

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING  
May 17, 2021  
6:30 PM  
MUNICIPAL 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, Kathy Chute and Susan Goodfellow. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, 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.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 3, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Chute who abstained due to being absent from the May 3, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson requested an executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1).

Councilperson Chute asked if they should let the people appearing before Council speak before entering into executive session. Thompson stated "no".

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding personnel discipline with Council, Mayor, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Administrator present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:35 pm for executive session.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 8:11 pm.

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

Dave Ratliff addressed Council concerning the opening of the swimming pool for the 2021 season. Ratliff stated he will be hiring 8-10 lifeguards. Council and Ratliff discussed hours of operation, pool passes and how to stay within the budget. Ratliff informed Council they will be starting clean up of the pool on May 21, 2021. Councilperson Welsh informed Ratliff he was glad he came back for the 2021 pool season as manager. Ratliff stated pool parties will be scheduled through the pool's Facebook page.

Bob Spencer thanked Council for allowing him to speak to them. Spencer stated his purpose for appearing before Council was a grievance he filed that has not been addressed. Spencer stated according to the Personal Policy Manual there is a time frame for the grievance to be addressed. Spencer spoke to Council about some of the information in the grievance. Spencer stated he filed the grievance with Administrator Powell on May 5, 2021. Spencer stated he would like to know

who has the grievance and the status. Mayor Thompson stated he has the grievance. Thompson stated he e-mailed Spencer. Spencer asked what e-mail he sent it to because he did not receive it. Thompson stated he sent it to his employee e-mail. Spencer stated some of the employees cannot get into their employee accounts. Thompson stated he will have a response for Spencer tomorrow. Spencer stated everyone needs to follow the PPM. Thompson asked Spencer if he would like the response to his grievance through e-mail or certified mail. Councilperson Welsh stated if it is sent by e-mail, it would have to be the employee e-mail through the Village for security reasons. Spencer requested Mayor Thompson to send it certified mail.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended some of the interviews for the water clerk position. Councilperson Goodfellow asked if they hired someone for the position. Thompson stated Administrator Powell will discuss this. Councilperson Chute stated she did not think the posting for the Administrator position needed updated. Mayor Thompson stated he spoke with Police Chief Ervin and they thought it should be updated. Chute stated the confusion with the current posting was not the posting, but the Mayor at the time. Thompson stated he contacted Attorney Everitt about the posting and several other issues but has not yet received a response. Finance Director Rockwell stated Everitt was tied up Friday with Income Tax Clerk Spohn on some issues. Thompson stated he is giving Everitt until the middle of next week to reply.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the April monthly financial reports, bank reconciliation and credit card statement. Rockwell stated the US Treasury released the guidelines for the American Rescue Plan. There will be webinars Tuesday and Thursday with the guidelines on how the money can be used. Rockwell reported the last report indicated funds would be received at the end of May. Rockwell stated she still does not know for certain how much money the Village will receive. The Village does not have to pass a Resolution to accept the money and will have until December 31, 2024 to spend the funding.

Administrator Powell reported one quote he received for an emergency response plan required by the EPA for the Water Treatment Plant was \$17,750. Powell stated he received a quote from RCAP for \$4,250. Powell requested permission to sign a contract with RCAP for the emergency response plan.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to allow Administrator Powell to sign a contract with RCAP to prepare an emergency response plan for the Water Treatment Plant. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Powell stated the swimming pool needs a new cord for the robot that cleans the pool. The cost is \$850.00. Council informed Powell to submit a requisition for the cord. Powell informed Council they will be doing a walk through for the HAPCAP Park Grant on Thursday. Powell stated the Nuzum Bridge project is on hold due to a landowner wanting more money for the right of way acquisition needed to complete the project. The landowner was offered \$3,500 and he is requesting \$10,000. Mayor Thompson requested Powell make him a reasonable offer. Powell informed Council Kylee Towing was hired for the water clerk position and will start on May 24, 2021. Powell informed Council the Village received a letter from the Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control regarding the renewal of liquor permits. If the Village does not have any objections, then no further action is needed.

Councilperson Chute stated Council will need to motion for Division of Liquor Control.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to not object to the renewal of liquor permits within the Village. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Police Chief Ervin reported 2,218 calls for service in 2021 as of tonight.

Fire Chief Fain stated they participated in kids' day at the New Lexington School. Fain stated they had the fire trucks and med flight at the school. The students got to tour the fire trucks. Fain stated he helped the Veterans clean-up around Veterans Park. Fain stated the Veterans asked if the Village would help remove the pine tree at the park. Fain reported EMS responded to 186 runs in April and 122 were transports. Fain stated this keeps them above the 60% mark. Mayor Thompson stated after reviewing Medicount the Village has received \$150,969 in payments since January 1, 2021. Thompson stated May's Medicount report has some issues he needs to review. Fain stated Medicount is working on some issues with software currently. Councilperson Chute stated she would like a copy of the Medicount report every month.

Councilperson Chute made a motion requesting Fire Chief Fain provide Council monthly training schedules, list of attendees, list of who is responding to fire runs and figure out what log in issues are and resolve it. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute asked if Fain could make it mandatory for all employees to log in once a month.

Mayor Thompson stated New Lexington will be having a Memorial Day Parade and ceremony on May 31, 2021. Thompson reported the MacGahan Celebration will be held on June 5, 2021 at 10:00 am at New Lexington Cemetery. Thompson informed Council he attended the HAPCAP public meeting that was held at the Village Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute reported a Finance Committee and Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on May 18, 2021 at 5:30 at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Fall Festival Committee meeting held on May 16, 2021. Boyle asked if the Village could close MacGahan Street for the Color Run. Council stated this could not be closed due to it being the fire lane. Boyle asked if they could use the Village parking lot. Boyle stated the flyers for the fundraiser will be completed tomorrow and the waiver and registration forms will be available Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Mayor Thompson stated he has pictures of a dog park that were given to him that he will forward to Councilperson Bethel. Councilperson Chute stated she received e-mails in error and she forwarded to the correct committee.

Councilperson Chute stated everyone needs to be using their .gov e-mail accounts. Chute stated everyone receives a copy of the working document and they need to make sure it stays updated. Mayor Thompson stated the State Street project can be marked complete.

Councilperson Danison stated the Village needs to continue to sell pool passes and that the pool hours need extended. Council discussed hours of operation and pool passes with Ratliff.

Councilperson Chute made a motion for the swimming pool hours of operation for the 2021 season to be 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm with pool parties from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm and 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Ratliff expressed concerns with being able to stay on budget with extended hours.

Mayor Thompson stated a local water hauler approached him about the price of bulk water at the water plant. Councilperson Chute and Finance Director Rockwell stated the Village’s price for bulk water is comparative to other bulk water facilities.

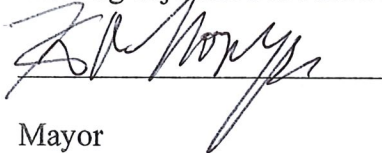
Council discussed the cost of pool memberships and the Resolution provided by Rockwell. The admission and membership rates are the same as the 2019 pool season.

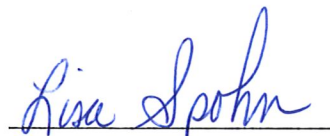
Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-4 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 21-4: **RESOLUTION OMITTING ORDINANCE 20-10 RESETTING THE RATES OF PAY FOR THE MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL EMPLOYEES AND FEES FOR MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-4 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. 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 9:21 PM.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk