

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
March 15, 2021
6:30 PM
MUNCIPAL 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 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. Absent was Councilperson Danison.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Danison from the March 15, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 1, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Vince Crawford of Waste Management addressed Council thanking everyone for supporting their drivers during the pandemic. Crawford stated they did not pick up any bulk trash for two months when the pandemic first started. Crawford stated the company initiated wearing a mask in their facility, social distancing and had their customer service team, which consists of 15,000 employees corporate-wide, work from home to communicate with their customers. Crawford stated all drivers were supplied with PPE. Crawford stated no sites were shut down due to the pandemic. Crawford stated the company made a commitment to their employees that they would not furlough any of them regardless of the work volume. Crawford stated their employees will start returning to the office in May. Crawford stated this past February was the worst weather we have had in a long time and thanked Administrator Powell and the Public Service Department for making the streets safe for their drivers to service customers. Crawford stated they are in the process of making their trucks more automated. Waste Management offers online billing and e-mail updates. They also offer a phone app to get notifications. Crawford stated they supported the Hometown Hero campaign last year and look forward to supporting other local endeavors. Mayor Thompson thanked Crawford for the use of roll offs last year.

Mayor Thompson stated he performed his first wedding ceremony and thanked Chief Ervin for his help.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the February monthly financial reports, bank reconciliation and credit card statement. Rockwell stated as of March 15, 2021 the Fire/EMS fund has \$49,141. Rockwell requested a motion to approve the December and January monthly financial reports and bank reconciliation presented at the 3-1-21 meeting. Rockwell presented Council with projections from the National League of Cities of estimated revenue from the American Rescue Plan. Rockwell highlighted what the State of Ohio, Perry County and the Village are projected to receive. These amounts are subject to change. Rockwell stated on March

23, 2021 she will be participating in a webinar as to how this money can be spent. Rockwell informed Council another activity report for the CARES Act Funding is due April 6, 2021.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the December and January financial statements and bank reconciliations. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell stated Hamburg Fireworks contacted him about the 4th of July. Powell asked Council if they were going to contribute \$10,000 for fireworks this year.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for the Village to contribute \$10,000 towards the 2021 fireworks display put on by Hamburg Fireworks. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Powell stated Hamburg ask him for the date of the Village's celebration. Mayor Thompson stated they need to consult with the Fourth of July Committee on a date and location for this year. Powell informed Council the books should be closed soon on the Streetscape Project and there should be some money left when this is complete. Powell asked Council if he could move forward on interviewing for the full-time water clerk position. Councilperson Chute stated that will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting to be held on March 20, 2021. Powell stated the Veterans would like to put a guardrail around Veterans Memorial Park. Powell stated Perry County Engineer Kent Cannon would be installing it. Mayor Thompson stated he will contact Dick Fankhauser to discuss the guardrail. Councilperson Welsh asked Powell if he has heard from Nate or Shawn from HAPCAP. Powell stated "no". Powell stated he will try to contact them. Powell informed Council all the permits for the swimming pool for the 2021 season are completed. Powell stated Attorney Baughman has filed for tax foreclosure on 327 Elizabeth Street. Councilperson Chute asked Powell if he had a pool manager for the 2021 season. Powell stated Dave Ratliff is going to manage the pool again this year.

Police Chief Ervin stated they had 1,118 calls for service in 2021. Ervin stated they average around 14-15 calls per day. Ervin stated an officer received a shoulder injury during an arrest. Ervin stated an officer hit a deer which caused \$3,500 damage to a cruiser. Ervin stated the Health Department requested a speed survey at Lincoln Park Dr. Mayor Thompson informed Chief Ervin he received a compliment from a resident about an officer.

Fire Chief Fain stated they had one day this month where they had one run. Fain stated this is highly unusual. Fain reported they had 66 runs so far this month.

Councilperson Chute reported she and Finance Director Rockwell updated the white board in Council chambers. Chute reviewed the items on the white board with Council. Chute informed Mayor Thompson and Administrator Powell they need to review the contracts on the board. Chute stated a Finance Committee meeting will be held on March 20, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Goodfellow stated she and Administrator Powell think the Village should move forward with the plans for the Board of Elections changes to their property and revisit their drop box later.

Councilperson Chute discussed the proposed drop box for the Board of Elections.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to move forward with the Board of Elections plans and discuss the drop box later. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Boyle presented Council with a flyer for a Fall Festival fundraiser on April 10, 2021. Boyle asked about new flags on Broadway. Mayor Thompson stated he would provide the sizes needed for Finance Director Rockwell to order them. Boyle stated there is a Fall Festival Committee meeting on March 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

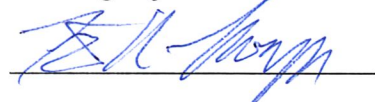
Police Chief Ervin stated he thought the new stimulus money could be used for infrastructure. He stated this would be the perfect opportunity to turn some things around for the safety of the public.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document.

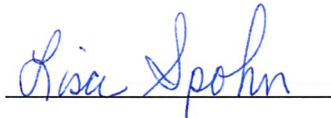
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk