

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 2016

6:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Ratliff presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 PM. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Richard Anderson, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, Tim Fiore, Jeff Danison and Susan Boyle. Also present were Village Administrator Scott Bryant, Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Fire Chief Jordan Hollingshead and Police Chief Scott Ervin.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 21, 2016 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Rachel and Randy Barnette asked Council how they reached their decision not to waive the past due water bills at the property they purchased. Councilperson Chute stated there is a water ordinance in place that covers this situation. Rachel Barnette also asked Council to waive a tap fee for a property they purchased that has two residents which have separate meters but are plumbed through the same tap, therefore water cannot be shut off on one property without shutting off both. Administrator Bryant stated he told the Barnettes this decision would have to go to Council. Mayor Ratliff stated that Administrator Bryant informed them correctly. Councilperson Chute stated that the Municipal Concerns Committee would review their request. A Municipal Concerns Committee meeting was scheduled for December 19, 2016 at 4:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Emily Tarbert spoke to Council concerning the Law Director position with the Village. Tarbert stated she is the Assistant Law Director for the City of Zanesville and also the Perry County Prosecutor for Perry County Children Services. Tarbert informed Council she is a member of the Ohio Municipal Attorneys Association and is flexible on pay.

Tony Fiore and Catherine Cunningham addressed Council about the Law Director position with the Village. Cunningham stated she has been in practice for 25 years and has experience in municipal law and that Tony Fiore would have many resources available to him. Fiore stated he works with the Community Foundation for Perry County and that the law firm would be a full service firm.

Mayor Ratliff presented a repair bill that was given to him by the Perry County Commissioners for repairs made to the HVAC system at the Community Building which the Commissioners lease. Administrator Bryant informed Mayor Ratliff that the lease states they are responsible for all repairs.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the November 2016 Bank Reconciliation and the November 2016 Financial Reports. Rockwell also presented Council with an ordinance for 2016 Supplemental Appropriations. Rockwell stated the Fire/EMS deficit is coming down and is on target for their deficit recovery date. Rockwell requested an executive session to discuss a personnel contract.

Administrator Bryant presented a contract for EMS Billing Services from CSA Enterprises. There were no changes from the previous contract, which expired in November.

Police Chief Ervin presented Council with some statistics for citations being issued within the County and Village. Ervin stated approximately 2,405 citations have been issued countywide and approximately 425 of those were within the Village. Ervin stated they still need members for the Volunteer Peace Officers Dependent Fund. Ervin informed Council that the Christmas Walk went smoothly. Ervin stated he would like to put something together to thank all the people that donate time, money and other resources to the Police Department.

Fire Chief Hollingshead stated he along with Mayor Ratliff attended the Pleasant Township meeting and that they have renewed their contract with the Village for 2017 Fire and EMS services. Hollingshead reported that he would be attending the Clayton Township and Pike Township meetings to renew their contracts within the week. Hollingshead informed Council that he is working on a MARCS radio grant for 2017 and is collaborating with the County on this grant. The grant does not have matching funds and awards should be announced in February 2017. Hollingshead stated Santa Claus will be going through the Village on the fire truck on December 10, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The final stop will be at the Kroger parking lot for children to visit with Santa.

Councilperson Chute reported on the combined Finance Committee and Public Safety Committee meeting that was held on December 1, 2016. Chute stated Finance Director Rockwell reviewed the EMS 16 Hour Trial Study. The Committees decided that EMS should continue working 16 hour shifts until scheduling and personnel issues are resolved. A new study will be performed for the time period of 12-1-16 through 2-28-16. Chute stated Rockwell presented the forecasts for the feasibility of reallocating dispatching fees. Rockwell informed the committees the Street Fund cannot handle more expenses.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Municipal Concerns Committee meeting that was held on 11-28-16. Chute stated the committee recommended that Thompson will be responsible for the sewer charge on his water bill based on past practice. A motion was made by Councilperson Chute that Steve Thompson is responsible for paying the sewer portion of his water bill. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilpersons Anderson, Boyle and Fiore who voted "no". Motion carried.

Councilperson Boyle reported that the Santa House opened on Sunday December 4, 2016. Boyle stated that everyone enjoyed their visit.

Councilperson Chute asked Administrator Bryant if he had scheduled a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss dispatching fees. Bryant stated the Commissioners requested that Councilperson Bethel and Bryant meet with the TAC committee. Bryant stated he and Councilperson Bethel would attend the TAC committee meeting on December 6, 2016. Councilperson Bethel asked if the Public Safety Committee could help Police Chief Ervin with members for the Volunteer Peace Officers Dependent Fund. Ervin stated he has the two police officers required to be on the committee. Councilpersons Boyle and Danison volunteered to be on the committee. The four members will now elect a fifth person for the committee.

Councilperson Fiore asked what the Village is going to do about the administrator position. Councilperson Chute stated some have asked for the job description of the position and that it can be found on page 13 of the Charter.

Councilperson Fiore made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 16-25 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Anderson. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 16-25: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 16-4 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE GENERAL AND FIRE & EMS LEVY FUND WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Fiore made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 16-25 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Fiore made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 16-20 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 16-20: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND CLAIM SOLUTION ADVOCATES, LLC FOR EMS SQUAD BILLING SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Anderson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-20 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Fiore. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel contracts. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned for executive session.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute stated no action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to increase the Finance Directors salary to \$45,000 a year effective December 1, 2016 and remove the annual wage opener. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Goodfellow who voted "no". Motion carried.

Mayor Ratliff entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.


Mayor Kevin Ratliff


Council Clerk Lisa Spohn