

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
January 18, 2022
6:30 PM
MUNICIPAL 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 Jim Welsh, Dan Bethel, Susan Boyle, Debra Hooper, Susan Goodfellow and Janie Depinto. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Milner and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Jeff Danison.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Danison from the January 18, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 3, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle All Council voted "yes" except for Councilpersons Depinto and Goodfellow who abstained due to being absent from the January 3, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 20, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle All Council voted "yes" except for Councilpersons Depinto and Hooper who abstained due to just being elected to Council as of January 1, 2022. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he was present during the fire at Lazy Acre meats. While at the scene engine 12 broke down. Thompson stated they were able to get parts and repair engine 12 on scene. Thompson stated he had a request from a resident to put up a new 25 mph speed limit sign on Rush Street and patrol the area more due to people speeding. Thompson stated he was at the fire on Maple Heights and the hydrant was not working. Thompson stated it will be repaired. Thompson stated he was with the Public Service Department on a sewer issue on S. Main Street. Thompson stated the Public Service Department and Bob Heavener were finally able to locate the source of the water running down the hill on N. Main Street and make repairs. Thompson reported he was at the scene of the fire on Pleasant Street and the fire hydrant was not working. This hydrant will be repaired also. Thompson reported there was a water main break on Saturday behind Ray's Body Shop on North Street. Thompson stated the Public Service Department did a great job during the snow we received over the weekend. Thompson stated Administrator Emmert went above and beyond his duties to work with the Public Service Department to clear snow. Thompson reported Frank Newlon donated pizzas to the Public Service Department during the inclement weather. Councilperson Goodfellow asked about the hydrants not working. Administrator Emmert stated he received a report on 8-15-21 from Poggemeyer on the fire hydrants and these two hydrants were not included on the list. Emmert stated the one on Maple Heights looks like it was hit. Finance Director Milner asked if the Village has a fire loss fund. Thompson stated "yes". The structure must be a total loss. Emmert reported the owner of the house on Maple Heights contacted him trying to find out who she was insured by. Emmert directed her to the Perry County Auditor's office.

Finance Director Milner reported she received a MOU (memorandum of understanding agreement) from Peoples State Bank to be renewed by the Village. The previous MOU expired on December 31, 2022.

This agreement states the bank will hold funds up to \$5,000,000. The bank needs this agreement to get the funds insured. Milner stated she needs a motion to sign the agreement.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Finance Director Milner to sign the MOU agreement with Peoples State Bank. Seconded by Councilperson Depinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Milner stated all employee pay raises and personal days have been updated in the payroll software. Milner stated there are still two employees who have not completed their direct deposit forms. Milner stated they need to schedule a Finance Committee meeting.

Administrator Emmert reported on January 10, 2022 they opened bids for the filter valve replacement at the Water Treatment Plant. Emmert stated the bid was awarded to G-M Construction at a cost of \$92,700. Emmert stated \$37,000 is left to repair the road to the Water Treatment Plant. Emmert stated the chlorinator at the WTP needs repaired. Emmert informed Council once the sidewalks on Broadway Street are completed, they will be repairing the pavement on Jefferson Street. Emmert reported the leak on Main Street hill is repaired and they are looking into the sink hole on High Steet. Emmert stated when the weather is better, they will try to fix it. Emmert stated the Public Service Department did a great job with the water break and snow removal. Emmert stated they used the Kubota from the WWTP to help remove snow in alleys. Emmert stated he will be meeting with employees at the WWTP and WTP to discuss pay increases. Emmert stated as soon as the weather permits, hydrants will be checked. Councilperson Goodfellow asked Fire Chief Fain if the fire department checked the hydrants. Fain stated the project was given to Poggemeyer. There are 300 plus fire hydrants within the Village. Councilperson Welsh asked the status of the State Route 13 waterline project. Emmert stated there are some easement issues that the Village Attorney is working on.

Police Chief Ross reported 308 calls for service in 2022 as of tonight. Ross stated he has two officers out with Covid this week. Ross reported the shifts were filled and expressed his appreciation to the officers working the extra hours. Ross stated he was appointed to the Multi County Juvenile Detention Board. Ross stated he held a staff meeting last week, for all officers and dispatchers. Ross stated the meeting went well. Ross reported he had two officers resign. Ross stated he is interviewing several candidates to fill the positions. Ross reported information gathered led to three arrest concerning drugs and stolen property. Ross stated during a blind traffic stop of a female out of Lancaster, Ohio they discovered drugs. Fairfield County was notified and there was a warrant for her in the County. Fairfield County is going to come and give a class to officers on what to look for during a traffic stop. Councilperson Depinto asked Ross about the stop signs on W. Brown Street and State Street. Depinto stated people are driving too fast in the area. Ross stated if he had more manpower, it would be easier to patrol the area, but he has some ideas on how to curtail the situation. Depinto asked why officers use their personal cell phones to take pictures at a scene. Ross stated he has addressed this issue and they do have cameras for the officers to use. Ross stated he is working with Mrs. Curry at the New Lexington High School on ways to slow traffic down. Administrator Emmert suggested a traffic study of State Street and Brown Street. Council asked what a study would cost. Emmert stated he would get a quote if Council wanted him to pursue it. Councilperson Hooper asked how many accidents have been in the area. Emmert stated you can request a traffic report for the information.

Fire Chief Fain reported issues with fire hydrants during two house fires. Fain stated the department is going to change their meetings from Tuesday nights to Wednesday nights. Fain asked if hiring a

mechanic for the Village had been discussed. Administrator Emmert stated he spoke to Finance Director Milner. The medic sitting out in front of the Fire Department was sold to a gentleman from New York. He has not picked up the medic yet or paid for it. Councilperson Hooper asked if they have bid on any fire trucks. Fain stated he and Milner need to meet to discuss this. Councilperson Depinto asked Ross if his vehicles are running. Ross stated Unit 6 is still waiting on parts, Unit 4 is still out of service, Unit 5 is back in service, and they need to get brakes for Unit 3. Ross stated they are still looking for used vehicles. Emmert stated he is looking into fuel cost for the Village.

Councilperson Welsh asked Emmert if he contacted HAPCAP about the grant. Emmert stated he will call this week.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(5) confidential matters with Council, Mayor, Finance Director, Administrator, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:25 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 7:40 pm.

Councilperson Bethel stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding compensation of a public employee with Council, Mayor and Finance Director Milner present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:42 pm for executive session.

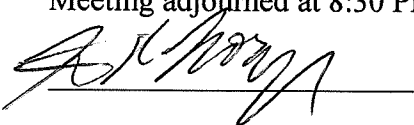
Councilperson Bethel made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 8:26 pm.

Councilperson Bethel stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk