

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 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, Debra Hooper, Janie DePinto and Jeff Danison. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Lewis and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilpersons Boyle and Goodfellow.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Boyle and Goodfellow from the August 15, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 1, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilpersons DePinto and Hooper who abstained due to being absent from the August 1, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 5, 2022 special meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the August 5, 2022 special meeting. Motion carried.

Rick Hubble addressed Council concerning a high water bill he received on a rental property within the Village. Hubble stated the tenant entered into a payment agreement for the bill without his knowledge. Hubble stated the tenant moved and he was left with a bill that he was not aware of. He feels the agreement was between the tenant and the Village. Mayor Thompson stated he thought we should help people. Councilperson Bethel stated there should be a policy in place where the landlord has to approve a payment agreement. Council Clerk Spohn informed Council there is a policy in place for landlords to be notified. Administrator Emmert stated he was aware of the issue and Hubble was never listed on the account as owning the property. Water Clerk Saffell stated she has been cross checking with the Perry County Auditors website to verify rental property owners. Saffell stated the account had been estimated due to no access to the meter for several reasons. Once the meter reader was able to access the meter the usage had been estimated too low. Finance Director Lewis stated Council should take their personal feelings out of the equation that this is a business. Council discussed procedures in the water department. Mayor Thompson asked Hubble to contact him, and he would make an adjustment. Dave Pletcher stated all landlords are required to register their properties with the Village.

Mayor Thompson reported he received complaints about a water bill, storm sewer by the post office, two police department complaints and a property maintenance. Thompson stated he attended a meeting at Perry Behavioral Health regarding Appalachian funding. Also, in attendance at the meeting was MORPC and Buckeye Hills. Thompson stated he attended the back-to-school bash.

Finance Director Lewis reported the Village had a BWC audit on August 9, 2022. The audit showed they did not have a roster for the volunteer firemen. The Village was fined \$1,300. Lewis presented Council with a resolution for Peoples State Bank to receive the Village credit card. Lewis stated Assistant Finance Director Milner is working with Lewis on the 2023 budget. Police Chief Ross asked if he needed to get his wish list together for the budget. Lewis stated they are not ready for that yet.

Administrator Emmert reported the Public Service Department repaired a 10-inch waterline break. Emmert reported the department had to repair a clutch on a tractor at a cost of \$1,800. Emmert stated the dump truck needs \$13,000 in repairs. Emmert informed Council he performed eight interviews for three positions at the Public Service Department. Emmert stated Paul Weiner started at the Wastewater Treatment Plant today. Emmert presented Council with resolutions for the mechanical bar screen at the WWTP and a resolution for 2023 paving. Emmert stated the Water Treatment Plant has a pump that needs repaired. Emmert stated he received a quote for \$63,000 and is going to get two other quotes. Emmert stated G&M Construction is going to repair the street in front of the Board of Elections. Emmert reported he received complaints on cats. Emmert stated he has been working a lot on the Appalachian funding for workforce development center, streetscape on Mill Street and the Carroll Street Corridor. Emmert stated he attended the meeting at Perry Behavior Health with Mayor Thompson and Police Chief Ross. Emmert stated the New Lexington CSD would like for the Village to tie in the streetscape on Mill Street with the Community Recreation Center they are putting in at the old elementary school. Councilperson DePinto asked if it was going to be a trade school. Ross stated "yes". Councilperson Hooper asked if the Village was doing the streetscape on Mill Street instead of Broadway Street. Emmert stated they were starting with Mill Street.

Mayor Tom Johnson informed Council since Mike DeWine became Governor, he wanted to invest in improving Appalachian communities. Johnson stated local communities need to work together. Johnson informed Council they need to have the projects they would like to complete ready when the guideline for the funding becomes available. Johnson stated the Village should have community meetings and try to engage younger residents. Johnson recommended the Village get American Structure and Urban Development involved for fresh eyes from outside the Village. Johnson discussed several other ideas with Council on how to improve the community. Johnson stated Somerset has 70 buildings on the National Historical Registry. Somerset has a preservation ordinance so if someone wants to tear down a building, they need approval first.

Police Chief Ross reported 9,553 calls for service in 2022 as of tonight. Ross stated the departments had 884 calls for service since the last Council meeting two weeks ago. Ross stated he has been looking for a speed trailer and Roseville has one they will sell the Village for \$500. Ross informed Council he attended the meeting at Perry Behavioral Health with Mayor Thompson and Administrator Emmert. Ross stated he attended the back-to-school bash, with 300 students registered for the event. Ross stated they had a total of 400-500 students attend. Ross stated the New Lexington CSD wants a full-time school resource officer in Junction City. Administrator Emmert thanked Police Chief Ross and his department for all the help they give to the Public Service Department.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department received the Medic they purchased from Somerset. Fain stated it will be in service soon. Fain stated he met with Mr. Coffey and Mr. Rupe from the New Lexington CSD to discuss a plan for helping with fire watch at the workforce development building.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-25 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-25: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING POGGEMEYER DESIGN GROUP INC. TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-25 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

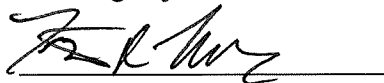
Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-26 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-26: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUSINESS VISA CREDIT CARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-26 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. 22-27 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-27: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERRY COUNTY ENGINEER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-27 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

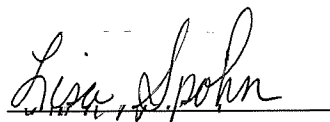
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk