

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

March 16, 2020

6:30 PM

MUNICIPAL 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, Dan Bethel, Kathy Chute, James Welsh, Dan Bethel and Doug Fox. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Administrator Bo Powell and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Spencer. Absent was Councilperson Jeff Danison and Susan Goodfellow.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to excuse Councilperson Danison and Goodfellow from the March 16, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 2, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Bethel who abstained due to being absent from the March 2, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Mitch Altier was present to answer questions from Council on the Rehoboth Sewer Project. Bethel ask Altier to give Council an update as to where they are with the project. Altier stated a letter was sent to the residents of Rehoboth stating any questions on the construction of the sewer project should be addressed to the County and for questions on the billing they should contact the New Lexington Administrator. Altier stated 21 of the 32 residents qualified for funding to hook laterals into the sewer. Altier stated the Village should send letters to the other 11 residents about being hooked into the sewer. Councilperson Chute stated the County should be sending the letters not the Village. All Council agreed the sewer project in Rehoboth was mandated by the EPA to the County. Council and Altier discussed the project. Councilperson Chute stated she would go on record stating the Village does not need to do anything for the remainder of the residents in Rehoboth that are not hooked into the sewer. Chute stated she was under the impression the Village would not take over the project for twelve months after everyone in Rehoboth was connected to the sewer. Mayor Thompson stated Administrator Powell will attend the Commissioners meeting on Wednesday for more information.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Spencer reported to Council that EMS responded to 96 runs from March 1 through March 15, 2020. Spencer stated 55 of those runs were transports. Spencer reported 50 were ALS calls and 40 of those calls were responded to by the second crew. Spencer stated Fire Chief Fain requested a Finance Committee meeting. Council stated they would schedule one later. Spencer stated the department received a pickup truck free of charge from the Division of Forestry. Spencer stated they had to replace the brakes on the truck. Spencer stated they will have the lights and radios donated. Councilperson Chute asked about the Fire/EMS Township Contracts. Mayor Thompson stated he had a Township Trustee from Pike Township ask him why they had not received their copy of the contract. Mayor Thompson stated the townships should have a signed copy of the contract. Thompson stated he got the Pike Township contract signed and a copy returned to them. Councilperson Chute stated she asked at every Council meeting if the contracts have been completed and Fire Chief Fain stated they were done. Councilperson Chute told Spencer to relay the message to Fire Chief Fain that all township contracts are to be signed and delivered to them immediately. Mayor Thompson stated he will take care of the issue with the township contracts.

Mayor Thompson informed Council he is in contact with Police Chief Ervin daily to keep him updated on the COVID 19 virus in case safety measures need put in place. Councilperson Chute stated she thought if people can work from home and want to, they should. Chute stated the Village should be proactive during the COVID 19 virus, not reactive. Council discussed several measures to take due to the COVID 19 virus. Thompson stated he was unable to attend the meeting at the Health Department. Councilpersons Chute and Welsh stated they could fill in for Mayor Thompson if needed to attend a meeting.

Finance Director Rockwell stated the new web site was displayed on the projector for anyone who would like to look at it. Rockwell presented Council with the February 2020 financial statements and bank reconciliation. Rockwell presented Council with a 2020 Amended Certificate of Estimate Resources and an Ordinance for the permanent budget. Rockwell presented Council with the list of approved items from each department wish list that was put in the permanent budget. Councilperson Bethel asked, under the circumstances if they are still comfortable with passing the budget. Rockwell stated the budget must be in place by March 31, 2020. Councilperson Chute stated the budget will not be changed unless an emergency arises. Rockwell informed Council the seasonal part-time employee for the parks was budgeted out of the General Fund. Councilperson Chute informed Administrator Powell he will have to watch the swimming pool payroll, so it does not get out of control like last year. Chute stated if the payroll gets out of control the parks employee will be let go.

Administrator Powell informed Council that LAFF camp would like to use the shelter house free of charge from June 16-19, 2020. Councilperson Bethel made a motion for the LAFF camp to use the shelter house for free from June 16-19, 2020. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell stated he received a bid to fix the drain in the Municipal Building parking lot for \$12,040. Powell stated McKee Paving gave him a quote of \$18,750 to pave the parking lot. Finance Director Rockwell asked if a second quote was needed per the procurement policy. Council asked Powell to get a second quote. Powell stated the preconstruction meeting is scheduled to be held through Skype on March 18, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Powell reported the Pleasant Street Bridge preconstruction meeting will be held on March 20, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Powell reported Nate from ODOT will skip the area for the streetscape during the Fall Festival. Powell informed Council the Landbank has a lot on Swigart Street near the New Lexington Cemetery that five people are interested in. Powell stated the Landbank would like to give it to the Village. Powell stated it would be an ideal location if the Village ever wanted to put a water tower there. Councilperson Bethel asked if the Landbank would remove the trailer that is sitting on the lot. Powell stated "yes". Councilperson Bethel made a motion to go into contract with the Landbank for the property on Swigart Street. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell stated the bid for the ADA compliant ramp at Walnut Street and Church Street was \$3,080. Administrator Powell reported to Council, Water Clerk Saffell was asked by HAPCAP if water shut offs would be delayed due to the COVID 19 virus. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend water shut offs until April 7, 2020. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Police Chief Ervin stated this is DD month and the department has been working with the Board of DD and participating in activities up until Tuesday when everything was canceled. Ervin stated he attended the Suicide Prevention meeting and Drug Coalition meeting. Ervin stated he has been working with the Health Department on the Safe Routes to School. Ervin reported he attended the Public Safety meeting. Ervin reported the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee is working on fundraisers. Ervin stated the department participated in the Cancer basketball game with the school. Ervin presented Council with an Ordinance for parking at St. Rose. Ervin stated the 911 plan Council was asking for was completed. Ervin stated he spoke with the Commissioners on March 10, 2020. Ervin stated he attended the TAC meeting on March 10, 2020. Ervin reported on March 10, 2020 he attended the Health Assessment Plan meeting. Ervin stated he spoke with the Health Commissioner concerning the COVID 19 virus. Ervin stated they are trying to keep everyone updated on the situation. Ervin reported he was contacted and told to get a list together for the EMA of things they will need for the next sixty days. Ervin stated they were updated that the State is 70 days out. Ervin stated what we can do is get the most accurate information as possible. Ervin stated the Village needs to follow the procedures EMA puts in place to qualify for funding if necessary. Mayor Thompson stated all EMS personnel are having their temperature taken before their shift. Ervin stated the Health Commissioner has done everything possible to inform the public.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 5, 2020. Chute reported the Committee discussed the wish lists for all departments for the 2020 budget. Chute stated the Committee discussed dispatching and how much should be budgeted for 2020. Chute stated the Committee opted to remove

the fence slats for the Broadway Park and add electric upgrades at MacGahan Park and a ceiling in the new shelter house. Chute stated for the Street Department the Committee opted to remove the snow blower and obtain a quote from Bob Heavener Excavating for rental of a street sweeper. The Committee decided to hire a park worker from April 15 through October 15 and pay a salary of \$300 per week. The park worker will also handle cleaning the shelter house on weekends for rentals. The Committee discussed hiring a person to clean the Municipal Building two days per week and an assistant street superintendent. Chute stated the Committee discussed using a \$1,000 donation from Waste Management for the Fall Festival. Chute stated the Committee directed Administrator Powell to request Permissive Tax Funds from the County Engineer in August 2020 for 2020 Paving. Chute reported Fire Chief Fain was requesting access to the UAN Financial system. Chute stated they are looking into giving him read only access to Financial reports.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Fall Festival Committee meeting held on March 4, 2020. Boyle stated the committee discussed the candy and bake sale scheduled for April 9, 10, 2020. Boyle stated they discussed the fundraiser at the Eagles. Boyle reported she received the contract for the stage for the Fall Festival and will need Administrator Powell to sign it. Boyle stated a meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Boyle stated Jenny LaRue provided her with a picture of the bike park. Councilperson Bethel stated he would like to combine the Parks and Recreation and Planning /Economic Development Committee meetings when discussing the bike park. Boyle stated she had an application to fill out for a donation/grant from Pet Safe, a hidden fence company for a dog park. Boyle stated they will not accept applications until May 2020. Police Chief Ervin stated there should be some fence to use that was taken out of the ball parks.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Planning/Economic Development Committee meeting held on March 6, 2020. Bethel stated the Committee discussed homeless shelters, transitional housing, halfway houses and transition boarding and rooming houses. Bethel stated Police Chief Ervin does not feel there is a homeless issue in the Village. Bethel stated the Committee recommends Council take steps to prevent such housing within the Village. Bethel reported the Village Attorney informed Administrator Powell he thinks this is a bad idea. Bethel stated the current zoning book states you cannot change the use of an existing building or accessory building to a use not listed as a permitted use in the zoning district where the building is located. Bethel requested the Village Attorney attend the next Council meeting to answer any questions. Councilperson Chute stated High Street is not zoned for a homeless shelter.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting held on March 9, 2020. Chute stated Police Chief Ervin presented the Committee with a written proposal for the start up cost to have the Village Police Department dispatch their own calls. Chute stated Mayor Thompson and Councilperson Bethel spoke with the Perry County Commissioners for a price on 911 services. The Commissioners did not have a cost yet for dispatching services for the Village.

Administrator Powell requested an executive session after legislation is passed.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to file the 2020 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources with the Perry County Auditor. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-07 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-07: **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CODE TO PERMIT PARKING WHERE CURB IS PAINTED YELLOW, AT SPECIFIC LOCATION AND FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-8 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-8: **AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND DECLARING**

**AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-8 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 20-09 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes” except for Councilperson Chute who voted “no”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 20-09: **RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, COUNTY OF PERRY, AND THE STATE OF OHIO DECLARING THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON A SECOND AMENDMENT/LAWFUL GUN OWNER SANCTUARY VILLAGE AS DEFINED HEREIN.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(4) for employee compensation with the Council, Mayor and Administrator present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 8:35 pm for executive session.


Councilperson Chute made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.


Meeting resumed at 8:52 pm.

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

Councilperson Chute made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk