

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

June 21, 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 Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 7, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Boyle who abstained due to being absent from the June 7, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the Flag Day Ceremony at the fairgrounds on June 14, 2021. Thompson reported he was approached about the condition of some flags in the Village. Thompson stated he had the ones removed that were in bad condition and ordered new flags to replace them.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the May monthly financial reports and bank reconciliation. Rockwell stated the water and sewer funds will be lower on the June reports due to loan payments that are due. Rockwell presented Council with an Ordinance to approve amendments to the Personnel Policy Manual. Rockwell stated amendments can always be made to the PPM in the future if needed and the process to do so is in the PPM. Rockwell presented Council with a Resolution to change the EMS Coordinator's title to Assistant Fire Chief 2 at the request of Chief Fain. Rockwell stated she prepared the pay resolution in its entirety to have all items pertaining to payroll in one document. The actual pay rates are the same as previously passed by Council. Rockwell presented a Resolution for the Administrator to apply for a loan with the Ohio Water Development Authority. Councilperson Chute asked if anyone had any changes to the PPM. All Council members stated "no". Councilperson Chute thanked Finance Director Rockwell for preparing Resolution No. 21-6 in time for the meeting tonight.

Administrator Powell stated the current meter reader is resigning and three applications have been submitted for the open position for the meter reader. Powell reported the current meter reader's last day is June 25, 2021. Mayor Thompson stated Powell completed the exit interview for the meter reader. Thompson stated he was not aware of the form until now. Finance Director Rockwell stated she also added the performance evaluation form to the PPM. Powell stated Water Clerk Saffell would like her full-time status to end on July 31, 2021 and start part-time on August 1, 2021. All Council agreed. Powell stated they have conducted two interviews for the Administrator position. Councilperson Goodfellow stated she has received complaints on the property at 401 Eastern Ave. Powell stated he is aware of the issue and the new property owner is supposed to be renovating the property. Goodfellow stated the trailers at the bottom of E. Water Street and the trailer court on Tile Plant Rd. are issues also. Police Chief Ervin stated the property owner of Tile Plant Rd. has been contacted by the Health Department and the owner

asked Ervin to serve papers to the residents at the trailer court to help expedite the process. The house on the corner of Main Street and Factory Street is a problem. Ervin stated the owner is incarcerated and trying to get help to clean it up. Ervin stated he is ready to move on these properties, but it will cost the Village some money. Ervin stated if the Village has the grass mowed the cost to do this can be put on the property taxes. Mayor Thompson asked Finance Director Rockwell how much money was budgeted for property maintenance for 2021. Rockwell stated \$50,000 was budgeted for the Land Bank and \$30,000 has been budgeted for Nuisance Abatement. Ervin stated the Village Ordinance states the grass cannot be over 12 inches high or must be mowed at least four times per season. Council discussed property maintenance.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to utilize the funding that was appropriated for Nuisance Abatement to clean up properties. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Police Chief Ervin reported 2,831 calls for service in 2021 as of tonight.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department received their pickup truck after waiting for seven months. The truck still needs lettering. Fain stated radios for the truck are on back order for five months. Fain stated they will be doing SCBA maze training on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, if anyone would like to come watch.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee and Public Safety Committee meeting that was held on June 8, 2021. Chute asked all Council members to review the minutes from the meeting. Chute reported the Village was denied emergency funding to repair the hole on High Street. Chute stated their reason was the pipe was beyond its useful life. The hole needs fixed as soon as possible, and Powell is trying to get metal plates to cover the hole until it can be repaired. Chute is going to investigate an OWDA loan. Chute stated she is going to contact Local Government Services to see if water funds can be used for the repair. Chute stated they also discussed the possibility of using American Rescue Plan Funding. Chute informed Council the current quote is \$239,108 to repair High Street. Chute stated a Finance/Public Safety meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2021, at 5:30 at the Municipal Building to discuss the status of the hydrant project.

Councilperson Boyle reported the Color Run will be this Saturday, June 26, 2021, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm beginning at the Municipal Building back lot. Boyle stated Kona Ice will be there and is going to donate a portion of their sales to the Fall Festival. Boyle stated Jenny Saffell contacted the president of the biddy league to do their sign ups for the upcoming season at the Municipal Building to possibly bring in more attendees.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Planning/Economic Committee meeting held on June 18, 2021. Bethel stated Chief Ervin does not believe there is a homeless issue in New Lexington currently and feels if a shelter is started there could possibly be more issues. Bethel stated the committee does not support a homeless shelter in New Lexington. Bethel reported Attorney Everitt feels it would be illegal to ban a homeless shelter and sent a proposed Ordinance. Bethel presented Council with a draft of the proposed Ordinance to review. Once Council reviews the Ordinance Bethel will return it to Attorney Everitt before bringing it back to Council for a vote.

Bethel stated if the Ordinance is passed, anyone wishing to start a homeless shelter would have to present the information to the Village Administrator to decide if it is approved due to zoning and restrictions in the Village.

Finance Director Rockwell stated the separation papers she requested from Fire Chief Fain are current. Councilperson Bethel asked if Council wanted the Ordinance pertaining to a homeless shelter to be an emergency. Councilperson Danison stated "yes", and Councilperson Chute stated she preferred it not be done as an emergency. Rockwell asked Fain if he was available on Friday, June 25, 2021 to help her make the PPM a searchable PDF document. Fain stated "yes".

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-4 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-4: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-4 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

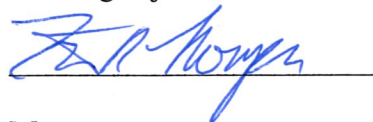
Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-5 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 21-5: **A RESOLUTION RESETTING THE RATES OF PAY FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-5 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-6 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 21-6: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A LOAN WITH OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE HIGH STREET PROJECT AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-6 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. 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 7:30 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk