

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 20, 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, Susan Boyle, Dan Bethel, and Susan Goodfellow. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Lewis, Acting Police Chief Gibbs and Fire Chief Fain. Absent were Councilpersons Jeff Danison and Debra Hooper.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Danison and Hooper from the June 20, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 5, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 14, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the Hooked-on Fishing-Not on Drugs Youth Fishing Derby hosted by the Perry County Sheriffs Department.

Finance Director Lewis reported things are moving forward in the police department. Lewis stated quotes were obtained to detail the police cruisers. Auto Obsessions was the lowest quote. Lewis stated the audit is still in process. Councilperson DePinto asked Lewis if she has to redo the 2021 statements filed with the Ohio Auditor. Lewis stated "no", they are going to amend the contract instead of redoing everything. Mayor Thompson asked Lewis if we would be going back to yearly audits. Lewis stated we will wait until the audit is complete and go with their recommendation. Lewis stated she is registering for the Sunshine Law training on June 28, 2023. Lewis stated Councilpersons DePinto and Hooper need to complete the training also. DePinto stated Hooper has already completed the training. DePinto stated she will get the information from Lewis to sign up for the training.

Administrator Emmert reported they have been training on the My Gov Software the past two weeks. Emmert stated the new phone system goes live tomorrow. Emmert reported Tyler Ratliff at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is resigning at the end of the month to attend college. His job position was posted today. Emmert informed Council he has five applications for the Police Chief position and three applications for the Police Operations Manager position. Emmert stated the Perry County Courthouse would like to close the alley behind the courthouse during restoration. Council agreed to shutting down the alley behind the courthouse. How far it will be closed towards Water Street is to be determined. Emmert presented Council a PowerPoint presentation concerning the condition of the trucks at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Water Treatment Plant. Emmert asked permission to purchase two new trucks for \$89,000. This was the lowest quote. Council asked Finance Director Lewis if it was in the WWTP and WTP budget for this purchase. Lewis stated "yes".

Councilperson Welsh made a motion for Administrator Emmert to purchase two new trucks for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Water Treatment Plant at a cost of \$44,500 each. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administration Emmert requested an executive session. Councilperson DePinto inquired about the status of the Balderson Grant. Emmert stated they have not heard anything yet. Emmert stated Milner is working on a police grant. Emmert stated there is a MORPC meeting tomorrow which he is unable to attend due to the new phone system going live but intern Lauren Lewis is attending the meeting.

Acting Police Chief Gibbs reported 1,678 calls for service in May and 940 calls for service so far this month. There have been 682 calls since the last Council meeting. Gibbs reported 27 property maintenance calls in May and 9 so far in June. Gibbs stated the department performed 692 business checks in May and 79 extra patrols. Mayor Thompson asked dispatcher Edgell to clarify what is considered a call for service for the police department. Mayor Thompson stated he and Administrator Emmert will schedule a meeting with Gibbs to discuss the upcoming 4th of July parade and celebration. Councilperson Welsh thanked Gibbs and the New Lexington CSD for helping out with the department.

Fire Chief Fain reported he attended the TAC meeting hosted by the Perry County EMA and the county wide Fire Chiefs meeting. Fain stated they performed an inspection at Dr. Haggenjos's office. Fain stated they will be coming to repair ladder 7. Fain stated they are preparing for the 4th of July celebration. Councilperson Welsh stated he has been addressed by citizens with concerns on coverage for the fire department during the day. Fain stated most of the firemen have full time jobs during the day. Councilperson Bethel asked if they are still trying to get a grant to employ full time firemen. Fain stated "yes".

Mayor Thompson stated he was asked about a community yard sale. Council agreed to hold a community yard sale on July 1, 2023. Thompson stated they will need to post fliers as soon as possible. Administrator Emmert stated the disc golf tournament that was held at Arethusa Springs Park raised \$170 for the park.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to allow the New Lexington City Schools to host a cross country invitational at Arethusa Springs Park on September 9, 2023. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(2) regarding purchase or sale of property with Council, Mayor, and Administrator present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:07 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:47 pm.

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

Council person Welsh made a motion for Village Administrator Emmert to enter into a contract for real estate. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Bethel who abstained. 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 6:50 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk Acting Clerk