

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2023
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 5:30PM. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Jeff Danison, Janie DePinto, and Debra Hooper. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Boyle, Goodfellow, and Welsh from the October 16, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes." Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 2, 2023 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Glenn Branam with Blue Line Solutions addressed Council regarding the results from the School Zone Safety and Speed Study the company recently completed. Branam advised Council on the benefits of the TrueBlue School Zone Safety Program, including the fact that it would zero cost to the Village. Council agreed to speak with the school before they make any type of commitment.

Mayor Thompson stated he has been attending school funding meetings. He also attended the pep rally that was recently held at Rockwell Stadium. Thompson expressed his thanks to the volunteers working on the Christmas wreaths that will be displayed on Main Street during the holiday season.

Finance Director Lewis discussed September bank statements with Council. She advised she and Administrator Emmert met with representatives from Peoples State Bank regarding loans for new squads for EMS. Fire Chief Fain stated he would investigate the best financing options before making a decision to present to Council.

Administrator Emmert reported the Public Service Department recently used hot mix to pave some areas in the Village. The asphalt hot box that was used was borrowed from the Perry County Engineer's Office. Emmert stated the Village would benefit from purchasing their own box. Emmert advised chip and seal was placed on the alley in the area of Maple Heights. Emmert stated he has only received one quote for the sidewalk at Pizza Hut; he is awaiting a response from Pizza Hut. Emmert advised Council candy has been purchased for Trunk or Treat for Administrative Assistant Saffell to pass out on behalf of the Village. Emmert also advised a dam inspection is scheduled for October 18, 2023. He stated the Village has partnered with Vinton County for the Appalachian Community Grant Application process; the deadline for the application is November 13, 2023. Emmert stated the recent storm sewer collapse in the area of W. Walnut Street resulted in three sink holes. He advised he has received one quote in the amount of \$131,000 and is awaiting two more quotes. Eric advised there's a need for a few outlets to be added to Veterans Monument Square; he will seek help from a local electrician.

Chief Gill presented Council with information on mileage per each vehicle at NLPD. Gill advised new uniforms have been ordered for the School Resource Officers; Corey Abram, who started October 6, 2023, is the newest School Resource Officer. Gill stated aside from a few bikes and money that needs to be taken to the bank, inventory has been completed. Gill also stated he's waiting for a quote from MAPSYS regarding their hard drive disposal system. Gill advised Bill Dodd is scheduled for K9 training with the Lancaster Police Department. He stated other officers are attending various trainings as well. Gill advised he is looking into a QR code system for easier access in regards to contacting NLPD.

Chief Fain stated the fire department is planning a boot drive for October 21, 2023. He advised every Monday throughout November the department will be attending training for a live burn that's scheduled for December 9, 2023 on Marietta Rd. in New Lex. Fain stated members recently attended Rescue Task Force Training in the Canton area. He also notified Council about a Fire/EMS holiday party being held in the evening hours of November 17, 2023 at Fiore's.

Councilperson DePinto advised the next meeting for the Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 4:30PM. She also briefly discussed the significance of House Bill 187.

Councilperson Hooper stated she reached out to Jeremy Hammond with Ohio Central Railroad regarding the dilapidated tracks in the area of E. Brown St. Jeremy advised Hooper the tracks in that area cannot be paved over, but repairs may be made. He also advised to her he will have an employee investigate the tracks.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G6)(G1) with Mayor, Council, Administrator, Police Chief, and Finance Director present. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 7:20 PM for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 7:46 PM.

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

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 23-16 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 23-16: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND CHELSEY N. LEWIS.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 23-17 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 23-17: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND ERIC EMMERT.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 23-30 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes", except for Councilperson DePinto who abstained. Motion carried. **RESOLUTION 23-30: A RESOLUTION INCREASING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 23-31 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. **RESOLUTION 23-31: A RESOLUTION INCREASING THE SALARY OF COUNCIL.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 23-32 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. **RESOLUTION 23-32: A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY CONTRACTS.**

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk