

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

March 2, 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 Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, Jeff Danison, Doug Fox and James Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Administrator Bo Powell and Fire Chief Jim Fain. Absent was Councilperson Dan Bethel.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Bethel from the March 2, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 18, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the February 18, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson presented Leliah Castro, a senior at New Lexington High School and member of the wrestling team, a proclamation from the Village of New Lexington for her achievement. Leliah is the first to obtain the honor of the Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association Girls State Wrestling Tournament Champion.

Debra Rainy addressed Council concerning the Safe Routes to School grant application. Rainy stated the New Lexington Schools sit within the Village Council's jurisdiction. Rainy stated the Ohio Department of Transportation has very specific guidelines for applying for the grant. Rainy informed Council the Village does not have to take over the grant application. The Village can appoint someone per ODOT requirements. Rainy presented Council with a Resolution that states Council is aware a Safe Routes to School grant application is to be submitted for New Lexington Schools. The Resolution also states that Council is willing to appoint the Perry County Mobility Manager, Lisa Leckrone, to be the primary contact on the Safe Routes to School grant application. Rainy informed Council they are requesting assistance from the Ohio Department of Transportation to develop a School Travel Plan for New Lexington Schools. Rainy stated eventually they would like to apply for an infrastructure grant. Rainy informed Council that ODOT will provide them with a consultant to help develop the School Travel Plan. Rainy stated the Safe Routes to School application is due March 6, 2020. Rainy stated no money will change hands. Rainy reported that once the Travel Plan is in place they can apply for infrastructure money which would be Phase II of the Project. Councilperson Chute informed Council this is a separate project from the Carroll Street Corridor Project. Rainy stated the grant is 100% paid if accepted. Rainy stated the Carroll Street Corridor Project and the Safe Routes to School project need to come together at the same time. Rainy stated she was there to ask Council to pass the Resolution appointing Lisa Leckrone as the primary contact for the grant application and to submit the application. Rainy also provided Council a letter of support for the grant application. Rainy stated every grant application requires a letter of support. Rainy stated they should have the results back from the grant application between May and June 2020.

Councilperson Fox made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 20-08 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 20-08: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PERRY COUNTY MOBILITY MANAGER TO BE THE PRIMARY CONTACT ON A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP A SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN (STP) 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.

Rainy informed Council she was in the process of writing sample tobacco resolutions. Rainy stated it was suggested she present the resolutions to the Planning/Economic Development Committee first. Council Clerk Spohn will inform Councilperson Bethel to contact Rainy to schedule a meeting in mid-March.

Doug Fox addressed Council requesting a motion for the Village of New Lexington to be a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary to maintain the right to keep and bear arms under the United States Constitution and that right to not be infringed upon. Council and Fox discussed the Village being a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary. George Adams addressed Council regarding the Village becoming a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary. Councilperson Fox made a motion for the Village to be a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Chute who voted "no". Motion carried. A Resolution will be brought to the next council meeting to document the Villages 2nd Amendment Sanctuary status.

Fire Chief Fain reported the second medic has been busy. Fain stated they had 176 runs in February. The first medic responded to 116 runs and the second medic responded to 60 runs. Thirty-three runs of the 60 were transports. Fain stated he did not want to increase the hours for EMS until they see what the revenue was February. Councilperson Chute asked Fain about the status of the Township contracts. Fain stated he had one left to get from Pleasant Township which he will get next week. Chute stated she would like to start having those by the first of the year. Fain stated starting next year they will do three-year contracts.

Mayor Thompson stated the Women's Auxiliary for the Veterans of Foreign Wars presented certificates of appreciation to Police Chief Ervin, Fire Chief Fain and himself. Thompson stated he and Administrator Powell attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Board of DD offices.

Finance Director Rockwell reported the Village 2019 audit will begin next week. Rockwell provided Council Related Party Questionnaires to be returned to her by Wednesday, March 11, 2020 to give to the auditors. Rockwell stated she has the link for the draft website if Council would like to see it and make suggestions for changes if needed. Rockwell stated she could present the website at the next Council meeting. Mayor Thompson stated that would be great. Rockwell presented Council with an Ordinance for 2020 Supplemental Temporary Appropriations and a Resolution to establish a Rehoboth Sewer fund.

Administrator Powell informed Council that 22 customers in Rehoboth are hooked into the new sewer system and have been billed in March for February usage. Powell stated he and Street Superintendent Hicks are checking the area on a regular basis to see if there are any new customers hooked up to the sewer. Powell stated he would be presenting a Resolution at the next Council meeting for the Village to take over the Rehoboth Sewer Project. Councilperson Chute stated she was under the impression the contract stated the Village would take over the project in twelve months. Powell stated it did not say twelve months. The twelve months was the warranty on the pipes and building. Powell stated he is taking the electric bills back to the commissioners for payment. Powell stated the Village would take over payments once a Resolution was passed stating the Village was taking over the Rehoboth Sewer Line. Councilperson Chute stated she would like to see how one billing cycle goes and the electric bills are paid before the Village takes ownership of the project. Finance Director Rockwell asked Powell if only 22 customers were billed in Rehoboth. Powell stated that is all that is currently hooked up. Powell stated there is a total of 22 residents out of 32 that are hooked up. Rockwell asked who is responsible for making the other 10 residents hook into the sewer line. Powell stated the EPA. Councilperson Chute stated we should not take ownership until all residents are hooked into the sewer. Mayor Thompson requested

Powell contact Mitch Altier and have him attend the next Council meeting to answer questions from Council. Powell informed Council the preconstruction meeting for the Pleasant Street Bridge is March 20, 2020 at the ODOT District Five office. Powell reported Chuck Hicks will be attending the meeting in his place because he will be out of town. Powell stated he and Hicks attended the preconstruction meeting for the Perry County Board of DD. Powell gave Council paperwork for the streetscape project and ask them to vote on colors and designs of the trash bins, lamp posts, benches and brick patterns.

Police Chief Ervin presented Council charts showing the call volume by day and by time since January 1, 2020. Ervin stated all the property maintenance complaints are being addressed but it is a slow process. Ervin stated he was made aware of an issue on an alley running North and South off Eastern Ave. Ervin stated the department spoke to the owner about cleaning it up and they have made some progress. Ervin stated he met with the Harcum House who deals with the Child Advocacy Center for the Village. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Ervin stated they are drafting an agreement on a homeless shelter. Councilperson Danison asked where this homeless shelter is supposed to be located. Ervin stated rumors are on High Street. Mayor Thompson stated more must be done than just making a motion to stop this from taking place. Thompson stated the Village needs to do it by Ordinance. Councilperson Chute stated Council should get a legal opinion before making changes to the zoning laws. Administrator Powell stated he has reached out to the attorney and has information in his office. Mayor Thompson stated Powell is to get this information to him immediately so they know what to bring to the next meeting. Ervin reported that on February 21, 2020 the Police Department participated in the Cancer Alliance Fundraiser Basketball Game with the Junction City Elementary Teachers. Ervin stated Frank Newlon came and got the safe that was left in the building when it was purchased by the Village. Ervin stated there is another group wanting to put a domestic violence shelter in the Village. Ervin stated the department participated in the New Lexington Elementary Career Day. Ervin informed Council there was a Think Tank meeting with the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections in attendance. Ervin stated one of the officers attended the meeting in his place. Ervin stated the discussion at the meeting was transitional housing. Ervin stated he prefers not to see a halfway house in the Village.

Councilperson Chute scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for March 5, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held on February 19, 2020. Boyle stated the committee presented Administrator Powell with job descriptions for the pool manager and lifeguards. Boyle stated the swimming pool will go back to photo membership cards this season. Boyle reported they discussed appointing a head lifeguard to be in charge when the pool manager is unable to be at the pool. Boyle stated the committee discussed painting the gazebo at the park and planting flowers around it. Boyle informed Council she is going to ask the Boy Scouts if they need a project and would like to build flower beds around the gazebo. Boyle stated they are working on getting the spotlight working on the welcome sign at the corner of Broadway Street and State Route 13 and planting flowers there. Boyle stated they are going to clean out their flower beds and donate them to anyone who would like to start a flower bed on their property. Mayor Thompson asked if they were going to control how many lifeguards were on duty at one time. Boyle stated this would be up the pool manager. Thompson stated this will have to be monitored this season. Police Chief Ervin stated the road going into the park needs widened. Council discussed making an entrance and exit so traffic moves one way. Mayor Thompson stated this should go to a committee.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to move the cable to widen the entrance road to the park. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute asked Mayor Thompson if he had the information from the Perry County Commissioners. Thompson stated he had part of the information. A Public Safety Committee meeting was scheduled for March 9, 2020 at 5:30 at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-06 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-06: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 19-23 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE SEWER OPERATING AND SEWER BOND FUNDS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-06 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 20-07 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution 20-07: **A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO REQUEST APPROVAL FROM THE AUDITOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO ESTABLISH A REHOBOTH SEWER FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-07 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute presented Council with the new letterhead that all departments will be using.

Councilperson Danison suggested Council try to refrain from having emergency legislation as much as possible.

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

Meeting suspended at 8:34 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 9:07 pm.

Councilperson Goodfellow stated no decisions were made as a result of the 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 9:08 pm.



Mayor



Council Clerk