

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

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Danison, Boyle and DePinto from the March 6, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Judy Cannon introduced McKenna and Justin Poston to Council. McKenna is going to be the new Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee. Cannon stated they are already starting on fundraisers for the event. Cannon stated she got the invoice from Finance Director Lewis for the port-a-let from last year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Administrator Emmert asked Cannon if they would like to schedule a rain date for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration before he returns the contract to Hamburg Fireworks. Cannon asked if the following Saturday would work. All Council agreed with this day. Cannon reported Mount Aloysius is donating \$10,000 towards the fireworks display again this year. Councilperson Bethel thanked Cannon for the great job she has done as the Chairman of the committee and Councilperson Welsh thanked McKenna and Justin for volunteering to chair the committee.

Mayor Thompson introduced Alex Thorngate from Troop 132 in Zanesville, Ohio. Alex is attending the meeting to earn a badge.

Mayor Thompson reported he received a complaint from a woman who ran a stop sign and was hit by another car. The woman received a ticket, and she did not think she was at fault. Thomson stated he received a complaint from a semi-truck driver who received a ticket. Police Chief Ross stated he spoke to the company and voided the ticket because the driver had dash cam and it showed he was just turning around at the Panther on State Street because his GPS took him the wrong way. Thompson stated he has spent time at the New Lexington football field. Thompson reported he read Dr. Seuss to Angela Clarks second grade class at New Lexington Elementary School.

Finance Director Lewis stated she received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating the Village failed to pay their payroll taxes in March of 2022. Lewis stated she received the Police Bonus Grant. Lewis stated she will email the February financial reports to Council tomorrow. She was researching legal ways to use ARPA money. Lewis stated since the work on the football field has already been done funds from ARPA cannot be used. ARPA money has to be a pre-planned expense and it would have to be bid out. Mayor Thompson informed Lewis to use money out of the storm sewer fund.

Administrator Emmert stated he will submit the contract to Hamburg Fireworks with a rain date of the following Saturday, July 8, 2023. Emmert reported the furnace at the Wastewater Treatment Plant needs repaired. Emmert stated Folk & Sons is going to repair it at a cost of \$900. Emmert discussed sewer credits for water leaks and pool fills with Council. Emmert stated he and Assistant Water Clerk Saffell are working on a standard form for this.

Police Chief Ross reported 4,019 calls for service for the year. Ross stated the new police officers are doing great. Ross stated K9 Bruno goes for state testing on Friday for narcotics only. Ross stated they are taking both

K9 Mack and Bruno to Dave Brink in Somerset, Ohio for obedience training. Ross stated they received the check from the National Police Dog Foundation which paid for half the cost of K9 Bruno.

Fire Chief Fain stated EMS has been very busy. Fain stated EMS had 171 calls for service in February and 27 fire runs. Fain reported the class on Human trafficking was very successful and well attended.

Mayor Thompson reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on February 27, 2023. Thompson stated they discussed the purchase of a track hoe for the Public Service Department, two radios for the Police Department, My Gov Software that will benefit several departments, a new medic for EMS and the softball field at the park.

Mayor Thompson thanked Councilperson DePinto for starting the ball moving forward on helping get the girls softball field fixed and he thanked himself for finishing it. Thompson presented Council with pictures of the field showing all the issues that need fixed. Thompson stated some of these issues are safety issues. Thompson asked Council to make a motion to help fix the field. Thompson stated he contacted Snider Flautt and they agreed to sell the materials needed to repair the fence at cost. Thompson reported he contacted the workforce development at the school, and they agreed to do the work. Thompson stated Bob Heavener will donate his time to repair the fields. Thompson asked Council for \$25,000 from ARPA funds for the project. Administrator Emmert stated Jeremiah Boyden volunteered to repair the drain at the field. Finance Director Lewis stated the funds could not come out of ARPA funds. Lewis stated the police department asked for funding for four MARCS radios out of the ARPA fund and was told "no". Councilperson Hooper asked Lewis if the Fire/EMS department needed equipment also. Councilperson Bethel asked why the police department did not get the radios. Thompson stated they got two radios, and it is not all about Police and Fire/ EMS. Lewis stated the Fire/EMS needs safety equipment also. Council discussed the project and decided on \$12,500 for improvements.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for \$12,500 out of the Parks fund for improvements at the park. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

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 6:35 PM.



Mayor

  
Council Clerk