

**May 10, 2016**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers in regular session on Tuesday, May 10th 2016 at 7 pm. Present: Richard Feldkamp, Gary Skeene, Amanda Davidson, Mary Allen, and Paul Vanderbosch - members; Ramona Carr, Mayor; Kelly Painter, Clerk; Randy Harvey, Police Chief and Greg Roberts, Village Administrator.

Also attending:

David Vornholt 310 Susanna Way  
Bill Marsh 2423 Country Place  
Keith Patton 3615 State Route 132  
Nikki Patton 3615 State Route 132

Mayor Carr opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk with Feldkamp, Skeene, Davidson, Allen, and Vanderbosch answering present. Richard Hilt absent due to illness.

Minutes of April 26th were presented for approval. Mary Allen motioned to approve, Seconded by Gary Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: absent	Mrs. Davidson: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: - yes	Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

**David Vornholt:**

Mr. Vornholt met with the Business Association Committee to discuss how to help educate citizens about the possible tax levy in the fall. The committee met with Lynn Baird in order to gather information. The committee will make a decision by the 1st Monday in June.

**Greg Roberts, Village Administrator:**

**Rental Registration:**

The Village has received several inquiries from presumed rental unit owners in response to the Zoning Inspectors letter of May 3rd announcing the requirements of Zoning Code Article 29 regarding rental registration. We will be prepared to answer any further questions. The Village cannot force a tenant who is currently residing in a unit that has been "Grandfathered In" to move. If the unit is empty for 6 months or more then the unit is no longer "Grandfathered In".

**Event Road Closures:**

Riverfest Inc. is requesting road closures for the Fourth of July and RiverDays as represented by the maps presented. Harleys Against Heroin are also requesting road closures.

**Kelly Miller Circus:**

The New Richmond Ohio Business Association is hosting the Kelly Miller Circus this Thursday with performances at 5 and 8 pm at the former Festival Park location on Front Street. This is a privately sponsored event held on private property. Mr. Vanderbosch expressed some concerns about traffic. Mr. Feldkamp stated that they had a similar event 10 years ago with no issues.

Richard Feldkamp motioned to close the streets of Susanna Way from Union Street to Plenty Street, George Street from Susanna Way to Veterans Alley and Western Avenue at the intersection of Susanna Way, for the Harleys Against Heroin event. The closures will be from 10am-12pm on July 30th, seconded by Amanda Davidson.

Mr. Hilt: absent	Mrs. Davidson: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: - yes	Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

Mary Allen motioned to close the streets of Front Street from Main Street to Union Street, Susanna Way from Union Street to western Ave., George Street from Susanna Way to Veterans Alley and Western Avenue from Susanna Way to Washington Street for the July 4th event. The closures will be from 12pm on July 3rd - 12am July 4th, seconded by Amanda Davidson.

Mr. Hilt: absent	Mrs. Davidson: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: - yes	Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

Mary Allen motioned to close the streets of Front Street from Main Street to Union Street, Susanna Way from Union Street to Plenty Street, George Street from Susanna Way to Veterans Alley and Western Avenue from Susanna Way to Washington Street for the Riverdays event. The closures will be from 12pm on August 17th - 10pm August 21st, seconded by Amanda Davidson.

Mr. Hilt: absent	Mrs. Davidson: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: - yes	Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

#### **Paul Vanderbosch, Personnel and Finance:**

##### **Lynn Baird:**

Lynn distributed the April 2016 financial packet. Motion is needed to pay the April bills, check 161-2016 - check 267-2016 and warrants 35562 - 35585. Notable expenses were \$10,799 to Kunz equipment for a mower and \$10,968 to Deere and Company for a tractor, respectively.

Paul Vanderbosch motioned to pay the April bills, check #161-2016 - check# 267-2016 and warrants 35562 - 35585, seconded by Amanda Davidson.

Mr. Hilt: absent	Mrs. Davidson: yes
Mr. Feldkamp: yes	Ms. Allen: yes
Mr. Skeene: - yes	Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

##### **Greg Roberts.:**

Greg reported that the laser system to better control traffic at US 52 and Old US 52 has been installed at a cost of \$7,000. This was done to alleviate the traffic backup on Old US 52 after sporting events.

##### **Norm Collins:**

Norm Collins took an online course to be certified as a Wastewater Treatment Operator Class I. Norm will be able to fill in for Ken when the latter is away which will save the Village money because we now pay an outside consultant about \$4,000 per year to fill-in. Greg will ask for a motion to raise Norm's hourly rate from \$11.21 per hour to \$12.21 per hour, to be effective when Norm receives his Wastewater Treatment Operator Class I certificate.

Mary Allen motioned to commend Norm Collins for successfully completing the online course to be certified as a Wastewater Treatment Operator Class I and passing the exam. Norm will be receiving a pay raise from \$11.21 per hour to \$12.21 per hour effective on the receipt of his Wastewater Treatment Operator Class I certificate, seconded by Amanda Davidson.

Mr. Hilt: absent  
Mr. Feldkamp: yes  
Mr. Skeene: - yes

Mrs. Davidson: yes  
Ms. Allen: yes  
Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

**Discount Sewer Connect Fees:**

There was discussion about whether to apply a discount toward the sewer connection fee for residents in the three neighborhoods that the expanded sewer line will serve. The consensus was to apply a 50% discount to the \$3,000 connection fee. That amount could be paid upfront or added to individual residents' real estate bill. The discount will apply only as the new sewer line is being added; if a resident chooses not to connect during the project, the full connection fee would be charged.

**Summer Meter Readings:**

Greg explained the new procedure for summer meter readings. The meters will be turned into the Village in October and stored for the winter. There was some discussion but no conclusion that this "break" for summer water usage should be discontinued.

**Earnings Tax Credit:**

The committee discussed but reached no conclusion about retaining the earnings tax credit for residents who work in a taxing municipality. The consensus seemed to be to keep the credit. The Committee also discussed ways to educate our residents about the need to increase the Village's earnings tax by 100%, increasing from 1% to 2%.

**Mary Allen, Public Works:**

**Change to Public Works Meeting Time:**

There is no longer a need to change the timing of the Public Works Committee Meeting. It will remain at its current time of 6:00-7:00 pm on the Monday before the first Council meeting of the month.

**Norm Collins Wastewater Class I Treatment Operator License:**

This was not covered during Council due to it being discussed during the Finance\Personnel report.

**Sewer Expansion (Indian Ridge, Country Place, and Grays Lane\Robin Hill):**

Sewer Expansion efforts continue. There was a discussion in both Personnel and Finance and Public Works about the possibility of giving a reduction in tap fees to residents if they tap in when construction is initially going on in their neighborhood. A motion will need to be passed by Council. If approved, Greg will work with the solicitor to create a document outlining the specific details to receive the reduced tap fee. Greg is also working with Environmental Engineering to develop a communication for residents affected by this effort.

**Cemetery:**

Greg authorized \$200 for flags for veteran graves. Discussion occurred related to how long to keep them on the graves. Members of the committee feel the cemetery guidelines surrounding timing for items to be left on graves should be followed. Minimally, we'd hope for one week. But it is expected they'll be placed for Memorial Day and remain through the 4th of July. Then be replaced for Labor Day\Veterans Day.

**Boat Ramp Repairs:**

Four contractors picked up bid packages, but there were no actual bids submitted. While we don't know the specific reason(s) no bids were received, it's believed it's because of how we want the ramp to be made. We'll be using premade sections and they may not have wanted to work with that set of circumstances. We will have to restart the process. Greg's opinion is that the reason the ramp failed was due to flawed design. Mr. Feldkamp feels that it has something to do with the uneven ground in the river.

Mary Allen motioned to authorize Greg to advertise for bids to repair the boat ramp and to follow up on why we didn't receive any previous bids, seconded by Gary Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: absent  
Mr. Feldkamp: yes  
Mr. Skeene: - yes

Mrs. Davidson: yes  
Ms. Allen: yes  
Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

**Traffic Light Repair at US 52 and Old US 52:**

The traffic light at US 52 and Old US 52 has had an upgrade on the side by Frisch's. The old system had failed and was causing a significant traffic backup at certain times. At a cost of \$7,000, we only replaced the section on the Frisch's side.

**Family Dollar Move:**

Family Dollar continues to make progress toward closing on the property for their new location.

**Auxiliary Water Meters/Summer water meters:**

The Utility Dept. sent a letter to residents with summer water meters, about a new process for meter reading. There have been a few complaints because some residents don't want to bring the meters by the Utility Office to have them read. Discussion occurred as to whether we need to even continue to do this. For now, it was decided not to eliminate the meters, but some members stated that we probably don't need them. We just need a process to capture large volumes of water that's not actually going into the sewer system. Two examples are filling a large swimming pool and grass watering in a new home when there's sod.

**Mary Allen, Economic Development:**

**Vision Mission Document:**

Mary asked everyone to review the March 22nd revisions she had made to the Vision/Mission document and to advise if she had omitted anything or incorrectly integrated information from the February 23rd meeting. She also asked each person present to think about which items on our list, would be something they would be willing to volunteer to do. She stated that we need to update the Action Plan with all the necessary steps to deliver the initiatives we had been discussing.

**Housing Initiative Draft**

Mary gave everyone a copy of the 500 Families- Housing Initiative Draft she had completed. She said the document was a first draft toward what's needed to move that initiative forward.

**"Why New Richmond"**

Mary will be merging Bob Lee's "Why New Richmond" document and the multi-page "Leave Behind" document she has been using when talking to various contacts about economic development in New Richmond. She believes it would be good to merge the two.

There was more discussion related to some of the identified key contacts that we need to schedule time with.

Mary will mail Mike Findlan a copy of the "Leave Behind" document.

**Richard Feldkamp, Safety/Laws/Rules Committee:**

There was no Safety Committee Meeting.

**Chief of Police, Randy Harvey:**

**Questions about Police Department staffing:**

Chief Harvey was here to answer any questions about Police Department staffing needs. Mayor Carr requested that Chief Harvey provide Council with a projection of what the department may need in the next 5 years to help with the decision about the possible earnings tax increase. Chief Harvey did not feel that the ad he placed in the paper generated enough interest in available positions. He only received two applicants in response to the ad. Batavia, Bethel and Amelia are all hiring for their departments and it is difficult for the Village to compete for applicants. He will begin interviewing the two applicants that he has. Chief Harvey is struggling to fill all of the available shifts in May due to lack of staffing, 10-12 shifts remain to be filled.

**Legislation:**

**First Reading:**

**ORDINANCE 2016-09: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016 APPROPRIATIONS**

Previous

New

Purpose

<u>Fund</u>			<u>REMAINING BALANCE ON EXISTING LOAN</u>
<u>WW COLLECTION SYSTEM</u>			
<u>LOAN FUND 5701</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,177</u>	
<u>SEWER LINE EXTENSION</u>			
<u>LOAN</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>800,000</u>	<u>NEW LOAN</u>

**CALL OF MEMBERS:**

**Vanderbosch -**

**Allen -** Ms. Allen asked if anyone knew of anyone interested in helping with Economic Development.

**Davidson -** Nothing to report.

**Skeene -** Mentioned the levies that just passed in the spring election. The levies that passed were Bethel-Street, Batavia- Police, and Monroe-Emergency Service.

**Feldkamp -** Mr. Feldkamp has been in touch with Fischer Homes. Todd Huss with Fischer Homes will be attending the next Council meeting. The reason Fischer has stopped building is because their homes are not selling. Mr. Feldkamp would like to present the idea of instead of building starter homes we push for condos or smaller homes for people wanting to downsize. "We need to entice Fischer with sewer and water taps." Greg suggested inviting a former resident who moved away from New Richmond so they could purchase a condo be invited to the next meeting. Mr. Vanderbosch suggested a brief presentation. Greg will create and present the presentation. Mr. Feldkamp also would like to invite Council to tour the Fire and EMS building with Tim Feldkamp. He mentioned the possibility of New Richmond combining with local entities to form a Southwest Ohio Emergency Service District. There was a brief discussion about an Emergency Service District.

**Hilt- Absent**

Greg requested guidance regarding the 50% discount on tap fees.

Paul Vanderbosch motioned to apply a 50% discount to the \$3,000 sewer connection fee in the communities of Indian Ridge, Country Place, and Grays Lane\Robin Hill. That amount could be paid upfront or added to individual residents ' real estate bill. The discount will apply only as the new sewer line is being added: if a resident chooses not to connect during the construction project, the full connection fee will be charged. seconded by Gary Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: absent

Mrs. Davidson: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: - yes

Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

Richard Feldkamp motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Allen.

Mr. Hilt: absent

Mrs. Davidson: yes

Mr. Feldkamp: yes

Ms. Allen: yes

Mr. Skeene: - yes

Mr. Vanderbosch: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

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**Mayor**

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**Clerk of Council**