

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

October 4, 2021

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 Dan Bethel, Doug Fox, Jim Welsh, Susan Goodfellow, Susan Boyle and Jeff Danison. Also present were Finance Director Milner, Police Chief Ross, Administrator Emmert and Fire Chief Fain. The public was invited to attend the meeting in person or live online through the zoom. Absent was Councilperson Kathy Chute.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Chute from the October 4, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 20, 2021 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Bethel who abstained due to being absent from the September 20, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the New Lexington Classic Riders Bike show and handed out the Mayors Best Award.

Finance Director Milner requested a motion to approve the August Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation presented at the September 20, 2021 meeting.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the August 2021 Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Milner presented Council an Ordinance for supplemental appropriations and an Ordinance to establish a "Police K9" fund. Milner stated before Rockwell left, she canceled the Village credit card that was in her name. Milner requested permission from Council to apply for a Village credit card that will be in the Village's name only. The card will be kept in the Finance Directors office.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Finance Director Milner to apply for a credit card in the Village of New Lexington's name. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh asked if they needed to schedule a Finance Committee meeting. Milner asked if they could wait a week to give her a chance to familiarize herself with the Village finances. Milner asked Council if the 2022 budget was completed. Milner stated she would contact Rockwell for the status of the budget. Mayor Thompson asked Milner if she could provide him the report for the end of the swimming pool season. Milner stated "yes".

Administrator Emmert stated Heavener started on the fire hydrant project. Heavener will start on the second hydrant on Tuesday. Emmert stated the new website is up and running. Emmert stated it needs a lot of changes. Emmert reported there was \$16,195 in damage to the dump truck that was hit. The truck is currently in the shop for repairs. Emmert stated the meter reader truck that is being repaired should be completed tomorrow. Emmert stated he received four applications for the Public Service Department position. They will start interviews on October 6, 2021. Emmert presented Council with an Ordinance for Safe Routes to School. Councilperson Danison asked about the owner of the property at the bottom of N. Main Street. Danison stated it needs mowed.

Police Chief Ross stated at the last Council meeting he asked the status of the new cruiser for the police department. Ross stated he was told it had been ordered and to contact the dealership. After some research it was discovered that the cruiser was removed from the 2021 budget. Mayor Thompson asked if it could be in the

budget to order next year. Ross stated units 5 and 7 were purchased at the same time and seem to need repaired at the same time. Ross stated he initiated a rotation schedule for the cruiser to be driven each shift. Ross reported 4,453 calls for service in 2021 as of tonight. Ross reported seven overdoses in the Village for the month of September with two being fatal. Ross stated he is collecting data to do something about the drug issue within the Village. Ross stated he has been working with Milner to get a K9 kennel for his cruiser. Ross stated his K9 Mack is six years old and is trained in tracking, drug sniffing and other areas. Ross stated Mack has two - three more years of service. Ross stated he would like to get another officer involved in K9 training. Ross stated Officer Loy arrested a female and touched a foil packet that was on the suspect. The foil packet tested positive for fentanyl. Ross stated he was not wearing any PPE. Ross reported he sent an e-mail to all officers on the protocol when responding to a call. Ross informed Council he spoke with the owner at 424 E. Brown Street and showed him the Ordinance pertaining to property maintenance. Ross stated he informed him he has thirty days to comply. Mayor Thompson asked Ross the status of the chickens. Ross stated he will speak to him tomorrow about this.

Fire Chief Fain reported September has been a busy month. Fain reported for the month of September EMS had 183 runs with 98 transports. Fain requested a Finance Committee meeting. Councilperson Welsh asked the status of burned-out houses within the Village. Councilperson Bethel stated the house on High Street was going up for sheriff's sale. The owner of the house on Airport Rd. is living in a camper on the premises. Police Chief Ross stated he will investigate. Councilperson Danison asked about the two medics that are down. Fain stated they need to schedule a meeting with Pike Township. Milner asked Fain to provide her with what information he will need prior to the Finance Committee meeting.

A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for October 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Boyle stated a Parks and Recreation – Fall Festival Committee meeting was scheduled for October 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Boyle stated she placed the Parks and Recreation Levy signs throughout the Village.

Councilperson Bethel stated he received phone calls and e-mails regarding the Homeless Shelter Ordinance. Bethel stated there is a meeting at the Commissioner's office on October 27, 2021 at 11:00 am.

Councilperson Danison reported paving within the Village will start in two to three weeks.

Council Clerk Spohn asked Council for approval of the letter in their packets to mail to water customers concerning the sewer rate increase. Council approved the letter. Councilperson Danison stated they need mailed as soon as possible.

Mayor Thompson asked Council if they had any objections to holding Trick or Treat on October 31, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for Trick or Treat to be held on October 31, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm rain or shine. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated Ken McCord from the Southeastern Hunting and Fishing asked if the organization could use the New Lexington Park for their flea market that they host twice a year. Council agreed to let them use the park, but they would have to pay the fee. Mayor Thompson asked Councilperson Boyle if she would do the Christmas decorating within the Village this year. Boyle stated "yes". Councilperson Danison stated Administrator Emmert is doing a great job.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-13 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-13: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 21-1 TO**

PROVIDE FUNDING WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE. Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-13 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-14 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. Ordinance No. 21-14: **PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION. INSTALLATION OF SHARED USE PATHWAY ALONG PANTHER DRIVE CONNECTING THE NEW LEXINGTON SCHOOLS CAMPUS TO STATE ROUTE 345 (CARROLL STREET).** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-14 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 21-19 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 21-19: **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A "POLICE K9" FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-19 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 21-12 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 21-12: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 20-12.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-12 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(8) regarding contracts with Council, Mayor, Police Chief, Administrator, Finance Director, Fire Chief and Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:28 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 8:14 pm.

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


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 8:15 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk