

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

May 3, 2021

6:30 PM

MUNCIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 PM. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Doug Fox, Jim Welsh, Susan Boyle, Jeff Danison and Susan Goodfellow. Also present were Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain. Administrator Powell joined the meeting virtually. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page. Absent was Councilperson Chute.

Councilperson Boyle made a motion to excuse Councilperson Chute from the May 3, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Tony Palandrani from Rankin & Rankin Insurance Services addressed Council about the Village employee insurance. Palandrani stated he stays in contact with Finance Director Rockwell on any updates going on in the State of Ohio. Palandrani stated Licking Memorial Hospital and its professional services are leaving the Anthem BC/BS network. This will be effective 10-1-21. Palandrani stated he would like the opportunity to bid the Village's insurance when it comes up for renewal. Mayor Thompson stated the Village would contact him when the insurance was up for renewal.

Mayor Thompson stated the Arbor Day Celebration held on April 30, 2021 went well. Thompson read a proclamation declaring this day Arbor Day. Thompson stated he assisted in three candidate interviews for the Water Clerk position.

Council Clerk Spohn requested a motion to approve the March Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation presented at the April 19, 2021 Council meeting on behalf of Finance Director Rockwell.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the March 2021 Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell reported the swimming pool was cleaned last week. Powell stated certification for the lifeguards for the 2021 pool season will begin in mid-May. The swimming pool will open on May 31, 2021. Powell stated that one of the diving boards at the pool is broken. The cost to replace the board is \$6,292. Powell stated this would have to go to the Finance Committee. Dave Ratliff informed Powell that salaries for the pool will be higher this year compared to last year due to the pool being open for the full season this year and last year the season was limited. Powell informed Council he conducted three interviews last week for the Water Clerk position and has several interviews scheduled for this week. Powell stated the project on State Street that Bob Heavener is working on is going well. Heavener is working on the street sweeping and informed Powell Main Street is difficult to do because of all the cars parked on the street at night. Powell stated Council has surveys in front of them for the HAPCAP grant that he would like them to reach out to residents to fill out and return to the Administration Office by May 13, 2021. Powell stated the Village gets points for the grant when the residents participate. Powell stated the Village match is \$37,500 which will be reduced by waiving the water tap fee due the park being Village property. Powell stated Dave Couch from the Board of DD is going to donate \$15,000 of ADA compliant playground equipment. This information will go to the Perry County Commissioners and the State of Ohio with hopes that the Village will be awarded the grant. Councilperson Bethel asked if Council had received the pool budget from last year. Mayor Thompson stated "yes". Councilperson Danison stated residents have asked him for the pool hours to change from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. with pool parties starting at 8:00 pm. The residents said by the time they get home from work they are not able

to utilize the pool because it closes so early. Mayor Thompson stated they would discuss the pool hours of operation at the last meeting in May. Councilperson Welsh stated funds are not available in the Parks and Recreation fund to purchase a new diving board this year.

Police Chief Ervin stated they had 1,961 calls for service in 2021. Ervin stated some residents on Jackson Street have asked for speed bumps. They also requested slow children at play signs be posted on the street. Ervin stated he has passed out the HAPCAP Grant surveys. Councilperson Danison stated the police department has been doing a good job of running radar and writing tickets for people speeding within the Village. Ervin stated he will consult with Finance Director Rockwell on ordering signs and see where Council would like them placed.

Fire Chief Fain stated the EMS Department has been busy and the Fire Department has been slow which is a good thing. Fain stated he has the Medicount report if any Council members would like to review it. Fain requested a Finance Committee meeting. Fain asked Administrator Powell if Poggemeyer Design Group had completed the fire hydrant project. Powell stated they are still working on it to make corrections. Mayor Thompson asked Powell to keep copying him on e-mails related to the project. Fain stated he is having issues with getting a purchase order number back and would like to know if anyone has any suggestions to remedy this. Councilperson Danison stated the Public Service Department had the same issue. Mayor Thompson stated they will address the issue and find a solution.

Councilperson Goodfellow asked if Columbia Gas was going to repair the streets that were torn up from replacing gas lines. Mayor Thompson stated he has asked them several times when this would be done but has not yet received a response.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Fall Festival Committee meeting that was held on April 25, 2021. Boyle stated the Color Run fundraiser will be June 26, 2021 at 10:00am. Boyle informed Police Chief Ervin that one officer will be needed for the Color Run. Jennifer Nash, pound fit instructor will conduct the warmup before the run. The Fall Festival Committee will do a town canvass on August 7, 2021. A Grub with the Grinch fundraiser is scheduled for November 27, 2021. Families can come and have brunch with the Grinch at the Eagles. The Fall Festival will be September 17, 2021 from 12 pm to 10 pm and September 18, 2021 from 12 pm to 12 am. Boyle stated vendors will be charged \$40 for a space for one day and \$75 for two days. Boyle stated Jenny LaRue was asking about the signs she wanted to purchase for the park. LaRue stated the signs would be concreted into the ground and would promote the Village park. Council discussed the best place for the signs to be posted. Mayor Thompson asked if the signs could be made locally. LaRue stated she would look into some different types of signs.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Planning & Economic Development/ Parks and Recreation meeting held on April 29, 2021. Bethel stated several residents have approached them about a dog park in the Village. Bethel stated the committees discussed the pros and cons of having a dog park. Bethel stated they have another meeting scheduled for June 4, 2021 at 11:00 am. Bethel stated this project would not be funded by the Village. Councilperson Welsh stated it could possibly be part of the HAPCAP Grant they are applying for. Welsh stated this is why it is important for the residents of the Village to attend the public meetings being held for their input. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2021 from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm at the Municipal Building. Bethel state that PAWS and other organizations are helping with advice. Bethel stated Finance Director Rockwell is checking on the insurance side of the park.

Councilperson Danison reported on the Public Service Committee meeting held on April 30, 2021. Danison stated the committee discussed Columbia Gas repairing the streets that are torn up from replacing gas lines. Public Service Director Hicks reported he spoke with Columbia Gas and they are going to repair the streets. Mayor Thompson and Danison stated the Village residents think it is the Village tearing up the streets. Councilperson Bethel asked if someone from Columbia gas could come to Council about when they are going to repair the streets. Thompson stated they need to speak to Columbia Gas as to where they are scheduled to go

next in the Village. Thompson stated the Village needs to coordinate with Columbia Gas due to the streets that the Village is going to be paving. Danison stated they discussed Hicks starting to repair potholes with hot mix. Danison stated they need to get the Village residents interested in filling out the survey for the HAPCAP Grant. Mayor Thompson stated people are saying negative things on Facebook, but they do not show up for the meetings. Councilperson Welsh stated this grant is for a lot of money to make upgrades to the Village park that everyone could enjoy. Mayor Thompson stated a 16-year-old boy thanked him and Council for trying to make improvements to the park.

Fire Chief Fain asked who was going to contact Councilperson Chute about scheduling a Finance Committee meeting. Councilperson Welsh stated he would contact Chute.

Mayor Thompson stated Doug Sheppard from the Orange and Black Booster reached out to him about the Boosters repairing the backstop on the farm league baseball field at the park.

Administrator Powell asked about putting big landscape rocks at Veterans Park where people keep having accidents and going into one of the monuments. Someone suggested putting up a guardrail, but they did not think that would look nice. Powell stated Perry County Engineer Cannon would be doing the work. Police Chief Ervin suggested lighted pylons. Powell stated he had a meeting with Cannon on May 4, 2021 and he would discuss this with him and report back to Council.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to allow the Orange and Black Boosters to repair the backstop at the farm league baseball field. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

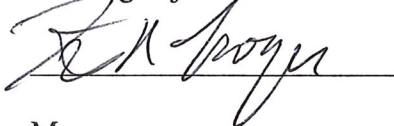
Mayor Thompson asked Councilperson Welsh what was needed for the board of elections to be placed on the ballot to run for Village Council. Welsh stated you must obtain 12-32 signatures to run. Welsh stated according to the Village Charter the number of signatures required to run is 1% to no more than 3% of the number of voters in the last Governors Election.

Councilperson Goodfellow asked if there have been any applicants for the Administration position. Mayor Thompson stated he asked Attorney Everitt for the proper wording for the Administration job posting. Mayor Thompson stated he was approached by a citizen about when the Village did away with the ½% tax credit they used to get when they work out of town and pay taxes where they live and where they work. .

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 7:45 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk