

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

August 7, 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, Jeff Danison and Susan Goodfellow. Councilperson Debra Hooper arrived late. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Lewis, Police Chief Gill, and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 17, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes” except for Councilpersons Danison and Goodfellow who abstained due to being absent from the July 17, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Barb Zartman addressed Council on behalf of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to ask if the Village could close a portion of W. Brown St. and High St. on September 30, 2023 for their Community Days event. The event is from 12 – 3 pm. She asked they just close the portion of the streets that adjoin their property.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to close a portion of W. Brown St. and High St. on September 30, 2023 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm for the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Community Day event. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated an aide from Sherrod Browns office visited the Village and they gave him a tour of Main Street. Thompson reported he attended the Fido Fest. Thompson stated he was asked to do a ribbon cutting for Thiago’s Restaurant’s grand opening which he performed today. Thompson informed Council today was Lauren Lewis’s last day as an intern with the Village. Thompson stated Lewis was a great asset to the Village.

Finance Director Lewis informed Council Officer Fox has submitted his two-week notice. Lewis stated they have hired a new dispatcher and Sergeant Elizabeth Biggers first day with the police department was today. Lewis informed Council the reason she cannot have the monthly reports to them at the first Council meeting is because she has to have all payroll reports submitted by the 15th of the month and all receipts have to clear before the reports can be completed. Lewis presented Council with an Ordinance for amending appropriations.

Administrator Emmert informed Council the Village received a grant for \$362,500 for repairs at the Water Treatment Plant. They hope to have the repairs completed by the end of 2023. Emmert stated the water tanks were inspected and are in good shape. Emmert stated he received a letter from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources concerning the Villages emergency action plan for the reservoir. Emmert presented Council with the plans for upgrades to Arethusa Springs Park if they can get funding. A surveyor from Kleinfelder spoke to businesses on Main Street to upgrade the facades. Emmert stated there is \$24,000 in permissive tax. He will bring a Resolution to the next meeting to apply for the funds for paving. Councilperson DePinto asked

about chip and seal for Hutchinson Court. Emmert stated the Village needs to come up with a comprehensive plan to chip and seal streets and alleys. Emmert reported he is working with Kent Cannon and Tim Frash from the Perry County Engineers office on this. Council discussed the two accidents at the intersection of State Street and Brown Street within a week. Emmert stated the engineers are working on the intersection to try and find a solution. Councilperson DePinto asked Finance Director Lewis if the Village had received any bed tax yet. Lewis stated not yet that it was due after July 31, 2023. Councilperson Hooper asked about the progress of the Lemppo building. Emmert stated Milner informed him the first stages have been completed. Councilperson Danison thanked Police Chief Gill for doing a good job.

Police Chief Gill reported in the past 30 days they had 1,580 calls for service. Gill gave a breakdown of the calls. Gill stated they performed 600 business checks. Gill stated they spoke with Keer automotive and PAR about the delay in the new police cruiser not being ready. Gill stated the department has 17 MARCS radios and 3 are not working. As of July 2024, these radios will be obsolete. The cost of one radio is \$6,200. It takes approximately 8 – 10 months to receive the radios once they are ordered. Gill stated they need to put a plan together to purchase radios before next year. Gill stated Milner found a grant for \$25,000 for radios which she is going to apply for on behalf of the department. Gill stated if she could send a letter with the grant application stating the department plans to purchase more radios than the grant covers it may help secure the grant. Gill requested an executive session to discuss personnel.

Fire Chief Fain stated the fair went well. Fain stated there is an issue with the Pleasant Township contract. The fee for EMS may be cut in half because a previous trustee sees Crooksville EMS responding to runs. Fain informed Council he got stats from the EMA to prove New Lexington is responding to the runs. Fain invited Council to attend the burn trailer sponsored by the State Fire Marshall at the fairgrounds on August 22, 23, and 24, 2023. Fain stated he is working with Administrative Assistant Saffell on phone issues the department is having. Fain stated they attended the Fido Fest. Fain presented Council run sheets. Councilperson Bethel asked how they come up with how much the townships pay for services. Fain stated it depends on how much revenue the township receives. Fain stated they ordered t-shirts for the fire department.

Mayor Thompspon requested the Parks and Recreation committee look into getting the lights for Balls Court and signs for businesses that helped with Balls Court.

Councilperson Bethel reported he and Administrator Emmert met with the Health Department to discuss properties that need attention. Bethel stated properties that are compliant, and need torn down and also properties that are non-compliant. Emmert stated they need to meet with Police Chief Gill to discuss the properties. This would be a pilot project between the Village and Health Department. Councilperson Hooper asked if it would be possible to do something with the park on Lincoln Street.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 23-13 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 23-13: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TO APPLY FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE AND**

DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Ordinance 23-13 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 23-11 as second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 23-11: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4 OF ORDINANCE 18-10 ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON. Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 23-11 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 23-21 as a seconded reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.
Resolution No. 23-21: A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON ADOPTING THE PERRY COUNTY 2023 MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN DATED JULY 7, 2023. Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-21 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding personnel with Council, Mayor, Administrator, Finance Director, and Police Chief Gill present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:40 pm for executive session.

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

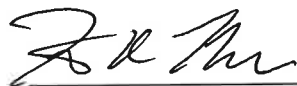
Meeting resumed at 7:25 pm.

Councilperson Bethel 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 Bethel. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk