

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

June 7, 2021

6:30 PM

MUNCIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 PM. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Doug Fox, Jim Welsh, Jeff Danison, Kathy Chute and Susan Goodfellow. Also present were Finance Director Rockwell, Police Chief Ervin, and Fire Chief Fain. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page. Absent was Councilperson Boyle.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Boyle from the June 7, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 17, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Deborah Raney from the Perry County Health Department introduced Sam Wallace of Buckeye Hills Regional Planning Commission. Wallace addressed Council regarding the Carroll Street Corridor Project. Wallace presented Council with the project development overview and information on the Safety Grant Application. Wallace informed Council the Village would have a 10% match on the grant with a preliminarily estimate of \$42,500. Wallace stated the Village would also be required to pay for the construction engineering services. Wallace stated they need a letter of intent from the Village to apply for the grant.

Deborah Raney informed Council they received notification today they were awarded \$360,000 for the Safe Routes to School Grant. This grant will be used for sidewalks from New Lexington City Schools along Panther Drive down to Carroll Street. Councilperson Chute stated there is a Finance Committee/Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 and they will discuss the Carroll Street Corridor Project at this meeting and contact Raney with the information regarding the letter of intent for the project.

Councilperson Chute requested an executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1).

Councilperson Chute made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding personnel discipline with Council, Mayor, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Larry Moore, Don Phillips, Terry Poling, Clay Hooper Alex James and David Boyd present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:12 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 8:17 pm.

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

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the demonstration of the new power cot system that the EMS purchased with the FEMA grant. Thompson reported he attended the Memorial Day Parades in New Lexington and Junction City. Thompson stated he attended the Memorial Day Ceremonies at the New Lexington Cemetery and Monument Square. Thompson reported he attended the MacGahan Festival and would like to see Council attend in the future. Thompson was presented with a letter from the Bulgarian consulate to put in the Village display case.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a motion to approve the April Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation presented at the May 17, 2021 Council meeting. Rockwell informed Council the American Rescue Plan Funding has not been received yet. Rockwell stated the final guidelines for the funding have been released by the U.S. Treasury.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the April 2021 financial statements and bank reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported on behalf of Administrator Powell that there is a massive hole on Walnut and High Street where a storm sewer collapsed. Thompson stated Bob Heavener has been helping the Public Service Department investigate how to fix the issue. Thompson stated the sewer lines are underneath the houses in this area. Councilperson Fox asked if they could put a liner in the sewer line. Thompson stated that is what they have been discussing. Thompson stated they are looking at emergency funding to repair the hole. Thompson stated Administrator Powell informed him that Lee Conkel will be attending the Finance/Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday. Thompson stated the swimming pool opened on schedule. Councilperson Welsh asked about the Nuzum Bridge project. Thompson stated the resident holding up the project accepted the offer the Village made for the easement. Councilperson Goodfellow asked how many applications were received for the Village Administrator position. Thompson stated he thought there were four. Council discussed how they wanted to proceed with the interviewing process for the new administrator. Councilperson Bethel stated he thought after the interviews that Thompson should bring the top candidates to a Council meeting for Council to ask questions. Councilperson Chute stated she would sit in on some interviews if needed.

Police Chief Ervin reported on June 26, 2021 the Municipal Building Parking lot will serve as home base for the Spirit of America 5K fundraiser for the Fall Festival. Ervin stated a Fall Festival canvas will be held on August 7, 2021, the Alzheimer's walk starts at the football field on August 14, 2021 and the car show on Main Street is August 28, 2021. Ervin stated he needs Council's approval to shut down Main Street and welcomed suggestions for routing local traffic. Ervin stated Main Street will need shut down for the Fall Festival and car show. The Classic Riders would like to host a bike show on September 26, 2021 and requested to shut down Monument Square. Mayor Thompson stated he received complaints from the Eagles about parking long term in front of their business and they can't get deliveries. Thompson advise them to contact Police Chief Ervin.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to close Main Street for the Fall Festival, Car Show and Classic Riders Bike show. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson introduced Council and Department Heads to Mr. Tracey who was in attendance to earn a merit badge for Boy Scouts. Police Chief Ervin reported they have received 2,591 calls for service in 2021. Ervin stated last week they made 11 notifications to residents with high grass and about one third of those have been rectified. Ervin stated some of the properties are in foreclosure making it difficult to contact the person responsible. Finance Director Rockwell asked if there was a procedure in place for this. Ervin stated the first notification is verbal and the second notification is a letter. Ervin stated after five days if the Village mows it the cost of this can be put on their property taxes. Councilperson Chute asked about the status of the property on Elizabeth Street. Ervin stated he has no information at this time. Councilperson Bethel stated the property is going to tax sale and once it goes through a tax sale the landbank can demolish it. Councilperson Welsh stated he received complaints about the trailer court on Tile Plant Road. Councilperson Chute asked Councilperson Danison if he would ask Administrator Powell if the process for property maintenance on the Lempco property has been started yet.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department received the new power cots which help lift patients. Fain inquired about the Personnel Policy Manual that he received at the meeting tonight. Councilperson Chute stated all Council and Department Heads are to review the manual and report back to Council by June 21, 2021 if they have any concerns or changes. Police Chief Ervin stated even after this date if a change needs made to the PPM it goes to the Administrator. Councilperson Welsh asked if we were getting our new website. Councilperson Danison

stated the swimming pool needs a neck immobilizer and asked Fain if the department had one. Fain stated "yes" and that he would take it to them tomorrow. Councilperson Chute asked Fain if the lists that were requested of him are complete. Fain stated "yes".

Councilperson Chute reported on the combined Finance and Public Safety Committee meeting held on May 18, 2021. Chute stated the Finance Director has 48 hours to issue a purchase order once received if the requisition is submitted correctly and follows procedure. This excludes weekends, holidays, and scheduled days off.

Councilperson Welsh asked Finance Director Rockwell if this is working. Rockwell stated most days yes. Chute requested Rockwell e-mail the May 18 committee minutes to Chuck Hicks, Steve Cologie and Rich Kleinert.

Councilperson Chute stated a Finance Committee and Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 5:30 at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Planning/Economic Development and Parks and Recreation combined meeting held on June 4, 2021. Bethel stated they discussed a dog park and potential fundraiser for the project. Bethel reported Administrator Powell and Public Service Director Hicks showed him property at the park that could be used. Bethel stated they have several organizations willing to help with the project. These include PAWS, Perry County Health Department, and the Perry County Dog Warden. Bethel stated the committees would need a letter of support to apply for the Petsmart Grant. Bethel stated no Village funds are being utilized. Bethel stated a meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2021 at 11:00 am at the Municipal Building.

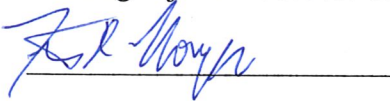
Councilperson Bethel made a motion to provide a letter of support granting the Planning/Economic Development and Parks and Recreation Committees permission to apply for funding for a dog park. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh asked the status of the repair at Monument Square. The new monument is in process. Thompson stated he believes a crane will be needed to remove the damaged portion and install the replacement. The VFW supports the installation of a guard rail to protect the monument.

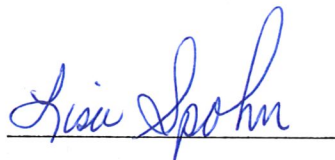
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk