

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING  
December 2, 2019  
6:30 PM  
MUNCIPAL 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 Susan Boyle, Dan Bethel, Susan Goodfellow, Jeff Danison, Doug Fox, Kathy Chute and James Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Administrator Bo Powell and Fire Chief Jim Fain.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 18, 2019 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Chute who abstained due to being absent from the November 18, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2019 special Council meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Chute who abstained due to being absent from the November 25, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Tim Dold addressed Council concerning people parking illegally in handicap parking spaces. Dold stated he observes people parking illegally at Kroger's, the schools and other places. Dold informed Council he has personally asked patrons not to park in the handicap spaces if they are not handicap. Police Chief Ervin stated the department is limited in what they can do since it is private property. The only violation the Police can enforce is the handicap spaces if they are correctly marked. Ervin stated they can not enforce parking in the lanes. Ervin stated if someone sees a person parked illegally in a handicap space to call the police and an officer will be dispatched to the area as soon as possible. Ervin stated new pavement and lines have just been painted in the parking lot at Kroger. Dold asked if the property owner would make improvements to line markings in the parking lot could the Village help. Ervin and Finance Director Rockwell gave Dold the link to Ohio Revised Codes through the Village website for him to research.

Lesha Farias from the Perry County Think Tank on Poverty had members from their leadership team introduce themselves. The members were Bill Swallow, Ann Barnette, Linda Klingler and Wendy Tarr. Farias stated the group started in September 2018. Farias stated the organization started in Newark, Ohio in 2014. They now have organizations in Lancaster, Zanesville, Columbus and Perry County. Farias informed Council the committee tries to focus on what is keeping the community in poverty. Farias stated when they met in Perry County in 2018 for their listening session there were two issues that tied for the top concern of the County: the lack of broadband throughout the County, and individuals returning from jail or prison having problems getting reintegrated into the community. Farias informed Council they not only work on local issues, but they also work on statewide issues to see how they can connect with other coalitions on issues such as criminal justice and addiction. Farias stated they are committed to addressing the root causes of poverty and encouraging the people affected by poverty to come and help. Wendy presented Council with information from the Federal Poverty Guidelines and the ALICE statistics from the United Way. ALICE is the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

This is households that earn more than the basic cost of living for the county, but still struggle to afford basic needs. Farias invited Council to attend a meeting on December 5, 2019 at the Saint Rose Community Center with dinner being served at 5:30 pm and the meeting to follow at 6:00 pm. Farias stated they are concentrating on the 2020 Census. Farias stated there are areas in all communities where response rates for the Census is very low. Farias informed Council they are participating in one of the complete counting committees.

Mayor Thompson informed Council he attended the 911 meeting on November 26, 2019 with Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain also in attendance. Mayor Thompson stated he had a letter which all Council members have also, from a local gentleman who would like to be considered for the open Council seat in January. Thompson presented Council with a thank you card from the family of Alan Vandewater.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a motion to approve the October 2019 Financial Statements and the October 2019 Bank Reconciliation presented at the November 18, 2019 meeting. Rockwell presented Council with a 2019 Supplemental Appropriations Ordinance.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the October 2019 Financial Statements and the October 2019 Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute asked about the status of Christmas lights for MacGahan Park. Finance Director Rockwell stated a resident contacted her and stated they ordered the lights and are giving the bill to the Village to reimburse them. Rockwell stated she could not reimburse them for any sales tax charge and that there is a procedure to follow when ordering things for the Village. Mayor Thompson stated the resident canceled the order. Chute stated it is nice to have a resident help, but they do have to follow procedure. Chute asked if the Village had enough lights to decorate the park. Administrator Powell stated he and Public Service Supervisor Hicks checked the lights and there should be enough. Chute stated all the trees need decorated, not just the tree trunks. Chute stated she was willing to come and help the Public Service Department with the decorating if no one had any objections. All Council stated that would be great.

Administrator Powell stated he and Jenny LaRue have been working on a backflow program which Perry County does not have. Powell stated they are looking into the heavy users of water. Powell informed Council some businesses already have their backflow maintained and inspected yearly. Powell stated he receives approximately three letters per year from the businesses that maintain their backflow inspections. Powell stated letters will be mailed to the heavy users of water that they need to maintain a backflow. Powell stated this is a program that would protect the Village from any repercussions from a business not having a backflow. Powell stated he is updating the current building permit. Powell stated the fair grounds are upgrading their water meters to one main meter. Powell informed Council he would be attending the MORPC meeting in Pickerington on December 3, 2019. Councilperson Fox asked Powell if the bid for demolishing the houses through the landbank had been awarded. Powell stated "yes", and they have already started demolishing them.

Police Chief Ervin stated the department has had a steady call volume. Ervin stated they had met with the Perry County Think Tank on Poverty. Ervin reported they are still working on the Sequential Interstate Mapping System program that helps people reentering the community. They are working on this with the coalition and this program is very important. Ervin stated the school safety training went well. Ervin reported the department had the Safety Pup at Saint Rose School, Junction City Elementary School and New Lexington Elementary School. Ervin stated they received paperwork back on their collaboration with Policy and Procedures. Ervin asked Council if they had any questions about the handicap parking issues. Councilperson Chute asked if something could be placed on the Village website and Facebook page regarding the Police Department monitoring handicap parking spaces.

Fire Chief Fain reported at the current time they are not working on the hydrant flow testing due to cold weather. Fain stated they responded to 143 EMS runs with 86 transports. Fain stated they've had 483 fire calls so far this year. Councilperson Goodfellow asked how many fire hydrant tests have been completed. Fain stated fifteen.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on December 2, 2019. Bethel stated the committee discussed renewal rates and underwritten plans for employee insurance. Bethel reported Finance Director Rockwell presented the committee with an invoice for the Rehobeth Sewer Project and an invoice for Perry County EMA sent to the Village. Bethel stated the committee directed Rockwell to deliver the invoices to the county. Bethel stated Rockwell discussed the Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance she was presenting at the December 2, 2019 Council Meeting. Bethel reported the committee discussed a contractor for water and sewer issues. Bethel stated a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Goodfellow scheduled a Municipal Concerns Committee meeting on December 16, 2019 at 5:20 pm at the Municipal Building. Goodfellow stated they will discuss a free standing sign.

Councilperson Boyle stated the Fall Festival Fundraiser mini photo session and bake sale held on December 1, 2019 was a success. Boyle stated pictures were taken with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.

Mayor Thompson scheduled a Records Committee meeting December 4, 2019 at 8:00 am at the Municipal Building. Thompson scheduled a Charter Revision Committee meeting December 4, 2019 at 8:15 at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Chute asked if Poggemeyer had given Finance Director Rockwell the information she needed to work on the 2020 budget. Rockwell stated they gave her numbers, but without Council prioritizing the projects there is no way to know which year they will be due. Councilperson Bethel stated they need Poggemeyer to help prioritize the projects. Councilperson Chute asked if she could look at the list and contact Poggemeyer. All Council agreed for Councilperson Chute to contact Poggemeyer to get the information needed so Finance Director Rockwell can write the budget.

Councilperson Bethel reported he spoke with Stacy Billingsley who is unable to get the insurance coverage needed for the Village employees. Bethel stated the Finance Committee recommends going with Randy Ayers for the broker for the Village employee insurance. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to contract with Randy Ayers to be the broker for the Village employee insurance. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute requested the status of timeclocks and the IT upgrades. Finance Director Rockwell stated training on timeclocks was rescheduled for December 10, 2019. Rockwell stated IT would be finishing up December 3, 2019 and then all that would need done it to transition the website. Chute reviewed the working document.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 19-22 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 19-22: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 19-4 TO INCREASE FUNDING IN THE GENERAL, WATER OPERATING AND SEWER OPERATING FUNDS AND REALLOCATE FUNDING IN THE PARKS & RECREATION LEVY AND FIRE & EMS LEVY 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. 19-22 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only as a second reading Resolution No. 19-15. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. 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 adopt Resolution 19-15 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. 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 8:14 pm.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk