

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

April 5, 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, Susan Boyle, Jeff Danison and Susan Goodfellow. 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 Chute.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Chute from the April 5, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the March 15, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 29, 2021 special meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Bret Allphin of SIXMO addressed Council to introduce his new company. Allphin stated he was formerly the Development Director at Buckeye Hills Regional Council. Allphin stated after 20 years of service, he left to start his own company in January 2021. Allphin stated his company is there to help with grant writing, zoning code reform, infrastructure planning and many other skills and expertise. Allphin stated if needed they are there to help and support the Village. Administrator Powell thanked Allphin for speaking to Council and for his help in the past.

Finance Director Rockwell stated the box of records needed by the Records Committee has been located. Attorney Everitt is in possession of the box and is making arrangements to return it to the Village. Rockwell asked if the Village would need Everitt at the next Records meeting since he is on the committee. Police Chief Ervin stated he just needs a copy of the retention schedule for now. Rockwell stated the Village has a retention schedule and she will forward a copy to all department heads. Rockwell updated Council on the class action lawsuit concerning the court ruling on Ohio House Bill 49 regarding the Ohio Department of Taxation administering municipal net profit taxes. Rockwell stated the courts have now ruled that the fees plus interest charged to the municipalities must be refunded. Rockwell stated that attorney fees that were paid by the municipalities may possibly be refunded also. Rockwell requested a motion to approve the February Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation presented at the March 15, 2021 Council meeting.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the February 2021 Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson asked Rockwell if she received any updated information on the American Rescue Plan. Rockwell stated the first webinar was more geared toward gathering question from municipalities. There is a webinar on April 27, 2021 to provide guidance from the U.S. Treasury.

Administrator Powell stated he spoke with Shawn and Nate from HAPCAP and the Perry County Commissioners have approved for the Village to apply for the HAPCAP Grant for park improvements. Powell informed Council he spoke with Attorney Everitt about making an alley one-way traffic. Everitt stated the Village owns the alleys and they can make them one-way if they want. Powell stated the Board of Elections is going to put their drop box in the back of the building. Powell stated the State Route 13 waterline replacement

project is being funded through HAPCAP. The Village match for this project is \$50,000. Mayor Thompson asked when the Village match was due. Rockwell stated \$25,000 in 2021 and \$25,000 in 2022. Thompson asked if it would begin this year. Powell stated fall of 2021 and all the paperwork is in order. Powell stated Lee Conkel from Poggemeyer Design group has left the company to go to Hull & Associates. Mayor Thompson stated maybe the Village should look at some of the other engineering companies. Powell stated Poggemeyer Design group only charges 16% and most other companies charge 18%. Powell stated he spoke with Fire Chief Fain and Nate from Poggemeyer about missing hydrants on the map. Powell stated there was missing flow and pressure information also. Powell stated the landowners are not cooperating with the Nuzum Bridge project. Powell stated they signed an agreement to remove the trees which was completed on April 1, 2021. Powell stated they have not signed the easements yet. Powell stated he spoke with Hamburg Fireworks and they could do July 2, 2021. Mayor Thompson stated he spoke to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee and they want to have it on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Powell stated he would contact Hamburg Fireworks and let them know. Powell presented Council with two Ordinances. Mayor Thompson stated he confirmed with Finance Director Rockwell that funding was in the budget to start the project on State Street. Powell stated the process can start. Bob Heavener will be completing the work on State Street. Powell stated once the project is completed Perry County Engineer Cannon stated they could help keep it mowed. Councilperson Fox asked if they were going to dredge the creek. Powell stated they were going to clear cut it and remove tree stumps. Police Chief Ervin asked about the Bell Stores construction on Broadway Street and how customers were going to enter and exit the business. Powell stated he had the plans in his office and would show them to Ervin. Ervin stated this would be a good opportunity to resolve the issue at Broadway and Madison Street with stop signs. Mayor Thompson asked if the sidewalks were in the plans. Powell stated "yes". Thompson asked if the existing store was going to be removed. Powell stated "yes". Councilperson Goodfellow asked if the building on Fowler Street was placed there legally. Powell stated as of now it is legal, and he issued a building permit yesterday.

Police Chief Ervin stated they had 1,538 calls for service in 2021. Ervin stated they are down one full time officer due to an injury and another is out for medical reasons. Ervin stated Dave Pletcher asked him about the car show they plan to have in August. Ervin stated he tried to get information on the boot camp at the old Antonio's building. Ervin asked Theresa Snyder Kane to schedule to be on the Council agenda to answer any questions.

Fire Chief Fain stated they responded to 141 runs in March with 90 transports. Fain stated this is a 61% transport rate and is exactly where they need to be. Fain stated he had a copy of the latest Medicount report if any Council members would like to review it. Mayor Thompson stated that Finance Director Rockwell has not been provided copies of the updated Township contracts. Rockwell stated she is missing the Pleasant Township 2020 Fire contract, Pike Township 2021 Fire and EMS contracts and Clayton Township 2020 Fire and EMS contracts. Fain stated Clayton Township contracts were for 2020 and 2021.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Fall Festival Committee meeting that was held on March 28, 2021. Boyle stated the fundraiser at the Eagles is April 10, 2021 from 2:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Boyle stated there will be a 50/50 drawing, food, silent auction, and baked goods. Live music will be provided by Tommy and Brandy. Boyle stated the Color Run fundraiser will be June 12, 2021 and they will do a town canvass on August 7, 2021.

Councilperson Danison stated he and Mayor Thompson have been discussing the homeless shelter issue. Danison stated Attorney Everitt needs to get paperwork drawn up as soon as possible for the Village concerning a homeless shelter inside of the Village. Thompson stated he would reach out to Councilperson Chute since she has contacted Everitt previously on the issue.

Mayor Thompson reviewed the working document.

Councilperson Fox asked about sidewalks at Bell Stores. Powell stated they are going to be put in. Fox asked if structures going up in the Village are being required to put in sidewalks. Powell stated he has discussed this

with the owners, and they are going to. Councilperson Bethel stated the Village needs to develop a checklist to of items required for new structures. Administrator Powell requested an executive session.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-2 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-2: **AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT THE 2021 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO REPEAL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; TO PUBLISH THE ENACTMENT OF NEW MATTER; AND DECLARING THIS ACT AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-2 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-3 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-3: **THE FOLLOWING IS A/AN ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON OF PERRY COUNTY, OHIO HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY (LPA).** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-3 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding employment with Council, Mayor, Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain present. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:22 pm for executive session.

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

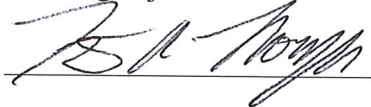
Meeting resumed at 7:30 pm.

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

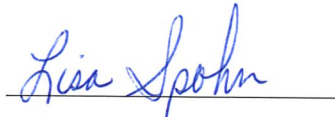
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk