

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
May 20, 2024
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 Janie DePinto, Jim Welsh, Dan Bethel, Bob Spencer, Dave Pletcher, Ty Danison and Debra Hooper. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 6, 2024 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes” except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the May 6, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Heidi Milner presented Council with an update of the LEMPCO Brownfield project. Milner stated the Village needed to enter into an amendment to the Grant Agreement for the purpose of amending the expiration date for Brownfield Remediation Program. This extends the date to June 30, 2025 to complete the project.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to enter into a grant with the Ohio Department of Development for the purpose of extending the expiration date for the Brownfield Remediation Program. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the Active Transportation meeting with the Health Department, several meetings at the New Lexington CSD with one being attended by Lieutenant Governor Husted, and the groundbreaking ceremony at Mount Aloysius for the improvements to the facilities administrative building.

Administrator Emmert informed Council the Village did not receive the Appalachian Community Grant. Emmert stated they wanted to move forward with purchasing the land from Cotterman’s. Emmert introduced Ron Colley from Peoples State Bank to explain how the Village could open a statement savings account and use this to secure the financing for the property. Finance Director Lewis presented Council a Resolution to purchase the property.

Finance Director Lewis presented Council Resolution 24-17 for the 2024 pool season wages and Resolution 24-18 amending Council stipend for meeting attendance. Lewis stated all line items have been closed for dispatch and moved to the police line items.

Administrator Emmert reported he attended a meeting with the Ohio Department of Public Safety on May 15, 2024 regarding cybersecurity at the Water Treatment and Wastewater facilities. Emmert stated there will be a free vulnerability assessment at the Water & Wastewater Plants on June 26, 2024. Emmert stated the pool is in phase I and Coleman McCoy’s workforce development class has done a great job of painting the building. Emmert reported the new roof on the public service department garage is complete. Emmert presented Council with a Resolution to surplus miscellaneous office supplies. Emmert stated Vera Anderson, an intern

from MORPC started last week and the administration office will have an employee from HAPCAP starting.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins presented Council a list of vacant properties within the Village. Wilkins explained the process on vacant property violations. Wilkins stated the papers he handed out to Council has a sample of the letter a property owner receives for property maintenance violations.

Police Chief Gill stated the department will be fully staffed after June 1, 2024. Gill stated Commander Biggers and SRO Abram have started an instructional skill course paid for through the Perry County Health Department. Gill stated the drone should arrive tomorrow. Gill reported regular K9 training and joint drone and K9 training will be conducted. Gill stated Todd Galleher, Operations Manager I is scheduled to take his drone test and will work as the drone program manager. Gill stated the department hosted the Perry County Chiefs of Police meeting on May 7, 2024. Gill reported he attended the Juvenile Detention board meeting, the Opioid board meeting and worked with the Health Department to host a bike safety event at the fairgrounds. Gill stated the new cruiser should arrive around the first of June. Gill stated the New Lexington CSD is interested in purchasing the old cruiser for an SRO vehicle. Gill asked what price Council wanted for the cruiser. Council discussed what to sell the cruiser for.

Councilperson Pletcher made a motion to sell the cruiser to the New Lexington CSD for \$10,000. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Fire Chief Fain informed Council the department will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Memorial Day from 7:00 am till 11:00 am. Fain stated they have five new fire recruits doing their 36-hour fire class to receive their fire card. Fain reported they are working with Police Chief Gill on procedures for the drone. Fain stated after he left the last Council meeting due to some sensitive issues within the department, he was informed some comments were made about the department. Fain stated he requested a copy of the recording of the meeting. Fain discussed the comments with Council. Fain stated some of the condescending remarks and accusations were wrong. Everyone agreed they need to come up with ways to make the department better for the firefighters.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-16 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-16: **A RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES, DECORATIONS, AND GLASSWARE PER SECTION 721.15 THE ORC CHAPTER 7 MUNICIPAL CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-16 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. 24-17 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-17: **A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGE RATES FOR THE VILLAGE SWIMMING POOL EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN**

EMERGENCY. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-17 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-18 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-18: **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MONTHLY COMPENSATION AND MEETING STIPEND FOR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 23-31 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson DePinto made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-18 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-19 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-19: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO USE \$550,000 FROM THE WATER FUND TO OPEN A STATEMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT AT PEOPLES STATE BANK, AND TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH PEOPLES STATE BANK FOR THE STATE ROUTE 93 & 37 REAL ESTATE PURCHASE, PLEDGING THE SAVINGS ACCOUNT AS COLLATERAL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson DePinto made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-19 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk