

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

January 4, 2021

6:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 PM. Council Members present were Susan Boyle, Dan Bethel, Doug Fox, Jeff Danison, Jim Welsh and Susan Goodfellow. Councilperson Chute attended the meeting virtually. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain. Administrator Powell joined the meeting virtually. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 21, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the December 7, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion for Councilperson Welsh to serve as Council President for the 2021 calendar year. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported on the state of the Village budget. Thompson stated currently the budget looks healthy. Thompson stated the Fire/EMS Department is out of the red. Thompson stated he is still concerned about the long-term effects from the pandemic. Thompson stated moving forward there needs to be good communication between committees and Council. Thompson stated if someone does not understand something that has been presented, they need to ask questions.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a motion to approve the November financial statements. Rockwell stated she is working on closing out the 2020 calendar year and prepare the Annual Financial Statements. Rockwell informed Council the Village received a \$111,000 rebate from the Bureau of Workers Compensation. Councilperson Bethel inquired about the amount the Village normally pays to BWC in a calendar year. Rockwell stated \$36,000 - \$40,000. Rockwell stated the Auditor of State issued a bulletin suggesting allocating the money back into the funds that it was paid out of. Rockwell stated once the money has been allocated back into the correct funds the rest can go into the general fund. Mayor Thompson stated the money should be allocated between all the funds. Thompson stated BWC reported the high amount of the rebate is due to good investing. Police Chief Ervin stated the Village should keep the money in the funds and not use it. Rockwell reported the Finance Committee needs to have a meeting to discuss changes in Income Taxes.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the November Financial Statements. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell reported he has received a couple of applications for the open positions at the Public Service Department. Powell asked Council if they could start taking down the Christmas decorations starting on January 6, 2021. Powell asked if they wanted the holiday banners taken down also. Council told Powell to take down the Christmas lights and banners on January 6, 2021. Powell stated he tried to contact Nate Simmons from HAPCAP about the grant, but Simmons was not available. Powell asked Council if he could contact Dave Ratliff to see if he is interested in the pool manager position for the 2021 season. Council agreed for Powell to contact Ratliff. Councilperson Chute stated it is time to renew Bob Heavener's contract. Chute stated the new contract should expire on December 31, 2021. Heavener's contract expires January 8, 2021. Chute asked if anyone had any objections to renewing Heavener's contract. All Council stated "no". Mayor Thompson stated he would like to increase the amount in Heavener's contract. Councilperson Chute stated this would have to go to the Finance Committee first and until the committee meets Purchase Orders need submitted for each job. Chute asked Powell to check the white board to see what contracts need renewed for the new year. Finance Director Rockwell stated all contracts are up to date except for Heavener and possibly one of the attorneys.

Councilperson Welsh stated a citizen reached out to him about an injury on ice on N. High Street which is all brick. Mayor Thompson asked if the street was paved if it would make a difference. Everyone agreed it would. Danison stated there is a sink hole on the street also that needs repaired. Finance Director Rockwell stated they should table the discussion for the permanent budget. Police Chief Ervin stated they may want to contact ODNR about the sink hole. Councilperson Boyle asked Powell about painting the curbs on Maple Heights and Mill Street. Powell stated that can be done.

Police Chief Ervin reported 841 calls came through dispatch in the months of November and December. Ervin stated the department averages 12-14 calls in a 24-hour period. Ervin stated the department had several overdoses they responded to.

Fire Chief Fain stated the EMS Department responded to 2,159 calls for service in 2020 and the Fire Department responded to 479 calls for service in 2020. Fain stated 2021 has started out very busy. Councilperson Welsh asked Fain about EMS billing. Fain stated there is \$275,000 outstanding in EMS billings and \$28,000 has been received. Mayor Thompson suggested bringing a report to every Council meeting from Medicount for Council to review. Councilperson Welsh stated that would be a good idea. Councilperson Fox asked Fain if he still had some loose EMS records to sort through. Fain stated they have been completed but were not helpful. Finance Director Rockwell stated there are quite a few boxes in the administration office left e from the previous billing agency that need organized and added to the record inventory. Police Chief Ervin stated he could have the dispatchers work on a box at a time. Rockwell stated that would be great. Councilperson Danison stated he wanted to thank Chief Ervin, the Police Department and the dispatchers for doing a great job.

Mayor Thompson reported on the Charter Revision Committee meeting that was held on December 21, 2020. Thompson stated the charter is sound and the committee agreed. No revisions are needed at this time.

Mayor Thompson reported on the Records Committee meeting held on December 21, 2020. Thompson stated the committee reviewed the duties of the Records Committee.

Councilperson Fox asked if a motion was needed for Bob Heavener's contract. Mayor Thompson stated it would go to the Finance Committee first.

Mayor Thompson presented Council with a thank you card from the Police staff and Dispatchers thanking them for the bonus.

Councilperson Chute stated they would not be reviewing the working document until committees are approved.

Councilperson Chute reported that the markers for the trees on Main Street and the tags for the benches on Main Street cannot be completed until March due to engraving cannot be done when it is this cold.

Finance Director Rockwell stated the deadline to spend the CARES Act funding was extended until December 31, 2021. Rockwell reported a CARES Act activity report has to be submitted by January 6, 2021. She is currently working to meet this deadline.

Administrator Powell stated he had a public records request for a contract the Village has with another company and wanted to know if he could fulfill this request. Finance Director Rockwell stated he could if the personal information was not released. Police Chief Ervin stated if the contract was done by Ordinance or Resolution, he could refer them to that.

Councilperson Danison requested an executive session.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding personnel complaints with Council and Mayor present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:20 pm for executive session.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 7:48 pm.

Councilperson Welsh stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

Councilperson Boyle stated a resident of Lancaster that plays disc golf on the course at the Village Park asked if something could be done on holes 2 and 10. He stated when it rains there is standing water on these holes. Boyle asked if that is something the Village takes care of or the people that created the course. Mayor Thompson asked Boyle to speak with Chalmer Carr or Tim Deavers about the course.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk