

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

April 20, 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. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Council Members and Administrator Powell attended the meeting virtually and the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page. In physical attendance were Mayor Thompson, Councilperson Chute, Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 6, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he has been in phone conferences daily due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Finance Director Rockwell stated she received the electric bill for the Rehoboth sewer station again. Councilperson Chute requested she give it to Administrator Powell to take to the Perry County Commissioners. Rockwell stated she received correspondence regarding the loans the Village has with Ohio Public Works Commission. Rockwell stated OPWC will not charge any penalties on the loan if the Village would like to defer July's payment. Rockwell stated the OPWC will not accept payments in July, but the Village could make a double payment in December for January to keep the current payoff schedule. All Council agreed to make a double payment in December.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to make a double payment to Ohio Public Works Commission in December 2020. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Rockwell presented Council with a spreadsheet of the expenditures for the COVID 19 supplies. Councilperson Chute asked about the purchase order for Boundtree Medical. Rockwell explained that is a routine order for medical supplies and not part of COVID 19. Rockwell stated the Village received a stimulus payment from Medicare for EMS for \$11,592.37. Rockwell informed Council the payment must be used for COVID 19 supplies. Mayor Thompson stated to apply it to the current expenses for supplies. Mayor Thompson stated municipalities may also receive a hardship stimulus check. Rockwell stated she would fill out all forms for reimbursement from the EMA for COVID 19 supplies. Rockwell stated she would consult with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Mayor before submitting the forms. Rockwell presented Council with the March financial reports excluding the water report. Rockwell informed Council there were some issues with tracking the Rehoboth sewer payments, but she and Water Clerk Saffell figured out the issue and will have the water report at the next Council meeting. Rockwell stated the Village received the first half property tax settlement. Rockwell informed Council she spoke with the Village attorney concerning some procedures for the voluntary layoff of an employee. Rockwell stated the employee should file for unemployment, but his insurance would be cancelled and offered through Cobra, or he may qualify for insurance from Job and Family Services. Council stated they would not take away any leave the employee accumulated but he will stop accruing any leave while he is off.

Councilperson Chute made a motion not to cash out leaves for the temporary layoff of an employee. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh asked Fire Chief Fain and Police Chief Ervin if they had everything they needed at this time. Fire Chief Fain stated they are close to having everything they need. Fain stated some orders were canceled, but now they have what they need. Fain stated they are going to wait to reorder any supplies. Police Chief Ervin stated he has what he needs at this time. Mayor Thompson stated he has never received a call from the EMA to see if the Village needs any supplies. Councilperson Welsh asked if the EMS revenue is headed in

the right direction to recover their deficit. Fain stated due to the COVID 19 pandemic, runs are down, but the transports are more serious in nature. Councilperson Chute stated the \$25,000 that was budgeted for COVID 19 supplies was not taken out of departmental funds. The money was appropriated from the General Fund. Chute clarified that the intent of the Finance Committee was to use the funds to purchase supplies for all Village departments.

Administrator Powell asked if the Public Service Department could have some medical masks. Finance Director Rockwell stated she would put them in Powell's mailbox tonight. Powell informed Council that Mitch Altier sent letters to the remaining residents of Rehoboth regarding connecting to the sewer line. Powell stated AEP was going to start removing street lights on Main Street on April 21, 2020 to prepare for the Streetscape Project. Powell stated the Public Service Department is going to assist. Powell stated the trees would be removed in a couple weeks. Powell stated the start of the project was moved to May 4, 2020. Powell stated the Pleasant Street Bridge project has been moved to May 18, 2020 due to issues with obtaining concrete. Powell stated Poggemeyer Design Group would like the contract on the Nuzum Street Bridge Project. Powell stated \$38,000 was due in June 2020. Councilperson Chute stated Council agreed on \$30,000 in June 2020 with the remaining amount to be paid in 2021. Chute asked Powell if he had the Resolution. Powell stated he would check. Powell stated he and Chuck Hicks met with Jenny LaRue about a pipe coming out of the ground at the park. Powell stated LaRue must have the grant application for the bike park in by May 15, 2020 and wanted to know if she has Council's support. Councilperson Welsh asked if the Village would have to pay for the blacktop. Councilperson Bethel stated the Village does not have to pay anything. Powell stated an alley will become the access road to the bike park and the Village will have to maintain it and the park when complete.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to move forward with the bike park if there is no match from the Village. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh asked Administrator Powell if he had heard anything about the HAPCAP Grant. Powell stated under the current circumstances he thinks everything is on pause. Mayor Thompson stated he received a citizen complaint about an electric pole that was snapped off by the American Legion. Thompson stated the electric company put up a new pole but left the broken pole on site. Thompson asked Powell to check into it. Councilperson Boyle asked Powell about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks. Police Chief Ervin stated the Village needs to figure out a way to set off the fireworks even if there is no celebration at the park. All Council agreed. Council asked Powell to reach out to Hamburg Fireworks to complete the contract and get an invoice.

Police Chief Ervin stated the department's calls for service are down. Ervin stated he has been in daily teleconferences. Ervin informed Administrator Powell if anyone needs any Personal Protective Equipment let him know. Ervin stated the best information to get is from Governor Dewine's daily press conferences at 2:00 pm. Ervin asked Powell to get Council's approval for the Saint Rose Church parking signs. Powell stated he would schedule a time for Public Service Department Supervisor Hicks and himself to meet Ervin at the location. Ervin stated the stadium lights would be turned on at 8:20 pm this evening in honor of the graduating class of 2020.

Fire Chief Fain stated runs are down, but transports are more serious in nature. Fain stated at this time they have not increased the hours of the second truck. Councilperson Chute asked about the percentage of the EMA reimbursement. Fain stated it will likely be 75%. Fain stated the extraction tools have been ordered and implemented. Fain informed Council the grass truck has been repaired and will be in service soon. Councilperson Danison asked Fain why the ladder truck was out of service. Fain stated there were some minor repairs needed and that it would be back in service on April 22, 2020.

Councilperson Chute reported on the combined Finance and Public Safety meeting held 4/14/20. Councilperson Chute stated at this time they do not need to combine Public Safety and Finance Committee meetings. Chute stated the Finance Committee would still meet bi-weekly. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for April 28, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Goodfellow informed Council she received a citizen request to look at water draining into her yard at 221 Hutchison Court. Mayor Thompson stated they would have Bob Heavener evaluate the issue. Councilperson Chute stated to have him look at the area but not to perform any work yet.

Councilperson Boyle informed Council the MacGahan Festival has been canceled for 2020. Boyle stated a Fall Festival Committee meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2020 at 4:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Danison stated he spoke with Public Service Director Hicks. Hicks stated there was enough work to recall the person that was on a voluntary layoff. Councilperson Danison made a motion for the employee to return to work beginning May 1, 2020. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Council asked Administrator Powell to inform the employee.

Mayor Thompson stated Council needed to set a meeting with the attorney about the homeless shelter. Thompson stated the Council meeting the attorney was supposed to attend was the first Council meeting held virtually. Thompson requested Administrator Powell contact the attorney and set up a meeting with the Planning Committee. Councilperson Bethel stated he should attend a Council meeting. Councilperson Chute asked about the Carroll Street Corridor Project. Councilperson Bethel stated Jenny LaRue stated everything was in place. Councilperson Chute asked Finance Director Rockwell the status of the balance on the purchase order for Bob Heavener. Rockwell stated she would bring it to the next meeting. Chute asked Administrator Powell about the second quote for paving the parking lot. Powell stated he has left messages, but no one has contacted him yet. Chute asked Powell the status on repairing the light on the flagpole and the light above the employee entrance door. Powell stated he is getting an estimate from Ryan Stenson. Council agreed employee raises should remain on hold. Councilperson Bethel asked about plans for the swimming pool. Mayor Thompson stated they would discuss it at the May 4, 2020 meeting after Governor Dewine's updated order.

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 7:42 PM

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Clerk