

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING  
February 6, 2023  
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, Susan Goodfellow and Janie DePinto. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Ross, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilpersons Jeff Danison, Susan Boyle and Debbie Hooper.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Danison, Boyle and Hooper from the February 6, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 17, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he received a water complaint but after some discussion it was for Southern Perry Water not New Lexington. Thompson gave the resident the information to contact Southern Perry Water. Thompson stated he swore in four new police officers this week. Thompson reported he attended a zoom meeting with Poggemeyer Design Group with Administrator Emmert, Public Service Director Ross and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Weiner to discuss all the projects in process. Thompson stated he met at the New Lexington High School Football field with Administrator Emmert and several others concerning a drain exploration. Thompson stated Finance Director Lewis e-mailed the end of year report and everything looks good.

Finance Director Lewis stated she has completed closing out the 2022 calendar year. Lewis stated copies have been e-mailed to Council members and she has submitted the report to the State of Ohio. Lewis stated she was able to negotiate the 15% increase for employee insurance down to 5%. Lewis requested a motion to sign the contract with a 5% increase for employee insurance with Randy Ayers from National United Brokers.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Finance Director Lewis to enter into a contract with Randy Ayers from National United Brokers for employee insurance with a 5% increase. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis reported Assistant Water Clerk Saffell arranged through a program at the New Lexington High School for the Municipal Building to have a part time janitor. Lewis stated she and Assistant Fire Chief Morrow have been working on setting up the time clock for full time EMS employees. Lewis presented Council with a pay schedule for fire and elected officials. Mayor Thompson inquired about the January monthly reports. Lewis stated they are not completed yet.

Administrator Emmert reported the tank that was leaking at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been temporarily repaired. Emmert reported repairs will begin next week on the pump at the Water Treatment Plant. Emmert presented Council with a resolution to initiate a bed tax within

the Village. Emmert stated all funds look healthy except for Parks and Recreation. Emmert reported on the OHIZ meeting that was held on January 31, 2023. Emmert reported on the storm sewer found at the New Lexington Football Field. Emmert stated he will be meeting with Casey Coffey tomorrow to discuss repairs. Emmert asked Council if they could purchase software to help with inventory at the Public Service Department, Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant. The quote for the software is \$13,000. The software also will track other things not only parts inventory. Councilperson DePinto stated this will go before the Finance Committee.

Police Chief Ross reported 1,611 calls for service in the month of January and 1,902 calls for service for the year. Ross informed Council his department is in dire need of portable radios. Ross stated he was on a call earlier that he had to use his cell phone. Ross stated he received a quote of \$17,000 for three radios. Council person Welsh stated this could be a safety issue. Ross reported the department had two computers break. Ross stated MAPSYS was able to repair the computers and they purchased two new computers. Police Chief Ross reported he hosted a meeting at the Municipal Building with the Perry County Sheriffs Department, Muskingum County Sheriffs Department and Licking County Sheriff's Department pertaining to drug enforcement. Ross stated Officer Arnold is going to training for basic drug investigator. Ross informed Council he is going to form a group called PACE which stands for Pro Active Criminal Enforcement. Ross stated Patrolman Brettrager is going to start full time and is helping train the new officers. Ross reported he received an email from Dave Rupe at the New Lexington CSD wanting to apply for a grant for the New Lexington Police Department for \$20,000. Ross stated Sheri Emmert from the 911 center contacted him and there will be two trainings for Stop the Bleed. Ross stated three officers can attend each training. Mayor Thompson inquired if there were any CPR trainings available. Fire Chief Fain stated he is having five people train to be CPR instructors. Ross informed Council he was given a quote to repair the Municipal Building parking lot for \$19,500. Councilperson Welsh asked how the property maintenance was doing. Ross stated good. Mayor Thompson asked the progress of the new police officers. Ross stated it is going great.

Fire Chief Fain stated in January they responded to 44 fire runs. Fain reported they responded to 155 EMS runs in the month of January. Fain asked if he needed a motion to sell a medic. Finance Director Lewis stated she will have to prepare a Resolution to sell the medic. Fain reported the department will be hosting a training for first responders with Jamie McGrew from the Mental Health & Recovery Service Board. The training will be on human trafficking. The first meeting will be for first responders and the second meeting will be for the public. Fain will forward the dates of the meetings to the Council Clerk to forward to Council and department heads. Fain stated they hope to have CPR classes soon. Fain stated he has the e-mail addresses for Pike Township Trustees so he can e-mail the Fire/EMS reports.

Council discussed the results from the OHIZ public meetings and property maintenance. Administrator Emmert stated they need to start maintaining the alleys in the Village better.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 23-9 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion

carried. Resolution No. 23-9: **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A THREE PERCENT LODGING EXCISE TAX IN THE INCORPORATED AREAS OF NEW LEXINGTON, PERRY COUNTY, OHIO.**

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 23-2 as a seconded reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 23-2: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUIRE 'SUSIE Q'S BIKE PARK' A TOBACCO FREE PARK.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 23-2 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson DePinto inquired about the date for purchasing Hometown Hero Banners. DePinto was informed it usually starts the first of April.

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 6:37 PM.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk