

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
October 17, 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, Susan Goodfellow, Debra Hooper, Janie DePinto, Dan Bethel, Susan Boyle, and Jeff Danison. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Finance Director Lewis, Administrator Emmert and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 3, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Sean Brooks with Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (HAPCAP) presented Council with an overview of the Fair Housing Law and how HAPCAP works with communities to ensure they understand the rights and responsibilities in fair housing as well as the steps to take to file a complaint if one feels discriminated against. Sean also discussed how the Community Development Block Grant is no longer allocating money to certain areas and has become competitive based. He explained the next cycle for Perry County for the Critical Infrastructure Grant will begin in 2023 and will be an open cycle grant where money is always available.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended meetings with the New Lexington City School District as well as joining other mayors on a phone call with Buckeye Hills. He also attended the Somerset-Reading Fire Department Bean Dinner held recently. Thompson advised he received complaints regarding the Bulk Water plant and semi-trucks traveling on Brown Street.

Finance Director Lewis stated the Finance Committee discussed entering into a contract with Archive Social, a social media archive software that ensures communications on social media are saved. The price quoted from Archive Social is \$299 per month.

Councilperson DePinto made a motion to approve entering in a contract with Archive Social. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis stated the committee discussed a \$50.00 phone stipend for Department Heads who prefer to use their own phones instead of the Verizon phone provided by the Village.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the phone stipend for department heads. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Emmert stated Water Clerk Saffell will be attending the annual Trunk or Treat at the Perry County Fairgrounds on October 20, 2022. She will be representing the Village Administration. Emmert asked Council members for donations of candy to help her offset the cost. All members agreed to donate towards the cost of candy for the event. Emmert also reported he recently met with the Perry County Health Department regarding the Opportunity Health Improvement Grant. The Health Department will be hosting two public data gathering events at City Hall with the first one being on October 27. The purpose of these events is to

gather data for the Ohio Health Improvement Zone Grant that the Perry County Health Department and Village are working on together. The data gathered will help to see what is needed in the area for residents to be healthy. Emmert stated there are two brand new flashing speed limit signs at the garage. Discussions will take place soon for placement of the signs. Emmert advised Council the older dump truck at the street department needs a new rear end. The cost to fix the issue is more than the value of the truck. Options will be looked at regarding selling the truck. Emmert expressed concern regarding the Pepsi vending machines located at City Hall and Public Service not having invoices connected to sales from the machines. He advised if no money is coming in, discussions will be made with Pepsi to try to generate profit from the machine purchases as the Village is paying for electricity for the usage of the machines. Emmert also stated the contract for MAPSYS is almost up and he recommends continuing service with them as they have done a phenomenal job maintaining IT services.

Police Chief Ross reported 895 calls for service so far this month and 13,189 calls for service in 2022 as of tonight. Ross stated the department had two non-fatal overdose calls over the weekend. Ross also talked about an interaction Administrator Emmert witnessed between Officer Rushing and a suspect while out inspecting areas in the Village. Emmert commended Rushing for his professionalism in the situation. Chief Ross brought forth a discussion regarding the need for the rates of pay for the Police Department personnel to be increased. He advised he has four officers leaving for higher pay with other offices. Ross stated if the current rates remain the same the department is at a high risk of losing 24/7 patrol in the Village. Ross also stated he would look into the grant that was awarded for bonuses for the officers to see how they should be awarded regarding longevity, etc.

Fire Chief Fain reported on the recent car show held at the New Lex Fire Department on October 8th. He thanked Council President Welsh and Nate Russell, as well as the ladies at the VFW Auxiliary for their hard work in helping to bring in around \$1,500 for the department. Fain advised the department is working on getting the word out regarding the levies that will be on the ballot this November and the importance of them passing. Fain stated the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant would help to employ three fulltime Fire/EMS personnel for the duration of three year, but that wouldn't be a permanent solution. Different ideas were entertained regarding how to increase the budget for the Fire Department, with no solution at this time. Fain will research details in acquiring a new squad and will report back to Council.

Councilperson Welsh stated Finance Director Lewis and others already stated everything that was discussed at the Finance meeting held on October 12.

Parks and Recreation Chairwoman Councilperson Boyle stated she spoke with Brian Fisher, who will be volunteering with the committee, and they will be setting a date and time to discuss fundraising ideas. Boyle advised the Fall Festival Committee will soon be meeting to discuss future fundraisers as well. Boyle asked Administrator Emmert the location of the two benches donated by the Elks. Emmert advised one bench is at Arethusa Springs Park and the other is at the park on Broadway. Emmert asked if Boyle could look into benches being placed at Balls Court as well once it's finished.

Councilperson Bethel spoke on behalf of the Planning and Economic Development Committee. He stated he and Administrator Emmert met with Kent Cannon regarding annexation in the Village. Cannon advised that a meeting would need to take place between the Village, Pike Township, and the Perry County Commissioners. No meeting has been set at this time.

Mayor Thompson requested an executive session.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to enter into executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:54PM 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 7:18PM.

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

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 22-12 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 22-12: **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. 22-12 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 22-34 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-34: **A RESOLUTION RESETTING THE RATES OF PAY FOR THE NEW LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**. Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-34 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk