

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

November 18, 2019

6:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Trent Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 PM. Council Members present were Jeff Danison, James Welsh, Susan Goodfellow, Susan Boyle, Dan Bethel and Doug Fox. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Fire Chief Jim Fain and Administrator Bo Powell. Absent was Councilperson Chute.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Chute from the November 18, 2019 meeting. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson requested a moment of silence for the passing of Robin Chute.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 4, 2019 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Corlyn Altier presented Council with an EMS update. Altier stated through October 31, 2019 EMS revenue was \$254,811.34. Altier informed Council \$69,401.62 has been recovered through the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Altier presented Council with a new three-year contract. Her current contract expires December 31, 2019.

Jenny LaRue, Lisa Leckrone and Karen Palowski spoke to Council about the Carroll Street Road Safety Audit. LaRue asked Council for their support with the project. LaRue stated Mott McDonald would like a letter from the Village stating their commitment to the project. LaRue gave Council some suggestions on things the Village could do to help with the project. Lisa Leckrone the Mobility Manager of Perry County Transit stated they met with Police Chief Ervin to discuss ways to improve safety in the Carroll Street Corridor. Leckrone stated Transit has changed the traffic pattern when entering Kroger to help with the safety of citizens. Karen Palowski informed Council the Carroll Street Corridor is one of the top five crash areas in Perry County. Palowski stated the Ohio Department of Transportation emphasizes road safety. Palowski stated there are grants to help with improving the area. LaRue stated they had four requests from Council: Council needs to make a motion to support the Carroll Street Corridor Project, Council to be part of the meetings, a letter of commitment from the Village and a Complete Street Policy. LaRue stated by having a Complete Street Policy this would move the Village up on the list for grant funding.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for the Village to support the Carroll Street Road Safety Audit and Expansion project. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Aaron Dagres from the United States Census Bureau gave Council a presentation on how the Census works and how important it is to the Village for everyone to be counted. Dagres stated the data collected helps determine the distribution of \$675 million in federal funding for things

like housing assistance, infrastructure, public transportation and local schools. Dagrass stated all information collected by the Census is confidential and protected by law and can never be used to identify you. The information can never be shared with law enforcement agencies or your property manager. The Census also helps to determine how many representatives are sent to Washington D. C. to represent the area where you live. Dagrass informed Council some municipalities put reminders on their water bills and local web site.

Mayor Thompson presented Council with a letter from the State of Ohio Department of Commerce. Thompson stated if Council has no issues with the establishments who currently have permits to sell alcoholic beverages within the Village, then they do not have to do anything. Council stated they had no issues. Thompson stated he attended the Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony at Monument Square Park on November 11, 2019. Thompson reported he and Fire Chief Fain met with the Pike Township Trustees to discuss Fire and EMS contracts. Thompson stated he got to observe the K-9 training at the Village on November 15, 2019. Thompson stated he attended the Thanksgiving meal that the Fire and EMS Department sponsored for foster children.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the October credit card statement, October 2019 Bank Reconciliation and October 2019 Financial Reports. Rockwell stated she made the corrections needed to Ordinance 19-20 for her contract requested by Council and Council Clerk Spohn has the corrected Ordinance. Rockwell stated the Fire Funds are in the black for the first time in years. Rockwell presented Council with a Supplemental Appropriations Ordinance. Mayor Thompson stated the General Fund looked like it was going to be better at the end of the year than they thought. Rockwell stated they still had some major projects wrapping up. Rockwell also stated income tax revenue has been fantastic due to the tax clerk working court cases.

Administrator Powell stated the sewer project in Rehoboth is complete and they are going to start it up on November 19, 2019. Powell stated the Perry County Commissioners opened the bids for the lateral hook ups to the sewer. Powell stated they received a \$117,000 bid. Powell stated that would take care of hooking up 95% of Rehoboth. Powell stated there were a few that did not qualify for the low funding. Powell informed Council they are getting a quote on rewiring the bucket truck without replacing the motor and a quote on rewiring and replacing the motor. Powell stated the Perry County Engineer is not ready to give the Village the bucket truck yet; he is waiting to see what the insurance company is going to do. Bethel thanked Bob Heavener for letting the Village use his bucket truck and for the use of his back hoe when the Village's broke down and they needed to repair a water leak. Powell stated Mechanic Street and the surrounding area is in good shape and drainage is good. Councilperson Welsh inquired about the sink hole on Brown Street. Mayor Thompson stated they are going to have Bob Heavener look at it when Mechanic Street is completed.

Police Chief Ervin stated on November 5, 2019 he attended the Pioneering Possibilities meeting, November 7, 2019 the Finance Committee meeting, November 8, 2019 the Perry Multi County Juvenile Detention Center meeting, November 11, 2019 the Veterans Memorial Ceremony, November 15, 2019 the K-9 training and the round table discussion at the Health Department.

Ervin stated they have been collaborating with the Ohio Attorney General's office on an independent review of Policy and Procedures. Ervin stated call volume has been steady.

Fire Chief Fain stated their call volume has been steady. Fain stated they had a crew attend the Veterans Memorial Ceremony on November 11, 2019. Fain stated the K-9 training the department attended with the Village Police Department was the first in Southern Ohio. Fain stated the Thanksgiving dinner the department held exceeded his expectations. Fain stated there were approximately twenty-three people in attendance from foster care, Children Services and kinship families. Fain wanted to thank the women from the VFW and everyone else who helped make it a success. Fain stated the Fire Department needs to explore purchasing fire rescue tools. The set currently being used is being borrowed from Hocking College. Finance Director Rockwell informed Fain a representative from the Bureau of Workers compensation met with her and stated she might be able to help with a grant for the department to get the rescue tools. Rockwell will schedule a meeting with the representative, Fire Chief Fain, Police Chief Ervin, Administrator Powell and herself. Fain stated he is having issues with the 9-1-1 Center. E-mails can be forwarded to Mayor and Council if they want to review.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on November 7, 2019. Bethel stated the committee approved three firemen to attend Firefighter II classes. The committee discussed turnout gear and how many firemen are on the department. The committee agreed to an increase in the Fire budget to replace chains on Ladder Truck 7. Bethel stated Assistant Chief Spencer requested permission to apply for a \$35,000 grant through Firehouse Subs. The committee agreed. Bethel stated Councilperson Chute requested the status of the grant for a new fire engine and power cots. Assistant Fire Chief Spencer stated the grant opens before the end of the year through FEMA. The Village match will not be due until the truck is delivered which would be 2021 if the grant is awarded in 2020. Bethel reported Powell stated the Nuzum Bridge was approved for funding. The Village match of \$94,400 will not be due until 2023.

Bethel reported Poggemeyer Design Group requested \$50,000 be budgeted for design for 2020. The committee discussed bidding future engineering projects. The committee also discussed the employee insurance renewal.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the employee insurance. Councilperson Bethel asked if they should hold a special council meeting with Stacey Billingsley present instead of a Finance Committee meeting so all council members can ask questions about the insurance. A special council meeting was scheduled for November 25, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Goodfellow reported on the Municipal Concerns Committee meeting that was held on November 13, 2019. Goodfellow stated they discussed the Sech-Kar Building on Main Street. The company is parking vehicles up to the front of the building and backing out onto Main Street. Goodfellow stated the Downtown Revitalization Project and the Ohio Department of Transportation suggested creating two handicap parking spaces and a curb for them to park in front of their building on Main Street. Goodfellow reported Administrator Powell informed the committee someone is interested in buying the Valentine property on Carroll Street to develop. Goodfellow stated if this property is developed it will require the traffic light to be upgraded at

the intersections of Carroll Street and Lincoln Park Dr. Goodfellow stated Mayor Thompson suggested Powell make a check list for zoning requirements for all new buildings within the Village.

Councilperson Boyle reminded Council of the mini photo session on December 1, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building to raise money for the Fall Festival. Boyle asked if Water Clerk Saffell could let them in the building on Saturday, November 30, 2019 for them to set up. Council stated "yes".

Councilperson Bethel stated some residents spoke to him about the town losing its value as a community. Bethel asked if the Village should consult their attorney concerning business opening within the Village. Finance Director Rockwell reminded Council that the Village Attorney's contract expires December 31, 2019.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 19-21 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 19-21: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 19-4 TO INCREASE FUNDING IN THE FIRE LEVY FUND 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. 19-21 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.


Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read as a first reading Resolution No. 19-15. Councilperson Fox seconded the motion. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 19-15: **A RESOLUTION INCREASING THE SALARY OF COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 19-20 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 19-20: **EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND HEATHER ROCKWELL.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 19-20 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 8:35 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Clerk