtown on Main Street. He stated that Jen Hess was in attendance to explain the project to council to get their approval to continue.

Toby Thomas explained that the village had an ordinance in place that required any mural on a building within the village limits to have council approval.

Jen Hess stood and explained that the angel wings represent children that have passed. The next phase of the project would be to add plates to the wings in memory of specific children. The plate would include the child's birth and death dates. The plates are for children 19 years old and younger and they are \$6 each. Anyone interested in purchasing one in memory of a child should contact Jen Hess.

Steve Ball made a motion to approve the Angel Wings project and mural as described by Jen Hess. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jen Hess thanked council for their approval.

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

John Martin stood and was upset that the seasonal camping rates at the reservoir had not been increased. He was concerned because all utilities are increasing. He wanted to know if council had taken that into consideration when making the decision about camping rates. Village residents are getting the increased utilities but there is nothing being done about it at the campground. He asked council for justification and he also wondered about individual electric meters for each camper.

John Martin continued by saying he also had received several complaints concerning concert tickets being given to seasonal campers. Currently, each seasonal campsite receives two concert passes to each concert at the reservoir during the season. He was concerned about the loss of income for the reservoir by giving complementary tickets to seasonal campers. John Martin stated that improvements to the roads and sewer

system were needed. He thought all these items justified an increase in seasonal camping rates. He was concerned and several residents in town were also concerned. John Martin and disgruntled residents are unhappy with the amenities and privileges that seasonal campers receive while the village residents do not receive them. John Martin concluded by thanking council for their time.

Toby Thomas thanked John Martin for his comments.

Adam Gullett replied that part of the money that the campers pay for seasonal rates would include entertainment. That is part of the experience of the whole campground. They want to be able to entice people to want to camp at the reservoir.

Jennifer Ball added that council saw the concert tickets as an amenity for seasonal campers because the New London Reservoir Campground did not have the amenities compared to other area campgrounds. She also didn't see the connection with comparing utility rates for seasonal campers with village residents. Members of council received the budget and they were in good standing so she didn't think they needed an increase at this time although she knew rates would need to be increased in the future.

Stuart Cooke stated he thought that seasonal rates should have been increased. There is a waiting list for the campground so they don't need to entice people to come camp. He thought all the factors should be taken into consideration when determining seasonal camper rates.

Steve Ball stated that he knows they need to make money and they don't receive tax support but at the same time it is a park. It is not a commercial campground trying to maximize its profit with investors. It is a park and it should provide a facility at a reasonable cost. Steve Ball also pointed out that department heads should be trusted to make the correct decision about their department.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth shared the following report:

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – We are ready to go to bid.
- Lead Service Line Replacement Project – working on engineering. We will be holding a conference call this week with Poggemeyer Engineering and the Village.
- Backflow/Cross Contamination Inspections – crews have been out in the Twp. conducting the annual inspections per OEPA rules and guidelines.
- Prospect Road Project – in preparation for this work, crews will be installing a mainline water valve Wednesday, October 13, 2021 @ 8:00 that will affect service on White Ave. and part of Clifton Street. Crews expect to have service restored by 2:00 pm same day. Information has been sent out to customers in advance of this project. If anyone should have questions or concerns, please contact the office at 419-929-4091.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – construction crews have been busy working on the Headworks portion of the project. A progress meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 9:00 am.

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.
- West Washburn Project – we will be going to bid late 2021, early 2022 for this project.

Other

- Terry Wilson Deck – construction has begun installing the new deck. Project is expected to be completed by November 1, 2021.
- Utility Payments – letters will be sent out to all landlords owning rentals within the Village to review our rules and regulations regarding payments received from rental properties.
- Hileman Building Project – We are asking Council’s permission to apply for funding for this project. Joe Thomas and I have been working with Poggemeyer Design Group on the possibility of remodeling and updating the Hileman Building and looking for funding that will allow us to do this. We are asking for letters of support from the community, council, school, and 501 C organizations from the area. Support letters can be sent to the Village at 115 East Main Street, New London, Ohio 44851. We are just in the beginning stages of planning this project. If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact either Joe Thomas or myself.
- Old School Property – Council was given the one and only proposal received for the possibility of the sale of the old school property. If the proposal is agreeable with Council we can start the process of the sale.
- Property Insurance – we are in the process of reviewing and renewing our insurance for the Village. We will be seeing a 14.9% market forced increase this year along with everyone else. 2020 - 2021 we paid \$44,008.00 next year, 2021-2022 we will pay \$49,435.00.
- The New London Park Improvement Corporation is asking Council’s permission to sell alcohol at the Gun Raffle on November 20, 2021 at the Hileman Building.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow the New London Park Improvement Corporation to sell alcohol at the Gun Raffle on November 20, 2021 at the Hileman Building. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Absent; Gullett, Disqualify.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the police. Chief Joe Hicks stated he didn’t have anything other than the question about closing main street for different events but he thought that topic had been discussed at the special council meeting held on September 29th. He verified with Shawn Pickworth that no permission from ODOT is necessary to close the road but they would like three days’ notice in order to reroute any potential wide loads scheduled through town.

The only other thing Joe Hicks had was he requested council's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding between the village and the school for the school resource officer.

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

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she had the run report for September. It had been a record-breaking month with 89 runs. New London Village had 56; New London Township 5; Fitchville Township 10; Troy Township 3; Ruggles Township 11; Mutual Aid; 4.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from zoning. Buddy Workman stated he was waiting until the executive session.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from recreation. Joe Thomas stated they had their golf scramble and it was a huge success. They ended up with 33 teams and they made \$6500. They are in the process of fixing a step on the boat ramp. The Gun Raffle is coming up. Tickets are available at Gilbert Hardware, Amoco and from any park board member. Joe Thomas continued by saying he has booked a Garth Brooks tribute band for the country concert on June 25, 2022. In conclusion, Joe announced there would be Trunk or Treat at the recreation park on October 23rd from noon until 2 p.m. This event is being sponsored by the New London Park Improvement Corporation.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-39 An Ordinance Authorizing the Resurfacing of Pavement in the Village of New London by the Ohio Department of Transportation. Second Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the second reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-41 An Ordinance Amending Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to the Fiscal Officer. Second Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the second reading. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

Shawn Pickworth stated he wanted to say something about the resurfacing of the pavement in the village by ODOT. There are grant funds that are tied to the repaving of these roads for multiple things including sidewalks but a year does not give him enough time to apply for the funds. ODOT has agreed to move this project back to 2025 to allow him time to work on getting grant money to add to the repaving of the roads through town.

Council then discussed the old school property. It was decided to start over with the old school property advertising since the one proposal had not met the specifications required. The village will advertise for bids for the property without any specifications and the highest bid will be awarded the property. The village will be able to reject any or all bids and the final contract will be subject to approval by Ordinance, by Village Council.

Steve Ball made a motion to not proceed with the agreement with the Huron County Development Council for the sale of the Old School Property and the one proposal received and to proceed with advertising the property for sale to the highest bidder with the village reserving the right to refuse any and all bids. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Absent; Gullett, Yes.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

Jennifer Ball asked if there was anything they needed to do for Chief Hicks with the MOU.

It was determined no motions needed to be made. Signatures were just required on the document.

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 monthly bills for approval under Schedule B. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Willis, Absent; Gullett, Yes; Myers, Disqualify; Cooke, Abstain.

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

Steve Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to confer with legal counsel concerning a dispute involving the village that is the subject of pending or imminent court action. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Absent; Gullett, Yes.

Steve Ball 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, Absent; Gullett, Yes.

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


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer


Toby Thomas
Mayor