

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
May 4, 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 Dan Bethel, Susan Boyle, Jeff Danison, Doug Fox, Susan Goodfellow, James Welsh 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, Councilperson Chute, Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 20, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Debra Rainy addressed Council virtually to request approval of an Ordinance requiring retailers that sell tobacco products to post signs with the tobacco quit line phone number. Rainy stated anyone that calls the quit line can get free products to help them quit. Rainy informed Council that the Health Department is notified of how many calls the quit line receives. Rainy stated the required signage is provided by the Health Department. Rainy stated the Health Department can enforce the signs being placed in retail stores that sell tobacco. Councilperson Chute asked if the Health Department would be responsible for placing the signs in the retail stores. Rainy stated "yes". Council stated they would vote on the Ordinance later in the meeting.

Councilperson Goodfellow stated she retired and resigned from Council. Goodfellow requested reappointment to Council to finish her term. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to reappoint Susan Goodfellow for the remainder of her Council term. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he has been in phone conferences daily due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Finance Director Rockwell stated she has been working on the reimbursement forms for the supplies purchased for the Covid-19 pandemic. Rockwell informed Council The Village received a stimulus payment of approximately \$11,000 from Medicare for Fire and EMS to assist with Covid-19 related expenses. Rockwell stated the 2018 Worker's Compensation premiums were refunded to assist with reductions in revenue due to Covid-19. The Village received a refund of approximately \$38,000 which will be allocated to the corresponding funds that made the original payment. Rockwell stated MAPSYS is scheduled to be on site to finish the IT upgrades to the Police Department tablets. Rockwell requested a motion to approve the February and March financial statements. Mayor Thompson stated he was going to forward an e-mail to Rockwell regarding the FEMA application process with the Village's intent on applying for reimbursement for Covid-19 supplies.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the February financial statements and bank reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Boyle made a motion to approve the March financial statements. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell stated Water Clerk Saffell needed to be back in the office. Councilpersons Danison and Boyle stated they agreed the clerks should come back to the office. Finance Director Rockwell stated there are rules set forth by Governor Dewine that must be followed. Councilperson Chute asked if anything was going to be put in place to make sure an employee is fit to work. Chute stated temperatures should be taken every morning for each employee returning to the office. Mayor Thompson reviewed the recommendations that were put in place by the Governor. Councilperson Welsh stated they need to have a plan in place. Administrator Powell stated he has a form to complete health assessments for an employee entering the office each morning and can take care of those. Council decided a sign will be posted in the lobby stating no more than three individuals are allowed in the lobby at a time. Council also decided the floor will be marked with tape every six feet to distance people. Councilperson Danison made a motion to bring back the girls in the office full time on May 5, 2020 and to open the office to the public on May 11, 2020. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Powell stated he received a bid for \$18,750 for the municipal building parking lot and a second bid for \$10,505. Powell stated he was going to get another bid from Shelly Company and disregard the second bid because he does not feel that they used the right specifications. Powell stated Lee Conkle was moving forward with a proposal for new water meters. Powell stated they would be tower reads or radio reads. Powell stated he would report more on that later. Mayor Thompson stated to make sure this was just a proposal. Powell stated he reached out to HAPCAP but doesn't believe they are in the office. Powell stated Buckeye Aquatics contacted Public Service Department Supervisor Hicks inquiring if the Village would need chemicals for the swimming pool this season. Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to close the New Lexington Swimming Pool for the 2020 season. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Councilperson Bethel asked if the pool does not open what happens to the funds that were budgeted for the season. Finance Director Rockwell informed him they would sit in a restricted fund and carry over to 2021. Councilperson Chute asked Powell if the drainage issue on Jefferson Street and Madison Street has been resolved. Powell stated "yes". Councilperson Danison requested Powell inform Hicks, when possible, to get hot mix and repair potholes in the Village. Councilperson Fox asked Powell if all Strep Department employees were back to work. Powell stated "yes". Powell stated construction has started on Main Street for the Streetscape Project. Powell stated work on the Pleasant Street Bridge is scheduled to begin on May 18, 2020.

Police Chief Ervin stated the department's calls have been light but the calls they have been receiving have been of a more serious nature. Ervin stated New Lexington City Schools have been in contact with him concerning New Lexington's High School Graduation due to the pandemic. Ervin stated it will take place in sections. Ervin stated this should take about a week. Ervin stated there have been some tenuous conference calls concerning Personal Protective Equipment. Ervin thanked Mayor Thompson for all his help in getting the PPE. Ervin informed Council the department has been working on property maintenance. Councilperson Chute asked about the vacant house behind Century Bank. Ervin stated he thought it was one of the houses to be demolished by the Land Bank. Councilperson Bethel informed Ervin he had a citizen complain about a camper parked in a yard on Fowler Street with someone living in it. Bethel stated he thought this was against Village zoning laws. Thompson requested something be done to address the trash at the house on N Main St. hill.

Fire Chief Fain stated runs are down, but transports are more serious in nature. Fain stated the department's transports are below 60% but he feels this is because the department has had five DOA's. Fain stated they have had 86 transports. Fain reported to Council they have responded daily to a lift assist on Fowler Street. Fain stated the second medic had 64 runs in the surrounding Villages. Fain notified Council of the first fatality in Perry County due to Covid-19. Fain stated the EMS crews are concerned but moving forward and the department is prepared. Fain reported he received PPE from the Perry County EMA and returned some that they did not need.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee meeting held 4/28/20. Chute stated the Committee discussed the blanket purchase orders for Bob Heavener Excavating for water and sewer repairs. Chute stated the \$40,000 appropriated for sewer has been depleted. Chute stated the committee discussed adjusting the water and sewer allocation to provide more money to sewer. Chute stated Finance Director Rockwell informed the committee there is a \$2.25 flat fee for each in town-water customer for maintaining storm sewers. Councilperson Chute asked Rockwell to find out how much revenue is brought in by the storm sewer fee. Mayor Thompson stated he would like to continue repairs on sewer projects. Thompson asked if the money could be loaned to the sewer fund by the general fund with payments made to repay the general fund. Rockwell stated appropriations in the budget would have to be reduced to advance the money to the sewer fund. Councilperson Chute stated a combined Public Safety and Finance Committee meeting is needed to discuss dispatching before lending money to the sewer fund. Welsh agreed. Ervin stated the storm sewer repairs can be reduced over time by maintaining them after Bob Heavener performs work.

Councilperson Boyle stated a Fall Festival Committee meeting was held on 4/30/20. Boyle stated they were still going to try to hold the fundraiser at the Eagles on 8/29/20. Boyle stated Sweet Misery will play for the fundraiser for four hours for free if the committee will hire them to play at the Fall Festival. Boyle stated they discussed having the stage delivered on Friday night before the festival and have Sweet Misery play. Boyle stated the Elks would have their beer garden open for this. Boyle stated she has spoken to Police Chief Ervin about this to close streets necessary to hold the Festival. Boyle stated Jenny Saffell has started on the flyers for the festival. Boyle stated the committee discussed raising the price for vendors from \$40 to \$50 due to the increase in price to host the festival. Councilperson Chute requested Administrator Powell ask the Ohio Department of Transportation if the Fall Festival could still take place while they are working on the Streetscape. Powell stated he spoke to them and they stated they could work around it.

Councilperson Chute stated Jenny LaRue needed an answer on the trail. Chute stated she needs Council and the Perry County Commissioner's support. Chute stated LaRue's e-mail stated it is an AARP Grant to connect the Village sidewalks to the trail. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to move forward with the trail provided there is no Village match and this motion will be null and void if the Village is asked to match any funds. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute scheduled a combined Finance/Public Safety Committee meeting on 5/6/20 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building. The meeting will also be available virtually.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document. Administrator Powell reported the contract for fireworks was done and payment was sent. Fire Chief Fain stated he has not seen the contract to sign off on the location.

Mayor Thompson stated the concrete in front of the Municipal Building needs repaired. Thompson also stated the railing needs painted. Councilperson Boyle asked Administrator Powell if the Village had received a donation from Waste Management yet. Powell stated "no". Councilperson Boyle asked how many people can be together at one time. Mayor Thompson stated the Governor's limit is ten. Councilperson Danison would like for Council members to attend the next meeting in person in the Municipal Building. Councilperson Danison made a motion for Council members to attend the next Council meeting in person at the Municipal Building. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Mayor Thompson informed Council there will be some type of service on Memorial Day to honor fallen heroes.

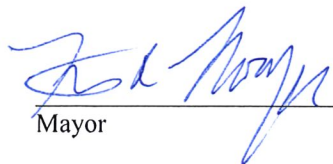
Councilperson Bethel asked about employee raises. Finance Director Rockwell reported the State is recommending budget reductions of 20%. Councilperson Chute stated the Finance Committee plans to review the budget. Councilperson Bethel asked about the date to resume water shut offs. Rockwell stated the current order is effective through December 1, 2020. Councilperson Welsh stated this could change.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-11 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who voted "no". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-11: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINSTRATOR TO REQUIRE ALL TOBACCO RETAILERS WITHIN NEW LEXINGTON VILLAGE LIMITS TO POST THE PHONE NUMBER FOR THE TOBACCO QUIT LINE AT ALL POINT OF SALE LOCATIONS.**

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 8:08 PM



Mayor



Council Clerk