

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, August 10, 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, Marvin McCallister, Megan Sherlund, Steve Bond, Lynn Phillips, Brian Cucco and John Chapin.

Stuart Cooke had a request that before the agenda was approved, he would like to make sure that Chief Marko was going to be attending the executive session. He made a motion to change the agenda so that Chief Marko would be included in the executive session that was on the agenda. Myers second the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then asked for approval of the agenda as changed. Cooke made a motion to approve the agenda. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

The minutes from the July 27, 2020 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Willis made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked for any public questions or statements.

Ellen Simmons stated that the Community Club continues to work on Hometown Holidays. They had a meeting the previous Thursday and their next meeting would be Thursday, August 20th at 9 a.m. at the Wildcat Diner. She encouraged anyone who is interested to come. They have a lot of things going on and even if someone would just like to be on their email list, let her know.

The next thing Ellen Simmons discussed was at their last meeting, the topic of Christmas Tree Lane had come up. The Community Club is over whelmed with Hometown Holidays so they are not able to take on that project any more but they do have someone who is willing to take on Christmas Tree Lane and Megan Sherlund was willing to help as well. Ellen Simmons encouraged everyone to get involved. It was a very nice thing for the Village of New London and it draws people into the village and it also gives businesses and churches an opportunity to get their names out without a large expense. Anyone interested in getting involved with the Christmas Tree Lane Committee should let her know.

Stuart Cooke asked Ellen about a community Christmas Tree. He had received a call asking him if he would move a tree to the vacant lot across from the Pizza House.

Ellen Simmons replied that the community Christmas Tree was still in the discussion stage. They aren't sure if that land will be available yet and they aren't sure if that will be the best place for it. They do have someone who is willing to donate a Christmas Tree.

Stuart Cooke added that he would agree to donate his time to move the tree to the spot they would want it placed.

Ellen Simmons stated she appreciated Stuart Cooke's willingness to help but added that the community Christmas Tree may not work for this year.

Toby Thomas then stated that they had a zoning complaint come into the office. Bob James has been out of town and unable to be reached. Mr. Bond had advised Toby Thomas that there was not much they could do regarding the complaint until Bob James had been advised of it and is able to look at it. He wanted to let the people who complained know that if they were watching the livestream of the council meeting, he would get back to them as soon as he was able to discuss the situation with Bob James.

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 – crews plan on tying in some waterlines at the corner of Grove Street and First Street. There will be outages, mostly on First Street.
- West Main – resident replaced a water service. Crews had to connect it back into the main.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Plans submitted to the OEPA for PTI approval.
- Sludge Beds – beds cleaned off; sludge is being hauled to the landfill this week. Planning to repour the beds this week.

Storm Sewers

- Crews have been out cleaning some storm sewers.
- Crews repaired a catch basin on Daisy and one on at the corner of West Fir and Charles Parkway.

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.
- Signs – crews are in the process of installing some new signs around town. Lots of school bus stop signs. These signs were part of a grant from the State that we partnered with the Twp. for.
- OPWC Funding – I would like Council's permission to submit an application to repave West Washburn along with some storm upgrades. Project cost estimate is \$172,000. There will be some legislation that will need to be passed soon. I have a meeting tomorrow afternoon with District 9 to review this year's project scoring criteria.

- CSX Rail Crossing, St. Rt. 60 – I received notice from a PUCO inspector that CSX is planning to upgrade this crossing sometime late September, early October.
- Crews will start painting the parking spaces and crosswalks around town next week.

Other

- Columbia Gas Project – project continues.
- Vicki Missler will be in our office Wednesday, August 12, 2020 working with employees on insurance applications.
- Village Insurance – a Rep. from our insurance company will be in the Village on September 2, 2020 to do a Risk Assessment on all our buildings and equipment. This is usually done every other year.

Toby Thomas stated the only thing he had was that there would be a Zoning and Planning Commission meeting on Monday, August 17th at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. The meeting is being held to begin working on an ordinance to clarify the wording on Park Districts for the Rails to Trails location on West Main Street. Currently the location is zoned residential and they would like to get it changed so that it is zoned parks.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he wanted to request council's permission to use some of the Coronavirus Relief Funds for the Police Department. He wanted to request the police fund be reimbursed for the part-time officers that had to be paid full-time hours for a few weeks while there was an officer off with the virus. He also wanted to request reimbursement for the extra time the employee that cleans the police department had to spend to do extra cleaning and sanitizing when the pandemic first began. That was all he had.

Toby Thomas asked if council would like to take care of approving that at that time but Mr. Bond added that they should approve his request with an ordinance that would allow the money to be transferred from the Coronavirus Relief Fund into the Police Fund. This ordinance will be on for approval at a future council meeting.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from John Chapin. John Chapin expanded on the water line repair that Shawn Pickworth had spoken about in his administrator's report. There is a leak at the corner of Grove and First Streets. The repairs will begin on Tuesday, August 18th. They will have to shut off the water for everyone on First Street, the alley and Windy Acres. They are hoping to shut the water off at 9 a.m. and be able to turn it back on after four or five hours.

The second topic John wanted to discuss was the sirens. The weather sirens had not worked in a long time. After getting everyone coordinated, they are now fixed.

The last thing John asked was for council's permission to allow him to put Melvin Deppen on the Fire Department. They had interviewed him and he interviewed well so he would like permission to put him on the Fire Department.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she had the July report. She stated that July had been a very busy month. There had been 71 runs. The record is 73 runs. There were 47 runs for New London Village; two for New London Township; 11 for Fitchville Township; five for Troy Township; five for Ruggles Township; and one Mutual Aid.

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 that the previous weekend they had held the Bluegrass Benefit that was put on every year. The event had gone very well and they raised around \$3,800. The Friends of the New London Veterans would be holding a concert on August 15th at the reservoir. There will be four bands performing. There will be a fishing tournament on August 23rd. There will be a Camp and Sell event at the Recreation Park on September 11th through the 13th. As far as the insurance assessment taking place on September 2nd, Megan wanted council to know that they were doing some things around the parks that would be addressing some safety issues. They are getting some new emergency lights with battery backups and they are fixing some of the benches that are broken along with a few other things. In conclusion, Megan asked council's permission to hire Bailee Cucco to replace an employee who had resigned.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business. There was none.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to submit an application to OPWC to repave West Washburn along with storm upgrades. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow the Fire Chief to hire Melvin Deppen as a Volunteer Fire Fighter for the Village of New London. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow Bailee Cucco to be hired as a seasonal reservoir office employee. Jennifer 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. 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. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Gullett – yes; Steve Ball – yes; Jennifer Ball – yes; Willis – yes; Cooke – abstain; Myers – disqualify herself.

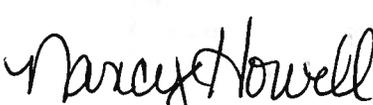
Toby Thomas then presented the Then and Now bills for approval under Schedule C. Steve Ball made a motion to approve Schedule C. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment of village employees or officials. Willis 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 return to regular session. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Myers made a motion to approve the refund under Schedule D. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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