

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

July 18, 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, Janie DePinto, Susan Goodfellow, Jeff Danison and Debra Hooper. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert and Finance Director Wion. Absent was Councilperson Boyle.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Boyle from the July 18, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 5, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported he met at the New Lexington football field with Mr. Rupe and other members of New Lexington Schools to discuss all the new upgrades the school will be making to the area. Thompson stated good things are taking place with the school. Thompson stated he addressed a complaint about shrubs and parking on Main Street. Thompson stated he was present at two water main breaks. Thompson stated he received a request to hang a banner on the corner of Maple Heights and Eastern Ave. Thompson asked the Municipal Concerns Committee to review this. Thompson stated he, Administrator Emmert and Police Chief Ross attended a luncheon at the Perry County Fair. Thompson stated he spoke with Councilperson Boyle, and she is doing well. Boyle hopes to return in August. Thompson stated he attended the interviews for the new Finance Director position. Mayor Thompson recommends to Council the hiring of Chelsey Lewis for the Finance Director position.

Councilperson DePinto made a motion to hire Chelsey Lewis for the Finance Director position. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson asked Chelsey Lewis to introduce herself to Council. Lewis stated her parents own Kinsel Embroidery & Sports. Lewis stated she is a lifelong resident of New Lexington and graduated from New Lexington High School. Lewis stated she has a dual bachelor's degree in accounting and forensic accounting. She also is a CPA. Lewis stated she applied for the position for a more stable schedule.

Finance Director Wion presented Council with a revenue report and expenditure report. Wion stated the Village received the ARPA funds on July 12, 2022. Councilperson DePinto asked Wion how she planned to train the new finance director. Wion stated she planned to be here on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:00 am – 10:00 am.

Administrator Emmert reported the air conditioner on the Fire/EMS side will be replaced on Tuesday at a cost of \$6,744. Emmert stated the women's toilet in the administration office restroom was replaced. Emmert stated he contacted the railroad about the tracks on East Brown Street. Emmert stated they were not very cooperative. Police Chief Ross spoke to Mike at Tunnel Hill Reclamation, and he is going to try and help. Emmert stated they had a major water break on Lincoln Street and thanked the Water Treatment Plant and the Public Service Department for their hard work in getting service restored. Emmert stated they had another water break that afternoon on Mellwood Drive. Emmert stated the Public Service Department worked about 17 hours that day. Emmert informed Council Engine 11 sold for \$9,112.50. Emmert stated the current bid on Medic 4 is \$6,150. Emmert reported R. J. Moore is getting a tank for Fire/EMS for gas to put at the Public Service Department. Emmert stated he had a meeting today with Buckeye Hills and Structure Point to discuss capital improvement

plans and the streetscape. Emmert requested an executive session for personnel matters. Councilperson Welsh stated Assistant Finance Director Milner is working on getting a grant for waterline replacement, but there is issues with how much money is in the water fund. The application is due the first of August. Welsh stated they need to push for waterline replacement for the Village. Councilperson DePinto asked Emmert how Tom Johnson is doing with the Appalachian money. Emmert stated he has not spoken to him. DePinto asked Emmert if a meeting could be scheduled to speak with Johnson. Emmert stated he will invite Johnson to a Council meeting. Emmert stated the guidelines will be released the second week of August.

Police Chief Ross reported 7,761 calls for service in 2022 as of tonight. Ross stated they had 820 calls in the last two weeks and 1,146 calls for service in the month of June. Ross stated he e-mails his employees every Friday with a weekly update. Ross stated they have had a lot of bicycle thefts. Ross reported catalytic converters were stolen from Keer Automotive. Ross stated they picked up the used cruiser they purchased from Mifflin Township and thanked Council. Ross stated he attended a lunch with Congressman Troy Balderson. Ross stated he has been researching other municipalities code enforcement codes. Ross reported Logan, Ohio has a great code enforcement. Ross stated he, Code Enforcement Officer Rushing and Administrator Emmert are going to meet with Logan Code Enforcement next week. Ross stated the department was awarded \$76,528.32 in grant funding to improve law enforcement staffing levels. Ross thanked Milner for her hard work on the grant. Ross stated he wants to apply for a body camera grant in August. Councilperson DePinto asked the status of some of the property maintenance issues. Ross stated he is working with Attorney Barclay on the issue.

Mayor Thompson stated Fire Chief Fain was at the Perry County Fair with the department. Thompson stated he received a thank you from a citizen for the New Lexington Fire/EMS saving his daughters life.

Councilperson Welsh scheduled a Finance Committee meeting July 27, 2022, at 4:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Bethel scheduled a Planning /Economic Development Committee meeting July 26, 2022, at 4:30 pm. Bethel asked if the amount of money they agreed to spend on cement for the Disc Golf was \$2,000. Finance Director Wion stated "yes".

Mayor Thompson stated he would like Council to think about hiring an administrative assistant in the near future. Thompson stated Administrator Emmert is very busy. This assistant would help with all departments in the administrative offices.

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

Councilperson DePinto made a motion to table Resolution No. 22-20. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-20: Tabled.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-21 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-21: **RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE 10 MILL LIMITATION REVISED CODE, SEC. 5705.19, .192, .194, .21, .26, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-21 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. 22-22 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-22: **RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE 10 MILL LIMITATION REVISED CODE, SEC. 5705.19, .192, .194, .21, .26, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-22 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-23 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-23: **RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE 10 MILL LIMITATION REVISED CODE, SEC. 5705.19, .192, .194, .21, .26, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-23 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Danison asked the status on the medic they were going to purchase from Somerset. Mayor Thompson stated in August.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session regarding personnel with Council, Mayor, Finance Director, Administrator, Police Chief, and Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:44 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 6:50 pm.

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

Councilperson Danison asked Police Chief Ross if they could meet with the school about closing the street during football games for public safety.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk