

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
July 6, 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, Susan Boyle and Susan Goodfellow. Also present were Police Chief Ervin and Fire Chief Fain. Administrator Powell joined the meeting virtually. The public was invited to view the meeting live online through the Village website and Facebook page.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 21, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the mock car crash hosted by the EMA at the Perry County Fairgrounds on Friday. Thompson reported he attended the Somerset fireworks and New Lexington fireworks. Thompson thanked the 4th of July Committee, Police Department, Fire Department and Public Service Department for a great job with the New Lexington 4th of July Celebration. Thompson reported he attended the interviews for the Administrator position. Thompson stated each candidate had strengths and weaknesses. Thompson stated the candidate with the most skills for the position was Eric Emmert. Thompson presented Council with a Resolution to hire Emmert for the Administrator position. Councilperson Chute reviewed the Resolution with Council. Chute stated Administrator Powell will be leaving in three weeks. Thompson asked Powell if he would like to speak to Council about Emmert. Powell stated he agreed he was the most qualified for the position. Councilperson Bethel asked the Council members that attended the interview if they had any input on the interview. Councilpersons Welsh, Fox and Chute all agreed with Mayor Thompson. Councilperson Chute stated she would like Emmert to spend a minimum of two to three days in every department beginning in August to familiarize himself with the daily job duties of each department.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-7 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 21-7: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF ERIC EMMERT AS NEW LEXINGTON VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-7 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel asked if August was too soon for Emmert to spend time with each department. Chute stated he will have the rest of July with Administrator Powell and August would be a good timeline. Thompson stated the reason Chute is requesting this is he needs to be active in each department. Councilperson Chute stated the current Administrator does not spend equal amounts of time in all departments. Chute stated if deadlines are not set for things to be completed, they do not get done. Councilperson Danison stated something needs done about the internet issues.

Council Clerk Spohn requested a motion to approve the May Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation presented at the June 21, 2021 Council meeting on behalf of Finance Director Rockwell.

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

Mayor Thompson asked Eric Emmert if he would accept the Administrator position. Emmert stated "yes" and thanked Thompson and Council for the position. Emmert stated he is looking forward to working with everyone. Thompson asked Emmert when he could start. Emmert stated Monday, July 12, 2021.

Administrator Powell reported the Land Bank has transferred the deed to the property on Swigart Street to the Village. Councilperson Bethel asked what the plans were for the property. Powell stated he thought it would be a good location for another water tower, but currently there are no plans for the property. Powell reported Luke Steen was hired to replace the previous meter reader and started on June 30. Powell stated Jakob Ross from the Public Service Department is training him. Powell stated the project on High Street started today. Powell reported it should take 1 1/2 days to complete laying the pipe. Powell presented Council with a Resolution to apply for a loan for the repairs needed on High Street. Powell stated Jenny LaRue contacted him regarding the opening of the bike park by the swimming pool. The Park will open July 9, 2021 at 2:30 P. M. with free bike helmets donated by the American Academy of Pediatrics to children ages 4-10 years old. Powell stated the fireworks in New Lexington were amazing. Councilperson Goodfellow asked Powell how a shed was permitted to be on the property at 442 E. Brown Street. Councilperson Fox stated he sent Powell an e-mail inquiring about this also. Powell stated he would investigate this tomorrow. Mayor Thompson asked for an update on the fire hydrant project. Councilperson Chute stated she would cover this in her Finance/Public Safety Committee meeting report.

Police Chief Ervin reported 3,096 calls for service as of tonight. Ervin stated he spoke with Attorney Baughman about parking enforcement, and she stated chalking tires is still unconstitutional. Ervin stated they are exploring other options. Parking meters are very costly and there are 75 spaces on Main St. Ervin reported a lot of property maintenance issues have been completed within the Village since the last Council meeting when Council stated they would start completing some of the issues and place the cost on the owner's property taxes.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department has been very busy the last two weeks. Fain stated the department participated in the mock crash at the fairgrounds and it went very well. Fain stated it provided great information and training for new employees within the department. Fain reported the festivities on the 4th of July went well. Fain reported a vendor would like to speak to Council and the Mayor about possible changes to the celebration. Mayor Thompson informed him he should contact the 4th of July Committee. Police Chief Ervin stated the 4th of July Committee is looking for more members. Fain stated the department went to Somerset's festivities on Saturday to participate in a tug of war contest with the Somerset Fire Department. Fain stated they won and got to bring the trophy back to New Lexington. Fain stated they have had more runs and transports in the last couple of weeks than usual. He reported he could not give them exact numbers currently due to internet issues. Fain presented Council with a Resolution for rates of pay for the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services personnel after working with Finance Director Rockwell today.

Councilperson Chute reported on the combined Finance and Public Safety Committee meeting held on June 28, 2021. Chute stated she contacted Local Government Services to see if money could be used out

of water funds for the High Street project. Chute reported they said “no” because there are no water lines involved. Only Street, Sewer and Storm Sewer funds can be used. Chute reported Administrator Powell spoke with Lee Conkel about a \$300,000 loan with the Ohio Water Development Authority for the High Street Project. They will just take what is needed for the project. Chute stated Poggemeyer Design Group will have the hydrant flow and hydrant location report to Powell within thirty days. Powell reported the Village ordered 12 new hydrants and the bagged hydrants will be the first ones to be replaced. Chute stated the committee discussed the second EMS crew. Chute reported Police Chief Ervin submitted some ideas to the committee for pay restructure. Chute reported the Village is still receiving a lot of payments for Emergency Medical Services. Chute stated since Medicount took over she was under the impression starting in January of 2021 payments coming directly to the Village should be going down significantly. Chute stated Water Clerk Saffell has been processing the payments and if this continues EMS will have to pay a portion of her wages. Chute stated Rockwell needed access to SAMS. Fain stated he would see that this is taken care of. Chute asked Fain if he conferred with Finance Director Rockwell concerning the raises. Chute stated she does not have a problem with giving them raises, she is just concerned with the sustainability in doing so. Fain stated there should not be a problem due to cutting four hours off a shift and not as many Medics. Mayor Thompson stated he and Fire Chief Fain are responsible if this fails and Fire Chief Fain is responsible for monitoring when someone receives a raise not the Finance Director. The pay raises would be effective July 4, 2021. Chute stated the Finance Committee was supposed to receive the final document by e-mail before the meeting tonight but did not. Fain stated he did not have time to prepare it before today. Chute stated they needed the document before tonight, and it is being presented as an emergency. Chute informed Council payment from Medicount came as a direct deposit into the Villages account this month. Chute stated a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Boyle stated she has not spoken with Finance Director for the final numbers on the Color Run Fundraiser, but she hopes they broke even. Boyle stated it was very hot that day and they did not have a good turnout. Boyle stated 18 vendors requested agreements for the Fall Festival.

Councilperson Bethel stated a combined Planning/Economic/Parks and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Municipal Building to discuss the dog park. Bethel stated the Ordinance from Attorney Everitt regarding homeless shelters will be ready next week.

Councilperson Chute reviewed the working document and reminded Fire Chief Fain to bring the monthly training schedule to Council once a month. Mayor Thompson reported Dave Rupe, Director of Operations at the New Lexington City Schools contacted him about the property by the football field that was donated to the Village in 2006. The property was to be used to construct a facility to house fire and emergency equipment and personnel only. The Village has 25 years to use the property for this purpose. Rupe asked Thompson if the Village would deed the property back to the New Lexington Board of Education and New Lexington City School ten years early so the school can construct a parking lot in the area.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to waive the 25-year requirement and deed the property back to the New Lexington Board of Education and New Lexington City Schools effective immediately. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

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

Councilperson Chute made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding personnel discipline with Council, Mayor, Police Chief, and Fire Chief present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:45 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 8:19 pm.

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

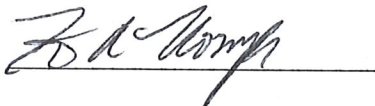
Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-8 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Fox. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.
Resolution No. 21-8: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TRENT THOMPSON TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGH STREET STORM SEWER REPAIR PROJECT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-8 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-9 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.
Resolution No. 21-9: A RESOLUTION RESETTING THE RATES OF PAY FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-9 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

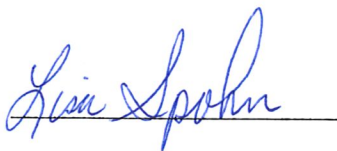
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk