

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

June 1, 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, Kathy Chute and James Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell and Police Chief Ervin. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Councilperson Jeff Danison, 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.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 18, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilpersons Chute and Danison who abstained due to being absent from the May 18, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson thanked everyone who attended the Memorial Day Ceremony. Thompson reported construction on the Streetscape Project and the Pleasant Street Bridge is going well.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a motion to approve the April 2020 bank reconciliation and financial reports presented at the May 18, 2020 meeting. Rockwell provided Council with the activity reports for the blanket purchase order for Bob Heavener. Rockwell reported she is still receiving the electric bill for the Rehoboth sewer pump station which is now \$900. Rockwell stated the County Commissioners have not paid anything toward the bill. Administrator Powell stated the pump station was started up in November 2019. Councilperson Chute stated the Village agreed to take over the pump station once all residents in Rehoboth were connected to the sewer and the Village began billing. Chute stated the Village still took over the pump station before all residents were connected. Thompson stated the Village wouldn't have agreed to take over a system that will never make money. Councilperson Chute asked if Council wanted her to give the bill to the attorney. Rockwell stated the Village started billing residents in Rehoboth in March 2020. Council agreed to begin paying the electric on the April bill which is March usage. Powell stated he has hand delivered the bill to the Commissioners and they bring it back and put it in the Village drop box. Finance Director Rockwell informed Council she was copied on an e-mail from Mitch Altier where he sent a letter to the remaining residents of Rehoboth reminding them they are required by the EPA to connect to the sewer line. Chute discussed putting the electric bill in the Village's name with Powell. Powell stated when the pump station was first started up, Mitch Altier stated the Village should just put it in the Village's name since the Village would eventually take it over, so Powell had the electric bill put in the Village's name. Councilperson Chute asked about a charge on the purchase order activity report for Bob Heavener to install a water tap. Chute stated this should have been done by the Public Service Department. Chute requested Powell investigate this and e-mail all of Council with the answer. Chute stated this should be done before the next Council meeting. Chute stated Heavener should not be doing any work that should be performed by Village employees.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the April financial statements and bank reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell stated the pool is up and running, but still needs some chemicals. Powell reported he received five applications for pool manager and ten applications for lifeguards. Councilperson Chute asked if the Village can meet recommendations set due to Covid 19. Councilperson Bethel stated once a pool manager is hired, they will present the swimming pool subcommittee a plan for running the pool. Mayor Thompson stated they are still looking at opening the pool around June 15, 2020. Bethel stated there is a subcommittee meeting scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2020 at 12:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Bethel requested Powell bring the pool manager to the meeting. Councilperson Fox asked if the price of chemicals for the pool has gone up since last year. Powell stated they were about the same. Finance Director Rockwell stated the cost to open the pool

was \$1,000 more than last year. Rockwell stated this could be because more chemicals were needed this year compared to last year to open the pool. Council agreed there will be no pool passes sold this year. Thompson reported to Council that Ohio University would like to rent the pool for two to three hours in the mornings or evenings daily. Powell stated they are willing to sign waivers and have their own lifeguards. Powell stated he will ask Ohio University for an offer for usage of the pool and report back to Council. Council discussed pool hours of operation. Mayor Thompson suggested 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Council discussed admission rates. Mayor Thompson and Councilperson Goodfellow stated they did not think the rates should change. All Council agreed. Council stated they will not book any pool parties until July to see how things are going.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion for the swimming pool hours of operation to be from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Sunday through Saturday. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Administrator Powell stated he spoke to Nathan from HAPCAP about the grant application for the parks and swimming pool. Powell stated Nathan would like to come to Council at the end of June or early July to present the information to Council. Powell informed Council the Pleasant Street Bridge project is on schedule and the Streetscape Project is moving quickly. Powell informed Fire Chief Fain that the construction crew would split the tarmac in front of the firehouse into two sections so they would always have access in and out. Powell stated there is a delay in getting the tree grates. Councilperson Boyle asked Powell if all the American Flags that were ordered were up. Powell stated they were all up on West Brown Street and Swigart Street. Boyle stated forty-eight flags were ordered and some were to be placed on Broadway Street and Mill Street. Powell stated he will have the flags put up. Powell informed Council that a hometown hero banner was misplaced and would like to know the protocol for this situation. Powell was requested to have the family bring the photo back or check if Troy still has the photo to have another banner made at cost to the Village. Councilperson Chute asked Powell if a second estimate for water parts has been obtained. Powell stated Public Service Department Supervisor Hicks was supposed to get the second estimate and he will follow up with Hicks. Councilperson Bethel asked if there is a time clock for the swimming pool. Finance Director Rockwell stated “yes,” and as soon as lifeguards are hired, she will program the fingerprints.

Police Chief Ervin reported daily calls are returning to normal. Ervin stated he received an e-mail from the landbank stating they are going to have community service workers clean up the properties in New Lexington owned by the landbank. Ervin stated there are a lot of properties needing cleaned up that are in the process of being transferred into another owner’s name. Ervin stated the Office of Criminal Justice Services grant is on hold until the Covid 19 reimbursement is processed. Ervin presented Council with a report from OCJS of statistics on crime in New Lexington. Councilperson Fox stated the property behind the restaurant on State Street needs addressed. Ervin stated we need to follow the procedure when dealing with property maintenance. Chute requested Powell make a list of properties that need mowed. Ervin Cautioned against changing the procedure which will affect the consistency in handling property maintenance. Council agreed Police will continue to handle it.

Fire Chief Fain stated runs are picking up again. Fain stated the department had 164 runs with 86 transports in May. Fain stated both medics respond to a run when it is serious in nature and for lift assist. Fain stated the department has an issue with a resident who has called thirty times in one month for lift assist. Fain stated they have contacted adult social services about the issue, but it doesn’t look like anything is going to be done. Mayor Thompson stated both medics do not need to be in the southern part of the County at the same time. Councilperson Danison told Fain the reason Council agreed to purchase the other medic from Newton Township was to help save mileage on the current medic. This is a moot point if both medics are responding to the same runs. Mayor Thompson stated only one medic is to respond to the southern end of the County and the other one is to stay local. Councilperson Chute asked Fain to get data on when both medics go out and for what reason.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion that unless it is a serious situation only one medic will respond to the southern part of the County at a time. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Fain reported to Council that the hydrant flow testing is a sore subject with him. Fain stated they are having trouble getting the testing done since he is limited on staff. Fain stated you must be qualified to do the testing because it must be done right. Fain stated they have completed 13 to 14 hydrants. Fain stated he only has firemen at the station on Tuesday nights for meetings and if they do the testing it is on a volunteer basis since they do not get paid for this. Councilperson Chute stated when there was a fire on Saint Clair Street there was an urgency from him to get this done and that was two years ago. Chute stated Fain needs to coordinate with other Village departments that have done the testing in the past to get hydrant testing completed. Councilperson Welsh asked how long it takes to test a hydrant. Fain stated between a half hour and forty-five minutes. Council stated even if only one hydrant is tested per day, it would be progress.

Councilperson Chute made a motion for Administrator Powell to coordinate with the other Village departments and the Fire Department to get hydrant flow testing done. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell asked Fain who the fire department contact person is for the testing. Fain stated himself or Chris Spencer. Fain reported the brush truck repairs are a slow process, but they are using the other pick-up truck at this time since it is loaded with all the equipment.

Councilperson Chute stated she left three messages and e-mailed the attorney concerning dispatching. Chute stated she is going to speak with the attorney on June 2, 2020 at 10:00 am. Chute stated the attorney sent a letter to Derek Keylor on behalf of the Finance/Public Safety Committees requesting a one-year contract extension. Chute stated she is requesting the attorney attend the combined Finance/Public Safety Committee meeting on June 9, 2020. Chute reported there will be a Finance Committee meeting on June 10, 2020.

Administrator Powell stated Hamburg Fireworks confirmed they are scheduled to set off fireworks on July 4, 2020 for the Village.

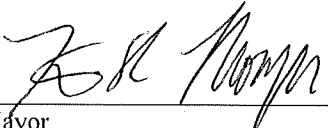
Councilperson Danison requested Administrator Powell and Public Service Supervisor Hicks contact him tomorrow.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document.

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 8:03 PM

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk