

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

April 6, 2020

6:30 PM

MUNCIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Trent Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 PM. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Council Members and Administrator Powell attended the meeting virtually and the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page. In physical attendance were Mayor Thompson, Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 16, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Corlyn Altier. Thompson stated he has been in three to four phone conferences a week due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Finance Director Rockwell stated she will have reports at the next meeting for Council. Rockwell stated she will put copies of the reports in Council's mailboxes. Rockwell asked for suggestions on signing purchase orders by the Finance Committee. Councilperson Chute suggested placing them in their mailboxes.

Administrator Powell informed Council Shelly Company has delayed the Streetscape project until April 13, 2020 and the Pleasant Street Bridge project has been moved back to May 4, 2020. Powell stated the employee parking lot drain has been completed. Powell asked Council if the Public Service Department could have a blanket purchase order for \$1,000 for emergencies. Powell asked if Council wanted to continue to run the ad in the paper for lifeguards and a pool manager until the end of April. Powell asked Council about the girls in the administration offices working on opposite days and the other days work from home due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Mayor Thompson asked Powell about the Public Service Department employees. Powell stated Jakob Ross volunteered to come in and do daily duties. Mayor Thompson stated he would let Administrator Powell decide what to do with the Public Service Department. Thompson asked Powell if he was talking about laying them off. Powell stated "yes". Thompson stated the meter reader would still have to work. Finance Director Rockwell asked if this would be a voluntary layoff. Mayor Thompson stated they should be given the option to volunteer. Council agreed. Mayor Thompson stated any discussion of the pool would be put on hold until May as of now and for the duration of the COVID 19 pandemic the pool will be closed. All Council agreed. Councilperson Welsh asked Powell if he got a second bid on paving the municipal building parking lot. Powell stated he left a message with the other company and they have not returned his call. Powell stated the Issue One paving being done by Shelly Company is on schedule.

Police Chief Ervin stated the department's call volume has been down a little. Ervin stated there have been some serious events the past week. Ervin stated there have been three suicides in the Village and two more in the County. Ervin stated they are reaching out to the Mental Health Campaign. Ervin stated he has been attending a lot of meetings and they have been discussing alternative healthcare sites.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department has been busy. Fain reported in the month of March EMS responded to 182 runs with 101 being transports. Fain stated some of the runs they have responded to have been very serious. Fain stated as of now they are doing good with supplies. Councilperson Bethel asked Fain if Portsmouth Ambulance and Community Ambulance was still in the area. Bethel stated Fain may want to reach out to them in case things get busy. Fain stated they still have a third medic if needed. Councilperson Danison requested the status of the Brush Truck from ODNR. Fain stated it is almost ready to go.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee/Public Safety meeting held on March 31, 2020. Chute asked the committees if they still wanted to have combined meetings every other week. Chute stated \$25,000

will be taken from the Land Bank budget and put in the General Fund for personal protective equipment for the Police and Fire/EMS. Finance Director Rockwell created a COVID 19-line item to track all supplies purchased for the COVID 19 pandemic. Rockwell stated she will go back and reallocate previous purchases to the COVID 19-line item. Mayor Thompson stated Rockwell has all three forms to be filled out for reimbursement from the EMA. Chute stated all wish list items are on hold until the pandemic is over. Chute stated Finance Director Rockwell is going to get Fire Chief a Village credit card so he can order supplies when he finds them. Chute reported employee raises will be put on hold. Councilperson Bethel inquired how long they were going to put the raises on hold. Mayor Thompson asked Council if they would like to table the discussion of raises to a later date. All Council agreed. Chute stated the committee decided all hiring be put on hold until further notice with the exception of Police Chief Ervin hiring a full-time officer. Chute stated the committee discussed the pool. Chute informed Council the Committee decided not to hire a part time person for the parks. Chute stated the next Finance/Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020 at 5:30 p. m. Chute stated if Council members would like a copy of the meeting minutes Council Clerk Spohn could put them in their mailboxes. Councilperson Bethel asked about hazard pay. Fire Chief Fain stated he would hold off on it.

Councilperson Bethel stated Jenny LaRue has been talking to him about the bike park. Bethel stated LaRue reached out to Administrator Powell and Public Service Department Supervisor Hicks. Powell stated some of the property LaRue was asking about is owned by the New Lexington City Schools and she would have to speak to them. Council discussed an e-mail sent out by LaRue concerning the bike park and an e-mail concerning the Carroll Street Corridor Project. Councilperson Bethel stated he was concerned with the ongoing upkeep of the bike park. The park is designed for small children. Mayor Thompson requested Administrator Powell reach out to Lisa Leckrone and Jenny LaRue to see if the Village needs to do anything else for the Carroll Street Corridor Project

Councilperson Bethel asked Fire Chief Fain if he has been getting supplies. Fain stated he received ten masks from the EMA. Fain stated you need a medical account with Amazon now to order any PPE supplies. Fain stated he is trying to set up an account or switch the current Village Amazon account to a medical account.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document with Council. Mayor Thompson stated the EMA said we need to go out and turn on water to anyone who has been disconnected. Finance Director Rockwell stated the customer must request it be reconnected according to the EPA Guidelines for HB 197. Rockwell stated she will put a copy of the bill in Councils mailboxes for review.

Councilperson Bethel asked the status of the homeless shelter. Administrator Powell stated the Law Director is typing up a draft for Council to review. Councilperson Welsh asked Powell about the Rehoboth sewer. Powell stated he spoke with Anne Sweeney from the Perry County Commissioners office and she would relay the message to Carol Middaugh to pass on to the Commissioners that residents can be hooked into the sewer. Powell stated he will follow up on this. Councilperson Chute asked Mayor Thompson if he has spoken to the Perry County Commissioners about the 911 dispatching services for the Village. Thompson stated a Commissioner informed Thompson due to the COVI 19 pandemic they will not raise the cost of services and will extend the contract with the Village.

Administrator Powell reported he received an e-mail from Nate of ODOT that the Streetscape project is on hold indefinitely.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-9 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-9: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 20-8 TO REALLOCATE FUNDING IN THE GENERAL 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. 20-9 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-10 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-10: **AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT THE 2020 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 Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-10 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

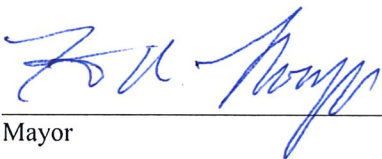
Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-7 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-7: **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CODE TO PERMIT PARKING WHERE CURB IS PAINTED YELLOW, AT SPECIFIC LOCATION AND FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-7 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 20-9 as a seconded reading. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes", except for Councilperson Chute who voted "no". Motion carried. Resolution No. 20-9: **RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, COUNTY OF PERRY, AND THE STATE OF OHIO DECLARING THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON A SECOND AMENDMENT/LAWFUL GUN OWNER SANCTUARY VILLAGE AS DEFINED HEREIN.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-9 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes", except for Councilperson Chute who voted "no". 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 7:33 PM



Mayor



Council Clerk