

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

May 15, 2017

6:30 PM

MUNCIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Ratliff presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 pm. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Richard Anderson, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, Jeff Danison and Susan Boyle. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Fire Chief Jordan Hollingshead, Police Chief Scott Ervin and Administrator John McCort. Absent was Councilperson Tim Fiore.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Fiore from the May 15, 2017 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 1, 2017 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Anderson who abstained due to being absent from the May 1, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

Corlyn Altier presented Council with an update on EMS billing. Altier also gave an update on revenue from Mayor's Court accounts sent to the Ohio Attorney General's office.

Jenny LaRue spoke to Council about the walkability project for Broadway Street. LaRue stated they may have to add some crosswalks. LaRue asked if the Street Department could give her an estimate on the cost of painting a sidewalk from State Route 13 to Madison Street by June 15, 2017. The estimate should include material and labor. LaRue informed Council she was planning a work day to clean the sidewalks on Broadway Street. She asked if the Village would supply a wheel barrow and shovels. LaRue also asked if they were to put all the debris on a tarp if the Street Department would haul it away. LaRue asked Council if they could use the park for a rally to promote Perry County Parks. All Council agreed to use of the park.

John Tokie spoke to Council about the storm sewer behind PNC bank. Toki stated Chuck Hicks and himself checked the sewer. Tokie asked Council if they dig up the sewer and find some of the problem is the Villages responsibility if the Village would pay for their share of repairs. Tokie stated Steve Ferguson is the plumber he has retained to work on the problem. Councilperson Chute stated this would have to go to a Committee. The Public Service Committee scheduled a meeting for May 22, 2017 at 10:00 am in the alley behind PNC Bank.

Mayor Ratliff stated he was appointing Bill Cozad to the Nuisance Abatement Committee and Bill Walker to the Nuisance Abatement Appeals Committee. Councilperson Goodfellow asked Ratliff if he received the e-mail from Kristian Mildenstein about being on the committee. Ratliff stated he had not. Goodfellow will e-mail Mildenstein back and asked her if she is interested on being on the Parks and Recreation Committee. Council also thought she may possibly be able to serve as an alternate on the Nuisance Abatement Committee.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a motion to approve the April 2017 Financial Reports and the April 2017 Bank Reconciliation. Rockwell requested a Finance Committee meeting to be scheduled. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for May 17, 2016 at 4:30 pm at the municipal building. This meeting will be a regular Finance Committee meeting. Another Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on May 17, 2016 at the municipal building to discuss pay restructure. Administrator McCort stated he has some comparison wages for water. Councilperson Chute requested they hold a Finance Committee meeting at 5:30 pm every first and third Monday of the month before the regular council meeting. Chute also stated that employees need to follow procedure when requesting increases to their budgets. Councilperson Chute made a motion to approve the April 2017 Financial Reports and Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator McCort stated he will be working shorter hours until his ribs heal. McCort also stated he would contact the new pool manager to have her sign her contract. McCort informed Council that he had a resolution to file for additional permissive tax funds from the Perry County Engineer due to the withdrawal of the company that bid on the Brown Street Project. Finance Director Rockwell stated she thought the Village should get another quote on the project before settling on the quote that is left to do the job so there can be some comparison. Administrator McCort agreed and stated he would call to get another quote.

Police Chief Ervin stated the department has been busy. Ervin also informed Council he would be getting Hapcap workers in June. Ervin stated there will be a 4th of July fundraiser on May 27, 2017 from noon to midnight at the Elks.

Councilperson Chute reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on May 9, 2017.

Councilperson Goodfellow reported on the Municipal Concerns committee meeting that was held on May 9, 2017. Water Clerk Hannah Dodson presented council with several items that need updated to Water Ordinance 02-10. If approved by Council the Ordinance will be amended to require land owners to register all of their rental properties by January 2018 and have a zero balance before new occupants move in. The owner of the land will keep the water bill in their name and the tenants name will be attached to the account also.

Councilperson Chute asked if EMS is covering 24 hours. Councilperson Danison stated "yes" starting May 15, 2017. Chute stated Finance Director Rockwell is to begin tracking on May 15, 2017 for the next three months for statistics.

Councilperson Boyle stated she spoke with Police Chief Ervin about shutting Brown Street down on August 11, 2017 for a street fair. Boyle stated there would be food trucks, music and a car show. Boyle thought with the Perry County Bicentennial that the community might also like some of the history of the older buildings on Main Street. Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Police Chief Ervin to move forward to close East and West Brown Street on August 11, 2017 for a street fair from 5 pm to 9 pm. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator McCort stated he had Public Service Director Hicks close a portion of the alley behind Century Bank due to large pot holes until we can get hot mix to make repairs.

Councilperson Chute inquired about the progress of interviews for hiring a new administrator. Administrator McCort stated he had several applications. Mayor Ratliff stated they were planning on starting on May 9, 2017 but it had to be pushed back due to McCort's accident.

Police Chief Ervin asked what Council wanted to do about dispatching services. Ervin stated currently the Village pays \$100,000 for dispatching services. If the Village wanted to retain their own dispatching services it would cost around \$300,000 to get equipment. Ervin also stated this would just be the startup fee and it would be approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000 more once it was up and running. Councilperson Chute asked where all of this change is coming from. Chute stated she thought this was resolved when the Village made cut backs and decided to have dispatching services done through the County. Ervin stated what the Village is currently doing is the best cost. Ervin stated he and Mayor Ratliff discussed having a person at the window for extended hours. Councilperson Bethel feels they will have to educate the public to go to the sheriff's office or call 911 in an emergency because the cost of the employee will outweigh the benefit of the service.

Councilperson Danison asked if the property behind St. Rose had been cited for property maintenance. Chief Ervin stated they were served with a notice. Mayor Ratliff asked if a trailer is permitted to park on the street. Police Chief Ervin stated he would check into it.

Councilperson Bethel inquired about the expiration of the Parks & Recreation Levy. Finance Director Rockwell stated it will expire this year. Bethel asked who is responsible for putting a renewal levy on the ballot. The Parks & Recreation Committee took care of placing it on the ballot the last time. The deadline to place a renewal levy on the ballot is August 1, 2017. Councilperson Goodfellow informed Councilperson Boyle to get a copy of the 2012 paperwork to help her with the information needed to put a renewal levy on the ballot for Parks & Recreation.

Councilperson Bethel asked about the wages for the meter reader. Finance Director Rockwell stated paperwork was given to her to change his classification to a laborer after he was awarded the bid for the position. The meter reader position has not been filled yet so he is currently still reading meters. Ervin stated there is a paper in the Personal Policy Manual for this type of situation that needs filled out for him to receive meter reading wages. Councilperson Chute inquired about status of filling the meter reading position. Mayor Ratliff stated they have not started interviewing at this time.

Councilperson Goodfellow inquired about trying to rent out the community building to a business for office space. Administrator McCort was asked to get a sign to place on the building stating for rent. Finance Director Rockwell stated it could be posted on the Village website and Facebook page. Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to advertise the Community Building for rent. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to table Resolution No. 17-8. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel involving an investigation. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned for executive session.

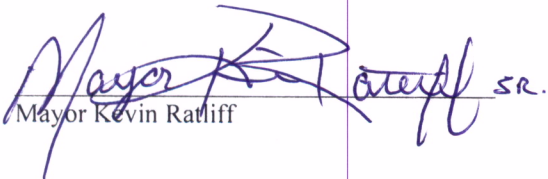
Councilperson Bethel made a motion to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute stated no decision was made at this time. Council recommended Mayor Ratliff contact Attorney Davis for guidance.

Mayor Ratliff entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.


Mayor Kevin Ratliff


Council Clerk Lisa Spohn