

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

January 16, 2018

6:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Ratliff presiding and the meeting being called to order at 6:30 pm. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Trent Thompson, Susan Goodfellow, Kathy Chute, Susan Boyle and James Welsh. Also present were Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Fire Chief Jordan Hollingshead and Administrator Bo Powell. Absent was Councilperson Jeff Danison.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to excuse Councilperson Danison from the January 16, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 2, 2018 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Judge Dean Wilson presented Council with an update on Mayor's Court. Wilson also presented Council with the amount of community service hours performed within the Village.

Eddie Smith from Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council spoke to Council about putting electric aggregation on the ballot. Smith stated he spoke with Councilperson Danison and he stated they would need to educate the public. Smith informed Council on the different ways that his organization educates the public. Smith also presented Council with a draft Ordinance if Council would like to proceed with putting the issue on the ballot. Councilperson Chute suggested Council take the information Smith provided and each Council member read it before the next meeting so that they could discuss the issue at the February 5, 2018 meeting. Finance Director Rockwell inquired if there would be any fees to put the issue on the ballot. Smith indicated there would be no cost to the Village.

Mayor Ratliff allowed Sherriff Randy Barker to address Council. Barker spoke to Council about the transfer of prisoners.

Finance Director Rockwell requested a motion to approve the December 2017 financial statements. Rockwell presented the credit card statement to Council which has a zero balance. Rockwell stated she was contacted by the auditors and received preliminary paperwork to start the 2017 audit. Rockwell presented Council with questionnaires to fill out and return to her for the audit. Rockwell informed Council the State Firefighters' Dependents Fund Board will require two Council members, two firefighters and a fifth person appointed by the other four members. The committee will then need to appoint one member as the chairman and another member as secretary. The deadline to complete this is January 31, 2018. Councilperson Bethel inquired about the status of the lawsuit between Ohio Municipalities and the Ohio Department of Taxation. Rockwell informed Bethel a temporary stay was granted until February 24, 2018. This will give the Village ample time to pass an Ordinance if necessary. Councilperson Thompson made a motion to approve the December 2017 Financial Statements and the December 2017 Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell informed Council on February 18, 2018 the water department and income tax department will not be processing any transactions from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm due to server upgrades. Powell stated he contacted ODOT about treating Broadway Street and Main Street during inclement weather. Powell reported that according to Ordinance No. 02-16 it states ODOT may or may not treat these streets. ODOT stated in an emergency they would help the Village with these streets. Powell informed Council the Public Service Department has been very busy with water breaks and treating the roads. Councilperson Thompson stated he received a citizen's complaint about a hole where a water break had been repaired. Administrator Powell stated

they were aware of the problem and the dirt is sinking so they have been filling the hole on a daily basis. Councilperson Bethel asked Powell to inform the Public Service Department that they are doing a good job of clearing the snow from the streets.

Police Chief Ervin requested an executive session to discuss contracts.

Fire Chief Hollingshead stated he provided Mayor Ratliff with three applications for EMS. Hollingshead reported that he attended Clayton, Pike and Pleasant Township meetings. Hollingshead stated he has the Clayton Township contract for Fire and EMS services signed. Hollingshead reported that Pike and Pleasant Township have some questions about the billing procedures for EMS. Hollingshead stated Corlyn Altier has a possible solution to the Pike and Pleasant Township questions about the EMS billing. Altier will present this to the Finance Committee at their next meeting. Councilperson Bethel inquired about the status of the new medic. Hollingshead stated it is still on the assembly line. Finance Director Rockwell stated she is still waiting for someone from the bank to return her call. Bethel stated he would make sure the bank contacted the Finance Director.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on January 16, 2018. Bethel stated the committee discussed the overage invoice from Shelley Company for the Brown Street paving project. The Committee decided to request permissive tax funds by resolution at the next council meeting to pay for the overage. Bethel reported that the committee discussed run-out claims on employee insurance and that the committee was going to request Frank Harmon from Ohio Insurance Services attend the next Finance Committee meeting or have a conference call with him. Bethel stated the Committee discussed the drainage problem on Brown Street and contacting the Ohio Department of Transportation about the drainage along Broadway Street. The Committee stated a drain needs installed as soon as the street department is able on Brown Street. The Committee discussed upcoming projects for 2018. Corlyn Altier will be invited to attend the next Finance Committee meeting to discuss changing the EMS sliding fee scale. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2018 at 4:45 pm at the Municipal Building.

Finance Director Rockwell stated Attorney Sitterley sent her a sample Ordinance for establishing the Village Records Retention Schedule. Rockwell stated a few changes had to be made and she should have the policy at the next Council meeting.

Councilperson Chute stated she received a legal opinion from Attorney Sitterley on the term for appointed Councilperson James Welsh. Welsh will serve for two years.

Councilperson Chute asked if anyone was interested in being in charge of ordering plaques for businesses. Chute stated Dick Anderson used to do it and kept track of who received plaques. Chute will asked Anderson if he is still interested in doing this project. Councilperson Bethel stated if Anderson did not want to continue the project he would take it over.

Councilperson Bethel inquired about Sunshine Law training for newly elected Council members. Finance Director Rockwell stated every newly elected Council member is required to take the training. Rockwell provided Council with an upcoming training and stated that training can also be taken online. Bethel also notified Council that the Village will need copies of Certification of Election results and Oath of Office paperwork for newly elected members.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a complaint against an employee with Council, Mayor, Administrator, Finance Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. Fire Chief Hollingshead left. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned for executive session.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Thompson. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute stated no decision was made as a result of the executive session.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contracts with Council, Mayor, Administrator, Finance Director, Police Chief and Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Thompson. All Council voted "yes" Motion carried.

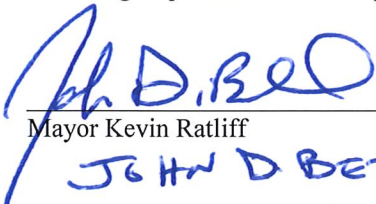
Meeting adjourned for executive session.

Councilperson Thompson made a motion to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute stated no decision was made as a result of the executive session.


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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.



Mayor Kevin Ratliff

JOHN D BETHEL  
ACTING MAYOR



Council Clerk Lisa Spohn