

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

February 7, 2022

6:30 PM

MUNICIPAL 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 Jim Welsh, Dan Bethel, Debra Hooper, Susan Goodfellow and Janie DePinto. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Milner and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Jeff Danison and Susan Boyle.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Danison and Boyle from the February 7, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 18, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he swore in two new Police Officers for the Village. Thompson reported he received complaints about trash and snow removal. Thompson stated he received a complaint from a resident stating he feels the west side of the Village is neglected when it comes to snow removal and the flags that hang throughout the Village. Thompson stated there are a few poles in that area where flags could be placed. Thompson reported he and Administrator Emmert went on Friday and Saturday to assess the trees and power lines down due to the ice storm. Thompson stated he also drove around the Village on Sunday to check the conditions of the roads. Thompson reported there was a water leak on S. Main Street. Thompson was asked by a resident how to get a handicap parking space in front of their house. Thompson thanked Administrator Emmert for going above and beyond his job to help the Public Service Department and other areas in the Village during the ice storm. He also thanked the Fire/Ems, Public Service Department and Police Department for the great job they did during the weather emergency. Thompson stated Administrator Emmert is working on the contract for the Village solicitor. Thompson stated the Fire Department had 41 runs on February 3, 4, 2022.

Finance Director Milner stated the committees for 2022 need approved by the mayor. Mayor Thompson recommended the approval of the committees as listed.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the committees for the 2022 calendar year. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. The Committee list is attached and made part of the February 7, 2022 minutes.

Milner stated a Finance Committee is scheduled for February 10, 2022 at 4:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Milner presented Councilpersons DePinto and Hooper with a hard copy of the PPM which they requested. Milner informed Council that Jenny LaRue resigned from the Tree Commission. Milner stated the certificate belongs to the Village and they need to find someone to replace LaRue. Councilperson Welsh stated he will look at the material LaRue gave Milner. Milner reported she spoke with the Auditors office regarding being paid in advance. They stated the Village should speak to the Village attorney, but they agree it would not be best practice. Milner stated she received the certificate from the Perry County Board of Elections for the Parks and Recreation Levy that was past in the last election. Milner informed Council she received a complaint from the Department of Commerce regarding a past employee stating he did not receive his wages. Milner stated the employee did not submit a time sheet and has had trouble with the last three payroll periods. Milner stated she explained this to the Department of Commerce, and they are working with her to resolve the issue. Milner stated she submitted the Brownfield Grant. Milner stated she is working on grants for Village wide waterline replacement and Airport Road waterline replacement.

Administrator Emmert reported Waste Away would have two trucks in town on February 8, 2022 for trash removal since the ice storm caused them to miss removal on the scheduled day. They will also still be following their regular schedule pick up days. Emmert commended Mayor Thompson for resolving an issue with trash removal. Emmert stated the Public Service department had 83 hours of overtime due to the ice storm and they spent 9 hours on a water leak today. Emmert stated they need to revisit the no parking on Main Street if there is more than two inches of snow. Emmert reported the street signs were removed during the streetscape project and never put back up. Emmert stated they received a quote of \$5,510.06 to replace the current bulk water station and upgrade the payment method from cash coin to credit card. Emmert presented Council with a Resolution to sign the contract for the Water Treatment Plant Filter No. 1 Rehab project. Emmert reported he is working with MAPSYS on the Scada system at the Water Treatment Plant. Emmert stated they received parts to repair two broken fire hydrants this week. Emmert reported there is another hole in the storage tank at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Emmert stated Attorney Adam Barclay from Allen and Baughman Attorneys at Law LLP would like to come to a Council meeting to introduce himself to Council. Emmert asked Council if the meeting time for Council meetings could be moved up to an earlier time.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion starting on March 7, 2022 Council meetings will start at 5:30 pm. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh asked Administrator Emmert how many more hydrants need replaced. Emmert stated he hopes to have a total by April 1, 2022. Welsh asked if there are any grants to help with the cost of replacing the hydrants. Milner stated it is cheaper to replace them ourselves. Milner stated there may be small grants that would purchase a few hydrants. Emmert stated the invoices now from Heavener are broken down to show the cost of everything.

Police Chief Ross reported he spent the day going through the CAD sheets for January. Ross stated they had 888 calls for service in 2022 as of tonight. Ross stated in the month of January they had 663 calls for service, and they had 225 calls for service so far in February. They had 7 drug arrest, 10 car accidents, 8 domestic violence, 9 warrant arrest, 3 assaults and several other incidents. This does not include the regular day to day activities. Ross stated he filled the full-time position in the department that has been vacant since October. Ross stated they are down to two cruisers. He spoke with Finance Director Milner and he is going to try and find a vehicle for \$10,000 or less. Ross stated he has a lead on a Ford Taurus with 47,000 miles that already had the equipment required. All that would need done is the decals. Ross stated the New Lexington High School students did the decals on the School Resource Officers car and he thought they may be able to do it for the Village. Ross stated he has a meeting with the company they are getting the CAD system from. The data they will collect through the system will be great. Ross stated he is going to contact the Perry County Engineers Office to see about getting a GIS file for the system. The new system will be implemented by April 1, 2022. They will have people on sight for one week to train employees. Ross stated they were selected by the National Association of Police Chiefs to participate in a grant for the K9 fund. Ross stated during the month of May they will match any funds raised up to \$5,000. Ross stated he was given a kennel from Franklin County. Ross stated it was time to renew the School Resource Officers contract with the New Lexington City School. Ross stated he spoke to Mr. Coffey from the school about hiring the School Resource Officer through the school instead of through the Village. Ross stated he was in favor of the idea. Ross stated it would make Officer Gibbs, who is the current school resource officer Director of campus security. Ross stated this would benefit everyone. Officer Gibbs would still be under the Village of New Lexington Police department commission and the Village would supply his uniform. Ross stated he spoke with Heidi about signing the Village up for Gov deals. You can buy and sale through this.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion for Finance Director Milner to establish a GOV Deals account for the Village. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Fire Chief Fain reported they responded to 22 fire runs in the month of January. Fain stated they had 41 calls for runs on February 3,4, 2022. Fain stated the department worked long hours during the ice storm and was very

proud of the department. Fain stated he felt very let down by the Perry County EMA. Fain stated they asked him if they had a generator and could be used as a warming station during the storm. Fain stated yes but asked them not to advertise it due to if they had to respond to a lot of calls, they would have to have someone on station to stay there if people were there. Fain stated they had people show up planning to stay there. He tried contacting the EMA for blankets, cots, food, and anything else they might need because it was just supposed to be a warming station. Fain stated they were not set up to have people stay. Fain stated when he finally was able to reach someone at the EMA for provisions, he was told no, and told him to contact the American Red Cross. Fain stated when he contacted the Red Cross, he was told the weather was too bad to send anyone there. Councilperson Welsh stated they should go to the next Perry County Commissioners meeting to bring this to their attention. Councilperson DePinto asked if since Perry County declared a State of Emergency if the Village would be able to get assistance for all the expenses incurred from the storm. Finance Director Milner stated they would be able to apply for assistance. Council discussed coming up with a plan if another emergency arises. Councilperson Welsh stated the EMA should already have a plan. Welsh stated this is something the Public Safety Committee can discuss at their next meeting. Fain stated he will be attending Township meetings to have the Township contracts signed.

Councilperson Welsh stated he and Administrator Emmert have a meeting with Glenn Crippen from HAPCAP to discuss the grant.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-1 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-1: **A RESOLUTION AWARDED WTP FILTER NO. 1 REHAB TO G. M. GENERAL CONTRACTING, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-1 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Finance Director Milner addressed Council concerning the Administration staff being treated equal to other departments in the Village when it comes to compensation time and overtime. The PPM should be followed for everyone.

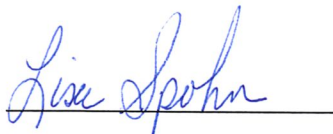
Councilperson Bethel made a motion for all departments to be addressed equally when it comes to over time and compensation time per the PPM. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk