

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING  
November 2, 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 Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, James Welsh and Dan Bethel with Councilperson Doug Fox joining live through the Village website. 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 were Councilpersons Boyle and Danison.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Boyle and Danison from the November 2, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 19, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried

Mayor Thompson updated Council on Councilperson Danison's surgery. Thompson stated it went well and he hopes to come home tomorrow. Thompson asked everyone to keep him in their prayers. Thompson stated Trick-or-Treat went well. Thompson stated he attended a CTC Zoom meeting with Police Chief Ervin. Thompson reported he swore in new Fair Board members.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with a 2020 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources, Ordinance for 2020 Supplemental Appropriations and a Resolution setting wages for employees. Rockwell presented Council with information from the Perry County Auditor containing the formula used to distribute CARES Act funds. Council requested Rockwell contact the County to get clarification and the difference. Rockwell informed Council there will be another rebate from the Bureau of Workers Compensation. Rockwell stated they can move forward with the wish list for the budget, but the budget can't be completed until IT is done. Police Chief asked Rockwell if there is potential to draw down from restricted funds in their department. Rockwell stated "yes", with Council's approval. Rockwell stated she was finally able to obtain a new agreement with the Attorney General's Office to retrieve EMS payments. Rockwell stated Attorney Everitt must review the agreement and he requested IT review it also to make sure the Village meets the criteria for the Attorney General's Office. Once this is complete, Village funds can be reconciled.

Administrator Powell informed Council there was a setback on the street lights for Main Street, but they found a solution and the lights should be done soon. Powell stated Shelly Company ground W. Water Street today and paving should be done this week. Powell stated the repairs made to Nuzum Street Bridge look good. Powell stated they need to have a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the repairs needed for the bridge. Powell stated this project needs moved up. Powell reported on the properties that the Land Bank will be demolishing by Thanksgiving. Three trailers on Saint Clair, Swigart and Lincoln Streets and two houses on Porcelain Street and School Ave. Powell informed Council of the major water leak near State Route 93 and Airport Road. Powell thanked Police Chief Ervin for their help with directing traffic during the repair. Powell stated the trees for Main Street will arrive next week. Powell presented Council with a Resolution for participation in the Ohio Public Works. Councilperson Chute



asked Powell what the status of the house on Elizabeth Street was. Powell stated there is still a lien on the property and they will not sign off on turning the property over to the Village for the Land Bank to tear it down. Chute requested Powell speak with Attorney Baughman to have her contact the lien holder. Councilpersons Chute and Bethel asked if they could find out the amount of the lien. Councilperson Welsh asked Powell about the paving on Brown Street. Powell stated they are scheduled to be in two weeks. Mayor Thompson stated he received an e-mail from a resident wanting to know why High Street was not getting new sidewalks. Powell stated the gas company is only replacing the areas that were damaged where they are replacing lines. Thompson requested Powell check the area and report back to him.

Police Chief Ervin informed Council dispatch is up and running. Ervin stated they are working on the final transfer of the phone line. Ervin stated they will be training for the next couple weeks. Ervin reported they have some things to address with Attorney Everitt regarding records with the 911 Center. Ervin stated the bowling alley was broken into last week. The department is following some leads and have made several unrelated arrests.

Councilperson Chute asked Mayor Thompson and Administrator Powell if they had responded to Jenny LaRue's e-mail about the ODOT Planning Guide. Thompson and Powell stated they have not seen it yet. Mayor Thompson requested Powell follow up with LaRue.

Fire Chief Fain reported the department responded to 171 EMS runs with 83 transports in October. This puts the department under the transport percentage they want to maintain. Fain stated Corning has started their EMS up again which should relieve some of the runs down in that area. Fain stated he will have to submit amendments to fees for medical services that passed in January 2020. The fee for non-transports and an extra attendant will need to be removed due to issues with collection. Fain stated he had a meeting with Medico. Fain reported they are trying to get to where they can start billing for services. Fain stated there are some reports he needs to get from Finance Director Rockwell. Fain stated they may need to submit something for lost revenue due to COVID.

Mayor Thompson thanked Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain for setting up the escort for the New Lexington High School Volleyball team leaving for their tournament.

Councilperson Bethel asked Fire Chief Fain if they were still running two medics. Fain stated "yes". Bethel inquired if that should stop due to current circumstances. Councilperson Welsh stated with Covid and a new EMS billing company it has been hard.

Mayor Thompson reported on the car accident at Monument Square. Thompson stated he was informed it was the Village's responsibility. Thompson stated he contacted Quality Monument and the gentleman who did the tile the last time it was hit. Thompson stated the insurance company of the driver should cover it, but due to the supplies needed to repair it, repairs may not be made until next year.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on October 28, 2020. Chute stated Lee Conkel of Poggemeyer Design Group was in attendance at the meeting and reported the hydrant testing is complete including Rehoboth area and Old Somerset Road. The results of the testing should be available in about two weeks. Chute stated Conkel checked on the Critical Infrastructure funding through HAPCAP for the State Route 13 Water Line Replacement Project. This would replace



the main water line from the Water Treatment Plant to Panther Drive for approximately \$500,000. The Village would be able to get 90% grant funding for the project. Conkel informed the committee the OPWC grant application is due on Friday, November 6, 2020. The Village will need to pass a Resolution to apply. Conkel recommended the Village apply for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements. Conkel stated only critical items can be submitted for the critical infrastructure funding. The Committee discussed if the Village could handle a loan for its share of the OPWC grant. Finance Director reported to Council Ohio Revised Code states a loan for utilities (water & sewer) are exempt from the indebtedness calculation. Chute reported the Village purchased \$250 in materials and Perry County Engineer Cannon sent his welder to reinforce the Nuzum Street Bridge to keep it open. Chute stated the trees around the bridge have to be removed by April 1, 2021 per ODOT's deadline. Powell informed Council once the trees are removed they can just lay them down and the contractor will remove them. Chute stated Powell asked the Finance Committee to create a Public Service Foreman position at the Public Service Department and pay Jakob Ross an additional \$1.00 per hour to fill the position. Councilperson Chute stated she did not have the pay scales with her at the meeting and stated that a Class III operator at the Water Treatment Plant and Waste Water Treatment Plant with a license is the same rate of pay for the newly created Public Service Foreman position. Chute suggested lowering the pay for the new position since it does not require a license. Council decided to give Ross the additional \$1.00 per hour. Chute suggested Ross obtain a license at some point. Chute reported the committee requested Powell have Steve, Rich and Chuck prepare their 2021 budget wish lists to be submitted to Mayor Thompson or Finance Director Rockwell. Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain were asked to do the same.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to acquire a loan in the amount of \$250,000 for the Water Treatment Plant Project match. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel asked if the Finance Committee has discussed employee raises. Chute stated they want to do pay restructure first, which could take some time.

Councilperson Chute asked if the Planning Committee could look into annexing several areas surrounding the Village. Chute stated Ohio Revised Code explains some issues on how this is done. Councilperson Goodfellow suggested putting it on the working document.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document. Councilperson Fox asked to have a Police Levy put on the working document. Chute stated she would like to have an increase in income tax rather than a levy. Bethel asked if it is possible to get any of the sales tax money.

Mayor Thompson reported the issue with the EPA violation has been resolved.

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

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 20-19 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-19: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 20-8 TO PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDING IN THE GENERAL, STATE**

**HIGHWAY, FEMA EMW-2019-FG-08542, AND FIRE & EMS LEVY 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. 20-19 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only as a first reading Resolution No. 20-16. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 20-16: **A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY CONTRACTS.**

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 20-17 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 20-17: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TRENT THOMPSON TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND / OR LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-17 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

  
Mayor

  
Council Clerk