

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, November 25, 2019 @ 7 p.m.

Mayor John Martin called the meeting to order. He then gave the invocation followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was then taken with the following members present: Curtis, Myers, Cooke and Paramore. Willis and Ball were absent.

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Steve Bond, Ellen Simmons, Bob James, Jayne Carroll, Scott Carroll, Toby Thomas, Cynthia Troisi, Donald Troisi, Sally Shepherd, Keith Shepherd, Joe Hicks, Bob James, Keith Landis, Tiffani Landis, Tyler Cawrse, Michele Twining, Doug Twining, Tyler Twining, Ryan Twining, John Chapin and Megan Sherlund.

John Martin then asked for approval of the agenda. Myers made a motion to approve the agenda. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the November 11, 2019 Street, State Highway, Sanitation and Storm Sewer Budget Meeting were presented for approval. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the November 11, 2019 Zoning Appeal Hearing were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the November 11, 2019 regular council meeting were then presented for approval. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin stated at that time he would like to recognize the New London High School's athletic program. They have done wonderful things in the past and they continue to move forward. It has been his goal to show appreciation and bring attention to the community as the school is a part of the New London Village. He stated he could not say enough for the athletic program. It is a great group of people. The young adults that are athletes are fantastic and you can't ask for a better group of people. They all come together as a team and they work together. Mayor John Martin then requested that the New London High School Cross Country team come forward.

Coaches, Keith Landis and Tyler Cawrse and team member, Tyler Twining came forward. The other team members were unable to attend.

John Martin stated that as everyone should know, the New London Boy's Cross Country team has gone four years in a row to the state finals. The New London Girl's Cross Country team has gone to the state finals three years in a row. John Martin could not say enough about what the coaches have done to help bring the kids to the successful seasons they have had.

John Martin then read a proclamation declaring December 6, 2019 as Cross Country Appreciation Day in the Village of New London.

Keith Landis thanked everyone for all of their support.

John Martin asked for any public questions or statements. He asked anyone with questions to rise, state their name and present their question or concern to council. They would be allotted three minutes to speak.

Ellen Simmons stood and stated that Hometown Holidays would be on Saturday, December 7, 2019. She just wanted to invite everyone to participate. Early tickets for the kids' activities are available at Gilbert Hardware. There would be a meeting the next morning at the café at 9 a.m. She wanted to invite everyone to attend the meeting. They need volunteers to help. They have more activities than they have had in previous years.

Don Troisi then stood and stated he had brought up information for council earlier on a neighborhood dispute.

Mayor John Martin wanted to verify with Donald Troisi that it was concerning a neighborhood dispute.

Don Troisi stated yes it was regarding a situation taking place on New London Avenue and he believed that council should know about it.

John Martin stated that usually a dispute between neighbors is a civil matter and council doesn't really get involved with civil matters.

Don Troisi stated that it also encompassed some zoning issues and various other things such as unwarranted calls to the police department and Lieutenant Joseph Hicks coming to his home due to false allegations and statements by the Carroll's. In addition, the Carroll's put stakes in a public right of way causing an obstruction to traffic and a traffic hazard. A couple weeks ago the stakes they had placed in the right of way, which is village property, nearly caused a two car accident as he was backing out of his driveway. He continued by saying that there were several incidents that he believes council should know about. It all stems back to the date that he had purchased the house. He and his wife purchased 127 New London Avenue a year ago. Since then, they have only been able to live there four months due to the disruption of Scott Carroll and his wife. At this point, they are at their wits end. They are looking to council to either make them calm down or they need to figure out a way to resolve the situation. There have been over 20 complaints filed over the last 12 months. They have lived there four of those 12 months. Half of the complaints were filed when they weren't even living there. With all that being said, it just continues to go on and on. What it stems from is their inability to purchase 127 New London Avenue, a 1975 Red Corvette and \$52,000 in equity. It was all listed out in the letter Mr. Troisi had given all the members of council. He feels it is absolute nonsense. He believes it is not going to stop until the Carroll's can either force them to move out, discourage any renters from moving into the house or blow up any potential sale should they try to sell the house. It all goes back to the fact that they have a camper. Zoning says that the camper has to be on a solid asphalt base three feet from any side boundary line. He gets it that the attorney from the village came in and redefined zoning. He continued by saying he looks at zoning as black and white. He went around the community and there were five campers and they were all on solid base pads set to the side of their property with a minimum of three feet off the property line. Zoning concurred by the definition of the zoning laws that the pad that the Carroll's camper is on is six inches from his property line. There is a camper on it. The camper is permanently placed there. They claim it is a driveway. Donald Troisi does not believe it is a driveway. With a driveway, you drive in and drive out. When anything is on something for a period of time, it is storage. It is not a driveway. He gets it because the attorney saw things a little different and didn't think too much about it. About two weeks ago Mr. Troisi stopped Joe Hicks and told him the poles in the right away had almost caused an accident. He felt that it would be in the best interest of the village to have the poles removed since they are in the right of way. Joe Hicks told him it was a civil matter and they would need to take it up with the Carroll's. Mr. Troisi sent Jayne Carroll a letter. She immediately went to the police department and sent police to Donald Troisi's house again saying that he was harassing her. Joe Hicks confirmed there was nothing threatening about his letter and asked him to please discontinue communication with her. In the current day's mail, Mr. Troisi had received a letter from Jayne Carroll. He wondered how she could accuse him of harassment when she turned around and did the very same thing. Donald Troisi stated he thought it was nonsense and he asked council to please have Jayne and Scott Carroll give him the same courtesy that he

has extended to them over the past 12 months. He and his wife had tried to be friendly and neighborly and they had every intention of fixing up the house at 127 New London Avenue because they wanted to make it their permanent residence. Now it is almost next to impossible. If this is the type of neighborly love they have on New London Avenue, he thinks it is disgusting. All he is asking is for council to give him some guidance on where they need to go and how they should proceed. Does it entail moving out? If that's the case, then so be it. They would take council's advice and do it. What he didn't want was the two tiered system that they have right now. The Carroll's can do one thing and nobody else in the neighborhood can do the other. He stated to council that they had a list of his concerns and a list of the issues that had taken place over the last twelve months. They were date and time stamped. What it boils down to is the Carroll's offered \$20,000 on a house that appraised for \$60,000. The Troisi's came in and bought the house for \$72,000 which was the asking price. Ever since then, it had been an issue. He believes that the Carroll's want to chase them out and acquire the house. In 1964 the owner at the time, Mr. Dagon, ended up putting in a garage. That garage created an encroachment on 123 New London Avenue. Nobody said anything. In 1982 Linda Sprague purchased 123 New London Avenue knowing there was an encroachment. It was not an issue. The Carroll's purchased 123 New London Avenue in 2002 knowing there was an encroachment. Again it was not an issue. The Troisi's purchase 127 New London Avenue and now all of a sudden it is an issue. Donald Troisi wanted to know why and didn't think it was fair. He continued by saying he had received notification that the Carroll's would like \$7,000 for 183 square inches of concrete to resolve the encroachment which he feels is not very realistic. Donald Troisi concluded by saying there was nothing realistic about their relationship with the Carroll's. He was asking council for their help so that he and Cynthia did not continue to get harassed by the Carroll's.

Mayor John Martin stated that like he had said before, this was a civil matter. It is not one that he feels belongs to the village but he is not a lawyer and does not know the extent of all the laws. He asked Mr. Bond if he had anything to add that could help Mr. Troisi.

Mr. Bond replied that he had not heard anything that directly involved the village. He recommended that the Troisi's get their own counsel and the two families would need to work it out between them.

Cynthia Troisi commented that they had been trying to get the Carroll's to sit down and talk to them. They had tried three times and the Carroll's had refused all three times. Those requests were through the police department.

Bill Curtis asked Chief Marko if Huron County had conflict resolution up at the prosecutor's office.

Chief Marko answered that he didn't believe they did.

Bill Curtis stated that was something they have in Lorain County and he was hoping maybe Huron County had it and then the prosecutor's office could get a conflict resolution team involved. Since they do not, the only thing they can do is get an attorney and take it to court.

Cynthia Troisi added that they had a piece of certified mail at the post office from the Carroll's that they had not signed for.

Donald Troisi commented that it was ironic because they had indicated that no communication should take place between them.

John Martin stated that he would like to help out but there is nothing that he can do himself and he has to go with what legal counsel states. He thinks they will more than likely have to get legal representatives and let the two representatives hash it out.

Cynthia Troisi thanked everyone for their time.

Donald Troisi wanted to know if going forward, the New London Police Department could address criminal matters solely, not nonsense issues like the Carroll's are bringing up.

Cynthia Troisi stated that the Carroll's had come to their house as bullies and knocked on their door three times over the last month.

Donald Troisi added that it was over nonsense.

Mayor John Martin asked if there were reports filed?

Cynthia Troisi answered that absolutely there were.

Donald Troisi stated they were in the documentation that had been presented to council.

Lieutenant Joe Hicks rose and stated he was there that evening because he felt like his integrity and his work ethic with the village over the last 16 years was being challenged by Mr. Troisi when he said he had come down and made false allegations. He told Mr. Troisi he would like to know what those were. He stated he wore a body camera and everything was recorded.

Donald Troisi started to talk but Lt. Joe Hicks asked him to let him speak his piece.

Lt. Joe Hicks continued by saying he wore a body camera that records his interaction any time he has a conversation with anyone in the village. Anything he and Mr. Troisi had a conversation about would be on the camera and downloaded somewhere. If he said something that was out of place he would like to know what it was. He stated he had never made any false allegations and for him to say that in front of council, he takes offense to that. He then added that the conversation they had had about the stakes in the tree lawn was not for him to tell Mr. Troisi that it was civil. When he told Lt. Hicks that the stakes needed to be removed, he had stated that he needed to go back and look at the zoning code. He asked Donald Troisi if he was correct and asked him to correct him if he was wrong.

Donald Troisi added that Lt. Joe Hicks had told him that he was advised to stand down.

Lt. Joe Hicks stated that was for a previous disturbance and it was not in regards to that night. He advised Mr. Troisi to take that up with Chief Marko because those were the directions he was given.

Donald Troisi commented that Lt. Joe Hicks had told Mr. Troisi that he had damaged the tree lawn on Carroll's property but according to the documentation he had presented to council, there was no damage seen in the photo.

Lt. Joe Hicks stated he didn't know about Mr. Troisi's documentation but he knew what the police report said.

Donald Troisi answered that he understood that, but he had just gone out there that day to confirm the lack of damage in the village tree lawn. He continued by saying there were pictures they had to file and a lot of reports and he knows Lt. Joe Hicks is doing his job and he appreciates that. In his opinion, he thinks the scales were weighted. He apologized and told Lt. Hicks he was sorry if that offended him but he believes the scales were unbalanced. He stated the reason he felt that way was because he had asked to have a sit down with the Carroll's and he didn't do anything to make that happen.

Lt. Joe Hicks answered that having a sit down wouldn't be up to the police department. They wouldn't enforce something like that.

Donald Troisi continued by saying he had also expressed to him his wife's concerns with her safety. He wanted to verify with Lt. Hicks that he had told him that his wife was tense and a little upset and fearful.

Lt. Joe Hicks replied that he may have said that. He didn't recall but it would be on video.

Donald Troisi stated that he did tell him that and then he asked if it had ever been brought up or placed in a report.

Lt. Joe Hicks stated if that was their conversation, it would be on the video and he would like to go back and review that before he commented.

Donald Troisi thought that if he had told Lt. Hicks that his wife had felt intimidated, it was his duty as a police officer to go over to the Carroll's and tell them they were making Cynthia feel uncomfortable in her own home.

John Martin interrupted Donald Troisi and told him he was going to have to cut into the discussion because he had gone over his allotted three-minute time frame. He continued by saying he thought Mr. Troisi should get legal representation and have the two lawyers take care of it. It is a civil matter and not one for the village. He concluded by saying that since they were neighbors he hoped they would both be considerate and civil and go forth in the right matter and thanked him for his time.

John Martin asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

Water

- Water Tower Communication – Project continues. Communication tower installed last week. Crews will now begin installing equipment in the building and running cables to the top of the tower.
- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – working with GLCAP on submitting the Critical Infrastructure Funding application to the State.
- GIS Project – project continues. Project is close to being completed.
- Asset Management – GLCAP (RCAP) Rep. would like to present to Council in a workshop on December 9, 2019 @ 6:00 PM. This is a requirement to the program.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – engineering is working on plans to submit to the USDA-RD.
- Sludge has been hauled to the landfill.
- No Major issues with power outage yesterday.

Storm Sewers

- Sections on East Main Street and New London Ave. have been cleaned.

Sanitation

- No Major Issues.
- Thanksgiving Holiday – reminder that Thursday's route will be picked up on Wednesday just like in the past.
- Clayton Englet's probation period is up tomorrow. I would like to recommend to Council to hire him fulltime and give him his 3% increase.

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 all the winter equipment ready to roll.

Other

- Terry Wilson Memorial Deck – I would like Council's permission to file for loss with the insurance company so we can accept the payment that they have agreed to pay us.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he didn't have anything unless someone had something for him.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin asked council to approve the promotions from firefighter to lieutenant for Amy Ott, Raymar Davidson and Ted Evans.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis stated he had nothing to report other than they are staying busy.

John Martin then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James stated he had nothing to report at the time.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Recreation Department. Megan Sherlund started by saying they had their final numbers and payments in for the reservoir campground. They will have nine spaces available for the next season. Five of the spaces are full hookups and four of the spaces are water and electric only. Typically, how it would go from this point forward was they have a list of current seasonal campers who have added themselves to the list and have identified that they would like to have a different site if one comes available. They will contact those people in the order that they were added to that list with the available sites. After that, they will switch around campers and then she believed they would be opened up to the rest of the current seasonal campers. After that switch happens, the available sites would be opened up to the list of those on the outside who are not currently seasonal campers. If council was okay with that, she would like to start the process shortly after Thanksgiving. She wanted to give the current seasonal campers time to make their decisions and move around. That way after the first of the year they could open up any available sites to the waiting list. Other than that, she has been with the GLCAP grant the village had received. She was able to utilize the software and map out all of the campsites at the recreation park as well as where the electrical consoles were and the water spigots. On top of that, she will also be doing a map for the reservoir. The current maps for the reservoir aren't very accurate and people get very confused when they are trying to go to a site. If there isn't an employee available to guide them to a site, it gets confusing

especially at the reservoir because the roads on the map do not match the actual roads at the reservoir. They are close but they are off enough that it gets confusing. She is going to redo the map over the winter months. She is also working on making sure everything is collected from the seasonal campers and anyone else.

John Martin asked if there were any questions for Megan Sherlund. There were none.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2019-27 An Ordinance Providing for the Appointment of the Village Solicitor. Third Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the third reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2019-29 An Ordinance Amending the 2019 Annual Appropriations Ordinance by Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Funds and Appropriations as Needed for Operations, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Since there were only four members of council present, a first reading only could be done. Curtis made a motion to approve the first reading. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2019-30 An Ordinance Amending the 2019 Annual Appropriations Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Certain Expenses and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Since there were only four members of council present, a first reading only could be done. Cooke made a motion to approve the first reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business. There was none.

John Martin then called for New Business.

Bill Curtis made a motion to allow the village administrator to hire Clayton Englet as a permanent fulltime employee since his probation period had ended and give him a 3% increase beginning November 26, 2019. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball – absent; Paramore – yes; Willis – absent; Curtis – yes; Cooke – yes; Myers – yes.

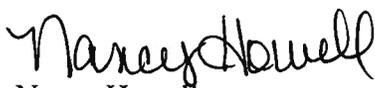
Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow the Fire Chief permission to promote Amy Ott, Raymar Davidson and Ted Evans from firefighter to Lieutenant. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball – absent; Paramore – yes; Willis – absent; Curtis – yes; Cooke – yes; Myers – yes.

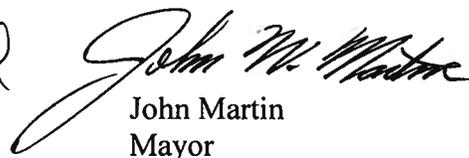
Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow the village administrator to file for loss on the Terry Wilson Memorial Deck with the insurance company so the village could accept the payment the insurance company has agreed to pay. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball – absent; Paramore – yes; Willis – absent; Curtis – yes; Cooke – yes; Myers – yes.

John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Myers made a motion to approve Schedule A. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented the Then and Now bills for approval under Schedule B. Curtis made a motion to approve Schedule B. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer


John Martin
Mayor

