

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

February 16, 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 Dan Bethel, Doug Fox, Jim Welsh and Kathy Chute. Councilpersons Danison, Boyle and Goodfellow 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 Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 1, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Michelle Sines from ODOT reported to Council the appraisals for the right-of-ways for the Nuzum Street Bridge exceeded what was estimated for the project by \$2,870. Sines stated the Village will be responsible for the difference. Councilperson Chute asked Administrator Powell if there was money left from the trees that could be used for the difference. Powell stated "yes". Sines informed Council the owners of the property have the right to donate the property, accept the offer made by the Village, or negotiate a higher price. Councilperson Chute asked Sines if she is the one that will contact the property owner. Sines stated someone else will work on the acquisition. Chute asked if the consulting fees are budgeted into the project. Sines stated "yes". Sines stated once they have written approval for \$2,870 from the Village she will send someone out to speak to the property owners. Sines stated the property owners have thirty days to decide. Sines stated once this is completed, they can possibly certify the right-of-ways and start March 16, 2021. Powell stated when he gets the check, he will hand deliver it to Joe at ODOT.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to approve \$2,870 to pay for the Nuzum Street Bridge right-of-ways within 10 days. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson thanked the Police Department, Fire/EMS Departments and Public Service Department for a great job during the recent weather events.

Finance Director Rockwell stated she is in the final stages of closing out the 2020 calendar year and completing the 2020 Annual Financial Statements. Rockwell reported if everything goes well tomorrow with the time keeping software it will be considered up and running. Councilperson Chute asked for a date on closing out the 2020 calendar year. Rockwell stated the State deadline is February 28, 2021. Chute stated she wanted it completed before the Finance Committee meeting on February 23, 2021. Rockwell stated she keeps getting pulled away from working on it for other issues. Chute asked how they can help her finish the end of year. Rockwell stated she is waiting on answers from Hicks on some purchase orders. Chute requested Administrator Powell get the answers for Rockwell. Mayor Thompson asked Powell to inform him and Chute when this is completed.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to leave the Finance Director alone until February 23, 2021. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute asked Rockwell to explain what she needs to get a check for Powell for the Nuzum Street Bridge project. Rockwell stated she will have to look at the temporary budget to see if appropriations are available. If they are not, Council will need to approve supplemental appropriations. Chute stated they have until March 3, 2021 to get the check to Powell to give to ODOT.

Administrator Powell reported himself and Councilperson Chute attended the Carroll Street Corridor and Safe Routes to School project meeting. Councilperson Chute stated they need a motion to move forward with the project. This is a \$400,000 project with no Village match.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion giving the Village support and to proceed with the Carroll Street Corridor and Safe Routes to School project. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute requested Powell e-mail support to Josh Otworth at ODOT, District 5. Powell stated the Perry County Board of Elections has a new plan for the ADA ramps for the Municipal Concerns Committee to review. A Municipal Concerns Committee meeting was scheduled for February 23, 2021 at 5:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Powell stated Lee Conkle provided a map of 23-25 hydrants to be repaired or replaced. Powell stated he will share the map with Fire Chief Fain. Powell stated he is exploring options to get them repaired or replaced. Councilperson Chute requested Powell get prices for hydrants and bring the information to the Finance Committee meeting on February 23, 2021. Council requested Powell provide a copy of the map to Fire Chief Fain tomorrow and to ask him for any recommendations on hydrants. Councilperson Welsh asked Powell if the map shows pressures. Powell stated that is on a different map. Fain stated he has not been provided a copy of that map. Powell stated he will provide Fain a copy of that map also. Chute asked Fain if he has the supplies to mark hydrants. Fain stated not at this time. Fain will determine if the Fire Department has time to paint hydrants or if they need help.

Police Chief Ervin stated they had 694 calls for service. Ervin stated they are still averaging 14-15 calls per day. Ervin reported they are working on a couple of high-profile cases.

Fire Chief Fain reported in the month of January EMS had 167 runs with 88 transports. Fain stated they are still above the 50% transport rate. Fain stated the department has shoveled snow for 22 home, some of them elderly and disabled. Councilperson Chute asked Fain about the Medicount exclusionary. Fain stated it was okay as written.

Councilperson Chute reported there is a Finance Committee meeting on February 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building. Chute stated Lee Conkle will be present.

Councilperson Boyle reported they are working on the fundraiser at the Eagles for the Fall Festival. Councilperson Chute stated she contacted the Village insurance company and Attorney Everitt concerning the Blessing Box. Chute stated the insurance company stated it would fall under the Village liability insurance. Attorney Everitt stated the Village would need to attach a disclaimer to the box which he provided, but the Village is still liable.

Councilperson Bethel reported he reviewed the ORC concerning annexation. Bethel stated he feels the County must be involved. Bethel stated himself and Powell are going to look at a map to see what areas can be annexed. Police Chief Ervin stated he may be able to help with some questions they may have.

Councilperson Chute stated the Public Safety Committee needs looked at in the future. Chute stated she feels there are too many members on the committee. Chute stated Chris Harbaugh had been removed due to his work schedule, but his schedule has changed and he would like back on the committee.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to place Chris Harbaugh back on the Public Safety Committee. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document. Chute stated per the conference call with MAPYS on Tuesday, the IT upgrades should be complete by the end of February. Finance Director Rockwell stated

Attorney Sitterley gave the box for the Records Committee to Attorney Parrott who is with the same law firm as the Village's current Law Director. Rockwell stated she has e-mailed her concerning the records.

Councilperson Chute stated Jenny LaRue provided a safety checklist to Administrator Powell and Public Service Director Hicks for the Village playgrounds.

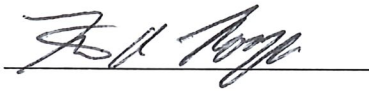
Mayor Thompson requested that Council hold a work session once the Finance Committee completes the 2021 budget to review with all of Council. Thompson asked Finance Director Rockwell to prepare a presentation for the work session.

Councilperson Danison made a motion for Council to hold a work session to review the proposed 2021 budget recommended by the Finance Committee, with Finance Director Rockwell preparing a presentation. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

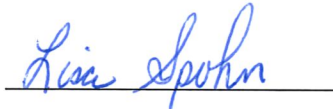
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk