

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

July 1, 2019

6:30 PM

MUNICIPAL 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. Council Members present were Susan Boyle, Dan Bethel, Susan Goodfellow, Jeff Danison, Doug Fox, Kathy Chute and James Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Administrator Bo Powell and Fire Chief Jim Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2019 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Boyle who abstained due to being absent from the June 17, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson presented Council with a letter he received from Ivan Anchev, Consulate General of Bulgaria in Chicago, Illinois, regarding the success of the MacGahan Festival.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with a 2020 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources. Rockwell stated this is based on the budget approved by Council for 2019. Rockwell stated this must be in place by July 15, 2019 to prepare a temporary budget for the first three months of 2020. Rockwell presented Council with an Ordinance for 2019 Supplemental Appropriations. Rockwell requested a motion to approve the May 2019 financial statements and the May 2019 Bank Reconciliation. Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the May 2019 Financial Statements and the May 2019 Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell informed Council the valves need repaired at the water plant and should be here this week. Powell stated the Street Department finished the upgrade to the curbs on Water Street and High Street. Powell stated he has received twenty-one applications for Water and Sewer Clerk position. Powell requested two Council members to help review applications for the position. Council members Goodfellow and Chute volunteered to help Powell. Councilperson Chute stated the position was advertised for an additional week due to the pay rate not being on the first advertisement. The deadline for applications is July 8, 2019 at 3:00 pm. Powell stated he is waiting on another bid for the storm sewer on E. Brown Street and Maple Heights. Councilperson Boyle inquired when Powell was going to meet with Cheryl Boley to discuss using the parking lot at Job and Family Services for the Fall Festival. Mayor Thompson stated he is not going to participate in the hiring of a new water clerk because he knows several applicants. Thompson asked Powell when the Street Department was fixing potholes. Powell stated Street Superintendent Hicks has had issues with absenteeism. Thompson stated he has had a lot of complaints and the potholes need repaired.

Police Chief Ervin stated the department received a thank you letter from Saint Rose Church for their assistance with an event. Ervin stated Officer Loy, with the assistance of Finance Director Rockwell, got the Police Body Armor Grant done so the department could receive reimbursement. Ervin stated on June 26, 2019 the department made an arrest on Knoll Street for the person responsible for several break-ins. Ervin stated Mr. Doss has been working on cleaning up the property at 201 N. High Street after a fire. Doss is going to place a dumpster on the property which may possibly block part of the alley. Ervin stated they would put up cones if necessary, to give him the opportunity to clean up the property. Ervin stated Law Director Parrott responded to his e-mail.

Councilperson Chute inquired about the survey on the alley off Summit Street. Powell stated it should be completed in a few days. Finance Director Rockwell asked what fund the cost of the survey should come out of. Council agreed to take it out of the sewer fund.

Fire Chief Fain reported they had 148 EMS runs with 88 transports and 56 fire runs. Fain stated he is waiting on the equipment to begin fire hydrant testing. Fain informed Council the department received their radios on June 28, 2019. Administrator Powell asked Fain if they had any old radios that worked, that the Street Department could have.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance/Public Safety Committee meeting held on June 27, 2019. Bethel stated the committees discussed expenditures being charged to the Fire/EMS. The committees questioned the allocation of the mortgage and gas bill. Bethel stated 78% is currently being charged to the Fire/EMS for the mortgage and gas bill. Councilperson Chute stated the 78% came from the company that did the cost allocation in 2012. Bethel stated they are not eliminating the cost allocation altogether, they are going to revise it. Bethel stated the committees recommend salaries and benefits stop coming out of Fire/EMS as of July 1, 2019 for Income Tax Department, Finance Director, Administrator and Police Chief. The mortgage and gas bill for the department will be reduced to 33%. Bethel stated this should save the Fire/EMS approximately \$38,500 by the end of the year. Finance Director Rockwell stated she will need a new allocation. She asked for Council to have whoever is going to be assigned to come up with the new percentages for each department. Rockwell stated they need to schedule a Finance Committee meeting to go over the new percentages and prepare a Resolution before the next Council meeting. Bethel asked if Rockwell could just prepare a Resolution splitting the allocation into thirds. Rockwell stated she would be more comfortable with someone else determining the allocations, then she would prepare the Resolution. Councilperson Chute stated that in the future the Finance Committee needs to handle these types of situations and not put it on the Finance Director. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to stop all salaries from Lisa Spohn, Heather Rockwell, Bo Powell and Scott Ervin paid by the Fire/EMS Department and reduce the percentage of the mortgage and gas bill for the Fire/EMS from 78% to 33% effective July 1, 2019. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for July 9, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Chute stated they would start holding Finance Committee meetings before Council meetings again. Bethel stated they need to start working on the 2020 budget. Mayor Thompson stated after the allocations are done, he and Rockwell can begin. Councilperson Chute stated tentatively they could begin on August 1, 2019.

Councilperson Boyle stated the Parks and Recreation Committee is working on their booth for the 4th of July celebration. Boyle stated she still needs a stage for the Fall Festival. Mayor Thompson stated he could get one trailer. Councilperson Bethel stated they may need two.

Councilperson Chute inquired about the absence of purchase orders for Kessler Heating and Cooling and for port-a-lets. Mayor Thompson stated no purchases are to be made without a purchase order.

Tax Clerk Spohn informed Council she was registered to attend the Ohio Municipal League seminar July 10, 11, 12, 2019. Spohn asked Council what they wanted her to do, due to her being the only person running the office at the current time. Finance Director Rockwell stated they may be able to get an intern from HAPCAP or OUZ to help in the office. Council informed Spohn to attend the seminar.

Councilperson Danison inquired about the mailing of water bills. Spohn stated there have been issues with the software and they will be mailed on July 2, 2019. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to extend the due date until July 19, 2019 before penalizing due to the bills being mailed late. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to file the 2020 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources as presented with the Perry County Auditor. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel requested an executive session after legislation is passed.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 19-10 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 19-10: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 19-4 TO REALLOCATE FUNDING IN THE PARKS & RECREATION LEVY 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. 19-10 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) regarding compensation of a public employee or official with Mayor Thompson and Council present. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Meeting suspended for executive session at 7:23 pm.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 7:54 pm.

Councilperson Bethel stated no decisions were made as a result of 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 7:56 pm.



Mayor



Council Clerk