

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

February 1, 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, Kathy Chute and Susan Boyle. Councilpersons Danison and Goodfellow attended the meeting virtually. 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.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 19, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilpersons Boyle and Danison who abstained due to being absent from the January 19, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported he attended the Medicount meeting on January 29, 2021. Councilperson Welsh stated one more Council member and two residents need added to the Charter Revision Committee. Councilperson Fox stated he would serve on the committee. Mayor Thompson appointed Jay Conrad to the Charter Revision Committee. Councilperson Bethel asked if they should post on the Village website that they are looking for another resident to serve on the Charter Revision Committee.

Finance Director Rockwell stated she is still working on closing out the 2020 calendar year. Rockwell reported she has been working to get time keeping up and running. Rockwell stated it has been going smooth, but there are a lot of new employees to add to the software.

Administrator Powell reported the Nuzum Bridge project is still on schedule. Powell stated right-of-ways are in progress. Powell stated the powder coating of the tree grates is complete. Powell informed Council that Lee Conkel from Poggemeyer Design Group is going to give him a count later this week of how many hydrants need replaced. Powell told Fire Chief Fain when this is complete, he will give him a copy. Powell reported he spoke with Nate Simons about the HAPCAP grant that is due May 1, 2021. Powell stated he told Simons he could hold a public meeting in the Village Municipal Building in March. The meeting is part of the grant application and requests public input. Powell stated Rockwell can set up Zoom for the meeting. Powell stated the grant is for up to \$750,000. Councilperson Chute stated the street in front of the Post Office is still wavy and she feels it was not repaired properly. Powell stated that Brown Street will be paved in calendar year 2022 or 2023. Chute disagrees with waiting that long to have it repaired properly. Chute stated the current repair is not acceptable. Councilperson Fox agreed with Chute. Mayor Thompson asked if this is something the paving company did or if it is just the way it will be. Councilperson Welsh stated he thinks every paving job should be ground down before paving begins. All Council agreed all streets should be ground down before paving even if it means less streets get paved. Chute asked Powell to provide a list of the streets to be paved by the next Finance Committee meeting. Powell stated Pleasant Street will be ground down before paving. Powell stated the short streets to be paved will not be ground down because there is no curb. Welsh stated they should still be ground down even if no curb exists. Chute stated Finance Director Rockwell and herself will be updating the white board with Village projects in the meeting room and need the information on paving streets. Mayor Thompson stated the paving needs done correctly to insure the longevity of the paving. Chute asked Powell to contact the company that paved Brown Street to inquire about the repairs that were made. Mayor Thompson asked Powell about the two positions that needed filled at the Public Service Department. Powell stated Rex Howdyshell started last week and Josh Holcomb will start on February 4, 2021. Powell stated they are still looking for a part-time Water Clerk. The prospect they had did not want part-time. Powell stated he feels this is the best staff they have had in years. Mayor Thompson stated the dumpster has been removed by the Senior Center and he wants the area graveled properly this time.

Police Chief Ervin stated he researched data from the courts and for the past 3 to 5 years and the department averages 1.5 citations a day. Ervin stated 480 calls have gone through dispatch. They are averaging 15 calls per day. Ervin stated if minimum wage goes up to \$15 it will have a huge impact on all budgets. Ervin reported they are going to have operational issues at the 911 Center dealing with MARCS radios. Ervin stated the Village cannot get on board because they do not have enough radios. Ervin reported it would cost \$112,000 for Police to get radios needed to comply. Fire Chief Fain stated they would need 35 radios at a cost of \$8,000 per radio to comply. Ervin stated he may have to request the radios and have Council decline to purchase them. Mayor Thompson stated he respectfully replied to the County concerning the MARCS radios. Administrator Powell informed Ervin the Public Service Department stated dispatch did a great job over the weekend with the weather-related calls.

Fire Chief Fain reported in the month of January EMS had 167 runs with 88 transports and 79 non transports. Fain stated this is over a 50% transport rate. Fain stated a lot of questions were answered at the meeting with Medicount last week. Fain stated they have an excellent support system. Chute thanked Water Clerk Saffell for all her work helping with the EMS billing transition. Chute stated she is waiting to hear from the attorney concerning the contract with Medicount.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on January 22, 2021. Chute stated the committee discussed the hydrants that need replaced, repairs to the road to the Water Treatment Plant, the brush clean up on State Street, street sweeping, and the blanket Purchase Orders needed for Heavener. Chute scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on February 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building. Chute stated Lee Conkel will attend the meeting. Councilperson Bethel asked if the Village could hire a full-time water clerk and have Saffell as the part-time person to help with all other departments in the Administration office. Mayor Thompson asked why one department is getting a blanket purchase order when it was previously turned down for another department. Finance Director Rockwell stated Fire/EMS has blanket purchase orders for towing and for miscellaneous parts. Rockwell stated she discussed with Police Chief Ervin if he wanted an open purchase order and he declined. Rockwell explained you do not want to tie up too much money in blanket purchase orders because that will affect their budget. Blanket purchase orders should be used for after hour emergencies. Finance Director Rockwell explained the change to the allocation of funds for the storm sewer and sewer.

Councilperson Chute made a motion for Bob Heavener's contract to have a blanket purchase order for \$20,000 for water, \$60,000 for storm sewer and \$20,000 for sewer. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to allocate storm sewer to its own fund beginning January 1, 2021. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Fall Festival Committee meeting held on January 13, 2021. Boyle stated they are hosting a fund raiser at the Eagles in April. Boyle stated she contacted Tim Deavers regarding the disc golf course at the park. Deavers advised Boyle to contact Wayne Nelson to move the basket to a drier area.

Councilperson Boyle stated she purchased the supplies needed for John Bowers to make a blessing box to put in MacGahan Park. Chief Ervin asked Boyle if they could place it to be accessed from the sidewalk. Boyle stated "yes".

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document. Chute asked Councilperson Bethel about the annexation. Bethel stated he would like the Attorney's opinion on where to start. Chute stated the Ohio Revised Code is on the working document which will give him the information he needs. Bethel stated he will check into it.

Finance Director Rockwell stated that Jennifer Sitterley is no longer with the Law Firm the Village used to contract with. Rockwell has updated contact information and will reach out to Sitterley for the Records Committee.

Councilperson Chute requested an executive session.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding discipline with Council, Mayor and Administrator Powell present. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:54 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 8:12 pm.

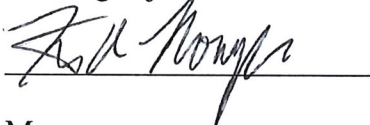
Councilperson Welsh stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion that two Council members will be present during all job interviews within the Village. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain asked how this will be done in their departments. Mayor Thompson stated department heads will contact Council President Welsh after scheduling an interview and Welsh will get two Council members to be present for the interview. If Council members are not available, the department head will proceed with the interview. 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 8:21 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk