

## **VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 16, 2018**

**6:30 PM**

### **MUNCIPAL BUILDING**

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Ratliff presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30P. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Kathy Chute, Susan Boyle, Trent Thompson and Jim Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Administrator Bo Powell and Fire Chief Jordan Hollingshead. Absent were Council Members Susan Goodfellow and Jeff Danison.

Councilperson Thompson made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Danison and Goodfellow from the April 16, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 2, 2018 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Thompson. All Council voted "yes" except Councilperson Boyle who abstained due to being absent from the April 2, 2018 meeting. Motion carried.

Mitch Altier appeared before Council regarding the Rehoboth Sewer Project. Councilperson Chute stated that Altier was supposed to be scheduled to come to a committee meeting to discuss the project further. Administrator Powell stated that a committee had discussed the project. Council expressed concerns about the ability of some Rehoboth residents being able to afford to tap into the sewer system. Altier stated that low income residents may qualify for grants through HAPCAP. Chute asked what happens if a resident doesn't qualify for the HAPCAP grant. Altier stated residents will be required by Ohio Revised Code to tap into the system regardless of income qualifications. Altier stated it is Council's decision if a tap fee will be charged to the residents. Council discussed if tap fees should go to the County or the Village. Bethel asked when the Village would be expected to take ownership of the system. Altier stated that the County would own the system for the first year and then the Village would take ownership. Chute asked if the project is 100% funded with no debt payments attached. Altier stated that there is no guarantee that there will be no debt. The County would not be willing to take on debt for the project if they won't own the system. Bethel asked who would be responsible for making sure all residents tap into the system. Altier stated the Perry County Health Department would be in charge of this. The County will begin seeking bids for the project in July and they need an answer from the Village on taking over the finished system. Chute asked if the project included a plant if the Village doesn't take ownership. Altier stated the project was planned with the Village taking over the system. Chute asked if anyone has reached out to the residents of Rehoboth regarding the project. Altier stated they are aware of the project. Council expressed concerns with not knowing the amount of debt that could come with the system. Mayor Ratliff stated that the EPA will push for the project no matter what. Altier requested a decision from Council in a week. Administrator Powell and Altier will attend a meeting with the Perry County Commissioners to discuss Council's concerns.

Mayor Ratliff provided a press release for the Tree Commission announcing New Lexington as a Tree City USA participant. Ratliff provided the information to Rockwell to forward to the Perry County Tribune.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the March bank reconciliation. Rockwell explained complications she encountered while reconciling the account due to timing issues between the online payment system, the water software and the Federal Reserve. Rockwell provided Council with the March financial statements and cautioned that the Fire & EMS deficit is still high with the first half property tax settlement applied. The balance does not include township contract payments. Pike Township is currently the only contract payment received. Rockwell provided Council with a supplemental appropriations ordinance with increases for Nuisance Abatement, replacement of fifteen fire hydrants and sewer maintenance.

Administrator Powell stated he met with Poggemeyer Design Group regarding low water pressure on the southwest side of New Lexington. Poggemeyer will apply for permission to bore under the railroad to correct the pressure issue. Bob Heavener Excavating can perform the work. A hydrant was replaced on Brown Street due to a broken valve. This hydrant was not part of the fifteen being replaced. Powell stated the contract for the fireworks display was signed and returned today. Chute asked if Powell was still checking all of the hydrants in the Village. Powell stated he is. Chute asked if the license plate tax ordinance was filed. Powell stated it has been filed and the Village will begin receiving payments in January 2019. Chute reviewed items assigned to Powell on Council's working document for status updates.

Police Chief Ervin stated the department is receiving calls at the Cemetery which is outside the corporation according to all the maps. Ervin stated the department had fewer calls for service over the weekend, but calls have remained steady.

Fire Chief Hollingshead reported that the department responded to a house fire on Saint Clair St. Two firefighters had minor burns and some of the department's equipment was damaged. Hollingshead is working with the insurance to file a claim for the damaged equipment and paperwork was submitted today. Hollingshead made changes to the Procurement Policy Resolution at the direction of Law Director Sitterley. Hollingshead provided Council with the updated Resolution. Hollingshead reported that the new medic has been delivered. He thanked Council for purchasing the medic and invited them to see it. Councilperson Chute stated it was reported to her that Fireman Spencer did a great job as incident commander on the fire at Saint Clair St. Chute reviewed items assigned to Hollingshead on Council's working document for status updates.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on April 9, 2018. The committee reviewed forecasts for various pay scenarios and discussed funding for projects. The committee approved the replacement of fifteen fire hydrants in the Village and requested Powell test the remaining hydrants in the Village to see if any of those need replaced as well. The committee also requested Powell research options to correct pressure issues on the southwest side of town. The committee requested Rockwell prepare a pay resolution and supplemental appropriations for the April 16, 2018 Council meeting.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on April 16, 2018. Rockwell presented the requested pay resolution and supplemental appropriations to the committee. Rockwell reported that the March bank reconciliation was completed and will be presented to Council this evening. Rockwell stated there were two additional insurance brokers that would like to present information regarding the employee insurance benefits. The committee would like the brokers to present at the May 21, 2018 Council meeting. The committee discussed possible changes to the Swimming Pool ordinance.

Councilperson Chute asked who is going to contact the insurance brokers to notify them to present on May 21. Rockwell stated they have been emailing her, so she can respond to them via email. Council requested the brokers be notified that any materials being presented to Council must be submitted to the Council Clerk for review prior to the meeting.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Municipal Concerns meeting held on April 11, 2018. The committee discussed water leaks and entertained a 25% deduction on water leaks within the first 31 days of the billing cycle. The committee discussed if six consecutive months of nonpayment of the unpaid balance, the bill would be assessed to the property taxes. The committee discussed a leak at the Conrad property on South Main Street. There is proof that the leak was the Village's fault. The committee recommends written notice to Conrad's of the committee's decision. Chute stated that the Water Clerk should review any changes before they are voted on by Council.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting held on March 21, 2018. The committee discussed forming a fall festival sub-committee. The committee worked on improvements to the Broadway Park and possible funding sources. The committee will be planting flowers at MacGahan Park in

early May. Planning will begin in May for the Fall Festival. The committee would like to hold the event on Main Street this year. The next Parks & Recreation meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2018 at 6:30P.

Police Chief Ervin requested a Records Committee meeting to approve destruction orders to submit to the State of Ohio.

Councilperson Chute scheduled a follow-up PPM meeting for April 30, 2018 at 4:35P. Chute requested Mayor Ratliff provide her with an update on the fraudulent fire department emails. Administrator Powell will pick them up from Mayor Ratliff and provide to Chute. Fire Chief Hollingshead will make copies of the equipment lists and provide them by Friday, April 20, 2018.

Councilperson Thompson made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 18-11 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 18-11: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 18-9 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE GENERAL, WATER OPERATING AND SEWER OPERATING FUNDS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 18-11 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. 18-5 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Thompson. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 18-5: **A RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF A FEMA/AFG PROCUREMENT POLICY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-5 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Thompson made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 18-6 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 18-6: **A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY CONTRACTS.**

Mayor Ratliff entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50P.

  
Mayor Kevin Ratliff

  
Council Clerk Lisa Spohn