

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

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Boyle and Goodfellow from the May 15, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 1, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilpersons Danison and Bethel who abstained due to being absent from the May 1, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Mike Shipplett addressed Council concerning the four lots on Oak Street which is a street that was never developed by the Village. The owner of the property would like to sell the lots but there is no road access. Shipplett asked if the Village would develop the alley. Administrator Emmert stated the Village would allow access but the client or the buyer would be responsible for gravel. Administrator Emmert stated the Village should speak to legal counsel. Mayor Thompson asked Emmert to speak to the Perry County Engineer and the Village Attorney.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended a funding meeting with the Workforce Development, Workforce Development signing day and the Athletic Awards Ceremony. Thompson reported the Memorial Day parade will be held at 10:00 am and the Fire/EMS Department will host a pancake breakfast that day beginning at 7:00 am. The parade will end at the New Lexington Cemetery with a ceremony. A ceremony will be held at Memorial Square immediately following the ceremony at the cemetery. Thompson stated the MacGahan Festival will be on June 3, 2023 at 11:00 am at the New Lexington Cemetery. Councilperson Bethel asked Thompson to give Administrator Emmert permission to follow up with Mike Shipplett on the road access since it will be several weeks before another Council meeting. Thompson gave Emmert permission.

Fire Chief Fain updated Council on the pancake breakfast to be held on Memorial Day.

Administrator Emmert welcomed Lauren Lewis who is an intern for the Village provided through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission program. Lauren is a student at Ohio State University. Emmert stated he has already provided Lauren with several projects that she is working on. Emmert presented Council with a Resolution to promote Jennifer Saffell to Administrative Assistant. Emmert stated Saffell is already involved in several projects including one with the Health Department. Emmert stated they received the new mower and they have cleared the area around the dams at the Water Treatment Plant and are working on the banks on State Street. Emmert reported they picked up the new trac hoe. Emmert informed Council they have several projects that the trac hoe will be used for. Emmert informed Council the pool is being filled and lifeguard training will begin on May 17, 2023. Emmert

requested a finance committee meeting. Emmert stated he will be asking for money for the swimming pool. Emmert stated Dave Ratliff's daughter Quincee will be the head lifeguard for the 2023 season. Emmert stated chairs, umbrellas, new vacuum, and a new diving board are all needed at the pool. Emmert reported he received a quote for engineer fees for a new tank at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for \$75,000. Emmert stated he was asked by a business owner if they could mark parking spaces in front of the fence at The Peoples State Bank while it is under construction. The Mayor and Council agreed this would be a good idea. Emmert stated Councilperson Bethel, Jenny Saffell and he met with Deborah Raney and Jenny LaRue from the Perry County Health Department to discuss the New Lexington assessment report from OHIZ meetings that were held. Raney stated they would like more involvement from Council members at the next meeting. Bethel stated they should hold the meeting before a Council meeting. Emmert stated he will schedule the meeting. Councilperson DePinto asked if the \$43,000 from Buckeye Hills goes toward the Village match for the Carroll Street Corridor project. Emmert stated the sidewalk project from the New Lexington CSD that goes to Carroll Street goes out to bid in September. There is no date for the Carroll Street Corridor yet.

Finance Director Lewis reported she emailed the April Financial statements and bank reconciliation. Lewis stated we received the first half of real estate taxes. Lewis presented Council with an ordinance for appropriations. Lewis stated at the Finance Committee meeting they will need to discuss the wages for lifeguards. Minimum wage was increased to \$10.10. Lewis stated she purchased two handheld recorders to have in case the internet is down during a meeting.

Police Chief Ross reported Officer Miller will be leaving the department as he was offered a job at the Sheriff's office. Ross stated he is preparing for the upcoming Memorial Day Parade. He is planning on having extra officers on duty. Ross stated he received an email stating they were awarded a \$15,000 grant to send two officers to the Police Academy. In return for the Village paying for their schooling they will be required to work for the Village for two years. Ross informed Council New Lexington School Superintendent Coffey is planning on adding two more school resource officers.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the April 2023 Financial Statements and the April 2023 Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson DePinto scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on May 22, 2023 at 4:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Bethel stated they are still working on getting the concrete pads installed at the disc golf course.

Councilperson DePinto asked if Mayor Thompson or Administrator Emmert had contacted Win Waste Innovations to ask for a donation for the swimming pool. Mayor Thompson stated "no".

Councilperson Danison asked about a levy for parks to help with the pool. Mayor Thompson stated Pike Township currently does not want to put a levy on to help with the parks and pool. Councilperson DePinto stated the Village already has a parks levy.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 23-6 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 23-6: 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. 23-6 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 23-15 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 23-15: **A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROMOTION OF WATER CLERK JENNIFER SAFFELL TO THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-15 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Depinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk
Acting Clerk