

# VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

August 2, 2021

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, Doug Fox, Jim Welsh, Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow and Jeff Danison. Also present were Police Chief Ervin, Administrator Emmert and Fire Chief Fain. The public was invited to attend the meeting in person or live online through the Village website and Facebook page. Absent was Councilperson Chute.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Chute from the August 2, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 19, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Jenny LaRue and Deborah Raney presented Council with a map of expansions they would like to make to the bike park using portions of the existing tennis court. Raney stated they would like to paint a rolling hills mural on the other side of the wall at the park that faces the tennis court. They would like to paint a road on the outer parts of the court and put up some type of gates to the entrance to the court. Councilperson Goodfellow asked if the road would interfere with the tennis court. Raney stated "no". Councilperson Boyle asked if the tennis court was occupied with bike riders and people wanted to play tennis how this would work. Raney stated signs would be posted when the tennis court is in use that the bike path would be closed on the tennis court. Councilperson Welsh stated he is concerned with children going on the tennis court when it is in use. Raney stated she and LaRue would do a time study of eight different times to see when the tennis court and bike park are used most. Raney stated they would bring the results back to Council in September. Police Chief Ervin stated the Parks and Recreation Committee should be involved. LaRue stated she would contact Councilperson Boyle.

Colin Gilligan addressed Council stating Perry Behavioral Health, Perry County Health Department and Job and Family Services would like to host a pool day to promote tobacco prevention. Gilligan stated this would be an all-day event and would like to use the New Lexington Swimming Pool. Gilligan asked what the cost would be to do this. Mayor Thompson stated he thought the Village could donate the pool for the day. Thompson told Gilligan to contact Dave Ratliff to set a date.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to allow Perry Behavioral Health to use the pool for a day, with the date to be determined, at no charge. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel stated they need to be careful about what decisions they make regarding the tennis court. There may be some concerns with the colors being painted on the wall.

Mayor Thompson asked for a moment of silence for Jim Leckrone who recently passed. Thomson stated he attended the Children and Family First meeting.

Council Clerk Spohn requested a motion on behalf of Finance Director Rockwell to approve the June Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation presented at the July 19, 2021 Council meeting. Mayor Thompson stated he would have to speak with Finance Director Rockwell about ordering a new flag for the front of the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the June 2021 Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Emmert reported there was a hole in the tank at the Wastewater Treatment Plant over the weekend. Emmert stated the drain was also partially clogged. Emmert stated he is meeting with Lee Conkel tomorrow and Mid Atlantic Tank is going to repair the hole at no cost to the Village. Emmert stated the tank should have been lined. Emmert reported Bob Heavener was going to pump the deep well, but all drying platforms are full. Emmert stated he spoke with Finance Director Rockwell about the funds to do this and it was not in the budget. Emmert reported that Lee Conkel thinks he may be able to find funding. Mayor Thompson stated the EPA was notified of the incident at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Emmert stated Steve and Drew did a great job of containing the situation. Emmert informed Council Josh Holcome is leaving the Public Service Department and the current meter reader is moving into his position. Emmert stated he is posting the meter reader position tomorrow. Emmert reported the Public Service Department had four trucks down at the same time. One of the trucks was the 2019 Ford F150 that was still under warranty. Emmert stated a new motor is going to be installed in the truck and is covered under the warranty. Emmert stated he met with Tim Frash from the Perry County Engineers Office and there is no funding available for the storm sewer project.

Police Chief Ervin reported he met with New Lexington City Schools on July 20, 2021 to sign the contract for the school resource officers. Ervin stated one officer went from part time to full time and he still has one full time position available with one applicant. Ervin stated he submitted the paperwork for the road closures on August 28, 2021 for the car show. Ervin stated two of the properties in the Village that received letters for high grass have been mowed. Ervin reported 3,523 calls for service in 2021 as of tonight. Ervin thanked the Public Service Department for their help with directing traffic for Jim Leckrone's funeral. Ervin reported he submitted the paperwork for the road closure for the Fall Festival.

Fire Chief Fain reported that July was a busy month for the department with the Perry County Fair. Fain reported for the month of July EMS had 208 runs with 118 transports. Fain stated he spoke with New Lexington City Schools about having a medic at the football games. Mayor Thompson asked Fain if they were doing training on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Fain stated "yes".

Councilperson Welsh reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on July 26, 2021. Welsh stated they mostly discussed using the American Rescue Plan Act funding to pay for the storm sewer repair.

Councilperson Boyle reported that the Blessing Box is done and thanked John Jackson and Chuck Hicks for completing the project. Boyle stated the box is located at MacGahan Park. Boyle stated Finance Director Rockwell ordered a plaque to place on the box. Boyle stated Waste Management is going to donate \$1,000 and a dumpster for the Fall Festival. Boyle stated the Fall Festival Committee will be doing a town canvas on Saturday, August 7, 2021 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Boyle stated Phil Wollenberg submitted the paperwork to purchase two new swings and two new benches for the park on Broadway Street. Boyle stated a Fall Festival meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Bethel presented an Ordinance for the homeless shelter. Bethel stated Attorney Everitt reviewed the Ordinance. Bethel stated if the Ordinance is passed it will be up to the Administrator to enforce the requirements. Mayor Thompson stated Administrator Emmert should make a list of requirements to check when someone is applying for a zoning permit before approving it.

Councilperson Danison stated State Street is looking bad again with a lot of weeds. Danison stated he hates to see this after all the work that was done to clean this area up. Administrator Emmert stated Tim Frash asked him what the long-term plan was for this area. Mayor Thompson suggested trying to mow it in the spring and fall. Councilperson Bethel stated maybe they could get some help from organizations to weed eat. Emmert stated the County would help us with mowing in the future, but they need a plan. Police Chief Ervin stated when they mow the area around the cemetery twice a year, it may be a good time to mow State Street also.

Police Chief Ervin reported to Council on behalf of Finance Director Rockwell that she received information from the Ohio Municipal League that the State of Ohio has reached a settlement regarding the Opioid crisis.

Ervin stated a Resolution will be presented to give consent for the Village to receive whatever their percentage of the amount is. Ervin stated the deadline is 8/13/21 for Council to authorize participation.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-6 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-6: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 21-1 TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-6 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-7 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-7: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD A HOMELESS SHELTER OVERLAY ZONE.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-12 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 21-12: **A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR A LEVY OF TAX IN EXCESS OF TEN MILL LIMITATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-12 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-13 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 21-13: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENT PLAN OF CLAIMS AGAINST DISTRIBUTORS OF IN THE SUITS AGAINST AMERISOURCE BERGEN, CARDINAL HEALTH, AND MCKESSON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-13 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 Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk