

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
December 18, 2023
5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Danison, Boyle, Hooper, Goodfellow and DePinto from the December 18, 2023 meeting. All Council voted yes. Motion carried.

Conrad Sokolowski addressed Council about the property at 500 Eastern Ave., New Lexington Ohio that he purchased. The property currently has a duplex and a rear cottage. When he purchased the property, he was under the assumption he could use it as a three rental property. When applying for a loan to remodel the duplex his lender contacted the Village and was told this was illegal property. Sokolowski would like to know if this could be grandfathered in since there are three water meters and three electric meters. He stated he would not have bought the property if he could not rent all three units. Mayor Thompson stated we have a Variance Committee. Councilperson Bethel asked if he could just remodel the duplex. Sokolowski stated he is working with a new lender. Emmert stated he can remodel the duplex. Sokolowski stated the cottage is the issue. Zoning laws state he cannot use this as a rental. He stated when he had the water turned on is when he became aware of this. Mayor Thompson stated he should go before the Variance Committee. Administrator Emmert will email Sokolowski the information for a variance form tomorrow.

Mayor Thompson read certificates of Appreciation for Susan Boyle and Susan Goodfellow for their service to the Village that he was going to present to them tonight. Thompson stated he attended the Santa Cade and read to the fourth grade New Lexington students on December 14, 2023.

Finance Director Lewis stated the loan for the new medic is complete. Lewis reported the Official Audit has been released.

Administrator Emmert stated the request for \$750, 000 for the swimming pool renovation has been submitted to Representative Mark Johnson. Emmert reported there was a water leak on Dallas Avenue on Saturday and Bob Heavener had to be called in due to the pump the Public Service Department was using could not keep up. Emmert stated the AT&T bill has been turned over to Attorney Barclay. Emmert informed Council the sidewalk by Pizza Hut has been repaired and barriers are going to be installed. Emmert stated Jenny LaRue from the Perry County Health Department informed him the Village is going to receive \$14,100 in additional funding for sidewalk repairs. Councilperson Welsh stated he spoke with Public Service Director Ross about purchasing better lighting for nighttime water breaks.


Police Chief Gill stated a new employee started on 12/11/23 and a second new employee will start on 1/2/23. Gill reported they had one employee resign and they are looking to hire part-time dispatchers. Gill informed Council all sworn in New Lexington Police officers completed their taser recertifications. Other municipalities attended the recertification also. Gill stated Commander Biggers will be attending Car Seat Technician Training in February and the Department is working with the Health Department and the Child Injury Prevention Coalition to create familiarization training for officers. Gill stated today the department hosted an event for anyone to come check to see if their car seats were installed properly. Gill stated they are awaiting further destruction orders and firearm disposal orders and Operations Manager Crane is working on matching the paper office records with the inventory that has been completed. Gill reported he attended the car seat event today, and the Hocking College Police Academy Advisory Board meeting. Gill stated he and Commander Biggers attended the CIT Board meeting and Safe Communities and TAC meeting. Gill stated all officers have their new patches. The new cruiser has decals, and the additional cruisers will get decals in the next couple months. Gill stated he is waiting for the local records commission to meet and approve their records retention policy so they can move forward for state approval.

Finance Director Lewis reminded everyone about the employee appreciation luncheon on December 21, 2023 at 11:00 am.

Assistant Fire Chief Morrow reported 415 fire runs and 1820 EMS runs so far in 2023. Morrow stated they interviewed three applicants for the fire department and four for EMS. Morrow stated they have increased ALS coverage and hope to increase shift coverage. Morrow informed Council they received the new 2023 Wheeled Coach Citimedic on December 8, 2023 and the new rescues struts on December 15, 2023. Morrow stated they received three new sets of bunker gear and new EMS equipment made possible through a state grant. Morrow stated a new exhaust system was installed in the fire station through an AFG grant. Morrow reported on December 9, 2023 the department hosted a live burn with 35 personnel and four departments in attendance. Morrow stated the Santa Cade went well and with the department's toy drive they were able to help ten families. The department hosted an inter-department kids Christmas party on December 17, 2023.

Finance Director Lewis reminded everyone that Mr. Barrowman will in front of the Municipal Building on Christmas Eve to hand out Christmas gifts to anyone in need.

Administrator Emmert stated the Village needs to work on the annexing of certain areas in the new year. Emmert stated he received a complaint from a resident on McKinley Ave. but was unable to assist him since he is out of the corporation limits.



Mayor



Council Clerk