

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
February 19, 2019
6:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Acting Mayor Trent Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 PM. Council Members present were Trent Thompson, Susan Boyle, Dan Bethel, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, James Welsh and Jeff Danison. 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 February 4, 2019 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Boyle who abstained due to being absent from the February 4, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Thompson informed Council the court case between Mayor Ratliff and the Village of New Lexington / Village Council is final as of February 11, 2019. Thompson stated he would be accepting the Mayor position. Thompson informed Council they have thirty days from February 11, 2019 to fill the vacated seat on Council. Thompson stated Council will have to vote on a new Council President. Thompson also stated the committees would have to be updated. Thompson informed Council he attended an afterschool program led by Penny Murray for students who may be struggling in areas of math and reading. The program also helps advance students in social aspects and exploring career paths. Thompson informed Council he was contacted by Brian Kelso of Dagger Law who is leaving the firm and will no longer be available to represent the Village. Kelso recommended Alyssa Parrott of Dagger Law for the Village to contract with for legal services. Thompson stated he received an email from Parrott and will have Administrator Powell contact Parrott to discuss a contract. Thompson thanked the New Lexington Fire/EMS and neighboring departments on a job well done at the commercial structure fire on Broadway Street last week. Thompson also commended the Village Police Department and other agencies for their work on the threats made to the New Lexington City Schools last week.

Councilperson Chute inquired about the qualifications of Attorney Parrott from Dagger Law. Thompson stated she has a strong background in the criminal process and litigation. Chute inquired why the committees for 2019 need to be modified. Thompson stated the Mayor can only serve on certain committees. Councilperson Chute stated that technically the 2019 committees were temporary when put in place in January. Councilperson Chute made a motion for Councilperson Bethel to serve as Council President for the remainder of 2019. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the December 2018 Bank Reconciliation and the December 2018 Financial Reports. Rockwell stated she is still preparing the footnotes and management's discussion and analysis before uploading the Annual Financial Reports to the State of Ohio. Rockwell informed Council the auditors will be on site to begin the Village audit on March 6, 7 and 8, 2019. Rockwell presented Council with Resolution 19-2 which was requested by the New Lexington Cemetery Clerk. Rockwell stated the Clerk wanted to get

started on the renewal of the cemetery levy. Rockwell stated a second resolution will be prepared to place the levy renewal on the ballot. Rockwell informed Council that the Fire and EMS Fund recovered \$70,658 in 2018 leaving a remaining deficit of \$83,970. Rockwell presented Council with the January 2019 credit card statement. Rockwell stated there was a fraudulent charge on the card of \$30.88. When Rockwell contacted the credit card company they informed Rockwell that other charges were trying to be made on the account but it had been locked preventing additional charges. The credit card company agreed to remove the fraudulent charge. Rockwell stated the credit card company has closed the current account and will issue the Village a new card with a new number.

Administrator Powell informed Council the Village received \$2,706.60 for the month of January 2019 from the \$10.00 vehicle license plate tax. This tax is processed through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Powell stated he received one application for the pool manager for the 2019 season. Powell stated he is going to call and schedule a meeting with the applicant. Powell informed Council the Wastewater Treatment Plant project is behind schedule by 58 days due to weather. Powell stated the company is asking for a sixty day extension to complete the project. Powell informed Council he is going to look into the inspector fees for the project. Powell informed Council he received returned certified mail from the owner of 327 Elizabeth Street. Powell stated he has to check with the Perry County Auditor's office to verify the owner is executor of the estate at 811 Saint Clair Street, then the escrow can be released.

Councilperson Bethel inquired about the \$10.00 license plate tax and how it is deposited. Finance Director Rockwell stated Ohio Revised Code dictates that 92 ½ % go to the Street Fund and 7 ½ % goes to the State Highway Fund. Bethel asked if the money was already dedicated to a project. Finance Director Rockwell stated it was committed to the Streetscape project. Councilperson Boyle asked Administrator Powell about his discussion with Bob Jablonski on Friday, February 15, 2019. Powell informed Council local people have expressed an interest in volunteering to extend the swimming pool fence out further to have a gazebo and umbrella tables for some shade. Powell stated Poggemeyer would like to apply for a Parks and Recreation grant for the Village. Powell stated the ceiling in the old shelter house needs fixed to keep the birds out. Powell stated the street department spends two to three hours a week during the season power washing to have it clean for the rentals. Councilperson Welsh stated the restrooms are in bad shape at the park and Councilperson Boyle stated the electric needs upgraded. Councilperson Bethel inquired if a grant for the swimming pool could also be used for upgrades at the park. Councilperson Chute inquired who wanted to extend the swimming pool fence. Councilperson Boyle stated the 4th of July committee was looking into helping with this. Judy Cannon is scheduled to speak to Council at the March 4, 2019 Council meeting. Powell stated the ceiling in the shelter house could be done for under \$5,000. Mayor Thompson asked if the ceiling in the shelter house could be completed by the Street Department. Councilperson Chute stated the ceiling was discussed last year and should already have been completed by the Street Department. Chute inquired as to why it wasn't completed. Powell stated it would take the Street Department approximately five to seven days to complete. Powell stated he went and got a bid for the project which was under \$5,000. Chute stated if Council instructed Powell to have the Street Department fix the ceiling it should have been fixed. Chute stated she did not want to pay someone else to do the project when the Street Department has always taken care of those types of repairs in the past. Councilperson Bethel asked if an amount of money had been approved for

the fireworks for the 4th of July. Finance Director Rockwell stated it was to be included in the permanent budget for \$10,000 if feasible. Police Chief Ervin requested Administrator Powell contact the fireworks company to check on current prices to see how much is needed for a good display.

Police Chief Ervin stated on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 the department assisted the drug task force with an arrest of a 39 year old female for bringing large amounts of methamphetamines into the area. Ervin reported to Council at 8:00 pm on February 13, 2019 the police department addressed social media threats to New Lexington City Schools. Ervin stated he can't say enough about the excellent communication with the community in this situation. Ervin stated the family cooperated 100% to bring the situation to an end. Ervin reported an adult was charged on Friday, February 15, 2019 and a juvenile was charged on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. Ervin stated the school and Homeland Security worked well with the New Lexington Police Department to resolve the threat. The department received 18 calls for service over the holiday weekend.

Fire Chief Fain reported that EMS responded to 73 runs in the month of January, and so far in February they have responded to 52 runs with a transport rate of 60-65 %. Fain stated the department responded to two structure fires and eight motor vehicle incidents. Fain informed Council the Red Cross and Fire Department are going to conduct a smoke alarm canvass in the Village. The group will provide smoke alarms to those in need of one and will offer to inspect alarms people already have. Fain stated they need all the volunteers they can get for this project. Fain expressed his thanks to the Thorn Township Fire Department for the exercise equipment they donated to the Fire/EMS Department. Councilperson Chute asked if they will have the smoke alarms with them to install during the canvass. Fain stated "yes". Councilperson Bethel asked if the fire department keeps smoke alarms on site to give to anyone who needs one. Fain stated they have some on site and are trying to get more. Fain requested copies of the 2019 Township contracts for fire and EMS services from Administrator Powell.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on February 14, 2019. Bethel stated Fire Chief Fain presented Standard Operating Procedures regarding training that was stated to be legally enforceable by Attorney Sitterley. Bethel informed Council the committee approved the Standard Operating Procedures regarding training.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held on February 5, 2019. Boyle stated the committee discussed several fundraisers for the Fall Festival. Boyle stated the festival will be held on October 12, 2019 from 12 noon till 10:00 pm. Boyle stated the rides will run from 12 noon till 6:00 pm. Boyle reported the cost of three rides is \$3,925 which requires a 25% deposit. The next Parks and Recreation meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute informed Mayor Thompson that he is now in charge of the Records Committee. Finance Director Rockwell stated the Mayor is the Chairman of the committee. Chute asked if Council wanted to wait until they have a contract with an attorney before moving forward with the records retention schedule.

Councilperson Chute inquired about the progress of the timeclocks. Finance Director Rockwell stated that all items are on hold until year end is complete. Chute asked Administrator Powell about the progress of the issues with the insurance. Powell stated he would contact them on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Police Chief Ervin stated he had to reschedule the meeting with the IT Company due to urgent police business that needed his attention the day the meeting was scheduled.

Fire Chief Fain requested a motion to approve the purchase of two LifePak heart monitors as presented to the Finance Committee. Councilperson Welsh made a motion approving the purchase of two LifePak heart monitors. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 19-2 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 19-2: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-2 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 19-1 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution 19-1: **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO A CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-1 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

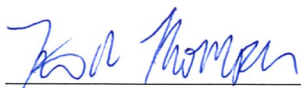
Councilperson Bethel stated a Finance Committee meeting would not be scheduled until further notice.

Police Chief Ervin stated Attorney Baughman has done a great job of preparing subpoenas for the Police Department.


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 7:25 pm.



Mayor



Council Clerk