

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
September 7, 2021
6:30 PM
MUNCIPAL 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 Dan Bethel, Doug Fox, Jim Welsh, Kathy Chute, Susan Goodfellow and Jeff Danison. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin, Administrator Emmert and Fire Chief Fain. The public was invited to attend the meeting in person or live online through the Village website and Facebook page. Absent was Councilperson Boyle.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Boyle from the September 7, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 16, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Chute who abstained due to being absent from the August 16, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the Emergency Council meeting held on August 26, 2021. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Chute who abstained due to being absent from the August 26, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Administrator Emmert stated the Village is supposed to bid out waste removal every three years. Jeff Hoover, Operations Manager and Rick Masterson, Vice President of Operations from Waste Away Systems presented Council with information about their company. Masterson stated they would like to work with New Lexington when it goes to bid.

Lee Conkel addressed Council on the projects that the Village is currently working on. Conkel informed Council there is currently a purchase order for the replacement of the valve and filter at the Water Treatment Plant that will expire on December 31, 2021. Conkel stated one of the filters at the Water Treatment Plant has been out of service for one year. Hull Engineering will charge \$15,000 to oversee the filter and valve project. Conkel stated the other project is the State Route 13 waterline project. Conkel stated they applied for a critical infrastructure grant. The Village was awarded \$450,000 for the project from the grant. The Village needs to pay \$80,000 of the project. Administrator Emmert stated he received the letter from the Board of Commissioners awarding the Village \$450,000 for the grant. Councilperson Bethel asked if the project had been discussed in a Finance Committee meeting. Councilperson Welsh stated "yes". Administrator Emmert stated they need to move forward with the replacement of the filter and valve at the Water Treatment Plant. Administrator Emmert asked Finance Director Rockwell if the funding was in the budget for the Water Treatment Plant project. Rockwell stated "yes".

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter a contract with Hull Environment/ Energy/ Infrastructure to replace the valve and filter at the Water Treatment Plant. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel asked Conkel how much they needed to consider for the State Route 13 project. Conkel stated the motion would have to be made for \$80,000 but the Village has already invested \$40,000 of the \$80,000 needed.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve \$80,000 for the State Route 13 Waterline Project. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administration Emmert stated the Nuzum Bridge funding is complete.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the Shawnee Homecoming and the Cruise In for a Cause held in New Lexington.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a motion to approve the July Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation presented at the August 16, 2021 meeting. Rockwell presented Council a copy of the current water rate Ordinance and an Ordinance to fill in new rates if Council decides to change them tonight. Rockwell stated a copy of water and sewer rates of surrounding areas provided by Water Clerk Towing was attached also.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the July 2021 Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Emmert stated in 2020 Council approved selling the bucket truck at the Public Service Department, but it was not done. Emmert asked Council if he could advertise for sealed bids for the bucket truck and other obsolete equipment at the Public Service Department. Councilperson Danison asked Emmert if all the trucks needing repaired at the Public Service Department are complete. Emmert stated all the trucks have been repaired except for one that is still at the dealership being repaired. Danison asked Emmert if he had stopped at the property on Brown Street that they discussed at the last Council meeting. Emmert stated "yes" but there was no one home.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Administrator Emmert to move forward with advertising for sealed bids for the bucket truck and other obsolete equipment at the Public Service Department. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Police Chief Ervin reported 4,073 calls for service in 2021 as of tonight. Ervin stated the occupant of a house fire was sent for mental evaluation. Mayor Thompson thanked Chief Ervin for his exemplary service to the Village.

Fire Chief Fain reported the fire department responded to a house fire on Jefferson Street. Fain stated the occupant is getting help. Fain stated August has been the slowest month so far this year. Fain reported for the month of August EMS had 124 runs with 99 transports.

Councilperson Welsh reported on the Finance Committee meetings that were held on August 23, 2021 and September 3, 2021. Welsh stated they discussed water and sewer rates. Welsh stated the Wastewater Treatment Plant needs repairs, and the funding is not there. Welsh stated the Village has some of the lowest rates. Welsh stated they need to do something to make the repairs at the plant. Councilperson Bethel stated raising rates to make sure repairs are done to meet EPA requirements is the only option. Mayor Thompson stated the Finance Committee should discuss rates and bring their recommendation back to Council. Finance Director Rockwell stated it has been 15 years since the last big increase in rates. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2021 at 9:00 am at the Municipal Building.

Mayor Thompson stated the Fall Festival is scheduled for September 17, 2021 from 12:00 pm – 10:00 pm and September 18, 2021 from 12:00 pm – 12:00 am. Councilperson Welsh asked if the road closures were all in order. Police Chief Ervin stated "yes".

Councilperson Welsh asked if the IT upgrades were complete. Finance Director Rockwell stated "yes".

Mayor Thompson requested an executive session.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding employment with Council, Mayor, Police Chief and Administrator present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:15 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 7:46 pm.

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

Mayor Thompson recommended to Council the hiring of Timothy J. Ross for the Police Chief position.

Councilperson Fox made a motion for the Village of New Lexington to employ Timothy J. Ross for the position of Police Chief. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-9 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-9: **APPROVAL AND GRANTING CONSENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TO, APPLY, MAINTAIN AND REPAIR STANDARD LOGITUDINAL PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND ERECT REGULATORY AND WARNING SIGNS ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE VILLAGE CORPORATE LIMITS, AND**

GIVING CONSENT OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE AND USE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MATERIAL ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATE LIMITS, AND

GIVING CONSENT OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATION. Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-9 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

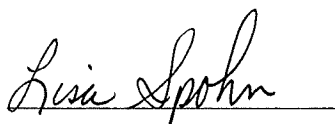
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk