

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
July 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. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Susan Boyle, Doug Fox, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, Jeff Danison and James Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell and Police Chief Ervin. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Administrator Powell and Fire Chief Fain attended the meeting virtually and the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 15, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Sherry Tracey addressed Council concerning the condition of the property at 205 W. Water Street, 223 N High Street and 225 N. High Street. Tracey stated squatters are living at one of the addresses. Police Chief Ervin informed Tracey he has spoken with the owner of the property several times and evictions must be filed by the owner with the courts. Ervin stated there are laws in place that grass must be mowed at least four times during certain months. Ervin stated the department does everything they can to get owners to take care of their properties. Mayor Thompson asked Tracey to contact him on updates with the property.

Mayor Thompson stated the 4th of July Fireworks went very well, and he wanted to thank everyone involved for their help. Thompson stated Jim Leckrone informed him the Elks is giving a donation to pay for the port-a-pots that were rented for the celebration. Thompson informed Council he attended the flag retirement ceremony at the park on July 4, 2020 performed by John Tague Post 188. Councilperson Chute stated whatever happened with the computers at the Municipal Building over the weekend, Council should have been notified. Mayor Thompson stated he takes full responsibility for not contacting Council members. Thompson stated it caught them off guard and they wanted to take the proper steps to control the situation quickly. Thompson apologized for not informing Council. Finance Director Rockwell informed Council the server was infected with ransomware. Rockwell stated Mapsys was contacted immediately and they were on site today. Rockwell stated the Village has good systems in place to prevent any further issues with the situation. Chute stated if anything like this ever happens again, she would like a short e-mail sent out to inform Council. Mayor Thompson stated the ceiling in the shelter house looks great.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with swimming pool reports showing all revenue and expenses and an Ordinance for supplemental appropriations. Councilperson Boyle asked Rockwell if there was enough money in the Parks and Recreation fund to purchase two baby swings and a new net for the tennis court. Rockwell stated "yes".

Administrator Powell stated there have been a few issues with the Streetscape Project. Powell stated they are going to cross over and start at Main Street and Brown Street and go to Mill Street after they finish by the ELKS due to Peoples State Bank needing to make some repairs to their building. Councilperson Chute requested Powell get a break down of expenses used from the contingency fund

for the Streetscape Project. Chute stated Powell should have the initial amount in the fund and should be meeting with Shelly Company on a weekly basis to track expenses. Chute requested this information before the next council meeting. Powell stated he would get the information for Chute. Powell stated some of the tree grates were installed today. Powell stated that ODOT prefers bushes or shrubs to replace the trees. Councilperson Chute stated she thought dwarf trees would be easier to maintain. Chute stated Jenny LaRue from the Tree Commission would like to set up a meeting to walk Main Street to decide on what type of trees should be planted. Councilperson Fox stated the Tree Commission would pay for anything over the amount budgeted for trees for the project. Council requested updates on the tree choices. Powell informed Council there was a major water break on West Brown Street by the Post Office on June 26, 2020. Powell stated there was extensive damage to the street. Powell informed Council he received an estimate from McKee Paving of \$12,600 to grind and pave a 180 foot by 30 foot section of the street. Powell stated if it was put on Issue One Paving it would not get repaired until 2021. Mayor Thompson stated Powell will have to get a second estimate. Councilperson Bethel asked if the cost to repair the street could come out of the water fund. Finance Director Rockwell stated she did not think it could, but she would e-mail Local Government Services for an opinion and bring the answer to Council. Councilperson Welsh stated Brown Street needs repaired starting at Pleasant Street from a previous water leak. Councilperson Fox asked Powell who was doing the work on the Pleasant Street Bridge project. Powell stated Shelley Company is doing the bridge project. Fox stated Powell should ask them for the second estimate on fixing Brown Street since they will already be doing that type of work on the bridge. Powell reported the deck of Pleasant Street Bridge will be poured on July 8, 2020.

Mayor Thompson stated he is negotiating with Perry County Engineer Kent Cannon on cleaning out the ditch by the bridge on State Street. Powell stated he would prefer the County mow all they can then the Public Service Department will go in and clean up trees. Powell stated Cannon would give him a two week notice on when they would be able to mow. Thompson asked Powell to get a sign with arrows pointing which way 313 Walnut Street is and one pointing to 313 Sunset Lane because they are so close together the mail gets mixed up. Thompson stated he wanted Summit Street fixed properly where there was a previous water leak. Thompson stated a citizen contacted him about the condition of the Mount Aloysius sign coming into New Lexington on State Route 37. Thompson was informed the sign was placed there by Mount Aloysius, so they would have to take care of the sign. Thompson asked Powell to get some topsoil and grass seed to plant in front of the Municipal Building and paint the mailbox. Thompson stated there is a pipe sticking up out of the ground on 519 W. Water Street that needs removed.

Mayor Thompson stated a resident asked him if he could have access to turn on the lights at the ball field at night for ball practice because he works late and can't get there early enough to practice. Council agreed to allow access to the lights. Councilperson Chute asked Powell to have the Public Service Department check the storm drain at least once a week in front of Whitlatch's to make sure it is clear of debris because the street needs repaired again due to the storm drain being plugged. Chute stated Elizabeth Street needs debris cleaned up along the curb.

Councilperson Chute asked why we are still purchasing cold mix in the summer. Powell stated they only have a short window of time to use hot mix once they get it. Powell stated they use the cold mix for emergencies. Council informed Powell there are potholes on Orchard Street, Pleasant Street, Factory Street and several other areas that need repaired immediately. Mayor Thompson stated when repairing streets, the Public Service Department needs to repair them like they are repairing their own property.

Powell stated when they get hot mix, they only have forty-five minutes before it sets up and they have to purchase six tons at a time. Councilperson Chute stated she did not accept Powell's explanation. Councilperson Danison stated Council has been told for 2 ½ years that the streets would be repaired. Councilperson Chute stated she wanted a time frame when repairs to the streets will be done. Councilperson Chute asked Powell if the Public Service Department truck has been fixed. Powell stated "no". Chute asked Powell how long this truck has been down. Powell stated three weeks.

Councilperson Chute informed Powell two quotes are needed for the Purchase Orders for the Wastewater Treatment Plant grinder and generator. Chute stated a second quote is also needed for the purchase order for maintenance at the Water Treatment Plant and it needs to specify what the maintenance is for. Chute stated they must follow the procurement policy. Chute asked Powell if he got the information to Lee Conkle of Poggemeyer Design Group on the meter numbers and sizes. Powell stated he still needed to get some more information first. Chute asked Powell if he has coordinated with Fire Chief Fain on setting up the fire hydrant flow testing schedule. Powell stated he is waiting on Fire Chief Fain or Assistant Fire Chief Spencer to set up a meeting with him. Fain stated it is difficult to coordinate with the Public Service Department work schedule. Councilpersons Chute and Danison expressed concerns on things not getting done. Mayor Thompson will make sure things are completed. Chute stated she e-mailed Powell about the outside lights on the Municipal Building that are burnt out and have not been replaced. Councilperson Boyle asked if Public Service Superintendent Hicks had ordered the "cross traffic does not stop" signs to be placed on W. Water Street and State Street. Powell stated "yes". Councilperson Welsh stated he thought that HAPCAP was supposed to attend the Council meeting in July. Powell stated he has not heard from them.

Police Chief Ervin stated he would like some direction from Council on personnel. Ervin stated he has several officers leaving. Ervin stated the department can't compete with salaries anymore. Ervin stated he needed a decision on 911 dispatching. Ervin reported two Federal sexual exploitation cases have come to an end. Council discussed how to staff Police Department without being able to offer competitive wages.

Fire Chief Fain stated Hamburg Fireworks did an excellent job setting off the fireworks on the 4th of July. Fain stated Hamburg liked the location. Fain stated purchase orders for drugs and supplies needed clarified. Finance Director Rockwell stated she can reallocate drugs and meds to supplies and Fain stated he will break this out on future requests. Councilperson Chute stated Fain and Spencer need to make sure Rockwell knows what line item it needs to come from. Councilperson Chute asked about the report from the second medic down south. Fain stated it was done but could not get it from the computer. Councilperson Goodfellow asked Fain about fire hydrant testing. Fain stated he would get with Administrator Powell to schedule something. Chute stated a motion was needed for Powell to enter into a contract with the new EMS billing company.

Councilperson Chute stated minutes from the Finance Committee meeting will be handed out at the next Council meeting. Mayor Thompson stated currently the Village is under contract with the Perry County Dispatch Center for services at a cost of \$100,000 a year. Thompson provided a summary of events leading up to now. Thompson stated the County wants to raise the fee for services to \$204,000. Thompson stated it would cost the Village \$218,000 per year to do our own dispatching. Chute stated if the cost is going to go up, we should just put the money into doing it in house. Chute stated Council should consider funding the Police dispatching with a levy. Councilperson Chute asked Police Chief

Ervin if he was planning on dispatching 24/7. Ervin stated "yes". Ervin clarified that 911 calls will still ring into the County Dispatch Center.

Councilperson Chute made a motion for Police Chief Ervin to begin the process to move police dispatching to the Village with a budget of \$218,000. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Boyle scheduled a Fall Festival meeting on July 13, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a motion to approve the May 2020 financial reports. Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the May 2020 Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion for Administrator Powell to enter into a contract with Medicount for EMS billing. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.


Councilperson Chute made a motion for all Council members and Department Heads to be physically present at the next Council meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-13 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-13: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 20--8 TO REALLOCATE FUNDING IN THE FIRE & EMS LEVY FUND WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Chute made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-13 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". 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 9:10 PM



Mayor



Council Clerk