

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
December 19, 2022
5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 5:30 PM. Council Members present were Jim Welsh, Susan Goodfellow, Debra Hooper, Susan Boyle, Jeff Danison and Janie Depinto. Also present were Police Chief Ross, Finance Director Lewis, Administrator Emmert and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Dan Bethel.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 5, 2022 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended a meeting at the New Lexington City Schools and the application for HB377 has been completed and sent. Thompson stated he attended the employee appreciation luncheon and the Santa Cade which was a huge success. Thompson reported there is a lot of legislation tonight and one of them being wage increases for most employees. Thompson stated it is time to invest in the employees which is something Administrator Emmert has wanted to do since he became employed at the Village. Thompson stated EMS will be full-time employees with benefits.

Finance Director Lewis requested a motion to approve the November financial statements and bank reconciliation.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the November 2022 financial statements and bank reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis stated the payout for the OCJS grant for the police bonuses is complete. Lewis presented Council with three Resolutions: setting employee wages, rate of pay for Fire/EMS, and full-time employment for EMS. Lewis presented Council with an Ordinance for amending annual appropriations. Lewis stated the 2023 budget is being finalized. Lewis stated \$3,657 was spent on Christmas decorations. The Village has received \$1,200 in donations for the decorations with more donations expected to come in. Lewis informed Council she represented the Village on a wrongful termination complaint with the State of Ohio unemployment office regarding a Village employee. Lewis stated while the employee was on probation, they called off seventeen times in one month. While employed he failed to do his job going home if he did not like what he had to do. Lewis reported according to the Personal Policy Manual the Village had just cause to terminate the employee. Lewis stated she received a letter form from the unemployment office stating the Village had to back pay him for wrongful termination. Councilperson Danison asked if the Village was going to appeal. Lewis stated "yes" and they would be getting the Village Attorney involved.

Administrator Emmert presented Council with a Resolution requesting permissive tax funds from the County for paving. Emmert stated he has received many compliments on the paving job this year. Emmert reported the traffic light at Mill Street and Main Street is repaired. The traffic light on Broadway has been reset to thirty seconds which has helped with traffic. Emmert reported he attended a meeting with Perry Water and Soil Conservation and an employee from the Federal Government regarding the dam at the reservoir. Emmert stated the Village is going to cut the brush and clear the area

around the dam. Emmert stated he spoke with Drew Cannon from the Perry County Auditors office and Cannon informed him the trailers on E. Water Street are being removed. Emmert informed him no more trailers can be put on the property. Emmert reported the hole in the tank at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is in the process of being repaired. Emmert stated the Perry County Health Department has committed to \$75,000 in engineering cost for the Carroll Street Corridor project. Emmert stated Heidi is working on grants for the project also. Emmert stated he is going to negotiate the cost of electric for the Village. Emmert stated the Village has been a Tree City USA member for 31 years. Emmert stated he spoke with Ann Bonner, and she stated the Village is no longer a member. Emmert stated she is going to meet with him and Council President Welsh to see what the Village needs to do to remain a member.

Police Chief Ross reported the retention bonus grant is being paid out this week. Ross thanked everyone who helped make this possible. Ross stated he spoke with Heid Milner about applying for a grant for recruitment. If awarded the grant it would pay for two people to attend the police academy. Once they graduate from the academy they would be required to work for the Village for several years. Ross stated the department was not awarded the grant to install the CAD system in the cruisers. Ross stated he has hired a new officer that will begin employment on December 28, 2022. Ross stated he will have to complete his field training. Ross stated the department is down three officers and he would like to hire four if it is in the budget. Ross reported K-9 Bruno is doing very well with his training. Ross inquired if the Village could look into hiring a janitor for the Municipal Building.

Fire Chief Fain stated the Santa Cade went great. Fain stated people were calling 911 for Santa to come down their street. Fain stated the Fire/EMS toy drive was able to help twelve children with Christmas this year. Councilperson DePinto asked with the impending weather if there was a plan in place if the power goes off. Administrator Emmert stated she would have to call Rita Spice at the EMA office to see if there is a plan in place. Fain stated New Lexington School Superintendent Coffey stated the school could be used for a warming station. Mayor Thompson stated he will reach out to Mr. Coffey and Janie is going to reach out to Rita Spice from the EMA.

Councilperson Welsh stated everything discussed at the Finance Committee meeting held on December 15, 2022 has already been reviewed. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for December 27, 2022 at 4:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Bethel from the December 19, 2022 meeting. 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. 22-14 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 22-14: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TO APPLY FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22-14 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-37 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-24: **A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE ZONING PERMIT FEES AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES FOR THE CITY OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN**

EMERGENCY. Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-37 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-38 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-38: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE FOR PERMISSIVE TAX FUNDS FROM THE PERRY COUNTY ENGINEER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-38 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-39 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-39: **A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY CONTRACTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-39 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-40 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-40: **A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 22-6 THE RATES OF PAY FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-40 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 22-41 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 22-41: **A RESOLUTION CREATING FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Danison made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-41 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Danison commended the Finance Committee for working on raises for the employees.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk