

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

April 4, 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, Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow and Debra Hooper. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert, Fire Chief Fain, Finance Directors Milner and Wion.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 21, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 28, 2022 emergency meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilpersons Bethel and Boyle who abstained due to being absent from the March 28, 2022 meeting.

Ken Oehlers from Habitat for Humanity addressed Council about the upcoming Rock the Block event. The event concentrates on a certain area to clean up, make minor repairs and other projects that a resident might need. Oehlers stated they chose the area around Porcelain Street for this project. Oehlers stated they will be canvassing the residents on June 4, 2022 and would like everyone to spread the word. This is the first time they have attempted this type of event. Oehlers stated Hallie Davis is the coordinator for the project. Administrator Emmert asked about the fliers he was supposed to receive. Oehlers stated he will receive the fliers on Wednesday, and they will fill the bottom half of the flier out and return it. Oehlers stated they are doing owner occupied now and may do landlord later. They are trying to get twenty to twenty-five residents to participate. Councilperson Welsh asked if they were going to have a meeting for the volunteers. Oehlers stated "yes", and they may need to use the Village Municipal building.

Justin Gall stated he is the CEO at Mount Aloysius. Gall stated the facility has been there for fifty-two years and houses individuals with disabilities. Gall stated they are looking for ways to move the facility forward and to open the grounds to the public. Gall stated the swimming pool and gymnasium are available for rent. Gall stated they were looking for ways to give back to the community. Gall presented Council with a commitment for \$10,000 for fireworks for the 4th of July celebration. Mayor Thompson stated he and Administrator Emmert are working on making it possible for the residents of Mount Aloysius to be right down where the fireworks display is.

Jenny LaRue and Deborah Raney presented Council with an update on the Carroll Street Corridor project. Raney gave Council a report on the project that shows the progress. Raney stated the project has been in the works for a long time but is moving forward. Raney stated they will need a 10% match for the grant. This would be \$50,000. Raney stated they have asked the Perry County Commissioners to fund the amount with ARPA funds, but the Commissioner want to know what the Village is going to do. Raney and LaRue stated the Village can ask businesses to help fund the match and it will not be due for four to five years. Raney stated they asked Buckeye Hills for funding also. Raney stated they are working on a sidewalk project on Lincoln Park Dr. This project is funded by the Perry County Health Department and the PCHD'S Creating Healthy Communities grant. Raney stated they have a Nature Works grant that they are going to use for a wetlands project on the property beside the Health Department. They will be creating a boardwalk in the area.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion for the Village's support of the Carroll Street Corridor project. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Dave Pletcher spoke to Council regarding zoning and property maintenance code. Pletcher stated the Village adopted a property maintenance code in 2002. Pletcher stated there are a lot of areas in the Village that need

cleaned up. The Village has the laws to do this, but they need a code officer to enforce the law. Pletcher stated he has done research on other municipalities to see how they handle violations Pletcher stated some places take violators to court. Pletcher stated if you are going to do this you need to speak to the courts before starting any process. Pletcher stated Council needs to review the Village codes. Pletcher stated the zoning codes are there and need enforced. Mayor Thompson stated they have a zoning board. Pletcher stated they are down to two members and would like to have five. Councilperson Bethel stated they need a full-time code officer, but it has to be in the budget. Police Chief Ross stated he is going to post the position for a part-time property maintenance officer.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to enter into executive session regarding State Law (HIPPA) confidential matters with Council and Mayor present. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:45 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 6:52 pm.

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

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Boyle from the remainder of the April 4, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended all the interviews for the Finance Director position. Thompson reported there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at Rockwell Stadium on April 16, 2022 at 11:00 am. Thompson stated with the help of Larry Hatem, Medic 10 was removed from the Fire Department lot and towed to the Public Service Department. Thompson stated he received a complaint about a water bill and parking. Thompson stated there are several vehicles in the Village without current tags.

Finance Director Milner informed Council Brooke Wion has been training with her and doing a great job. Milner presented Council with the February bank reconciliation and informed Council she e-mailed the February financial statements. Milner presented Council with a Resolution to continue her employment with the Village as Finance Director Assistant which would consist of grant writing, managing the grants, and other projects. Milner presented Council an Ordinance for amended appropriations. Milner presented Council with Resolutions for a replacement levy for the Fire Department and Fire/EMS Department. Milner stated the Resolutions were vague and will be updated after she receives the original levy language that she requested from the Board of Elections. Milner presented a Resolution for a levy for the Police Department if Council wishes to move forward. Milner stated Council would have to decide on the millage they would like. Council decided to place a two-mill levy on the ballot. Milner informed Council they need to start funding a retirement account for when employees retire. Milner asked if Council would like to amend Ordinance 22-2 to include the donation for fireworks from Mount Aloysius.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 22-2 to increase Appropriations and Resources by \$10,000 for fireworks. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voter "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Emmert stated Ben Groves resigned from the Public Service Department and he has received five applications. Emmert stated they had one bid from Wilson Excavating for the State Route 13 waterline project. Emmert reported he is working with Bob Jablonski from Poggemeyer Design Group on lead pipe removal. Emmert stated Medic 10 was placed on Gov deals and the bids end April 11, 2022. Emmert stated the plow truck that was ordered from Ridenours should be in next week.

Police Chief Ross reported 2057 calls for service in 2022 as of tonight. Ross stated the department received two free spots for taser training since he hosted the event. The cost would have been \$350.00 per person. Ross reported he attended a 40-hour class for new chiefs last week. Ross stated they had great instructors. Ross stated he would like to upgrade the uniforms for the police department. Ross reported that the company they are purchasing the CAD system from are waiting for the GIS mapping to be completed before training on the system. Ross stated he informed them he would prefer to start the training as soon as possible.

Fire Chief Fain stated in March they responded to 139 runs with 78 transports. Fain stated for the first quarter of 2022 they responded to 136 Fire runs and 459 EMS runs. Fain stated the new fire truck should be here soon. Councilperson Danison asked Fain if they had attended the Council meeting in New Straitsville yet. Fain stated he is getting reports ready to present to them on the number of runs they have responded to in the area. Fain stated he hopes to attend the meeting next month.

Councilperson Goodfellow reported on the Municipal Concerns Committee meeting held on March 22, 2022. Councilperson Danison stated they were concerned of safety issues on Summer St. due to the width of the street. Danison reported they had Fire Chief Fain check the area and there is no issue.. Goodfellow and Danison stated there is nothing the Village can do about the parking on Summer Street.

Councilperson Bethel stated there will be a Planning/Economic Committee meeting on April 6, 2022 at 5:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Police Chief Ross stated he received information at his classes regarding records retention and would like Mayor Thompson to schedule a meeting.

Mayor Thompson stated Council and the Administrator is going to have to come up with a commonsense policy when water bill issues arise that are not the customers fault.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 22-2 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TO APPLY FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22-2 as amended. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-8 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. **Resolution No. 22-8: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND HEIDI MILNER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-8 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-9 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. **Resolution No. 22-9: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE.**

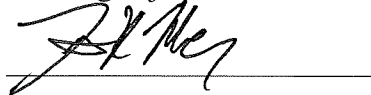
Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-10 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. **Resolution No. 22-10: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE.**

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-11 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. **Resolution No. 22-11: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE.**

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only as a second reading Resolution No. 22-6. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. 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 Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-6 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who voted "no". Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. May", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Spohn", written over a horizontal line.

Council Clerk