

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

April 1, 2019

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, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, James Welsh, Jeff Danison and Doug Fox. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Administrator Bo Powell and Fire Chief Jim Fain.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 18, 2019 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Don Epifano addressed Council concerning property erosion due to water running down West Water Street. Epifano stated when there are heavy rains the water from South Street and Water Street runs onto his property at 541 W. Water Street. Epifano stated it leaves debris on the property and causes basement flooding. He is worried about the foundation of the house and garage. Epifano informed Council he has tried several things to correct the problem, but it has been unsuccessful. He stated the problem started back in the 1980s when the street was paved and they paved over the old pavement, raising the street level even with the curb. Councilperson Chute stated this would normally go to the Municipal Concerns Committee, but since she is on that committee and she is related to Epifanos it should go to the Public Service Committee. Councilperson Danison, chairman of the Public Service Committee, stated he would schedule a meeting and contact Epifano.

Jim Organ presented Council with an overview of the employee insurance Premium Saver Plan. Organ explained the cost savings of the Village having a Premium Saver Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) verses a traditional Health Reimbursement Account. Councilperson Chute asked about the toolkit to enroll new employees. Finance Director Rockwell tried to use the toolkit, but it was not operational at the time. Chute stated the Village is also not receiving invoices for some insurances. Organ stated he was not aware of the toolkit not working. Organ stated the invoices were being mailed to the wrong place, but that has been corrected. Chute asked why Organ did not catch the issue with the invoices since no payments had been made. Chute asked why Finance Director Rockwell's e-mails were not being replied to. Finance Director Rockwell stated she is having trouble receiving secure e-mails from all sources but there is no issue with regular e-mails and the IT company is working on a solution. Chute requested Organ send the secure e-mails to Administrator Powell and regular e-mails to Rockwell to notify Rockwell that Powell has the secure e-mail. Finance Director Rockwell stated she didn't feel the Village should have to pay to overnight the payment for insurance since invoices weren't being mailed to the Village. Organ stated he would pay to have the payment overnighted. Rockwell asked Council if they intended to have employees pay 15% of the cost of the Premium Saver Plan like they do for the insurance coverages. Councilperson Bethel stated he didn't feel that would be fair to the employees because of the circumstances. Councilperson Bethel made a motion for the Village employees not to pay the 15% cost of the Health Reimbursement Account Premium Saver for 2019. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Bethel asked Organ if the Village can find out how much the Premium Saver pays out for 2019 to make future decisions on the HRA. Organ stated he will see if the information can be provided. Bethel asked if other public entities are using the Premium Saver Plan and Organ stated they are.

Dan Cech from the office of State Representative Larry Householder apologized to Council for missing the Council meeting he was scheduled to attend. Cech stated he will be the liaison to Householder's office for the Village and encourages Council to reach out to him any time they need something.

Mayor Thompson reported that he attended the Perry County Active Transportation Workshop at the Perry Behavioral Health Choices Activity Center on March 27, 2019. Thompson stated safe walkways and sidewalks are needed in several areas of the Village. Thompson stated he was sworn in by Judge Luann Cooperrider on March 29, 2019. Thompson stated Judge Cooperrider expressed an interest in having a community movie night near the Courthouse and Perry County Sheriff's Office. Cooperrider asked if it would be possible to close that section of Brown Street for the event.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources. Rockwell requested a motion to file the Amended Certificate with the Perry County Auditor. Rockwell also requested a motion to approve the February 2019 financial statements. Rockwell requested clarification about the wording to post the Parades and Assemblages permit on the website. Police Chief Ervin stated to post just the permit at this time and to post that the permit is not valid until it is signed by the Police Chief.

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

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the February 2019 Financial Statements and the February 2019 Bank Reconciliation as presented. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell informed Council he and Chuck Hicks will be attending an 811 Call Before You Dig safety meeting on April 3, 2019 in Zanesville, Ohio. Powell stated he will be going directly to Marietta following this meeting for an Issue 1 meeting. Powell stated he will be attending a Buckeye Hills Regional Council meeting on April 5, 2019. Powell informed Council he was receiving complaints about a large amount of water on McKinley Ave at the park. Powell stated the culvert was plugged and Bob Heavener dug out the culvert and drained the water. Powell stated seventeen basketballs were recovered. Powell stated the Brown Street Bridge Project is over budget by \$2,700 due to using concrete instead of grout. The bridge is estimated to be completed in a couple of weeks. Powell stated a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held April 4, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Municipal Building. Police Chief Ervin stated the corner lot on Main and Water Street looks nice. Powell stated the lot was done in error and someone from the land bank is going to mow it for a while. Councilperson Chute asked Powell for an update on e-mail address request on the working document. Powell stated he called and it was an invalid number. Chute also inquired about the issues with the insurance and the shelter house ceiling that was supposed to be done last year. Some of the insurance issues have been resolved. Finance Director Rockwell stated they would have to discuss the other insurance issues at a Finance Committee meeting. Powell stated the shelter house ceiling was put on hold to make repairs to the baby pool filter. Chute inquired about the cost of installing 220V electric outlets at the park. Powell stated it is very expensive. Powell stated Councilperson Welsh and himself are going to try and put the 220V electric upgrades on the HAPCAP grant they are going to apply for. Finance Director Rockwell stated she was under the assumption after meeting with Mayor Thompson that the 220V electric project was to be put in the budget. Rockwell asked if they needed to revisit this issue. Councilperson Welsh stated if the Village was awarded, the grant money would not be available until 2020 or 2021. Powell stated it would be around \$10,000 to \$15,000 for seven 220V upgrades. Councilperson Chute asked when the deadline was to apply for the grant. Welsh stated July 2019.

Police Chief Ervin presented Council with the Perry County Children Services Board 2018 year-end report. Ervin also presented Council with a report on the number of traffic and criminal cases in 2018. There were 434 total cases in 2018. Ervin stated the State performed an audit within the Police Department for the grants the department gets for radar free of charge. Ervin reported everything was good with the audit. Ervin stated two officers attended classes for traffic enforcement at the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Ervin reported on March 20, 2019 the department participated in the school fire drills.

Ervin stated the department met with a group of students, ranging from age fifteen to eighteen, from the Panthers Club on March 21, 2019. They discussed what they would like to see from the community and law enforcement. The students stated pothole repairs and more sidewalks were concerns. Ervin reported the department attended a fundraiser for the Somerset Police Department Canine Unit. Ervin stated he was invited to attend a Civica CMI meeting with the County on March 26, 2019 to discuss the Civica software that the 9-1-1 Center is going to use. Ervin stated Civica states the request was never made for the software company to transfer previous data and that nine years of Police Department information will be lost once the transfer is made to the new software. Ervin stated this raises some dispatching concerns and the Village needs to make a decision what they want to do. Ervin reported on March 27, 2019 the Police Department attended a First Responders training sponsored by the Perry County Board of DD. Ervin reported on March 28, 2019 a local warrant roundup was performed initiating approximately ten arrests. Mayor Thompson inquired if with new units and updated training the department was going to crack down on speeding within the Village. Ervin stated they have a good group of officers and they are doing a good job.

Fire Chief Fain reported that EMS responded to 99 runs in the month of March with 60 of them being transports. Fain stated the fire department has responded to 25 runs. EMS has responded to 256 runs this year. Fain informed Council he met with the New Lexington High School Principal and Vice Principal to start an educational awareness program and inquired about attending career day. Fain reported he attended a meeting on the new 911 software. Fain stated more meetings have been scheduled to train on the new software. Fain stated he is concerned about potential issues when the software is changed. Fain presented Council with Resolution No. 19-6 for medical director services and Resolution No. 19-7 to contract with Ohio First Responder Grants for grant writing. Fain stated the department and the Red Cross will be distributing door hangers to residents on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 for the upcoming smoke alarm canvass in the Village on April 6, 2019. Fain stated any volunteers should meet at the Municipal Building at 8:30A. Councilperson Chute inquired about the staffing for EMS. Fain stated they have hired three paramedics and this should give them enough personnel to fill all shifts. Councilperson Chute asked about the hydrant testing. Fain stated they will be starting testing this month. Fain stated he spoke with the ISO inspector, who will be coming in May and hydrants are one of issues that will be discussed. Chute also asked about replacing the new medic. Fain stated the medic may be fine and appears to have all issues corrected at the current time.

Councilperson Boyle reminded everyone about the Fall Festival Fund Raiser at Pizza Hut on April 2, 2019 from 4P to 8P.

Councilperson Bethel asked about the status of the Electric Service Aggregation that was placed on the ballot for the November 6, 2018 election. Bethel stated Eddie Smith of Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council was supposed to hold public forums to educate the residents on what the Electric Service Aggregation is. Finance Director Rockwell stated that Eddie Smith was the representative and that he is no longer with the company. Rockwell stated she has the contact information for Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council if Council would like her to contact them. Bethel stated "yes" he would appreciate it if she contacted them to see who was responsible for Smith's projects. Bethel asked Mayor Thompson to find out the time frame for removing the issue from the ballot. Bethel asked if they were going to hold a meeting to discuss annexation with the residents of McKinley Ave. and Dallas Ave. Thompson stated Administrator Powell is checking with the Perry County Engineers Office to get information on exactly where the Village would be looking to annex. Thompson stated he asked Administrator Powell to stay on top of the project. Councilperson Chute stated they need to look into annexing Hocking College also. Councilperson Danison asked if the hydrants on the West side of town could be the first ones to be fixed. Poggemeyer is still in the design phase of fixing the issue.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No.19-6 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Resolution No. 19-6: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR SERVICES FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH OHIO HEALTH AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-6 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 19-7 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”, except for Councilperson Danison who voted “no”. Motion carried. Resolution 19-7: **A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND OHIO FIRST RESPONDER GRANTS, LLC TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO FEMA AFG AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Chute made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-7 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes” except for Councilperson Danison who voted “no”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 19-5 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution 19-5: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH GARY HYNUS AS A CLASS III WATER OPERATOR.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-5 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. 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 8:15 pm.



Mayor



Council Clerk