

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

September 5, 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, Susan Boyle, Susan Goodfellow and Debra Hooper. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Lewis, Police Chief Gill, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Jeff Danison.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Danison from the September 5, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 21, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes” except for Councilpersons Boyle and Goodfellow who abstained due to being absent from the August 21, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 30, 2023 special meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes” except for Councilperson Boyle who abstained due to being absent from the August 30, 2023 special meeting.

Carrie Spears from Never Alone – Ohio addressed Council on substance use disorder. Spears thanked Mayor Thompson for attending the Never Alone-Ohio 3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Memorial Walk held on August 27, 2023 and for helping her to get the flags in the Village lowered to half-staff on August 30, 2023 for overdose awareness day. Spears informed Council she contacted Adrian, the gentleman Finance Director Lewis gave her the information for. She stated she also contacted the Ohio Attorney General’s office to find out how much money Perry County received in the opioid settlement. Spears stated she contacted the Perry County Auditors Office to find out how the money was used, but they could not find any information for her. She also has tried to contact the Perry County Commissioners by email, but they have not replied yet. Spears stated she would like the money received from the Opioid settlements to help those who use drugs. Spears stated she has worked with the Village Fire Chief and previous Police Chief to obtain Narcan for first responders. Police Chief Gill stated he was appointed to the Perry County Opioid Settlement Board. Gill stated none of the money the County received has been used yet. Gill stated there is a meeting in November and they will set up a grant for non-profit agencies to apply. Councilperson DePinto asked Spears how their organization is funded. Spears stated by donation only.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended Never Alone-Ohio 3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Memorial Walk, the Veterans Breakfast at the New Lexington Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, and the meeting with Representative Johnson on the 2024 – 2025 Brownfield money. They toured the ClearView recovery center that was a Brownfield site.

Finance Director Lewis informed Council the Village received the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the property taxes and the Pike Township money. Lewis stated at the previous meeting she presented Council with a profit and loss sheet for the 2023 pool season. Lewis informed Council since the levy money was received the pool was zeroed out and the park fund still has \$23,924.91. Lewis stated she received information from the State of Ohio Auditor that the 2021 statements filed with the Ohio Auditor were regulatory instead of OCBOA so she will have to re-submit those filings by September 15, 2023. Lewis stated the Police Operations Manager position was intermittent and they would like to make it full time now.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Katelyn Crane to go from intermittent Police Operations Manager to full time Police Operations Manager. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson DePinto asked Lewis if the Fire Department should pay for a portion of the repairs to lights in the parking lot at Village Hall. Lewis stated it was divided by all departments in the building. DePinto stated the Fire Department does not use the parking lot.

Councilperson DePinto made a motion to replace the \$771.00 that was used from the Fire Department budget to repair the parking lot lights. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Lewis stated she paid Zemba Brothers for the porta let that the Village got for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee for the celebration at the park. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee is responsible for paying for this. Lewis stated she received several statements where it has not been paid, so she paid it to avoid late fees. The same thing occurred last year also. Lewis stated she is still waiting for the check from the committee. These are in the Village’s name. Lewis recommended having the committee pay in advance next year if they want the Village to secure the porta let for the celebration. Lewis presented Council with the amount of money received from the opioid settlement and a breakdown of how it was spent. Lewis provided Council with a payment listing and receipt listing from 8/21/23 – 9/5/23.

Administrator Emmert presented Council with a Resolution to establish a fee for backflow testing. Emmert reported they received \$9,651 for surplus that was sold. Finance Director Lewis stated she finally received the payment for the medic that was sold in March. Emmert informed Council paving will begin in a few weeks. Councilperson DePinto asked Emmert about the chip and seal. Emmert stated they are going to chip and seal Vine Street, Hutchinson Court and the alley between Maple Heights and Highland Drive. Emmert stated the Perry County Engineers office is helping with this project. Council discussed some residents on Hutchinson Court wanting the end of their street opened back up to have more than one outlet off the street. There are a lot of elderly residents and sometimes if there is a medic or something at a residence, they are unable to get around them. Emmert stated the Village does not own the property that Perry Warehouse owns it. Councilperson DePinto stated she would contact them to discuss this issue. Emmert stated he would like to take some of the money the Village received from the Health Department to build a shelter house at the reservoir and buy paint and signage for the crosswalks within the Village. Emmert stated he has contacted the New Lexington Workforce Development at the school to see if they would be interested in building the shelter house.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion for Administrator Emmert to use money from the Health Department to build a shelter house at the reservoir, to purchase paint and signage for the crosswalks within the Village. Seconded by Council Bethel. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Police Chief Gill stated the Village does not qualify for the grant for MARCS radios due to there not being enough violence in the Village. Gill stated Operations Manager Crane completed her evidence training and received her three-year certification. She and Officer Biggers have been working on cleaning up the evidence garage. Gill stated Biggers has been looking for a grant for the radios and found that once the state receives the money they can apply for a supplemental grant through them. Gill stated Keer Automotive has the cruiser back and they are just waiting for Chelsey to receive a letter from Ford. Gill reported 432 calls for service from 08/07/2023 – 09/04/2023. Gill reported 10 thefts with 3 solved, 6 domestic violence, 4 active and 2 arrest, 2 assault with 1 arrest, 3 accidents with injury, 12 accidents without injury, 54 traffic offenses, 5 drug cases with 1 arrest and 2 overdoses. Twelve total arrests and 516 business checks. Finance Director Lewis asked if they should go into executive session to discuss pay resolution.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department has been busy. Fain stated he attended the Alzheimer walk; Never Alone Ohio walk and the Veterans breakfast. Fain reported the burn trailer that was hosted for three days was well attended. Fain stated the Mayor and Councilpersons Welsh and Hooper attended. Fain reported there will be a driving simulator training in November. Fain stated the mayor received a call from Verizon and they are trying to change who has permission to make changes on the account. He stated the gutters on the building on the fire department side need cleaned or repaired. He also asked if the back wall was ever checked. Administrator

Emmert stated he along with several members of the fire department looked at the wall and could not find anything wrong. Fain asked if we were looking at Microsoft licensing with MAPSYS. Finance Director Lewis stated they already have, and it will be next year. Fain asked about power washing the outside of the building. It was discussed to clean the inside of the building and look into getting new carpet.

Councilperson DePinto reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 30, 2023.

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

Meeting suspended at 7:19 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 8:10 pm.

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

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to rescind Resolution No. 23-24. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 23-25 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 23-25: **A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY CONTRACTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-25 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 23-26 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 23-26: **A RESOLUTION FOR THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON TO ESTABLISH A FEE FOR BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE TESTER CERTIFICATION.**

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk