

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

November 7, 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 Danison made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 17, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended two meetings with the New Lexington City School District. Thompson advised he received complaints regarding the uptown parking, property maintenance and a police complaint. Thompson reported he attended Trunk or Treat, Perry County Cancer Alliance prayer vigil, Veterans extravaganza and the Community Club Caring for Kids Auction.

Finance Director Lewis reported she e-mailed the October financial statements to Council. Lewis requested a motion to approve the October financial statements.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the October 2022 financial statements. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Finance Director Lewis stated a bill from Waste Away was mailed to the Public Service Department for extra trash removal from the 4th of July celebration. Lewis stated she thought the 4th of July Committee was responsible for this bill, but she paid it due to a late fee continuing to accumulate. Councilperson Danison stated he thought the trash removal was included with the port-a-let rental that the 4th of July Committee was paying for. Administrator Emmert is going to investigate the bill. Lewis stated Assistant Water Clerk Saffell spent \$110.00 on Halloween candy for Trunk or Treat. Lewis stated \$100 came from petty cash and \$10.00 Saffell paid for. Lewis stated Council had agreed to help pay for the candy. Council stated they will take up a collection to replace the money from petty cash and pay Saffell. Lewis stated Steve Cologie is going to sub for Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Paul Weiner when he is off. Lewis requested a motion to approve the contract with Cologie.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into a contract with Steve Cologie for employment to substitute for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent when he is off. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis requested a motion to open a new line item for Health Department after receiving a check for \$10,000 from the Health Department for partnering with the Village for a healthier community.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion for Finance Director Lewis to open a Health Department line item. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Emmert stated the Health Department hosted a meeting at the Village for OHIZ last week and they will be hosting another one on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at the Perry Behavioral Arts Center at 6:00 p.m. Emmert stated the Health Department has been very involved with projects within the Village. Lewis presented Council with an ordinance for amending appropriations and a resolution to reduce Rehoboth sewer income projections. Councilperson Danison requested an executive session. Lewis stated the Christmas Committee needed funds for the holiday decorations for the Village. Lewis stated Mayor Thompson found \$4,000 which will come from the Public Service funds for street salt. Councilperson Bethel asked if this had

been discussed by the Finance Committee. Lewis stated “no” that the decorations need order as soon as possible to receive them in time for the Public Service Department to decorate. Mayor Thompson stated he and Finance Director Lewis have solicited for donations for Christmas decorations from several businesses. Whatever donations are received will be put into the salt fund.

Councilperson DePinto made a motion to move \$4,000 from the salt fund to the operations fund for Christmas decorations. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Administrator Emmert stated Mayor Thompson, Police Chief Ross and himself attended a meeting held at City Hall for the Appalachian Community Grant Program. Emmert stated the Village is partnering with New Lexington CSD for the grant. Emmert stated we are working with Buckeye Hills and MORPC. Emmert stated they received three quotes to clean the digester tank to make repairs. Emmert stated the lowest quote was \$14,000. Emmert stated the WWTP will not have a second full time employee. Emmert stated they are using one of the Public Service Department employees as a floater within the two departments. Emmert reported there is a leaf drop off at the Public Service Department. Emmet informed Council the Public Service Department will be removing the Hometown Hero Banners and replacing them with the Christmas Banners on Monday. Emmert reported the paving is complete all but the sealing. Emmert stated the traffic light on Main and Mill Street will be repaired by Jess Howard Electric at a cost of \$8,312. Emmert stated he and Lewis spoke with Spectrum and they are going to contract with them for phone services saving the Village around \$2,200 a month.

Police Chief Ross reported 1,670 calls for service the month of October and 14,321 calls for service in 2022 as of tonight. Ross stated there has been an increase in thefts. Ross reported he has another full-time officer leaving. Ross reported he and Code Enforcement Officer Rushing met with Joe Posey from Logan Ohio Code Enforcement. Ross reported they provided them with a lot of good information. Ross reported they addressed eleven property maintenance complaints in October. Ross stated they escorted the New Lexington Volleyball team out of town on their way to the elite eight tournament. Councilperson DePinto asked Ross if advertising the wage increase for Village police officers has helped with applicants. Ross stated not at this time.

Fire Chief Fain reported Trunk or Treat and Trick or Treat went well. Fain stated the department and Never Alone-Ohio hosted Remembering You, a candle lighting vigil in memory of loved ones and friends who have died from substance use disorder. Fain reported they will be doing training on Friday with the Perry County Library staff. Fire Chief Fain stated in October they responded to 172 runs with 100 transports.

A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2022 at 4:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Fall Festival Committee meeting held on November 1, 2022. Boyle stated they will be hosting a Cocoa bar with the Grinch and Martha May Whovier fundraiser on December 3, 2022 at the Perry Behavioral Health Activity Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Councilperson DePinto asked if the fuel tank for the fire department had been installed. Administrator Emmert stated they are waiting on the purchase order from the fire department.

Mayor Thompson asked if Council had any objections for Jennifer Lewis to address Council. All Council agreed to let her speak. Jennifer stated she did not agree with the ticket she received from Code Enforcement Officer Rushing. After a lengthy discussion with Council Jennifer agreed to accept help from the Village to clean up the overgrown ivy on the property.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 22-13 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 22-13: **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. 22-13 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 22-35 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-35: **THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL APPROVES BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL AS ITS LEAD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICANT FOR THE APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-35 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. 22-36 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-36: **A RESOLUTION REDUCING FUND 5202 REHOBOTH SEWER INCOME PROJECTION FOR 2022 BY \$195,500 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-36 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

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

Meeting suspended at 6:42 PM for executive session.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 7:10 PM.

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

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 7:12 PM.



Mayor

Council Clerk