

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
August 16, 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, Jim Welsh, Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow and Jeff Danison. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, 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 Councilpersons Chute and Fox.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Chute and Fox from the August 16, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh stated Councilperson Chute has resigned from all committees. Welsh stated vacancies on the Finance Committee, Public Safety Committee and Municipal Concerns Committee will need filled. Councilperson Danison recommended Councilperson Bethel fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee. Councilperson Bethel accepted. Councilperson Danison stated he would fill the Public Safety Committee vacancy and Councilperson Boyle stated she will fill the vacancy on the Municipal Concerns Committee.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 2, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Christian Spellman and Michael presented Council with information about First Net-First Responders Network. Spellman stated they have integrated the MARCS radio to use with a cell phone. This is a great benefit for Fire and Police. Spellman stated this process could save the Village money and there is no contract. The system uses AT&T cellular network. Spellman stated he would like to follow-up with the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Carrie Spears spoke to Council about the non-profit organization she started called Never Alone Ohio. Spears stated she is a nurse by trade and when her nephew passed in a hospital where someone brought him fentanyl, she decided to pursue this project that she considered doing years ago. Spears stated she launched the non-profit in July 2021. Spears stated a community walk and fundraiser will be held on August 29, 2021 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Jim Rockwell Football Stadium. Spears stated Perry County is in the top 10 for overdose deaths. Spears reported this concerns her as a nurse and resident of Perry County. Spears stated they will conduct monthly meetings, Narcan presentation, Organ donation, Hep C & HIV test kits, policy changes, scholarship, "code reds", networking and many more things. Spears stated her nephew saved four lives with his organ donation. Councilperson Welsh thanked Spears for her commitment to do something about these issues.

Mayor Thompson stated he spent time with Administrator Emmert at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Board of Elections building this past Friday. Thompson stated he met with the New Lexington City Schools about a paving project the school is doing.

Rockwell presented Council with the July monthly financial statements, credit card statement and bank reconciliation. Rockwell informed Council the invoice for pipelines for the High Street storm sewer project has been resolved. Bob Heavener has been paid for the project. Rockwell reminded Council of the memo they received to update their direct deposit information. Rockwell stated the additional funding she has been working on for sewer issues does not look promising.

Administrator Emmert reported on the issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Emmert stated in 2019 when upgrades were made to the plant, they did not include a manhole. Emmert stated Heavener installed a manhole. Emmert reported the motor on the oxidation ditch was not working and an electrical short was found in the underground line. This was repaired and it is currently operational. Lee Conkel is going to help the Village apply for two different grants for upgrades and repairs needed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Emmert reported the Board of Elections was putting a cut out that was going into the street for a handicap ramp. Emmert stated the project had never been approved. The Board, Emmert and the Municipal Concerns committee are meeting tomorrow to come up with a solution. Emmert suggested changing the direction of traffic on MacGahan Avenue which is the fire lane. Emmert stated he and Mayor Thompson met with Dave Rupe from New Lexington City Schools regarding a paving project. Rupe asked if the Village could help with the cost to pave some areas around the school. Thompson told Rupe that currently the Village could not help but they did not have an issue if the school was able to pave these areas. Rupe stated they would continue with the project at no cost to the Village. Emmert presented Council with an ordinance to give property back to the school and an ordinance for ODOT to remove snow on state highways in the Village. Councilperson Welsh asked about the status of the fire hydrant project. Emmert stated he received the plan from Poggemeyer Design Group on Wednesday. Emmert stated he would forward a copy to Fire Chief Fain. Council asked Emmert if he had been updated on the hole in the road at the corner of North Main and Factory Street. Emmert stated "no". Police Chief Ervin stated Powell was to contact ODNR to check the hole. Emmert stated he would contact ODNR and Issue 1 Paving is to begin in September. Rockwell asked if the request for permissive tax from the Perry County Engineer has been completed. Councilperson Goodfellow inquired on the status of the repairs to Monument Square Park. Emmert stated they are working on the repairs.

Councilperson Bethel asked Council if they should decide on the upgrades to the bike park that Jenny LaRue and Deborah Raney would like to make. These changes would involve using the tennis court. Bethel stated he has spoken to several residents who prefer the upgrades not be made. Council decided not to allow the updates to the bike park. Administrator Emmert will contact LaRue to tell her.

Police Chief Ervin reported 3,745 calls for service in 2021 as of tonight. Ervin stated he has been working on Administration information to pass on to his successor. Ervin stated the department has all positions filled at this time. Ervin stated his last day will be September 17, 2021. Councilperson Danison asked Ervin if he had a maintenance schedule he followed for cruisers. Ervin stated "yes" and he will leave that with whoever the new Chief is. Ervin stated he is always available if needed and he just wants to see the community move forward. Ervin stated the Village needs to build their rainy-day fund back up and take care of their employees. Mayor Thompson stated Ervin would help with the interviewing of a new Police Chief.

Fire Chief Fain reported they have been busy. Fain stated he met with the Perry County Fair Board and told them they need a plan in place when hosting events at the fairgrounds. Fain stated all events for next

year should be scheduled by the end of March 2022 and he will meet with them again then. Fain stated there has been talk of some of Crooksville's football games being played at New Lexington Football Field. If this is the case, they would have to pay to have a medic at the field on game days. Fain asked Rockwell about the status of the pay study. Rockwell asked if he was referring to the salary surveys that Emmert was supposed to get. Fain stated he needed a Finance Committee meeting. Councilperson Welsh stated they need to schedule a Finance Committee meeting. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for August 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building. Councilperson Danison asked if another Public Service Employee resigned. Emmert stated "yes" that he found a job with higher pay.

Councilperson Boyle reported the Fall Festival Committee raised \$1,342 from their town canvas held on August 7, 2021. Boyle stated the Blessing Box is at the Public Service Department and will be put up in MacGahan Park when Chuck has time. Boyle stated the Parks and Recreation Committee met at the bike park and decided they did not want the upgrades to the bike park that would involve the tennis court. Boyle stated the committee had some other suggestions that she will give to Jenny LaRue.

Councilperson Bethel stated he spoke to Mitch Nash and Nash thought it would be nice to name the tennis court after John Johnson who was a previous Administrator for the Village. Nash stated he had a lot to do with the court being built. A Memorial Service will be held for Johnson who recently passed, and Nash thought this would be a nice gesture.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to name the tennis court after the late Administrator John Johnson. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Council Clerk Spohn presented Council with two separate ballot languages given to her by the Board of Elections for how the Initiative Petition Sensible Marihuana Ordinance will appear on the ballot in November 2021. Spohn reported Board of Elections Director Jamie Snider stated the full language is consistent with how it was placed on the ballot in Roseville, Somerset, and with the Statewide marijuana issue.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to use the full language on the ballot for The Sensible Marihuana Ordinance. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-8 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-8: **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TO BOARD OF EDUCATION OF NEW LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-8 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-9 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-9: **APPROVAL AND GRANTING CONSENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TO APPLY, MAINTAIN AND REPAIR STANDARD LONGITUDINAL PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND ERECT REGULATORY AND WARNING SIGNS ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE VILLAGE CORPORATE LIMITS, AND**

GIVING CONSENT OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE AND USE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MATERIAL ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATE LIMITS AND

GIVING CONSENT OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATION.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-7 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-7: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD A HOMELESS SHELTER OVERLAY ZONE.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-7 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. 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 7:49 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk