

# VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

October 5, 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, 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.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 21, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried

Mayor Thompson stated the Streetscape project on Main Street is coming along nicely. Thompson stated the light for the flag pole in front of the Administration Building has been installed.

Finance Director Rockwell stated she is still in the process of reconciling the July bank statement due to a payment from the Ohio Attorney General's office with no explanation for payment. Rockwell stated she is trying to contact them for clarification. Rockwell presented Council with an Ordinance for 2020 Supplemental Permanent Appropriations. Rockwell stated the deadline to for reporting Cares Act spending is October 20, 2020. Any money not utilized has to be returned to the County. Rockwell stated there may be a second round of Cares Act funds. Council person Chute asked if Rockwell got the report form the Perry County Auditor's Office explaining the breakdown of the funds the Village received through the Cares Act. Rockwell stated "no" because we still would not know the formula used to calculate the State's estimate.

Administrator Powell informed Council the grinder at the Waste Water Treatment Plant has been repaired. Powell stated the Board of Elections made some changes to their building upgrades. Powell stated they moved the door to the front of the building facing Jackson Street. Powell stated they would like to put a drop box in the alley behind the building. Powell informed Council he would walk through all the changes with the Municipal Concerns Committee. Powell stated they would like to add ADA compliant access to the building.

A Municipal Concerns Committee meeting was scheduled for October 7, 2020 at 12:00 pm at the Board of Elections.

Powell reported Public Service Department Supervisor Hicks stated he received a notice from AEP that electric would be off for ten minutes at noon on October 9, 2020. Powell informed Council he and Hicks have been conducting interviews for the two open positions at the Public Service Department. Powell stated they received eighteen applications. Powell stated they interviewed five applicants and have hired two. Powell stated they will start on October 19, 2020. Powell stated he has the contract for the hydrant testing. Councilperson Danison asked if the two new hires have their CDL license. Powell stated "no", but they were advised they would have to get them. Mayor Thompson asked Powell the status of hot mix. Powell stated McKee paving will be paving Brown Street on October 16, 2020. Powell stated he

received a bid to redo the lines at the crosswalks. Powell stated he was scheduled to do a walk through on Main Street with ODOT tomorrow. Danison asked the status of paving the other streets. Powell stated Issue 1 paving will begin soon. Powell stated Hicks is getting a load of hot mix on Thursday to repair pot holes. Mayor Thompson requested Powell have everything done with payroll before leaving on vacation. Powell apologized for the oversight.

Police Chief Ervin informed Council two part time officers have been hired. Ervin stated he is looking to hire two more. Ervin reported he has received five applications for part time dispatchers. Ervin stated he has four of the applicants scheduled for interviews. Ervin stated Finance Director Rockwell has the appropriations ready for dispatch. Ervin stated the department has been busy. Councilperson Chute asked if dispatch would be ready for operations on November 1, 2020. Ervin stated it will be close. Ervin stated they are waiting on IT and LEADS. Chute stated when the time comes; someone needs to send an official notice to the County.

Fire Chief Fain requested two executive sessions. Fain stated the EMS maintenance fund is out of money. Fain stated he is working with Finance Director Rockwell to figure something out. Fain reported to Council the Medicount paperwork has been submitted. Fain gave an update on EMS runs for the months of August and September. In August the department had 157 runs with 77 transports and for the month of September they had 165 runs with 92 transports. Fain stated he still has to meet with Pike Township regarding their contract. Fain stated he has the contract with Clayton Township signed by the Village but still needs to get Clayton's signatures. Councilperson Chute asked for an update on the FEMA grant. Fain stated Ohio First Responders will manage both grants for free. Fain gave an update on the invoice from Ohio First Responder Grant. Council discussed accepting payment for EMS bills at the Village, or if everything goes through Medicount.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on September 30, 2020. Chute stated Lee Conkel of Poggemeyer Design Group met with Public Service Department and Administrator Powell concerning the hydrant flow/pressure testing. Chute stated Conkel estimated it will take three to four weeks to test the hydrants. The amount to contract for hydrant testing is \$20,000. Chute stated the Village currently has a hydrant map available from when Poggemeyer Design Group prepared the Asset Management Plan. Conkel stated hydrants should be tested every five years and flushed annually. Chute stated the Committee discussed which department is responsible for annual hydrant flushing. Chute reported a department will be assigned this duty in the future. Chute asked Councilperson Danison for the Public Service Committee to meet with Hicks to discuss water line replacements. Chute stated she spoke with Hicks about getting anti-graffiti coating that is available for the bridges.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to contract with Poggemeyer Design Group for hydrant testing. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Chute stated the Committee discussed payments being made to the Administration office for EMS. Chute stated payments should be made to Medicount. Rockwell explained bank payments are still being sent to the office for past EMS bills. Fire Chief Fain stated they are trying to get the past due bills to give to Medicount. The Administration Office will continue to process any checks sent for EMS payments until this can be corrected.



Councilperson Boyle scheduled a Parks and Recreation meeting on October 26, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Planning/Economic Development Committee meeting held on September 24, 2020. Bethel stated Jenny LaRue updated the committee on the Carroll Street Corridor Project. LaRue stated they are scaling back the project to \$500,000. Their plan is to construct sidewalks from CVS up to the bottom of Panther Drive. LaRue may approach the businesses in the area for some help. Bethel stated LaRue just needed to know the Village is still interested in moving forward. All Council agreed they were. Bethel stated LaRue was supposed to give him a letter for the Village to support the project. Mayor Thompson stated the representative from Buckeye Hills stated you can apply anytime for grant money of \$500,000 or less. Council discussed consistency when it comes to zoning.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document. Chute presented Council with the documents from Attorney Everitt about the homeless shelter. Chute stated Everitt informed her you have to be very careful about the language in an Ordinance. Councilperson Bethel asked if Council could have Everitt draft the Ordinance.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Attorney Everitt to draft an Ordinance with recommended zoning for homeless shelters within the Village. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-17 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-17: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 20-8 TO PROVIDE REALLOCATED AND REDUCED FUNDING IN THE GENERAL, PARKS & RECREATION LEVY, DRUG ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE LEVY FUNDS, AND INCREASED FUNDING IN THE STREET, STATE HIGHWAY AND WATER OPERATING FUNDS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-17 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute informed Council she spoke to Public Service Director Hicks and he had not been informed about the process for citizen requests. A document was sent to Mayor Thompson, Administrator Powell and Hicks outlining the process. Hick stated he will follow this process moving forward.

Council discussed possible legislation to prevent people from using the wrong type of equipment for snow removal on the new sidewalks on Main Street. Mayor Thompson asked Powell to inquire about the best way to maintain the sidewalks during inclement weather. Powell stated he will contact OK Coal to ask what type of salt to use.

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, Mayor and Fire Chief Fain present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:55 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 8:12 pm.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(6) with Council, Mayor and Fire Chief Fain present. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 8:13 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 8:23 pm.

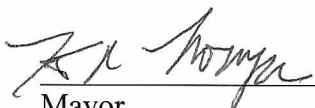
Councilperson Bethel stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

Councilperson Chute made a motion for Fire Chief Fain to receive Assistant Fire Chief wages on top of his regular wages beginning November 1, 2020 until the Assistant Fire Chief position is filled.

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 8:29 PM.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk