

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

December 6, 2021

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, Doug Fox, Dan Bethel, Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow and Jeff Danison. Also present were Finance Director Milner, Police Chief Ross, and Fire Chief Fain. The public was invited to attend the meeting in person or live online through zoom. Absent was Councilperson Kathy Chute.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 15, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported he attended the Christmas Parade on December 3, 2021 and the attendance was outstanding along with the parade. Thompson thanked the Public Service Department, Fire Department, Police Department for all their help with the parade. Thompson thanked Sue Boyle for decorating the Village. Thompson stated he attended the Fall Festival Fundraiser Grub with the Grinch on Saturday.

Finance Director Milner stated the October bank reconciliation is complete and the November bank reconciliation will be complete tomorrow. Milner stated there were several errors made by the bank on daily deposits. The Administration office is changing procedures for daily deposits to help correct this issue. Milner asked Council if she needed to print copies of the monthly financial reports or if she could just e-mail the report to them. Milner stated if anyone wanted a hard copy, she would print it for them. Council members are always welcome to come to the Finance Office and view the report. Council and Mayor Thompson agreed to have the report e-mailed to them. Milner stated the Finance Committee meeting minutes that she presented to Council are very detailed due to the number of issues discussed. Milner stated they would like to change the allocation of the Public Service Department wages to water 70%, street 20% and sewer 10% beginning January 2, 2022.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion beginning January 2, 2022 to allocate the wages for Public Service Department employees to 70% water, 20% street and 10% sewer. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Milner stated she would like for Council to approve going to a bi-annual audit. This would cut the cost of the audit in half. Milner stated the Village would still be audited every year; they would just audit two years at a time.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to change from a single year audit to a bi-annual audit. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated by reallocating the Public Service Department wages this would help the sewer fund by \$64,000 per year. Milner stated the Village files OCBOA audit report which is very complicated to understand. Milner recommended filing a regulatory audit which is easier to understand. Milner requested a motion to change from OCBOA filing to regulatory.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to change from OCBOA filing to regulatory filing in 2021. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Milner reported to Council the Volunteer Firefighter Dependent Funds Board is to be in place by the first of every year. This board consists of two members from the Village and two members from the Firefighters. After the selection of the four board members, they are to appoint a fifth member from the public. The board must then appoint a secretary.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to appoint Jeff Danison and Dan Bethel to the Firefighters Dependent Fund Board. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Milner presented Council Ordinance's for amending appropriations, personnel policy manual and permanent appropriations and a Resolution for setting employee wages. Mayor Thompson thanked Finance Director Milner and Administrator Emmert for all the work they did to get the pay scale completed.

Mayor Thompson reported on behalf of Administrator Emmert that the deadline for bids for waste removal within the Village is Thursday, December 9, 2021. Thompson informed Council the wet well at the Sewer Treatment Plant was to be cleaned today but due to bad weather it has been rescheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 2021.

Police Chief Ross reported the street that was closed down by the football field to prevent traffic from coming through worked great for the safety of participants in the Christmas parade. Ross stated he spoke with Ridenours about the new cruiser, and it has been ordered. Ross informed Council unit six needs brakes and Ridenours did not have the parts to repair it, so it is being repaired by Dutro Ford. Ross stated unit 5 was at Snider's to be repaired unit 7 broke down in October and cannot be repaired. Ross stated Pat Snider is interested in bidding on out of commission vehicles the Village owns. Ross reported 5,388 calls for service in 2021 as of tonight. Councilperson Fox asked Ross what is the most calls they receive. Ross stated domestic violence is high right now and drug overdoses. Ross stated he swore in two new officers today.

Fire Chief Fain stated they were very busy with the parade. Fain reported the VFW sold bake goods at the Fire Department and Santa visited with children after the parade. Gifts were presented to each child. Fain stated he is working on attending the Township meetings to get the contracts done. Fain reported he is going to try and get the contracts for two years instead of one. Fain stated Medic 4 is still at Ridenours waiting to be repaired. Councilperson Danison asked Fire Chief Fain and Police Chief Ross if they maintain a preventative maintenance program in their departments. Both stated "yes".

Councilperson Welsh reported Finance Director Milner covered the Finance Committee meetings held on November 23 and 29, 2021. Welsh asked all Council members to please review the minutes from the meetings before the next Council meeting.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Fall Festival Fundraiser, Grub with the Grinch that was held on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Boyle stated the event went great. Boyle stated the committee raised \$1,105. Boyle reported Finance Director Milner informed her the committee was \$75 shy of \$9,000 in 2021 for funds raised for the festival.

Mayor Thompson stated he will schedule a Records Committee and Charter Committee meeting before the end of the year.

Finance Director Milner stated the Department Heads would like to have an appreciation dinner for the employees, elected officials and department heads. Mayor Thompson stated he thought that was a great idea. Milner stated it would be held during the day around lunch time possibly on December 22, 2021. Milner stated they would probably have a local caterer.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to hold an appreciation dinner for employees, elected officials and department heads up to \$15 per person. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Danison stated the owner of the trailer park by Kinsel Sports wants the Village to gravel what she thinks is an alley. Councilperson Bethel stated the owner contacted him also and she stated if the Village is

not going to maintain the alley, then the Village needs to vacate it. Milner asked if there is any public utilities there. Council stated they will have to speak with Public Service Superintendent Hicks.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-17 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-17: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-17 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only as a first reading Ordinance No. 21-18. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-18: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, OHIO.**

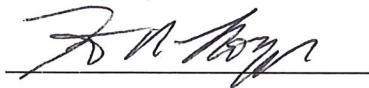
Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only as a first reading Ordinance No. 22-1. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 22-1: **AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.**

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-27 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 21-27: **A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY CONTRACTS.**

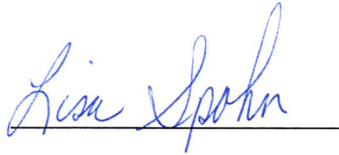
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk