

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

May 18, 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. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Susan Boyle, Doug Fox, Susan Goodfellow and James Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell and Police Chief Ervin. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Administrator Powell and Fire Chief Fain attended the meeting virtually and the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page. Absent were Councilpersons Danison and Chute.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Danison and Chute from the May 18, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 4, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he has been in phone conferences daily due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thompson stated the motorcade to celebrate the New Lexington Senior Class of 2020 went well. Thompson reported the Streetscape Project has started and is going well. Thompson also stated construction on the Pleasant Street Bridge started today and the old bridge is removed.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the March 2020 and April 2020 credit card statements and back reconciliations. Rockwell presented Council with the April financial statements. Rockwell stated the water report for March is included in the reports. Rockwell stated the CARES Act will refund the Village 50% of any unemployment compensation that the Village incurred due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Rockwell informed Council the Village received a rebate for one month of dental insurance premiums.

Administrator Powell stated he received a complaint about the lack of streetlights on State Street. Powell stated three lights could be placed from Water Street to Tile Plant Road to help with the lighting in the area. The Mayor and Council agreed there should be more lighting on State Street. Powell stated he would speak to AEP about additional streetlights and report back to the Finance Committee. Powell reported to Council he received an offer of \$1,500 for the old bucket truck. Council directed Powell to advertise for bids. If there are no other bids, then he can proceed with the offer. Powell asked if the Village was still going to proceed with the fireworks on the 4th of July and if there was going to be a festival. Mayor Thompson stated it is too early to decide. Thompson requested Powell contact Hamburg Fireworks to make sure they can set off the fireworks on the 4th of July. Powell informed Council the streetlights that were chosen nine years ago for the Streetscape Project must be used since they are the lights specified in the bid. Powell stated they are LED acorn lights. Powell will put photos of the lights in Council's mailboxes. Powell asked Council about the swimming pool. Mayor Thompson stated they would discuss it later in the meeting. Powell stated he had two applications for pool manager given to him on the street. Powell stated the Health Department is okay with the pool opening. Powell stated they would have to order chemicals and there would be some restrictions on the concession stand. Mayor Thompson informed Powell the front of the Municipal Building looks good, but the mailbox needs

painted. Thompson told Powell to get the grass mowed by the water tower and to make sure it is mowed for the remainder of the season. Councilperson Welsh requested Powell look at the creek on State Street going towards State Route 93. Welsh stated the creek is starting to wash out and is almost up to the road. Powell stated they had broken cement to put there. Mayor Thompson stated a resident on the Eastern Ave. end of Maple Hts. has also requested streetlighting.

Police Chief Ervin thanked Administrator Powell for addressing the lack of lighting on State Street to Council. Ervin stated calls are starting to pick up. Ervin requested if the Mayor, Administrator or Finance Director receives an e-mail concerning MARCS radios to let him know. Ervin stated there was an issue with comp leave pay. Ervin stated the Personnel Policy Manual needs to be reviewed regarding comp leave. Finance Director Rockwell stated there needs to be a meeting to address several issues in the PPM. Ervin stated it needs done soon. Ervin stated the committee might want to ask the employees if they would like to eliminate comp leave. Council requested Finance Director Rockwell contact the Attorney for clarification on comp leave in the PPM.

Fire Chief Fain stated runs are down, but some days are very busy which makes up for the slow days. Fain asked Powell about the cement that will be removed in front of the fire department for the Streetscape Project. Powell stated they will make sure the department can get in and out for runs. Councilperson Goodfellow asked Fain for an update on the fire hydrant testing. Fain stated they were going to make a schedule for testing the fire hydrants at their meeting on Tuesday May 19, 2020.

Mayor Thompson informed Council they were provided copies of the minutes for the May 6, 2020 and May 13, 2020 combined Finance/ Public/Safety Committee meetings for review.

Councilperson Bethel asked Administrator Powell if Jenny LaRue left any paperwork to be completed for the Carroll Street Corridor Project. Bethel asked Powell to reach out to LaRue and see if anything is needed from the Village at this time. Powell stated he had signed a letter to go forward with the grants for the Carroll Street Corridor Project. Powell asked Councilperson Boyle if they were going to accept Hometown Hero Banner applications this year. Boyle stated no applications will be accepted until spring of 2021.

Councilperson Welsh reviewed the working document. Fain stated the flags in front of the Municipal building need replaced. Mayor Thompson requested Finance Director Rockwell order new flags. Welsh asked Administrator Powell if he has been able to reach HAPCAP yet. Powell stated "no".

Mayor Thompson informed Council on Thursday, May 14, 2020 Governor DeWine stated swimming pools can open with some restrictions. Thompson supplied Council with the restrictions that would be needed to open the swimming pool. Thompson stated he wanted a decision tonight from Council as to whether they were going to open the pool. Councilperson Bethel stated a special committee should look into the process of opening. Councilperson Welsh asked if they knew what the cost would be with all the restrictions to open. Mayor Thompson stated he would like to open the pool around June 15, 2020. Administrator Powell stated this was feasible. Councilperson Bethel stated he is not against opening the pool, but Council needs a plan in place to move forward. Welsh asked if the Village would be able to maintain the demand for cleaning supplies for the season. Bethel asked Powell what the initial cost is to start up the pool. Powell stated around \$2,000. Councilperson Boyle asked if the Health Department was going to monitor the pool. Thompson stated he does not see a problem with the Health Department.

Councilperson Goodfellow asked if the Public Service Department could get the pool ready to open by June 15, 2020. Powell stated "yes".

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to open the New Lexington swimming pool for the 2020 season if all guidelines and procedures are followed. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Council requested Finance Director Rockwell post on the Village website and Facebook page that the applications for pool manager and lifeguards are being accepted. Councilperson Boyle will chair a temporary subcommittee of parks and recreation to come up with a plan to open the swimming pool with Councilpersons Bethel and Fox on the subcommittee. Councilperson Bethel requested Rockwell reach out to the Village insurance company to see if there would be an increase in liability insurance due to the Covid 19 pandemic if the pool is opened. Rockwell stated she would e-mail the insurance company and copy the subcommittee on the e-mail.


The temporary Parks and Recreation Sub-Committee scheduled a meeting for May 20, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building. Mayor Thompson stated Administrator Powell and Public Service Department Supervisor Hicks will need to attend.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-11 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-11: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUIRE ALL TOBACCO RETAILERS WITHIN NEW LEXINGTON VILLAGE LIMITS TO POST THE PHONE NUMBER FOR THE TOBACCO QUIT LINE AT ALL POINT OF SALE LOCATIONS.** Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-11 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. 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 7:20 PM



Mayor



Council Clerk