

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

June 17, 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 Jim Welsh, Dan Bethel, Dave Pletcher, Ty Danison, Debra Hooper and Bob Spencer. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Janie DePinto.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson DePinto from the June 17, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 3, 2024 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Spencer who abstained due to being absent from the June 3, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the MacGahan Festival, two Flag Day ceremonies at the fairgrounds and the hooked-on fishing at the Gun Club.

Finance Director Lewis requested a motion to approve the May financial statements.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the May 2024 financial statements. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis informed Council police cruisers 2 and 4 have been paid in full. Lewis stated she received an invoice from the Health Resources and Services Administration stating the Village had to repay \$11,592.37 in COVID stimulus money received in April 2020 for non-compliance. The stimulus was received for Provider Relief funding for EMS. Lewis stated she brought this to Council's attention in May 2024 and that Heidi Milner filed an appeal on behalf of the Village showing all money was spent according to the guidelines. The appeal was denied, so the Village is required to pay the money back. Lewis stated the Village received the Clayton TWP and Pike TWP Fire/EMS levy payments. Council discussed what fund the money owed to the Health Resources and Services Administration should come out of. Mayor Thompson and Councilperson Bethel stated they thought it should come out of the general fund.

Administrator Emmert informed Council the safe routes to school project is complete. Emmert stated the Public Service Department has removed some pine trees down by the tennis court to help keep the courts clear of needles. Emmert reported the New Lexington City School District is purchasing 200 pool passes for families. Mayor Thompson stated due to the heat advisory he and Administrator Emmert will discuss on a day-to-day basis if there will be free admission to the swimming pool. Emmert stated he has the signed contract with Hamburg Fireworks for the 4th of July display. Mayor Thompson stated he was asked about a community yard sale this year. Council will decide at the next meeting the date for this event.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins presented Council an update on code inspections. Wilkins stated he is working with the Perry County Health Department to help get funding to tear down some structures on properties. Wilkins stated he has five applications. Wilkins stated he has received a lot of compliances on violations and good reactions from neighbors. Wilkins informed Council he is working with residents to find resources to help get their properties in compliance.

Police Chief Gill stated Brianna Miller has completed 80 hours of her in the field training. Gill informed Council Commander Biggers completed Instructional Skill training and Officer Abram has completed half of the training. Todd Galleher, Operations Manager I completed his drone training and passed his license test.

Todd will be working on creating the drone program documents and policies. Gill reported the required annual firearms training is scheduled for July 28, 2024 with all Village Police Departments welcome. Taser training is scheduled for July 24, 2024. Gill stated Katelyn and Todd are scheduled for three free grant writing trainings provided by OCJS. Katelyn and Todd have applied for a School Resource grant for additional SRO. Gill stated the new Durango Cruiser will arrive on Thursday. Gill stated they have a portable radio that is out of service and is too out of date to be repaired. Gill informed Council he created an employee evaluation process and related forms. He will begin utilizing annual evaluations starting in July.

Fire Chief Fain reported the department Fire Chiefs meeting held on June 5, 2024 went well. Fain stated he attended the flag burning ceremony at the American Legion. Fain stated the department was at the MVL All Star game held at the New Lexington football field. Fain informed Council he passed his drone license test.

Councilperson Bethel stated he, Administrative Assistant Saffell and Jenny LaRue from the Perry County Health Department visited the Village parks and are working on ideas to improve them.

Councilperson Bethel asked if it was decided to invest some money and how much. Finance Director Lewis stated they should wait until the six-month report comes out next month. Bethel asked if this could be done by motion or if a Resolution is necessary. Lewis stated it should be done by Resolution. Councilperson Welsh asked if they are still looking for funding for the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Administrator Emmert stated "yes". Emmert stated the Village requested funding for water improvements through Representative Troy Balderson's office. Emmert reported the Administration building electric bill went up \$900 this month.

Roger Hooper addressed Council asking if they knew what happened to the championship signs that used to be posted coming into town. Hooper asked if the Village could replace the missing signs. One was for the 1949 boys final four champions and the other was for the Lady Panthers 1985 State Runner up champions. Administrator Emmert stated he will speak to Casey Coffey about any other sports and contact Hooper with the information.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk