

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

March 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 6:32 PM. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Doug Fox, Jim Welsh, Kathy Chute, Jeff Danison, Susan Boyle and Susan Goodfellow. 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 February 16, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Randy Ayers discussed the renewal of employee medical insurance with Council. Ayers stated negotiated a 5% increase beginning 4/1/21. Ayers stated Anthem added sleep consultation and home sleep testing consultation to the services added.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion accept the renewal of the employee insurance with Anthem with Administrator Powell executing the contract. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he has been attending the Finance Committee meetings.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the December and January monthly financial reports and bank reconciliations. Rockwell stated the 2020 Financial Statements are completed and uploaded to the State. Rockwell guided Council to look at the Fund Status reports that she supplied. Rockwell stated the reports show the balance of each fund at the end of 2020. Rockwell stated the Fire/EMS fund carried over \$81,527 at the end of 2020. Rockwell stated after expenses in January the Fire/EMS fund had a balance of \$67,074. Rockwell stated she sent the January reports to Fire Chief Fain today. February reports will be sent within 2 weeks. Rockwell stated she is working on the forecasts for the Finance Committee. Rockwell asked Council if they would like to attend the Finance Committee meeting to reduce the number of meetings and presentations. Mayor Thompson stated he thought that was a good idea and asked if anyone else had comments. Councilperson Chute stated Fire Chief Fain asked for a baseline budget at the Finance Committee meeting. Rockwell stated the baseline budget will be ready on 3/8/21. Chute told Fain once he receives his baseline budget, he needs to bring the items that are not included in his budget back to the Finance Committee for the Finance Committee to review so Rockwell can forecast. Councilperson Danison asked if this is going to be completed before the deadline. Rockwell stated they could hold a special meeting on March 29, 2021 to pass the budget and this would meet the deadline of March 31, 2021. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled with Fire Chief Fain on March 13, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Municipal Building. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for March 20, 2021 at the Municipal Building at 10:00 am with all of Council invited. A Special Council meeting to approve the 2021 budget is scheduled for March 29, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building. Councilperson Chute asked about the fund balance for the sidewalk improvement. Chute asked if this loan has been paid back in full. Rockwell stated it had not and she will have to investigate this.

Councilperson Danison thanked Mrs. Snider for the letter the Village received from her regarding all the upgrades in the Village. Councilperson Bethel asked Finance Director Rockwell what the names on the bank reconciliation were for outstanding payments. Rockwell stated these are payments that the Village made for services and the checks were never cashed. Bethel asked what she did with them. Rockwell stated they must be held as unclaimed funds for five years.

Administrator Powell reported he delivered the check to District 5 last Wednesday for the Nuzem Street Bridge acquisitions. Powell stated the Streetscape project had some small electrical issues that were resolved last Thursday. Powell stated the project should be closed out soon. Powell stated the Village may still owe an additional amount on the project. The project should be closed by mid-March. Powell stated he received a couple bids on cleaning out the creek on State and Water Street. Powell stated one bid was for \$46,900 and the other bid was around \$13,000 to chip it and blow the chips back onto the bank. Powell stated he received a bid to pave the area on High Street between Water Street and Factory Street for \$25,200 for two-inch-thick pavement and \$35,000 for three inches. Powell stated the Public Service Department could patch this area with hot mix and roll it in and this should last for a couple years. McKee paving looked at Brown Street and stated the AT&T manhole needs raised about an inch. Powell stated Steve from McKee paving has written off on the repair and could not see anything wrong. Councilperson Chute asked if he drove on it. Powell stated "yes". Councilperson Fox stated it was not a sink hole; it is the finish coat on it. Fox stated it has waves in it. Councilperson Goodfellow asked about another area on Brown Street. Powell stated that was done by Columbia Gas. Councilperson Danison asked if the gas company was going to fix all the areas that they have disrupted. Powell stated "yes". Mayor Thompson asked Powell to oversee this to make sure everything is repaired. Councilperson Chute stated Finance Director Rockwell will have to forecast the clean up on State and Water Street. Rockwell asked which quote they would like to forecast. Chute stated to start the forecast with \$46,900 from the street fund. Councilperson Danison asked if we were still asking County Engineer Cannon for help. Powell stated Cannon does not have the equipment to handle the cleanup.

Police Chief Ervin stated they had 903 calls for service in 2021. Ervin stated St. Rose approached him regarding holding a drive through fish fry on March 26, 2021 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. They would like to make the alley one way traffic from Water Street to Brown Street. Ervin did not see any issues with this.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion for one way traffic on March 26, 2021 in the alley between High Street and Main Street going from Water Street to Brown Street. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Danison asked Ervin if they had their internet issues corrected. Ervin and Rockwell stated they are currently working on it.

Fire Chief Fain reported for the month of February EMS had 125 runs with 74 transports. Fain stated they had a 55% transport rate. Fain provided Council with a update from Medicount. Rockwell stated the Village received a payment from Medicount today for around \$12,000. Rockwell stated payments from Medicare are directly deposited to the Village. Councilperson Chute asked Fain if he reached out to Heath at Medicount. Fain stated he left Heath a message but has not heard back.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on February 23, 2021. Chute stated Lee Conkel was in attendance and provided the costs of current projects. Chute stated she and Finance Director Rockwell will be updating the whiteboard tomorrow.

Councilperson Goodfellow reported on the Municipal Concerns Committee meeting held on February 23, 2021. Goodfellow stated Jamie Snider from the Board of Elections presented the committee with changes they would like to make to the property. One of the changes is to make the alley behind the building one way.

Administrator Powell stated they wanted to put a drop box in. Powell stated he is researching making the alley one way. Powell stated he needs to speak to Waste Management and another thing to consider is that is a fire lane. Mayor Thompson stated the Village will not relinquish the fire lane.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document. Chute stated the contract for Medicount was done in the wrong order. Chute stated the Village Attorney should have looked at the contract before Administrator Powell signed it. Chute stated Attorney Everitt looked at the contract and has some concerns. Chute stated it is too late to change it, but she would like the e-mail that was received by Attorney Everitt put in the file with the contract.

Councilperson Danison inquired about the Lempco building. Councilperson Chute state they need to pinpoint who owns it and is responsible for the property. Mayor Thompson stated there is more to cleaning up the property than demolishing the building. Thompson stated there is metric tons of contaminated soil on the property.

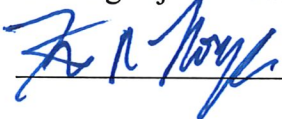
Councilperson Danison made a motion for Administrator Powell to contact the owner of the Lempco property by letter inquiring what their intentions are for the property. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Bethel who voted "no". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-2 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.
Resolution No. 21-2: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NEW LEXINGTON SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR TO BE THE PRIMARY CONTACT ON A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE TO BUILD A WALKING TRAIL FOR NEW LEXINGTON SCHOOLS AND TO SUBMIT THE SAME TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. THIS RESOLUTION IS REQUIRED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS THE NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL IS THE LOCAL JURISDICTION FOR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SCHOOL DISTRICT. THIS RESOLUTION IS HEREBY DECLARED TO BE AN EMERGENCY MEASURE TO TAKE EFFECT AND BE IN FORCE IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS PASSAGE TO MEET THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL APPLICATION DEADLINE.
Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-2 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

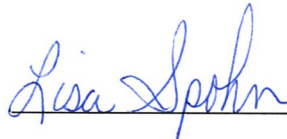
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk