

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

January 21, 2020

6:30 PM

MUNCIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Council President Trent Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 PM. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, James Welsh, Doug Fox and Susan Boyle. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Administrator Bo Powell and Fire Chief Jim Fain. Absent was Councilperson Jeff Danison.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Danison from the January 21, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 6, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Jenny LaRue addressed Council concerning the Complete Streets Policy. LaRue stated a Complete Streets Policy does not cost the Village anything. It is basically for future street repairs or repaving to ensure sidewalks and curbs are included. LaRue presented Council with a map of the Carroll Street Corridor. The map includes recommendations for the Active Transportation Plan. LaRue stated she was contacted by the Ohio Department of Transportation who requested the Village write a letter to Buckeye Hills Regional Planning Commission stating what the Village can do to contribute to some of the changes needed in the Carroll Street Corridor. LaRue presented Council with a list of suggested improvements for the 2020-2021 calendar year. LaRue stated with the Complete Streets Policy the Health Department has some funds they can use to help the Village with these improvements. One of the suggestions was to put an access road behind Newlon Tire, Wendy's and McDonalds. LaRue stated Buckeye Hills has grants for access roads at this time but they are not going to apply for them without the Village's approval. She stated they would not apply for the grant until they have a cost for the project. Lisa Leckrone reported that the Carroll Street Corridor has outgrown its original design. LaRue stated they want to write a Safe Routes to School grant to move forward with the Carroll Street Corridor project. LaRue stated they need the Village to write this letter so they can continue to get help with the project. Councilperson Bethel stated this should go to the Planning Committee. Bethel stated he would schedule a meeting with the Planning Committee and LaRue to come up with a plan for the improvements. Councilperson Chute stated the Planning Committee needs to compare the Complete Streets Policy with the zoning book to make sure there are no conflicts.

Mayor Thompson asked LaRue if she would be willing to help the Village with sidewalks on State Street for pedestrians. LaRue stated "yes".

Debra Raney stated the grant for Creating Healthy Communities runs on a five-year cycle. Raney stated the Village is finishing up their five-year cycle. Raney stated they approached the Ohio Department of Health to give the Village another five years. Raney stated due to all the positive changes, they allowed the Village for another five years.

Raney presented Council with a handout on proposed tobacco Resolutions for Village Council to consider. Raney stated the legal age to buy tobacco products is now 21 years. Raney stated there are six tobacco retailers close to the schools. Raney stated they are trying to limit children's access to tobacco.

Councilperson Thompson asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Brice Abram, a student at New Lexington City Schools.

Finance Director Rockwell stated she is working on 2019 year end. Rockwell presented Council with an Ordinance for 2019 Supplemental Appropriations which will have to be made effective December 31, 2019.

Administrator Powell informed Council he would like to start advertising for the 2020 pool manager. Powell requested a Parks and Recreation Meeting to discuss the pool. Powell apologized to Council for not bringing the contract with Bob Heavener to the meeting. Powell stated Heavener reported he would like to explore the area down on Jefferson Street by Head Start and possibly install a catch basin. He would also like to check the area behind Snider & Flautt on Jefferson Street. Powell presented Council with three Resolutions: Complete Streets Policy, proving ownership and engineering on the Nuzum Bridge and a contract for legal services with Brian Everett. The contract for the Streetscape project has been submitted. Powell stated payment for a portion of the Village match of \$75,000 has been made. Councilperson Chute stated Heavener needs to check out the corner of Maple Hts. and Park Ave. Councilperson Chute stated the \$46,000 in the Resolution for the Nuzum Street Bridge was not budgeted. Chute stated in August the estimated cost was \$30,000 and she questions it going up \$16,000. Chute asked Council if they were ok with her sitting in on a call to Poggemeyer with Administrator Powell to get clarification on the difference in the cost. Police Chief Ervin stated they might want to reach out to Dick Anderson for some historical data on the bridge. Councilperson Welsh stated they need to put some of these things out for bid.

Police Chief Ervin provided handouts to Council with statistics for 2019. Police Chief Ervin informed Council the department had 428 cases in 2019 that went through Municipal Court. This does not include felonies. These cases are misdemeanor crimes. Ervin stated they had 88 felonies in 2019. Ervin stated he is proud of the response time of his officers. Ervin stated he attended the Drug Coalition Meeting on January 7, 2020. Ervin stated the department payed their respects to Pat Saum a past dispatcher. Ervin reported on January 9 he attended the 4th of July Committee Meeting. Ervin reported he met with Public Entities Pool for a risk assessment. Ervin stated the department is in good shape. Ervin stated he met with the Think Tank and spoke to them about re-entry. Ervin stated the Village should watch for transitional housing in the area. Ervin stated now that Committees have been formed, he needs to know what Council wants him to do about dispatching services. Councilperson Bethel asked if crime in the area has gone up or down within the past year. Ervin stated it increased slightly. Bethel asked if the Village zoning book addressed transitional housing.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion that any transitional housing, homeless shelters, halfway houses and others be suspended pending legal review of the Village zoning policies. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh asked how the Village was going to enforce the policy. Councilperson Bethel stated the Administrator or whoever can monitor this. Police Chief Ervin stated once the Village gets their policy in place, he suggests sending a letter to those organizations involved. Mayor Thompson asked Council if they were interested in being a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary City. Council asked the Mayor if they could table that until the next meeting.

Fire Chief Fain stated they started out the year rough but have remained very busy. Fain stated the meeting with Councilperson Chute, Finance Director Rockwell and himself with BWC concerning a grant for tools was very productive. Fain stated they have several more meetings scheduled with BWC to discuss the grant. Councilperson Chute asked about the Township contracts. Fain stated he is scheduled to go to all three Township meetings next month, but they are at the same time on the same day. Mayor Thompson stated he would attend one of them if needed. Councilperson Chute stated they needed to discuss the fire department payroll. Finance Director Rockwell stated the paycheck needs to match the time sheet or there will be audit issues. Rockwell stated the time keeping software should be re-programed to reflect the procedure for overtime for each department. Rockwell stated she needs a copy of the FLSA policy.

Mayor Thompson recommended the approval of the committees as listed.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the committees for the 2020 calendar year. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute scheduled a Public Safety meeting on January 28, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute asked Mayor Thompson if he got Corlyn Altier's contract signed.

Councilperson Chute reported on the PPM Committee meeting that was held on January 3, 2020. Chute stated they would wait to go over the information until Administrator Powell has the information to present to Council.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-4 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council vote "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-4: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 19-4 TO INCREASE FUNDING IN THE WATER OPERATING FUND WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-4 as read effective 12/31/19. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

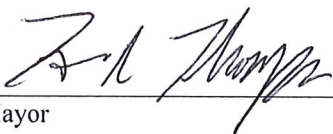
Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only as a first reading Resolution No. 20-3. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Resolution No. 20-3: **A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to table Resolution No. 20-4 and Resolution No. 20-5. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.


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 8:24 pm.



Mayor



Council Clerk