

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

June 17, 2019

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 Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, Jeff Danison and Doug Fox. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Administrator Bo Powell and Fire Chief Jim Fain. Absent were Councilpersons James Welsh and Susan Boyle.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Welsh and Boyle from the June 17, 2017 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 3, 2019 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Fox who abstained due to being absent from the June 3, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Eddie Smith from Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council addressed Council inquiring if the Ordinance had passed to place the Opt-Out Electric Service Aggregation on the ballot for the November 2019 election. Mayor Thompson stated "yes" and Council Clerk Spohn had taken it to the Board of Elections but the office was closed for training. Spohn will file the paperwork on June 20, 2019. Smith questioned the Village's Ordinance regarding solicitation and the possible 1st Amendment right infringement. Police Chief Ervin stated the wording in the Ordinance regarding solicitation does need looked into. Council advised Smith that Administrator Powell would be his contact person at the Village. Smith will be moving to another State soon and stated he would give the information to his replacement Luke Sulfridge.

Mayor Thompson stated the MacGahan Festival that was held on June 8, 2019 went very well. Thompson presented Ivan Anchev with a key to the city during the festival.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the June 2019 credit card statement. Rockwell also presented Council with the May 2019 Bank Reconciliation and May 2019 Financial Reports.

Administrator Powell asked Council what they had decided about keeping the swimming pool open during fair week. Mayor Thompson stated he thought the pool should remain open. Council decided to keep the pool open during fair week. Powell informed Council the Pleasant Street Bridge project bid was awarded to Shelly and Sands in the amount of \$832,000. Powell stated work on the bridge should begin in July and would take approximately one year to complete. Powell requested Council hire Andy Knisley to perform a survey of the alley off Summit Street. The cost of the survey is \$800. Powell stated once the survey was complete it would be recorded with the Perry County Auditor's Office for a cost of \$28.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to hire Andy Knisley to perform a survey on the alley off of Summit Street for \$800 and to record the survey with the Perry County Auditor's for a fee of \$28. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Powell reported to Council that the two main valves to the water filtration system at the Water Treatment Plant are down. The valves are being controlled manually until repairs can be made.

Councilperson Fox inquired if the situation with the property owned by Don Epifano had been taken care of. Powell stated the Public Service Department is working on it. Fox also asked if the crosswalk by St. Rose School was completed. Mayor Thompson stated they are waiting for the new paint machine and he contacted Principal Lollo with an update on the project.

Police Chief Ervin reported the Department of Commerce and officer Loy drove through the 611 South Main Street trailer court. Ervin stated the property is under new management. Ervin spoke with the owner about removing a burned out trailer on the property. Ervin informed Council the owner is in the process of removing the trailer. Ervin stated the Department of Commerce is going to perform more inspections on the trailer courts in the Village. Ervin reported the department sent out letters for high grass. Ervin stated he is having an issue getting a response from the Village Solicitor. Ervin is not sure if she received his email, he is going to try and call the office. Mayor Thompson stated if Ervin needed any help with the situation to let him know.

Fire Chief Fain reported they had 77 EMS runs with 48 transports. Fain stated the Fire Department has responded to 25 fire runs. Fain reported the department's involvement with the MacGahan Festival went well and they also helped with the St. Rose Festival. Fain stated Chief Ervin and he discussed recognizing Cameron Vasquez as an honorary Police and Fireman. Vasquez is a young man with some health issues that has always shown an interest in both departments. Mayor Thompson stated they would try to get him to the next Council meeting to recognize him. Councilperson Goodfellow inquired about the fire hydrant testing. Fain stated they are waiting on the equipment.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee Meeting that was held on June 17, 2019. Bethel stated Finance Director Rockwell explained supplemental appropriations to be presented to Council for banner brackets. The brackets will be delivered to the Street Garage via freight carrier on Wednesday June 19, 2019. Bethel stated the Committee discussed if there may be a time where they can't accept more orders for banners due to running out of poles to hang them. Bethel reported to Council Administrator Powell stated the pool is still leaking and electrical work was completed. Bethel stated the Committee discussed revisiting the levy. Bethel reported an additional matching fund of \$11,310 will be due from the Village for the Pleasant Street Bridge Project. Bethel informed Council the police bullet proof vest grant was awarded. Bethel stated the water meter truck needs reallocated to come from water and sewer excluding the street fund. Finance Director Rockwell will re-do the budgets and reallocate the payment. Bethel stated the Committee discussed adding bunker gear to the loan for radios.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to include six sets of bunker gear at \$3,500 per set in the loan for the Fire Department radios. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated Administrator Powell and himself checked poles to double hang Hometown Hero Banners. Councilperson Fox inquired about the poles on S. Main Street. Powell stated he is waiting to hear from AEP.


Council Clerk Spohn requested Council provide guidance on how to prioritize water, income tax and EMS payments and paperwork due to a shortage in staff. Spohn stated she is already affording customers at the windows top priority. Spohn also asked Council if she would receive any compensation for performing duties for all departments. Councilperson Bethel made a motion allowing Spohn to work unlimited overtime paid from water and sewer for the next two weeks. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 19-9 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 19-9: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 19-4 TO REALLOCATE FUNDING TO THE STATE HIGHWAY FUND WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 19-9 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.



Mayor



Council Clerk