

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

September 18, 2023

5:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting was 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, Finance Director Lewis, Police Chief Gill, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent were Councilperson Susan Goodfellow and Susan Boyle.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Goodfellow and Boyle from the September 18, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 5, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the September 5, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended two funding meetings at the New Lexington City Schools and the POW/MIA Recognition Day Service held at the John Tague American Legion Post 188. The event was organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 2806. The Auxiliary presented the Village with a new POW/MIA flag.

Finance Director Lewis informed Council she reallocated the payment for the lights on the Village parking lot so the Fire Department does not pay for the lights. Lewis presented Council with a Resolution to transfer funds and an Ordinance for appropriations. Lewis stated AT&T is not going to adjust the bill for \$140,000. Lewis stated the County gave her some contacts to call about the bill who are working through the same issues.

Administrator Emmert stated the survey for Appalachian Community Grant Program is still posted on the Village website and he encourages everyone to complete the survey. Emmert stated he received a quote for \$5,421 to repair the gutters on the fire department side of Village Hall.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to repair the gutters on the Fire Department side of Village Hall. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert reported he, Finance Director Lewis, Public Service Director Ross, and Administrative Assistant Saffell attended an emergency management meeting at Bur Oak Lodge hosted by PEP. Emmert stated Council received a copy of a disposal order for scrap in the police department.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to allow Police Chief Gill to scrap broken equipment. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert presented Council with a Resolution to assess water and wastewater charges. Emmert reported Folk and Sons will be here tomorrow to replace the air conditioner that cools the Police Chiefs office. Emmert stated the Public Service Department is working on the drains on several streets. Emmert stated the pipe that was repaired on High Street several years ago has caused sink holes in the back yard of the Pletcher residence on Walnut Street. Bob Heavener was called in to camera the area and a plan is being established to fix the area. Councilperson DePinto asked Emmert about the progress of the chip and seal. Emmert stated Public Service Director Ross is working with the County Engineers office on this. Councilperson Bethel asked Emmert about a clogged drain on Broadway Street. Emmert stated they clean them twice a month, but if someone sees one that is clogged, they need to contact the office to have it cleaned.

Police Chief Gill reported the destruction order for evidence was sent to the attorney. Gill stated the previous destruction order was to destroy everything, but they are changing some of the items to a disposal order. Gill

stated all officers are up to date on their Narcan training. Gill reported all cruisers are up to date on repairs, maintenance, and vehicle recalls. Gill stated the LESO (military program that lets us use equipment) inventory is completed. Two items were missing from a long time ago, so they are working on removing them from the list. Debra Rainey informed Gill the Health Department received a car seat grant, and the New Lexington Police Department is named on the grant. The department is working on setting up programs to issue car seats to those in need of one and how to properly install the seat. Mayor Thompson stated Police Commander Biggers and Police Operations Manager Crane are doing a great job of cleaning the evidence room. Gill stated the reason for making some items in evidence into a disposal order is to give them to organizations or departments in the Village that can use certain items. Gill stated he is working on a new patch for the police uniforms. The current patch is very outdated. Gill reported two police officers are in SWAT training. Gill stated he, Mayor Thompson and Fire Chief Fain attended the TAC meeting and are serving on the board now.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department has been busy. Fain stated he attended the POW/MIA Recognition Day Service. Fain reported he attended training in Thornville on Saturday and Sunday. Fain informed Council they are still having issues with medics. Fain stated no one has a medic to borrow and the two they had running just broke down again. Council discussed the issues with the medics and with mutual aid laws our medics get a lot of use. They all agreed this is a County issue. Administrator Emmert asked who is legally responsible for emergency services in the county. Fain stated the department is selling breast cancer awareness t-shirts. Council discussed the 911 services and asked who is responsible for all the money brought in by 911. It was stated the Perry County Commissioner's are responsible. Police Chief Gill stated the TAC Committee can make recommendations to the Commissioner's.

Councilperson DePinto scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for September 20, 2023 at 4:30 pm at Village Hall. DePinto stated they are going to start working on the Christmas wreaths on September 30, 2023.

Councilperson Welsh stated the sign is done for Balls Court and will pick it up tomorrow. The cost of the sign was \$84.

Mayor Thompson stated he was approached by a citizen about the Village adopting legislation for background checks for anyone wanting to volunteer their time to coach or hold a position as an officer for youth sports not school affiliated. Mayor Thompson stated the Village has no affiliation with these activities. Thompson stated he is going to forward the question to the attorney.

Mayor Thompson stated he was approached by Mr. Fankhauser after the POW/MIA event about an article in the newspaper on the clean up that was performed at Memorial Park. Thompson was informed that the property belongs to the Village. Administrator Emmert stated he will check with the Perry County Engineers office to see if the deed to the property is in the Villages name.

Finance Director Lewis stated the administration office has received several inquiries about the date and time of trick or treat within the Village.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to hold Trick or Treat on October 31, 2023 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Hooper stated something needs to be done about all the stray cats in the Village. Council discussed the issue and asked if anyone had a solution.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 23-14 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 23-14: **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. 23-14 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. 23-27 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 23-27: **RESOLUTION ASSESSING COST OF WATER AND WASTEWATER CHARGES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-27 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. 23-28 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE OHIO HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ZONES FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-28 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. 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 seconded 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.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-26 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Z. L. Fur", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Spohn", written over a horizontal line.

Council Clerk