

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 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, Dan Bethel and Jeff Danison. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin and Administrator Powell. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 17, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Bethel who abstained due to being absent from the August 17, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he participated as a judge in the first annual Auto Obsessions Car Show. The car show raised \$5,300 for the Perry County Cancer Alliance. Thompson stated the sidewalks on Main St. are making progress. Thompson stated he received complaints from citizens about the closure signs for Main and Brown Streets. Powell explained the closure will just be at the intersection of Brown Street and Main Street. Citizens will still have access to Main Street businesses. Thompson stated he will report to Council on the final pool budget once all reports are done.

Finance Director Rockwell stated she had no updates at the present time. Councilperson Chute stated new water software is being installed and there have been some issues with the conversion. Councilperson Goodfellow asked if we were going to estimate water bills for September. Finance Director Rockwell stated she would like to wait to see what progress is made with the water software over the next few days. Councilperson Danison asked if the Village should put a notice out to the citizens. Rockwell stated she should have more information after tomorrow. Mayor Thompson stated he heard people blaming the employees for the situation with the water. Thompson reported he informed them this is not the employees' fault and that they are doing everything possible to help resolve the issues. Rockwell thanked Mayor Thompson. Councilperson Chute thanked the Finance Director, Water Clerk, Income Tax Clerk, Meter Reader and the Public Service Department for their hard work on the water software conversion.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to waive penalties on the September water bills. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Rockwell stated our goal is to have a water bill for September. Council discussed extending the due date for September water bills and gave Mayor Thompson to set the due date on September bills when they are ready.

Administrator Powell stated Perry County Engineer Cannon approved all nine streets submitted for the 2021 Issue One paving. The Village match will be \$30,416. Pleasant Street includes grinding. Powell reported he posted two jobs: operator & laborer at the Public Service Department. Meter reader Hollingshead applied for the operator, so Powell posted the meter reader position as well. Powell discussed fixing the sidewalk on the west side of Brown Street by the court house. The Village would be responsible for half the cost and the Perry County Commissioners would be responsible for the other half. The Village's share to repair the sidewalk and fill two cisterns would be \$10,497. Powell stated test pads were poured at the bike park today for stamping the crosswalks. The intersection of Brown and Main Streets will be closed to stamp the crosswalks. Powell stated the stamping will look just like brick. Councilperson Chute stated the Finance Committee was aware of the cost of repairing the sidewalks by the court house. Chute stated there are two funding sources. One is the 20% contingency built into the Streetscape Project and the other is \$40,000 left from the Village's match. Currently there is \$32,000 left in matching funds. Police Chief Ervin asked what the estimated completion date is for the Streetscape Project. Powell stated the second week of November. Ervin stated the drainage on Main Street is

much better since the project began. Councilperson Goodfellow asked Powell what was being done on Brown Street. Powell stated the gas company is boring new trunk line. The gas company will repair any portionso f the sidewalk they damage.

Mayor Thompson asked Powell about the status of repairing potholes with hot mix. Powell stated the Public Service Department is down two people. Powell stated he may have to help them direct traffic or whatever he can do to help. Councilperson Danison stated he has been getting complaints about why the Village pays Hicks so much when he doesn't get out of the truck. Danison stated he needs to start helping. Councilperson Fox stated the company that paved Kennedy Drive needs to inspect the work. Fox stated there are waves, ripples and cracking in the street. Councilperson Chute stated the company should not start on Brown Street until Kennedy Drive is inspected and they know why there are issues. Councilperson Welsh stated that is why all streets should be ground before paving. Powell stated it is a bad base.

Mayor Thompson stated Wanda Deavers says trash trucks tore up the alley behind her house. Thompson stated he would like the Municipal Concerns Committee to address the issue. Thompson stated the repairs Heavener made on McKinley Ave. still need some work. Thompson stated larger gravel needs put in the ditch to keep it from washing out. Mayor Thompson stated the tree grates that were installed on Main Street look terrible. Thompson suggested having them powder coated. Thompson stated he would contact Harley Weidner to see if he could do the job. Councilperson Chute stated this could come out of the State Highway fund. Chute stated the trees will be coming in October so this needs done as soon as possible. Councilperson Chute asked Powell if he has any local bids for the landscaping. Powell stated "no". Mayor Thompson stated he has someone local that is going to give him a bid.

Police Chief Ervin informed Council he received the approval to close Main Street on September 26, 2020 for the Classic Riders bike show from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Ervin stated the radio people came in and looked at the radios. Ervin stated he is down two full time officers. Ervin reported he received two applications for the two open positions. He is waiting on background checks for the applicants. Ervin stated nothing has changed with the dispatch. He still has three people interested. Ervin stated as far as reports go, he is able to do traffic reports by hand. Ervin stated they have had a steady call volume. Ervin stated they are making some progress with property maintenance.

Mayor Thompson reported on behalf of Fire Chief Fain that an ambulance was hit while at a scene of an accident. Thompson stated no one was injured. Thompson stated EMS call volume has been sporadic.

Councilperson Chute stated a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building. Chute stated Lee Conkle of Poggemeyer Design Group will be in attendance.

Councilperson Goodfellow gave Finance Director Rockwell invoices that were given to her by the fire department and asked if they had been paid. Rockwell stated this is the first time she has seen the invoices and she will have to look into the matter. Rockwell stated the purchase order number on one of the invoices was from 2019 and there were names as purchase order numbers on the other invoices. Mayor Thompson stated he will contact Deavers to set up a time to schedule a Municipal Concerns Committee meeting at her residence to address her complaint.

Councilperson Boyle stated she talked to Marilyn Hatem about walking the rim of the park. Boyle stated they wanted a path to walk which the Public Service Department already mows so they can walk it. Councilperson Bethel stated it was a public park so they can walk the rim. Councilperson Chute stated as long as it doesn't affect the wetlands.

Councilperson Bethel stated a Planning/Economic Development meeting is scheduled with Jenny LaRue on September 24, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Municipal Building to discuss the Carroll Street Corridor Project. Finance Director Rockwell stated she could set up the room and run the zoom meeting.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document. Chute asked the status of the dental and vision insurance. Rockwell stated Randy Ayers informed her he may be able to start with the October billing. Rockwell stated she has not heard from him recently and will contact him.

Councilperson Bethel asked if the new hires for the Public Service Department are required to have a CDL. Chute stated on the job posting it states if they do not have one they will be required to obtain it within six months.


Councilperson Boyle asked if the Village was going to have Trick-or-Treat. Mayor Thompson stated "yes". Councilperson Fox made a motion for the Village to have Trick-or-Treat with the date to be determined. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. 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 second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. 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 adopt Resolution No. 20-13 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 7:36 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk *Acting*