

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
February 22, 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, Debra Hooper, Susan Goodfellow, Jeff Danison and Janie DePinto. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Milner and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Susan Boyle.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Boyle from the February 22, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 7, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the Emergency Council meeting held on February 8, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson introduced Attorney Adam Barclay to Council. Administrator Emmert stated he and Mayor Thompson met with Barclay to discuss a contract with Allen and Baughman Attorney's at Law. Barclay stated they will combine representation for criminal and civil cases. Barclay stated the firm represents Crooksville, Corning, New Straitsville and Shawnee. Barclay informed Council by hiring their firm they will have three different attorneys available to the Village. Barclay stated he will be the lead contact for the Village. Barclay stated the contract will be for one year and at the end of the year the Village may choose to do a two-year contract.

Mayor Thompson stated Ken McCord would not be appearing before Council tonight. Thompson stated McCord canceled the renting of the park for his flea market. McCord is moving the location to the Gun Club. Thompson stated he had a complaint about the alley behind HAZ M Auto Sales. The person asked to have the alley paved. Thompson told them it would not be paved due to cost, but the Village would do their best to repair the alley. Thompson reported he had complaints about a limb in the road, plowing near Center Street, ice in an alley near Kennedy Dr. and parking from PNC Bank. Thompson stated he was present at a trailer fire on Nuzum St. and while there they discovered a water leak. Thompson stated he had the contracts with Pike Township signed. Thompson stated Richard Fankhauser spoke with him about having the contract be continuous instead of signing a new one each year. Thompson stated he had a complaint about wastewater from the sewer on Mill Street which was caused from all the rain and flooding. Thompson stated he received a complaint about windows being broken on MacGahan Street near PNC Bank. The Public Service Department cleaned up the glass.

Milner stated each Council member has a copy of the Finance Committee meeting minutes in their packets. Milner stated the employee Health Insurance and the Village Liability Insurance renewals have been completed. Milner stated the contract to upgrade the income tax software has been signed. Milner stated residence will be able to access their accounts online with the new software. Milner reported she has been working on closing the 2021 calendar year. Milner stated this is due February 28, 2022. Milner reported Council has not received the December 2021 and January 2022 bank reconciliation and monthly reports. Milner stated $\frac{3}{4}$ of the purchase orders are complete. Milner updated Council on the complaint from the Department of Commerce concerning the employee who stated he did not receive his wages. Milner stated she submitted the time change for the Council meetings to the Perry County Tribune. Milner informed Council the AT & T conversion will be completed this month. The conversion will save the Village \$200- \$300 per month. Milner stated she completed

the paperwork for FEMA in the amount of \$30,500 and submitted it to the Perry County EMA. Mayor Thompson stated Milner negotiated the employee health insurance from a 14% increase to a 6% increase to the Village.

Administrator Emmert reported the Village was chosen by Habitat for Humanity to do a block clean-up. They will bring 100 volunteers. The Village chose Broadway Street, and they will start on June 4, 2022. Emmert stated if there are any elderly that need clean up or painting done, they will do this also. Emmert stated he tried to contact Steve Zanazzi about the mower and medic he bought through the bid process but has not paid for yet. Emmert stated he has not returned his calls. Emmert is going to consult with Attorney Barclay about selling the mower and medic to someone else. Emmert thanked Finance Director Milner for all her work preparing the paperwork for FEMA. Emmert stated the two broken hydrants have been repaired. Emmert informed Council Public Service Director Chuck Hicks is going to retire on July 22, 2022. Emmert stated JJ Bridge Company out of New Concord was awarded the bid for the Nuzum Street Bridge project at a cost of \$340,000. The project will start in April 2022. Emmert informed Council members can zoom for Council meetings until July 1, 2022. Councilperson Welsh stated he received a complaint about water off Kennedy Dr. running down Brown Street. Emmert stated he would check into it.

Police Chief Ross reported 1,203 calls for service in 2022 as of tonight. Ross stated in the month of January they had 663 calls for service. Ross stated he spoke with the representative from the company they are purchasing the CAD system from. Ross stated two licenses come with the purchase. Ross informed Council each dispatcher would need their own license at a cost of \$1,500 per license. Ross stated he told her that was not possible. Ross stated they are negotiating with the company. Ross stated she will be on site to train them the second week of March. Ross stated he is working on getting a GIS file from the County Engineers office. Ross reported the parts for Unit six are still on backorder and Dutro Ford stated they may possibly be here this week. Ross stated they are waiting on Mifflin Township to receive their new cruiser then the Village can purchase their old one.

Fire Chief Fain stated they have been busy. There was a trailer fire on Nuzum Street and a fire in Shawnee. Fain reported the new fire truck, Engine 11 should arrive by the end of March. Fain stated he and Councilperson DePinto met with the Village of Shawnee and Salt Lick Township to discuss Fire/EMS services. Fain stated they left with a contract from both for services. Fain stated they will send the Village 80% of their levy to the Village. This will be approximately \$12,800 for both. Councilperson Danison asked about New Straitsville. DePinto stated she discussed this with Rita Spicer, and Rita is going to discuss it at their Council meeting. DePinto stated there has been some discussion about a Southern Fire District. Fain stated there have been studies done on this subject and it is not beneficial. Council asked if the Village received bed tax. Currently the Village does not. Finance Director Milner is going to research the bed tax. Councilperson Danison asked Administrator Emmert when the State was going to repair the bridge by the Dairy Queen. Emmert stated this will not be until 2026-2027. Danison inquired about the State Route 13 waterline project. Emmert stated will be bids will be accepted within the next two weeks. Councilperson Bethel stated he is hearing a lot of rumors concerning the Fire Department not taking runs. Bethel stated he knows this is not true but was wondering if Fire Chief Fain could give Council a percentage of the number of runs, they respond to. Bethel asked Milner what the cost of a levy is based on through property taxes. Milner stated the percentage is a calculation based on the value of the property at the time of the levy. Council discussed fire levies

Councilperson Welsh reviewed the Finance Committee meeting that Milner discussed. Councilperson DePinto asked when they were going to hold another Finance Committee meeting. Councilperson Danison stated he would like to hold a combined Finance and Public Safety Committee meeting. Milner stated it will be in March.

Councilperson Danison asked for anyone driving around the Village to let him know of any pot holes so he can bring them to the next Public Service Committee meeting.

Councilperson Welsh stated he received an e-mail from Judge Cooperrider about a meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Luthern Church regarding a homeless shelter. Mayor Thompson stated a vigil was being held tonight on the Court House steps for awareness of homelessness. Thompson stated he sent Judge Cooperrider an e-mail stating Council had a meeting, so they were not able to attend.

Councilperson DePinto asked if all completed items could be removed from the working document. Councilperson Danison made a motion to remove all completed items off of the working document. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Council discussed the annexation process.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the contract for Allen & Baughman Attorney's at Law for the Village Solicitor. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

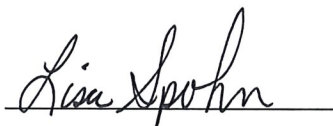
Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-3 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.
Resolution No. 22-3: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-3 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk