

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

June 7, 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 5:30 PM. Council Members present were Jim Welsh, Dan Bethel, Jeff Danison, Janie DePinto, Susan Goodfellow, and Debra Hooper. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Wion, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Boyle.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Boyle from the June 7, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 16, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he received two complaints regarding water and several property maintenance complaints. He also stated he assisted the Somerset Reading Township Fire Department with an equipment issue. Thompson remarked that he also assisted with cleanup in the Tile Plant Road area and how much better the area is looking. He stated that he attended the pancake breakfast held by the New Lexington Fire & EMS on Memorial Day as well as Memorial Day festivities in New Lexington and Junction City. Other activities he took part in included the Founders Day Celebration held at Ludowici and the MacGahan Festival as well as the recent Buckeye Hills meeting held in Shawnee. Thompson stated he had a request to remove gravel from an area in town. He stated he was called on a water leak by the reservoir and advised Eric and Jakob took care of the situation. He advised he received a phone call from a food truck vendor inquiring about setting up in the area. Thompson stated he set up a meeting to host the new State Representative Kevin Miller for June 23, 2022, at 8:00AM to see what he can do to help out the community.

Finance Director Wion advised she had three Resolutions passed in April that need re-signed due to a letter being incorrect. Wion stated increasing the price of the Hometown Hero banners was recently discussed at the finance meeting and as long as the application doesn't have a resolution on it, the price is able to be increased without a new resolution. Council members agreed to wait until the next meeting to decide on the price increase as the cost of hardware, etc. will need to be taken into consideration. In the meantime, 30 brackets will be ordered for new banner placement and for any that need to be replaced. Wion advised the first quote for the pool vacuum was \$3,408 and Council agreed to move forward with the application to purchase it at this price. Wion discussed Resolution 22-15 regarding swimming pool rates will need to be signed. The only change in this resolution is the Head Lifeguard pay being raised from \$9.50/hr. to \$10.00/hr. Wion advised the finance committee discussed an increase in the rate of pay for the Police Operations Manager. A resolution will be made available for the next Council meeting.

Administrator Emmert stated that since there were five non-compliant residents in regard to the Lead & Copper testing, the EPA considered it a violation and the village will now need to collect 40 samples. He and Rich are working on this to get it completed by the deadline. Emmert advised hydrant flushing is complete, with Center St being the only issue and this is on the project list to replace. Emmert stated the State Route 13 water line has presented some challenges. Our cost of a few change orders due to hot taps not being listed in the engineering part of the project is around \$8,400. The contractor damaged a septic tank on a resident's property while working on the line; the contractor will take care of the cost of repairs. Emmert advised he is working with County Engineer Kent Cannon and Assistant Engineer Tim Frash on repairing the road around the water treatment plant. Emmert stated Steve Cologie's last day is July 29th. He will be posting a Class II Operator's position to replace Cologie within the next week. Emmert stated if Council approves his sick leave buyback, Cologie will use his vacation time instead of working until July 29th.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve Cologie to receive his sick leave buyout. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert stated he met with Bob Jablonski in regard to looking for funding options for a bar screen at the wastewater treatment plant. Emmert advised he met with Dave Couch with Perry County Board of DD regarding the parking lot in the area of the PCBDD building and the baseball field. PCBDD will pave half of the parking lot, which is the area of their property line. He stated Couch would also like to make handicapped trails leading from the land owned by the county into the area of the Shelter Houses. He stated Couch and Jenny LaRue will work alongside each other to make the Shelter Houses handicapped accessible. Emmert stated Chris Shriner has been hired for the Public Service Department. His first day will be June 15, 2022. He also advised there are three helpers working with the Public Service Department. Emmert presented Council with a 20ft. right of way/easement being requested by Southern Perry County Water District for water lines to be ran in the area of new development in the area of Airport Road.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the easement. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert stated he, Jakob Ross, and Kyle Gabbard will be attending the RCAP Field Day on June 14, 2022, in St. Clairsville. Emmert advised his main focus right now is working with Buckeye Hills on a five-year plan to improve the Village. He stated he will be working with Tom Johnson on the revitalization project. Emmert advised paving for 2022 is good to go. Per Engineer Cannon, the area in High St. is not recommended for paving and Public Service should just continue filling in with cold mix.

Chief Ross stated he attended the Founders Day Celebration as well as the Buckeye Hills meeting. He advised he had an individual asking about metal detecting at the Village Park. Council and Mayor are in agreement that they have no issues with this. Ross stated he worked with Heidi on a technology grant for the CAD, e-citations, and report compatibility for the cruisers. The grant applied for is worth around \$48,000. Ross reported on the number of calls received for the month of May as well as the great feedback the department has been receiving in regard to property maintenance. Ross stated the section of the back seat is still on backorder for the new cruiser. He also advised the Rock the Block has been cancelled due to lack of applicants and will be rescheduled during the fall. Ross complimented the Public Service Department on how well MacGahan Park looks. Ross asked Council to amend Resolution 22-11 to make it a 6-mill levy.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to amend the Resolution. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Chief Fain gave a report on the runs for the month of May. Fain stated the pancake breakfast was a success, raising around \$1,000. He also stated he was disappointed in the participation and attendance of the Memorial Day parades. Mayor Thompson commented on the squad the NL Fire & EMS is interested in purchasing from Somerset Reading TWP for around \$50,000. Thompson recommended to Council this squad be purchased using ARPA funds, contingent on tires, stripes, and any other additional items that may need purchased.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to move forward in purchasing the medic with ARPA funds. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Fain stated he and Councilperson DePinto will be meeting with New Straitsville regarding mutual aid runs. Fain advised he will be speaking with a group of individuals on June 23, 2022, regarding overdoses and what can be done to help prevent this problem.

Councilperson Welsh spoke on the recent Finance Committee meeting. He stated the committee agreed regarding a raise for Police Operations Manager Mariah Ross, resulting in an increase of \$3.00 per hour (\$7,000 per year). Chief Ross stated the school has hired Officer Gibbs as their fulltime employee, saving the

department approximately \$14,000 per year. Councilperson Hooper stated the committee approved \$2,000 towards the cost of concrete and finishing at the disc golf course. Hooper advised she will seek volunteers to do the digging for the concrete tee pads.

Councilperson Danison recommended blocking off the area around the football field from Mill St. down to Fowlers Lane during football games to make it safer for pedestrians. Chief Ross will speak with Casey Coffey with New Lexington City Schools regarding blocking this area off.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 22-5 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 22-5: **AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT AND REGULATE THE OPERATION OF CERTAIN GOLF CARTS, UTILITY VEHICLES, UNDER SPEED VEHICLES AND ALL-PURPOSE VEHICLES IN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22-5 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-15 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-15: **RESOLUTION OMITTING ORDINANCE 21-4 RESETTING THE RATES OF PAY FOR THE MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL EMPLOYEES AND FEES FOR MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-15 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. 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 7:20 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk