

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING  
September 21, 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 Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 8, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee with Council and Mayor present. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:33 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 7:19 pm.

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

Mayor Thompson stated the sidewalks are coming along but there are a few issues with the inlay. Thompson stated the Pleasant Street Bridge was vandalized.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with an update on water bills and the dental and vision insurance renewal. Rockwell presented Council with a Resolution Certifying Amounts and Rates for 2021. Rockwell presented Council with the recommended guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health for Halloween festivities and Trick-or-Treat.

Administrator Powell informed Council the Right of Way Easement papers have been signed for the new AEP lines. Powell stated the Village received \$2,000 for 0.033 acres and another \$2,000 for 0.080 acres. Powell reported McKee Paving will be working on Brown Street and look at Kennedy Drive on October 16, 2020. Councilperson Chute asked if Columbia Gas will be done working in the area by then. Powell stated "yes". Powell informed Council he received eighteen applications for the job openings at the Public Service Department. Powell stated he will be starting interviews on Monday, September 28, 2020. Mayor Thompson stated citizen requests will be provided to Thompson when they are complete.

Police Chief Ervin informed Council Officers Duskey and Fox have been promoted to full time. Ervin stated he will post the Sergeant's position soon. Ervin stated he met with Mayor Thompson to discuss hiring a new part time officer and he stated another officer was applying. Ervin reminded Powell the Classic Rider Bike Show was this Saturday and there would be road closures that need posted. Ervin stated LEADS is in process. Ervin asked about the date for Trick-or-Treat. Ervin reported they have extra patrols around the Pleasant Street Bridge. Ervin stated if you see something, say something. Ervin stated their call volume is steady. Mayor Thompson stated the department is doing a good job. Ervin stated they have a good team.



Mayor Thompson reported Fire Chief Fain could not be present and Alex Eveland would report on Fain's behalf. Eveland stated run volume is still sporadic. Eveland updated Council on the hydrant flow testing. Eveland stated a lot of the hydrants need repaired. Administrator Powell asked if they got the forms from the Public Service Department to notify of hydrants that need repaired. Eveland stated "yes". Eveland stated they are waiting on the insurance information from the driver who hit Medic 1 before starting repairs. Mayor Thompson inquired about the status of the invoices from New Lexington Hardware. Finance Director Rockwell stated there are no purchase order requests submitted for any of the invoices. Rockwell stated a then and now purchase order has been prepared. Rockwell stated the Fire/EMS Department have a separate account at the hardware store. Councilperson Chute stated that no department should have accounts separate from the Village. Thompson agreed. All Village accounts should be set up so invoices are mailed to the Finance Department. Chute stated she will contact Fire Chief Fain to have the separate account closed.

Councilperson Chute made a motion that no department can set up a separate account with a vendor. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on September 15, 2020. Chute stated Lee Conkel of Poggemeyer Design Group provided updates on Village projects. Chute reported Administrator Powell stated the Ohio Department of Transportation is working to move up the Nuzem Street Bridge project. Chute reported the Committee discussed the hydrants that are out of service and that they need to be a priority. Chute stated Administrator Powell requested a purchase order for \$12,600 for 2" of grinding and 1 1/2" of paving on Brown Street. Chute reported no local quotes have been received for landscaping so the committee agreed to the quote they received for \$5,000 with the plants being guaranteed by the contractor. Chute stated the quote to powder coat 52 tree grates on Main Street is \$3,900. The cost to replace the lights at the welcome sign by Ridenour Motors is \$810 installed. Chute stated Mayor Thompson located an LED flag pole light that will work for \$830. Chute stated the cost for the Brown Street curb and sidewalks and filling in two cistern with gravel will be \$10,500. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for October 28, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to proceed with the Finance Committee suggestions regarding the landscaping, grinding and paving on Brown Street, powder coating tree grates, replacing the lighting on the welcome sign and a LED flag pool light. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Goodfellow reported on the Municipal Concerns Committee meeting held on September 16, 2020. Goodfellow stated the committee met at the Deavers residence located at 448 Church Street, New Lexington. The committee recommended installing a 45° angle to drain water into a catch basin. Goodfellow stated Administrator Powell will notify the Public Service Department and submit a purchase order request.

Mayor Thompson appointed David Keiner to the Planning/Economic Development Committee. A meeting is scheduled September 24, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document. Council discussed the homeless shelter. Chute stated she will ask Attorney Everitt if any further legislation is needed.

Mayor Thompson stated correspondence he received indicates the public would like for Trick-or-Treat to be held on Saturday, October 31, 2020. Thompson stated he would like to hold it for two hours.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to hold Trick-or-Treat on October 31, 2020 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm rain or shine. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 20-15 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

**Resolution No. 20-15: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-15 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(8) with everyone excused except Council, Mayor and Village staff. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 8:28 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 9:01 pm.

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

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 9:01 PM.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk