

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

March 18, 2024

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 Jim Welsh, Dan Bethel, Bob Spencer, and Ty Danison. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain. Mayor Thompson stated Councilperson Hooper would arrive late. Absent was Janie DePinto.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Janie DePinto from the March 18, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Marilyn Garcia-Galleher and Amanda Allen addressed Council concerning a donation for flowers for Veterans Park from the Elks. Marilyn stated the Elks is very supportive of our Veterans. Marilyn reported Mayor Thompson helped her fill out an application for a donation from the Elks to purchase flowers. All of the donation is to purchase flowers for Veterans Park. The stipulation for the donation is that Marilyn is to be in charge of the purchase and planting of the flowers. Marilyn presented Mayor Thompson with a check for \$1,500 from the Elks for flowers. Amanda Allen stated she is head of the Tree Commission for the Village, and this is the Village's 33rd year. Allen stated the flower purchase can be used for the Village Tree City certification this year. Mayor Thompson thanked the Elks for their donation.

Erik Peterson from Rual Action addressed Council about the EPA Community Grant. Administrator Emmert stated the Village wants to be involved. Emmert stated this would help with the bills at the Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Public Service Department.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the FFA banquet and meetings with the Health Department. Thompson reported he, Administrator Emmert and Public Service Director Ross gave Sarah Matthews and Jeff Hoover from Win-Waste Innovations a tour of the swimming pool.

Finance Director Lewis presented Council with an Ordinance for the 2024 budget. Lewis presented Council an updated 2024 payroll schedule for fire and elected officials. Lewis stated Jerred Hammond was hired to fill the vacancy at the Public Service Department.

Administrator Emmert gave Council an update on the zoning meetings held on March 5, 2024, and March 8, 2024. Emmert reported they are working on updating the zoning book. Emmert informed Council the New Lexington CSD Building Trades class of Coleman McCoy has completed the construction of the new shelter house at the reservoir. Emmert stated work on the Water Treatment plant filter replacement will start this week. The C02 tank will be replaced next. Emmert reported the trees have been removed on Panther Drive in preparation for the sidewalk. Emmert stated backflow letters have been mailed out. Emmert reported he and Mayor Thompson attended the Health Department Board meeting.

Police Chief Gill reported there is currently one patrol position open. Gill stated Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins has created a vacant unit list, inspection check list for interiors and exteriors, letter templates and working on potential zoning code changes and updates. Gill stated they received the 2024 Property Maintenance Manual. Gill stated he completed the required Chiefs school last week. Gill informed Council Sergeant Dodd is working on hosting a K9 first aid training on Saturday April 8, 2024 from 8 am to 4 pm. The training will be for officers, handlers, EMS, fire, and helicopter crews for K9 aid, extraction, and transport. Gill stated he and Commander Biggers attended the FFA banquet. Gill reported the Police and Fire basketball fundraiser was a great success. The fundraiser was held to help purchase a drone for the Fire and Police Departments. Gill stated they raised \$7,275. The food trucks that were present at the fundraiser are going to donate a portion of their sales to the event. Gill stated they would like to speak to Council soon to put a plan in place to start the process to purchase the drone. Gill stated they filled an entire truck with destruction items and are working on sorting more before scheduling the next truck. Gill reported he and Commander Biggers attended the Board of DD stakeholders meeting today.

Fire Chief Fain reported the department has been very busy. Fain stated they are working on a training schedule for the department. Mayor Thompson thanked Police Operations Manager Katelyn Crane for all her hard work on the fundraiser for the Police and Fire Departments.

Mayor Thompson discussed section 3.08 of the Charter on filling open vacancies on Council. Thompson stated Council has thirty days to fill the vacancy, after that if Council fails to fill the vacancy, it falls upon the mayor to appoint someone.

Police Chief Gill requested an executive session.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to enter into executive session regarding personnel with Mayor, Council, Administrator, Finance Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:35 PM for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:41 PM.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session regarding personnel with Mayor, Council, Administrator, Finance Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:42 PM for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:48 PM.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 24-2 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes".

Motion carried. Ordinance No. 24-2: **AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-2 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk