

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

March 21, 2022

5:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 5:30 PM. Council Members present were Jim Welsh, Dan Bethel, Jeff Danison, Janie DePinto and Susan Goodfellow. Councilperson Susan Boyle attended via zoom. Councilperson Debra Hooper arrived late. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Milner and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Goodfellow who abstained due to being absent from the March 7, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Dave Fleming addressed Council concerning parking on Summer Street. Fleming stated when neighbors park on the street he is unable to get out of his driveway. Fleming informed Council he has tried to resolve the issue with the neighbors but has made no progress. Mayor Thompson asked the Municipal Concerns Committee to address the issue.

Mayor Thompson stated he received a complaint about a pothole in the alley behind Haz-M and drainage issues behind Ray's Body Shop. Administrator Emmert reported the drainage issue has been repaired. Thompson stated he attended the 4th of July Committee meeting. Thompson reported he has been asked about side by sides being legal within the Village. Councilperson Bethel suggested holding a public meeting to get the residents stance on the issue. Bethel stated he will schedule a Planning Committee meeting to discuss the issue. Thompson stated he received a complaint about not being able to get a fire report. Thompson stated he and Administrator Emmert inspected a fence in need of repair at the softball field. Thompson reported he attended a meeting at Southern Local School regarding lack of emergency services in the area.

Finance Director Milner informed Council they were provided a copy of the Finance Committee minutes and if they had any questions after reviewing them to let her know. Milner reported the Cobra Insurance renewal has been completed. Milner stated the AT&T conversion could not be completed due to the current system has been obsolete since 2018 and they no longer service them. Milner stated if the hard drive goes out of the system all Village phones will be down. Milner stated she is working on getting quotes to replace the current system. Milner stated she would like Council's permission to apply for a safety equipment grant for the Police Department K-9. The grant is for \$1,000 and would go towards the purchase of a heat alert system which cost \$1,400. If awarded the grant the other \$400 would come out of the K-9 fund.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Finance Director Milner to apply for the PEP Safety Grant. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh., All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Milner stated upon the renewal of the employee insurance they established a new portal. Employees will be able to use the portal to make changes to their insurance. Milner stated currently the employer pays 85% and the employee pays 15% of their life insurance. The employee can currently opt out of life insurance if they desire. Milner stated for the small amount that comes out of the employees she would like the Village to pay 100% of the life insurance premium and it would be mandatory for the employee to carry life insurance. If Council agrees Milner will bring a Resolution to the next meeting. Milner presented Council with a Resolution to transfer money from the sewer operating fund to the sewer bond fund, a Resolution to transfer money from the water operating fund to the water bond fund and a Resolution for the rates of pay for Fire/EMS personnel. The Fire Chief would receive \$750.00 a month and compensation for qualified fire runs, Assistant Fire Chief would receive \$640 a month and compensation for qualified fire runs, and \$80 a month for Captain 1-2 and compensation for qualified fire runs. There will no longer be a second assistant chief. This amount has been divided between the two officers.

Administrator Emmert reported the Eagles contacted him and asked if he could close the alley beside their business due to safety issues. Bricks are falling off the building. They are trying to get a grant to repair the issue. Emmert stated Buckeye Hills informed him there is a lot of money in grants available that the Village could apply for. Emmert stated he met with Bob Jablonski from Poggemeyer Design Group who informed him of this also. Emmert stated they had a sewer collapse on E. Brown Street. Emmert stated Bob Heavener is going to start on the repairs tomorrow. The hole is about 15 feet deep and will take three to four days to repair. Emmert stated he met with Dave Couch from Developmental Disabilities regarding them wanting to pave the parking lot above the park. Emmert informed Couch the County owns that property. Emmert stated bids for the State Route 13 waterline project will be at 9:30 am March 23, 2022.

Police Chief Ross stated the new cruiser is at Ridenours and will be taken to Columbus to get fitted with the lights and other accessories. Ross stated this could take five to six weeks. Ross stated he will have a meeting with Rock the Block on April 16, 2022 at Sunnyside to try and get people interested in applying for help. Ross stated he contacted the landfill to see if they would waive their fees during the Rock the Block clean-up project. Ross stated they've had three overdoses, nine felony drug arrest, 4 warrants, three domestics, one fight and one OVI since March 1, 2022. Mayor Thompson asked if the department could try and patrol the West Brown Street area. Ross stated he is looking into two new radar units for the patrol cruisers. Ross stated unit five broke down again and he is not going to get it repaired this time. The cruiser at Dutro Ford should be ready to pick up this week.

Fire Chief Fain stated they have been busy this month. They responded to a house fire in Rehoboth. Fain stated he attended the meeting at Southern Local School regarding emergency services in the area. Fain stated they wanted to create a new EMS district in the area but realized they did not have the funds to do this. Fain reported Shawnee and Salt Lick Township are very pleased with the service they are receiving from the Village. Fain stated he is going to attend a Council meeting in New Straitsville to ask if they would like to contract with the Village for services. Councilperson Danison inquired about the Medic still sitting on the lot in front of the Fire Department. Administrator Emmert stated they are going to have to put it out for bid again since the gentleman that was awarded the Medic the first time not come pick it up.

Councilperson Welsh reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 16, 2022. Councilperson Danison stated he thinks the raises for the Fire Department are too high. Danison stated he thinks this should wait for a while since they haven't been out of a deficit that long. Finance Director Milner stated this is coming out of their carryover balance. Councilperson DePinto stated Fain and Morrow put in a lot of hours and should get the raise. Milner asked Council if they wanted to proceed with placing a replacement levy for the Fire Department on the ballot.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to move forward with the Fire Department Replacement Levy. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Boyle stated the Fall Festival Committee held a painting fund raiser at the Eagles. They will also be hosting another a fund raiser at the Eagles on April 9, 2022.

Councilperson Goodfellow asked if there is any way to clean the properties up on Main Street hill. Police Chief Ross and Administrator Emmert are working on the issue.

Councilperson DePinto asked Fire Chief Fain about letters to the firemen. DePinto asked Fain if the new fire truck would come with the decals. Fain stated he didn't know.

Councilperson Welsh asked about the envelope given to Council members by Council Clerk Spohn. Moving forward any documents given to the Council Clerk will be opened and examined before being given to Council. Councilperson Welsh returned the unopened envelope.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-4 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-4: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE SEWER OPERATING FUND TO THE SEWER BOND FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-4 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 Resolution No. 22-5 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-5: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER OPERATING FUND TO THE WATER BOND FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-5 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 Resolution No. 22-6. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-6: **A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 21-9 THE RATES OF PAY FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk