

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

August 8, 2019

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

5:00 PM

The Village of New Lexington met in special session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 5:00 pm. Council Members present were Kathy Chute, Susan Goodfellow, Jim Welsh, Jeff Danison and Doug Fox. Absent were Councilpersons Boyle and Bethel. Also present was Administrator Bo Powell, Police Chief Scott Ervin and Fire Chief Jim Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Boyle and Bethel from the August 8, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated the reason for holding a special meeting was Administrator Powell stated in an open Council meeting that the Pleasant Street Bridge project would be started at the end of July. Thompson asked Powell who told him this. Powell stated ODOT explained to him construction would start by July 31, 2019. Powell stated Poggemeyer did the design and states when the project should be finished. Powell stated he does not have a signed contract from Poggemeyer and that he looked all through his office and could not find one. Powell stated Kent Cannon, the Perry County Engineer, told him to look at the signed contract from Poggemeyer and the completion date should be on the contract. Powell stated he jumped into the middle of this project and that Poggemeyer has a copy of the contract. Powell stated Poggemeyer states the project should be completed by July 2020. Powell stated if this is in the contract, we might be able to push up the project, but if not, we can't do anything about it. Thompson stated he is not concerned with the completion date; he wants to know who told him construction would start in July. Thompson stated no one from ODOT is backing what Powell reported on the start date of July 2019. Thompson stated the problem is the information that the Pleasant Street Bridge Project was starting in July 2019 was put on social media, the newspaper and announced in an open Council meeting. Thompson stated now they must tell the residents they were given bad information and that the project is not starting until next year. Powell stated he did not make up the date and that he did not have a copy of the contract. Mayor Thompson stated he had the contract and the completion date is September 30, 2020. Powell stated he was not mentioning any names from ODOT, but someone told Powell back in May or June if the Village got the paperwork done and their match it could possibly start by July 2019. Powell stated he did not know if the person from ODOT meant their portion of the project would be complete on July 31, 2019 and then the project would be given to Shelly and Sands.

Councilperson Welsh stated the problem was it was not reported that way. It was reported the project would start in July. Councilperson Danison stated the residents will think he was lying to them about the start date of the project. Welsh stated Council must publish something in the paper explaining what has happened. Powell stated he would never lie to his boss or Council about anything and that he did hear this start date from ODOT. Mayor Thompson stated they do not know who he heard it from. Councilperson Chute stated starting today, to rectify these types of situations everything should be done through e-mail so there is a paper trail. Chute stated this goes for everyone including Administrator Powell, Mayor Thompson, Finance Director Rockwell and Police Chief Ervin. Chute stated things cannot just be verbal. Chute stated Thompson will be copied on all e-mails. Chute stated even if an e-mail comes directly to Powell, he will forward it to Thompson. Chute stated if someone wants to send something in written form on a letterhead that is fine also. Thompson stated he went as high as State Representative Householder and now the Village looks terrible. Councilperson Danison stated how this all got started was Mayor Thompson reached out to the project manager and he had no clue where Thompson got his information. All Council agreed that Mayor Thompson would contact the newspaper and explain the situation to the residents. Even though the start date is different the date of completion is still the same.

Mayor Thompson stated he and Council needs more from Administrator Powell's office. Thompson stated Powell needs to be in the office more and not with the Public Service Department Supervisor. Thompson stated

they need more from the Public Service Department and more from the Administrator's office. Councilperson Fox stated our Administration Office is the most difficult to reach. Councilperson Chute stated on a normal day Powell should be touching base personally with the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water Treatment Plant and the Public Service Department. Chute stated this should not take more than an hour for each department and, not including his lunch, should be in the office the rest of the time.

Councilperson Chute stated Powell does not need to be riding around with Chuck all day and he can call him on the phone when he needs to tell him to do something. Chute stated she appreciates when she tells him something needs done it gets done, but she should not have to tell them when potholes need filled or trash needs picked up. Powell stated he had an issue with purchase orders. Once he received the purchase orders things got done. Chute stated she did not want to deflect away from the topic. Powell stated to let him reposition his schedule since things are not in turmoil now. Chute informed Council that Mayor Thompson and she asked Powell back in February to spend more time in the office. Powell stated he tried, but sometimes he just can't. Chute stated she understands there was a lot of turmoil in the office and sometimes you just didn't want to be in the administration offices.

Mayor Thompson requested an executive session.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) regarding discipline of a public employee or official with Mayor Thompson and Council present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended for executive session at 5:55 pm.

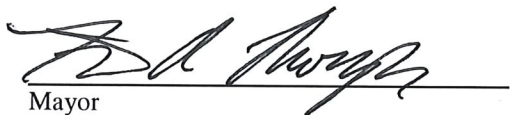
Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 6:15 pm.

Councilperson Chute stated no decisions were made as a result of executive session.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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



Mayor



Council Clerk