

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

July 20, 2020

6:30 PM

MUNCIPAL 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, Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute and James Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin and Administrator Powell. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page. Absent were councilperson Fox and Danison.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Fox and Danison from the July 20, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 6, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Jenny LaRue addressed Council concerning the trees that will be planted on Main Street. Councilperson Chute presented Council with a list of trees and the locations where they will be planted. LaRue inquired as to who would be planting the trees. Administrator Powell stated the Public Service Department would plant the trees. Powell asked if the Tree Commission had a favorite nursery they use. LaRue stated she would obtain quotes and provide the Tree Commission's recommendation. Powell stated the trees would be planted in Mid-October. LaRue stated the Tree Commission would buy the weed mat. Councilperson Chute asked if they could purchase metal plaques with species of the tree to place beside them. Powell stated they were going to replace three trees on Brown Street also. The approximate cost is \$175 per tree. Finance Director Rockwell stated there is \$2,425 in the Tree Commission fund.

Councilperson Chute made a motion for the Village to move forward with the purchase and planting of trees on Main Street. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lieutenant Alex James of the New Lexington Fire Department addressed Council on the fire hydrant flow testing. James stated the department tested hydrants at the fairgrounds, Hocking College, Somerset Street, Reading Street and Imperial Street. James stated the hydrants at Hocking College tested great but there are some issues with the others that were tested. James stated he notified Public Service Department Supervisor Hicks about a hydrant on Reading Street with a faulty valve so Hicks can bag the hydrant. Mayor Thompson stated the fire hydrants are not up to par. Councilperson Chute asked if a schedule was made for the hydrant flow testing. James stated "yes". James stated he would like to have 1/3 of the testing done by October. James stated he will forward the reports to Administrator Powell to give to Hicks. Powell stated Hicks suggested not doing any testing until the Perry County Fair is over due to high water usage at the fair. James stated he will create a spreadsheet with the testing results. Councilperson Chute requested James provide a copy of the report to Council. Councilperson Bethel asked if the size of the water line was a factor in pressure. James stated "yes". Chute asked if the fire department has a plan in place if water to the area is needed. James stated they would call for mutual aid for tanker trucks. Chute asked what procedure the department was following for testing. James stated they would be splitting up into groups of two to get more testing completed.

Mayor Thompson reported the pool is doing good this year. Thompson stated he was asked by Bill Padgett if the Village was interested in commemoration signs being placed at the Village corporation limits. Council agreed it is a good idea. Thompson stated Police Chief Ervin, Administrator Powell and himself decided not to have a three way stop sign at the Pleasant Street Bridge. Thompson stated it was on the original plans to have a three way stop, but they decided only one stop sign was necessary.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council the June financial statements, credit card statement and bank reconciliation. Rockwell directed Council to the Swimming Pool reports. Rockwell informed Council the activity report for Bob Heavener was on the back page. Rockwell presented Council with a copy of the e-mail she sent to Local Government Services, per Council's request, concerning what fund a street repair can come out of due to a water leak. Rockwell gave Council a copy of a letter from Boley's Tractor Equipment Repair and Welding LLC stating how beautiful the new sidewalks look. Council discussed when the pool was going to close and the projected cost of running the pool through the end of the season.

Administrator Powell stated Nate Simons and Shawn Brooks from HAPCAP are scheduled to speak to Council at the August 17, 2020 meeting to explain the grant application. Powell stated Public Service Supervisor Hicks asked Powell to report to Council that the new flags they put up are being destroyed by the weather. Councilperson Goodfellow stated they used to put them up for holidays and take them down. Rockwell stated they should still be under warranty if they are damaged. Councilperson Welsh stated he likes leaving them up. Powell stated currently the closing date for the swimming pool is August 16, 2020. Powell stated he attended a meeting with AEP and several others concerning an easement for AEP at the New Lexington Cemetery. Councilperson Chute asked if the purchase order for the Nuzum Street Bridge in the amount of \$12,400 was part of the \$30,000 initial cost. Powell stated Lee Conkle said "yes".

Chute asked if the Village has used any money in the contingency fund for the Streetscape Project. Powell stated "no", and he will provide Chute with the report. Thompson asked Powell about the removal of an abandoned gas line sticking up out of the ground at 519 W. Water Street. Powell stated he spoke with Trevor Bragg from Columbia Gas and they will remove the line and pave over it. Powell stated that after the water leak on State Route 13 the Highland Drive water tower was drained completely. Thompson stated if possible, the State Route 13 water line project needs moved up. Powell informed Council it has been submitted for funding, but they are hold at this time. Lee Conkle stated he would look for other funding for the project. Police Chief Ervin stated the Village needs a better communication plan for after-hours water leaks. Thompson requested Powell take care of a building maintenance issue with the Fire Department stove.

Councilperson Chute presented Council with a citizen request form that Hicks would like everyone to use when there is a complaint about something needing fixed. Chute stated after the situation is resolved Hicks can contact the person that submitted the request to inform them of the completion.

Police Chief Ervin informed Council that Dave Pletcher and Colin Gilligan would like Council's permission to have a car show on Main Street August 29, 2020 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm with all proceeds going to the Perry County Cancer Alliance. Ervin stated he would get approval from the State to close Main Street since it is a state highway. Mayor Thompson stated Classic Riders asked him about doing a bike show on Monument Square, but a date has not been set at this time. Ervin stated it usually takes about 90 days to close a state route.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to close Main Street on August 29, 2020 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm for the cruise in. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Police Chief Ervin stated Officer Dodd resigned on July 16, 2020. Ervin stated he needs to post the position and wants to change the base pay rate from \$19.54 to \$18.06 per hour. After one year, the pay will increase to \$19.54. Finance Director Rockwell stated a pay Resolution would need passed by Council. Ervin stated the pay increase for the records clerk was put in the 2020 budget to match the pay rate with other Village clerks. Ervin stated the records clerk will be responsible for entering information into Leads when dispatching is moved. Councilperson Chute stated the records clerk wages and the pay scale for a dispatcher will go to the Finance Committee. Councilperson Bethel questioned giving anyone a raise when Council voted to put all raises on hold until a later date.

Councilperson chute made a motion for the Police Sergeant starting base pay rate to be \$18.06 per hour with an increase to \$19.54 per hour after one year. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported on behalf of Fire Chief Fain that EMS runs are sporadic. Councilperson Chute asked if the EMS Billing contract with Medicount has been signed. Administrator Powell stated "yes".

Councilperson Chute reported on the Personnel Policy Manual Committee meeting held on June 29, 2020. Chute stated another PPM Committee meeting will be held on July 24, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance/Public Safety Committee Meeting held on June 29, 2020. Chute stated a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2020 at 5:30 at the Municipal Building. Rockwell informed Council MAPSYS is scheduled to meet with the Finance Committee via Zoom to discuss computer security.

Councilperson Chute asked Finance Director Rockwell if the BWC grants opened for applications in July. Chute asked Rockwell to reach out to our representative to see what grants the Village is eligible for.

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 8:42 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk