

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

August 17, 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 Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, James Welsh, Doug Fox and Jeff Danison. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin, Administrator Powell and Fire Chief Fain. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page. Absent was Councilperson Bethel.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Bethel from the August 17, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 3, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Chute who abstained due to being absent from the August 3, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Nate Simons addressed Council concerning the HAPCAP Community Block Grant. Mayor Thompson asked Simons what they would need from the Village to apply for the grant. Simons stated there are two slots open for the grant and that the Perry County Commissioners are applying for the grant for the Village of Shawnee. Simons stated the Commissioners are the ones who apply for the grant, so the Village of New Lexington would need to ask them to apply for the second slot for them. Simons stated a 10% match will earn more points on the grant application. The grant is approximately \$750,000 but the program won't be finalized by the State until February 2021. Simons stated the Village should identify the projects that are the most important. Councilperson Welsh stated one of the upgrades the Village would like to do is have a handicap accessible restroom at the park. Simons stated if the grant is awarded the Village must host community meetings. Mayor Thompson stated the Village will contact the Perry County Commissioners and schedule a walkthrough of what the Village would like to do with the grant money.

Mayor Thompson stated the Pleasant Street Bridge is open. Thompson stated the Streetscape Project is going well. Thompson stated he joined the Fire Department when they did flow testing on the hydrants. Thompson reported the hydrants are in bad shape. Administrator Powell will forward a list of the hydrants needing repairs to the Public Service Department. Fire Chief Fain stated he gave a list of hydrants needing repaired to Public Service Supervisor Hicks. Councilperson Chute stated Fain should give the list to Powell, and then Powell will forward it to Hicks. Once repairs are complete Hicks will return the schedule to Fain. Finance Director Rockwell stated Hicks should make sure he charges the water fund when he submits a purchase order for parts to repair hydrants. Mayor Thompson stated the hydrants also need painted. Rockwell asked if replacement hydrants should have old style couplings or come equipped with Storz couplings. Fain stated the old style is preferred so that all fire departments can hook to them. Powell stated replacement hydrants cost approximately \$3,500 each and another \$1,500 to install.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the August credit card statement. Rockwell stated she did not have the monthly bank reconciliation since she does not have all July receipts yet. Rockwell presented Council with an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and a Supplemental Appropriations Ordinance, which Rockwell reviewed with Council.

Administrator Powell stated Nuzum Bridge is in bad shape. The bridge was inspected in July last year and was rated a four. When the bridge was just inspected it had dropped to a two. Powell stated ODOT wanted to close the bridge today, but he asked if the load limit could be reduced to 1 ton. Powell stated trash trucks, UPS trucks and Fed Ex trucks will not be allowed to cross the bridge. Powell stated he spoke with Waste Management and they are going to place a dumpster on the other side of the bridge for the residents. Powell stated the bridge is

set for repairs in 2022. Powell stated it may get moved up to 2021. In the interim, ODOT will inspect the bridge monthly at no cost. Powell stated the bridge on N. State St. will probably need repaired in the next five years and the Village should start preparing for it now. Powell stated this bridge could possibly be repaired with a culvert. Powell stated he is still waiting on quotes for the landscaping. Powell reported he mailed the contract for EMS billing to Medicount today. Powell stated the bike park is almost complete. Powell stated they ordered the color for the concrete and four test pads. Powell informed Council McKee Paving will repair Brown Street in mid-September. Powell stated the streets he is turning into Perry County Engineer Cannon for 2021 paving are Monument Street, Lowden Street, Center Street, Madison Street North and South, Linda Lane, Fealty Drive, Clayton Street and Pleasant Street. Powell presented Council with Resolution No. 20-13 to enter into contract for paving.

Police Chief Ervin informed Council there have been a lot of thefts in the area. Ervin stated they have made one arrest but more people are involved. Ervin stated some items that were stolen were returned. Ervin stated a radio vendor is coming on Friday for dispatch. Ervin reported the Elks got a grant for Covid supplies and purchased masks for the Police and Fire Departments County wide. Ervin stated they are still working on property maintenance. Ervin stated New Lexington City Schools own the old elementary school on School Ave. again and they are going to put some offices in. Ervin stated he is still working on getting the permit to close the state route for the car show on August 29, 2020. Ervin asked Powell to remind Public Service Director Hicks about the event so he can install signage. Ervin stated he promoted in-house for the Sergeant position that was open and this opens up a full time spot. Ervin informed Council a part time employee applied for the full time position. Ervin stated the Mayor signed for the hire of a part time employee. Ervin stated he informed several local Colleges that they would be hiring dispatchers. Mayor Thompson stated he would inform Classic Riders if they are planning on having a bike show they should contact Ervin thirty days in advance to get the permit needed to close a state route.

Fire Chief Fain stated he was late to the meeting due to computer issues. Fain presented Council with an ordinance to update EMS billing rates and a resolution adopting an EMS billing hardship policy. Fain stated they have a form they can give to patients to fill out if they feel they would qualify for the hardship policy. Fain stated the form can also be accessed through the Medicount website or they can obtain the form at the Village Administration Office. Fain stated they will be performing more hydrant flow testing this week. Fain reported that a riser needs installed on one of the fire hydrants because it is too close to the ground. Fain asked if any Council members would like to go with them when they do their testing to let him know. Councilperson Danison inquired about the EMS rate changes. Councilperson Chute supplied Danison with the new rates. Danison asked Fain if they were having trouble filling shifts on EMS to run two medics. Fain stated "yes", but they are in the process of hiring. Danison stated when there is only one medic running they should not go down south. Fain stated the State of Ohio is a mutual aid state and they are not allowed to refuse a call. Fain stated there is a sporadic crew working for Corning currently is coordinating with Corning to not have two crews responding to that area.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on August 11, 2020. Chute stated Lee Conkel of Poggemeyer Design Group provided the committee with estimates for Water Treatment Plant Improvements. The cost of the project is projected to be \$1,078,350. Conkel reported the estimate for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 project is \$1,639,300. Chute reported they may look into combining the Water Treatment Plant Improvements with the State Route 13 project. Councilperson Chute asked if it would be easier to get emergency funding for the State Route 13 project due to the severity of the situation with all the water breaks in this area. Conkel stated he would need documentation of the breaks. Powell stated this information was provided to Conkel. Chute stated the new EMS rates will not be in effect until August 17, 2020. Chute stated Powell reported to the committee the rip rap under the Brook Street Bridge is in good shape. Chute stated Fire Chief Fain recommends a seven microphone setup for \$250.00 for the meeting room to improve audio. Chute stated Fain was going to get the township contracts to Finance Director Rockwell. Chute reported a Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020 at 5:30 at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to waive the requirement for a second bid to repair Brown Street. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to purchase the seven microphones for the meeting room. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Goodfellow reported on the Municipal Concerns Committee meeting on August 5, 2020. Goodfellow stated Chuck VanHorn requested to close Lumber Street. Goodfellow stated the property is zoned R-2 on the zoning map and is also in a flood plain. There is no way anyone could build or have any trailers on the property. The committee recommended not to close Lumber Street.

Councilperson Goodfellow stated Jenny LaRue contacted her and would like to have a meeting the week of 9/17/20 or 9/24/20 with the appropriate committee to discuss the Carroll Street Corridor project. Mayor Thompson stated that should go to the Planning Committee and he will contact the members of that committee and schedule a meeting with LaRue.

Councilperson Danison made a motion not to close Lumber Street or any other alleys. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute stated the Personnel Policy Manual updates are complete but can’t be finalized without the computers. Chute stated she would meet with Administrator Powell on Wednesday to discuss absenteeism at the Public Service Department. Chute reviewed the working document.

Mayor Thompson stated Marilyn Hatem asked about planting flowers in Monument Square that would come up every year. Thompson informed Hatem the Village takes care of the property but does not own it. Thompson advised her to contact the Veterans Commission. Hatem also asked if she could clean up the paths that go around the reservoir so they can walk them. Council agreed she could do this. Thompson stated she would like to mow a path around the wet lands at the park to walk around. Mayor Thompson stated this should go to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Council expressed concerns with a walking bridge along the path.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to file the 2020 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources with the Perry County Auditor. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-15 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-15: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 20-8 TO INCREASE FUNDING IN THE GENERAL, CORONAVIRUS RELIEF, WATER OPERATING AND SEWER OPERATING FUNDS 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. 20-15 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-16 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-16: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 20-2, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FEES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-16 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 20-13 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 20-13: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERRY COUNTY ENGINEER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN**

APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 20-14 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 20-14: **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE FOR PATIENTS OF THE NEW LEXINGTON EMS WHO DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-14 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. 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 8:10 PM.


Mayor


Council Clerk