

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

August 1, 2016

6:30 pm

MUNCIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Ratliff presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Council Members present were Kathy Chute, Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow, Tim Fiore and Jeff Danison. Also present were Police Chief Scott Ervin, Finance Director Heather Rockwell and Fire Chief Jordan Hollingshead. Absent were Councilpersons Anderson and Bethel.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Anderson and Bethel. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2016 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Barb Mooney, Ann Bonner and Deb Hutmire from the Tree Commission presented Mayor Ratliff with a plaque for giving the opening speech at the Southeast Ohio Tree City awards banquet that was held on April 20, 2016 at the Ludowici Show Room. Mooney stated she was retiring as the head of the Tree Commission and that Deb Hutmire would be a co-chair.

Mayor Ratliff stated that the outfield fence on the Nash ballfield had been replaced with a donation from Tunnel Hill Reclamation. The previous fence will be used for the dog park. Councilperson Fiore will contact Martha Pickenpaugh to confer with her on where the fence should be set up.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the July 2016 bank reconciliation and July 2016 financial reports. Rockwell also presented Council with a 2016 Supplemental Appropriations Ordinance. Rockwell stated that the Ordinance is to increase appropriations for the Tree Commission due to the award of a State Farm Grant and for the Water Treatment Plant to install communication towers. The Water Treatment Plant towers will eliminate the need of a circuit.

Police Chief Ervin stated that from 2014-2016 that thefts and burglaries are down. Ervin stated that domestic violence calls have increased, almost doubled.

Fire Chief Hollingshead thanked the Police Department and Street Department for their help with the preparations for the funeral precession for Corporal White. Hollingshead stated they had maintenance issues over the weekend on both medic 14 and 10. Hollingshead stated he was able to contact Finance Director Rockwell and a purchase order was issued to repair Medic 10. Medic 10 was back in service by 2:00 am. Rockwell stated she was very pleased with the service from Fleetmaster's on repairing Medic 10. Hollingshead stated unofficially they have received the FEMA grant and they should receive the paperwork by the end of the month. Hollingshead stated he would like to attend the next Finance Committee meeting to discuss purchasing a new medic.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee and Municipal Concerns Committee meeting that was held on July 18, 2016. The Committees discussed pay restructure and the hiring of a police officer to work on property maintenance. Chute also stated they discussed back property taxes owed to the County which in turn affects the Village. Chute informed Council she would attend the next meeting with Mayor Johnson of Somerset to discuss a land bank. A Finance Committee and Public Safety Committee meeting was scheduled for August 16, 2016 4:45 PM. The Finance Committee also met on July 21, 2016 to discuss upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant and the need for changes to the Personnel Policy Manual regarding training.

Councilperson Fiore reported for the Parks & Recreation Committee that there have been complaints about the swimming pool closing early and the cleanliness of the restrooms. Fiore informed Council that the pool manager would like to close the pool on August 14, 2016 for the season. Fiore stated that the signs that were made before the pool opened stated it would be open until August 21, 2016. Council decided the pool would stay open until August 21, 2016. Fiore also reported to Council a suggestion was made to charge half price for swimming pool admission for the rest of the season. Council decided to continue charging full admission fees. Councilperson Chute stated the pool manager should have more guidance in the future.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Economic Development meeting that was held on July 26, 2016. Boyle stated they discussed the cleaning of Broadway Street. Jenny LaRue suggested they try to get donations from businesses for supplies that will be needed. She also stated they may be able to get help with the project from Evolutions on Main Street. Habitat for Humanity has also expressed an interest in the project. Boyle informed Council that there will be an assessment walk on August 8, 2016 at 5:00 PM with everyone meeting at the Pizza Place on Broadway Street.

Councilperson Fiore reported on the Public Service Committee meeting that was held on July 28, 2016. Fiore stated they met on State Street to discuss a catch basin. New Lex Hardware owner Barry Bowers stated he would pay for the supplies if the Street Department would perform the work. The Public Service Committee recommended that the Village put cuts in the road and bury pipe for the catch basin by the end of October. A motion was made by Councilperson Fiore to have Barry Bowers provide all materials for the Street Department to perform the work on State Street for the catch basin. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Finance Director Rockwell reported on the Records Committee meeting that was held on July 27, 2016. Rockwell stated that the LGIF Grant that was supposed to be awarded at the end of July has been postponed until August 24, 2016. Rockwell stated a Records Committee meeting was scheduled for August 29, 2016 at 3:30 pm at Village Hall. The committee will discuss a backup plan for records retention should we not receive the grant.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Work Session that was held on July 26, 2016 to discuss property maintenance. Chute stated they have had 81 property maintenance complaints this year. Police Chief Ervin stated they needed to budget for a part time police officer to perform property maintenance and for this officer to get the International Code Council certification. Council also

discussed a budget to be able to tear down condemned properties and requiring annual inspections of all rental properties.

Councilperson Chute brought to the attention of Council that the Income Tax Clerk was concerned about being able to perform the duties of the tax office while trying to train the newly hired water clerk. It was decided to change the lobby hour temporarily while training is being done. A motion was made by Councilperson Fiore to change the lobby hours from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm beginning on August 8, 2016 and continuing for up to four weeks if needed. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Fiore made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 16-13 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 16-13: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 16-4 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE GENERAL FUND, REALLOCATED FUNDING TO THE PARKS & RECREATION LEVY FUND AND INCREASED FUNDING TO THE WATER OPERATING FUND WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Chute made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 16-13 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fiore. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Mayor Ratliff entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted “yes.” Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.


Mayor Kevin Ratliff sr.


Council Clerk Lisa Spohn