

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING  
November 16, 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, James Welsh, Susan Boyle, Dan Bethel and Doug Fox. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain. Administrator Powell joined the meeting virtually. 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 Chute and Danison.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Chute and Danison from the November 16, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 2, 2020 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Boyle who abstained due to being absent from the November 2, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the Veterans Day ceremony at the Grace Community Church of the Nazarene. Thompson stated he would like to thank the Police Department and Fire/EMS Departments for doing a great job on Sunday, November 15, 2020. Thompson reported they had thirty or more calls on Sunday for service due to high winds.

Finance Director Rockwell reported the Ohio Supreme Court issued its ruling on the municipalities challenge to the Ohio House Bill 49 provisions that allow business net profit taxpayers to "opt-in" to have the Ohio Department of Taxation administer their municipal net profit taxes, instead of the municipality to which the tax is due. Rockwell stated the court ruled the provision was constitutional but the fee the Ohio Department of Taxation has been withholding for processing was not constitutional. Rockwell stated all months are reconciled now. Rockwell presented Council with the bank reconciliations for July through October. Rockwell presented monthly financial statements to Council. Rockwell stated for July, August and September summary reports are included and October is the full report. Rockwell stated if anyone would like the full reports for July, August and September please let her know. Rockwell presented Council with a 2020 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and an Ordinance for 2020 Supplemental Appropriations to budget the final two disbursements of CARES Act funding.

Administrator Powell informed Council he submitted the invoice for Permissive Tax for Issue One paving to Perry County Engineer Cannon. Powell stated they finished the paving last week. Powell stated they hope to have all of the streetlights installed by Friday. Powell stated they would leave them on for twenty four hours a day for seven to ten days to make sure they are working properly. Powell reported several hometown hero banners were damaged due to the high winds on Sunday. Powell asked who is responsible for replacing them. Mayor Thompson stated he thought the Village should replace them in the spring. Council agreed. Powell reported he received an estimate for Bob Heavener to perform street sweeping on Broadway, Mill Street and Main Street. Powell stated Heavener would charge \$150.00 an hour for 4 to 5 hours and the work would be done at night. Mayor Thompson stated it



should be done before the Christmas Walk, which possibly will be held on December 4, 2020. Finance Director Rockwell stated a purchase order should be submitted for the street sweeping. Powell stated he will submit a purchase order to get a right of way easement for the Nuzum Street Bridge project. Powell reported he spoke with Attorney Baughman about the lien holder on the property at 327 Elizabeth Street. Baughman stated the lien holder will not release the lien. Baughman will seek tax abatement on the final lien holder. Powell stated he will have Baughman's 2021 contract at the next meeting.

Police Chief Ervin reported he attended the Veterans Ceremony. Ervin stated the department received 245 calls through dispatch Thursday through Saturday which averages 17 calls within a 24 hour period. Ervin stated there are ten dispatchers and five or six have prior or current experience. Ervin stated they are continuing basic training for two to four weeks. Advanced training will continue into 2021. Mayor Thompson asked if Ervin was satisfied with the transition. Ervin stated "no". The department is not able to get records from the 911 Center. Ervin stated Attorney Everitt is now involved. Councilperson Welsh asked how the equipment was running. Ervin stated everything is working fine.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department had 22 runs on Sunday, November 15, 2020. Fain stated it was a rough day for the employees but they had good team work. Fain stated he submitted the 2020 Pike Township contracts to Finance Director Rockwell. Fain stated he will attend the next Pike Township meeting to get the contracts for 2021. Fain reported the contracts with Clayton Township have not been signed yet due to several trustees out for illness. Fain stated they are going to pass the 2020 and 2021 contract around to get it signed. Fain stated grants have been submitted to vendors and they should start receiving bids within thirty days. Fain stated he has been advised by the State that every run now should be considered a Covid run and full PPE should be used unless the patient can produce proof of a negative Covid test. Police Chief Ervin asked Fain if the Townships Contracts are for the same amounts. Fain stated "yes". 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.

Finance Director Rockwell reported on behalf of Councilperson Chute on the Finance Committee meeting held on November 14, 2020. Rockwell stated 6 more benches and 9 trash receptacles are needed for the Main Street Streetscape Project. The total cost is \$20,412. \$6,700 of this cost can be paid using the donation from the Board of DD. The remainder can be paid from the Street Fund. Rockwell reported the Finance Committee would like to give the employees a bonus with the BWC rebate. Rockwell stated she spoke to Attorney Everitt to prepare legislation for the December meeting to do this. Rockwell stated Chute requested a motion tonight to proceed with the bonuses. Rockwell stated Chute is going to contact Attorney Everitt for guidance with the 911 contract. Councilperson Welsh informed Council the Finance Committee meeting was held on Saturday due to the timeline for spending CARES Act funds. Rockwell stated the committee agreed to reallocate EMS wages in the amount of \$125,000 from CARES Act funding. \$70,000 will be used to purchase a dedicated Covid response vehicle for EMS. Additional masks and gloves will be purchased with remaining funds. Councilperson Bethel asked if allocating the money for EMS would put the department in the black for 2021. Rockwell stated it does appear it will. Bethel asked Mayor Thompson what he thought about the bonuses. Thompson stated to make it easier it would have to be across the board for everyone.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to proceed with legislation needed to give employee bonuses with BWC rebate money. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to go with the Finance Committee's recommendation for the use of CARES Act funds. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held on October 26, 2020. Boyle stated the committee set tentative fundraising dates for the Fall Festival. A fundraiser will be held on April 10, 2021 at the Eagles, color run June 12, 2021 and a concert in the park on August 21, 2021.

Mayor Thompson reviewed the working document.

Councilperson Welsh asked Administrator Powell if the trees for the Main Street Streetscape Project were in yet. Powell stated "no". Powell stated he hopes to have them next week.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to file the 2020 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources with the Perry County Auditor. 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. 20-20 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-20: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 20-8 TO PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDING IN THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND 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. 20-20 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 Resolution No. 20-16 as a second reading. 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 Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-16 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. 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 7:19 PM.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk