

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

August 21, 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, and Debra Hooper. Also present were Finance Director Lewis, Police Chief Gill, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilpersons Jeff Danison, Susan Boyle, and Susan Goodfellow.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Danison, Boyle, and Goodfellow from the August 21, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 7, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Carrie Spears from Never Alone – Ohio addressed Council to inform them of the Never Alone-Ohio 3RD Annual Memorial Walk. The event will be held on August 27, 2023 at the Jim Rockwell Stadium from 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm. Spears stated the organization is a non-profit and consist of volunteers. The walk is to raise awareness in the community of the overdose epidemic in our area. Spears stated Perry County is ranked number 20 in the overdose death rates for 2021-2022. Spears stated August 30, 2023 is overdose awareness day. Flags are to be flown at half staff on this day. Spears asked if anyone could tell her who to contact to apply for the opioid settlement money. Finance Director Lewis stated she would give her the contact information that the Village has.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the back-to-school bash hosted by the New Lexington Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, JFS back to school bash at the fairgrounds, school funding meeting and a fundraiser for LifeWise at the Nazarene Church. Thompson thanked everyone that helped the tree commission with cleaning Veterans Park last Saturday.

Finance Director Lewis presented Council with a profit and loss sheet for the 2023 pool season. Lewis stated Public Service Director Ross did a great job of keeping the cost of chemicals down for the pool. Lewis stated when a business sponsored pool days, those were the most profitable for the pool. Lewis stated she e-mailed Council the July financial statements and bank reconciliation and requested a motion to approve them.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the July 2023 financial statements and bank reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis stated the deposit from FEMA in the Village account was for the Fire Department. Lewis reported we received the Pike Township check and the second half of the real estate taxes. Lewis informed Council it was going to cost \$1,700 to repair the damage to the hospital that the medic hit. With the deductible \$1,000 it is in the best interest of the Village to pay for the damage and not go through the insurance company to avoid a rate increase. Council agreed.

Mayor Thompson reported on behalf of Administrator Emmert that the lights in the parking lot of Village Hall have been repaired. He thanked Amanda Saffell from Pizza Hut for supplying lunch for a Village Employee Appreciation Day. Thompson stated Emmert has been receiving complaints about Win Waste trash removal. A blood drive was held at the Village Hall on August 18, 2023 with approximately 31 donors. Administrative Assistant Saffell put the Appalachian Community Grant Program Survey on the Village website and encourages everyone to participate in filling it out. The Village is working with Kleinfelder to prepare an emergency action plan for ODNR. This could cost around \$30,000. Councilperson Bethel asked how long the contract for Win

Waste is for. Bethel stated the Village should contact the attorney to see if anything in the contract states the Village has to honor the contract since the original contract was signed with Waste Away and they sold the company to Win Waste.

Police Chief Gill presented Council with his working document. Gill asked for Councils approval to contact Heidi Milner to apply for a grant for radios for the department in the amount of \$25,000. The deadline to apply is August 25, 2023. Gill stated the cost of radios would be around \$34,000 and if awarded the grant money this would only leave \$9,000 due from the Village. Gill stated most of the police cruisers have recalls and they are down to two that need repaired. The new police cruiser is in the process of being outfitted. Gill stated K-9 Bruno was sold to the Perry County Sheriffs Department. Sergeant Palmer will be his handler. Gill requested an executive session. Gill stated Bill Dodd will start working for the Village on August 27, 2023 and will be bringing his K-9 with him.

Fire Chief Fain requested a Finance Committee meeting.

A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for August 30, 2023 at 5:00 pm at Village Hall.

Fain reminded Council of the trailer burn at the fairgrounds on August 22, 23, and 24, 2023. Fain informed Council he will be in classes August 22, 23,24, 2023 for critical incident stress management. Fain stated they are having issues with medics and will discuss this at the Finance Committee meeting.

Councilperson Hooper asked if there was any way the Village could try and decorate Broadway Street for Christmas. Mayor Thompson stated it takes a lot of money and manpower to oversee these projects. Hooper asked if they could possibly do Veterans Park. Council suggested asking the Veterans association or the Community Club to do this.

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

Meeting suspended at 6:30 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 7:33 pm.

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

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk