

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING  
February 4, 2019  
6:30 PM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Boyle from the February 4, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 22, 2019 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the January 22, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Corlyn Altier presented Council with the 2018 end of year EMS Billing report. Altier reported on the collections for EMS with the Ohio Attorney General's office.

Councilperson Thompson requested a moment of silence for the deaths of the Thompson children and Aiden Konkler. Thompson thanked all of the first responders for how they handled the fires in the extreme cold. Thompson thanked the New Lexington Fire and EMS Departments, New Lexington Police Department and the New Lexington Street Department. Thompson also thanked the mutual aid network: Junction City Fire & EMS, Crooksville/Roseville Fire & EMS, Somerset/Reading Township Fire & EMS, Glenford EMS, Newton Township Fire Department, Bremen Fire Department, Perry County Sheriffs Office, Genesis Community Ambulance and Portsmouth Ambulance.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with an Ordinance for 2019 Supplemental Temporary Appropriations. Rockwell stated she is still working on closing 2018 and was able to get December 2018 reconciled. Rockwell informed Council they will be receiving December and January Financial reports at the same time. Rockwell informed Council once 2018 is closed the audit will be scheduled.

Administrator Powell informed Council he was contacted by Hocking Athens Perry Community Action about clearing debris from under the Nuzum Street Bridge. Powell stated they are also going to clear debris along the creek on State Street. Powell presented Council with a Resolution for a contract between the Village and Jan Baughman for legal services. Powell informed Council he served papers by certified mail to the owner of 327 Elizabeth Street. Powell stated a Legal notice will also be published in the newspaper on 2/6/19 and 2/13/19. Powell stated he has met with Fire Chief Fain and provided paperwork regarding flow testing fire hydrants.

Police Chief Ervin thanked Council and the community for their support with all of the tragedies this past week. Ervin stated it meant a lot to have people checking to see if they needed anything.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department had a challenging week and he would like to thank the community and Council for all of their support. Fain stated the firemen have put in a lot of hours and commended them for the job they do. Fain reported they have responded to six structure fires, two calls for service, five EMS lift assists and aided in the search for a missing person. Fain stated EMS had twenty-nine runs with fifteen of those being transports.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on January 25, 2019. Bethel reported that Fire Chief Fain presented the committee with a large box of expired medical items. Fain also requested the committee approve sending a firefighter to training. Fain stated the training qualifies for reimbursement from the State once the course is completed. The Committee requested Fire Chief Fain address what will happen if a person attending training fails to complete a course or quits working for the Village once the course is complete. Fain reported the Fire Department will assume the responsibility of flow testing hydrants beginning in March 2019. Police Chief Ervin reported the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee requested the Village budget a larger share of the cost for the fireworks display. Bethel stated the Committee would explore the possibility of appropriating \$10,000 for the 2019 fireworks display. Bethel reported the Water Plant Operator asked the Committee to consider contracting with a Class II Water Operator that could fill in for him if he uses personal and vacation days due to new EPA regulations. Bethel stated Councilperson Chute requested that Powell provide a packet for all future engineering projects and the State Route 13 Waterline project. Finance Director Rockwell informed the Committee a refund is due from the previous insurance funding plan and requested permission to deduct the final invoice from the refund. Rockwell also presented the Committee with a contract for COBRA services and discussed deposit requirements of establishing a new funding plan with the new insurance broker. Bethel stated Chute reminded the Committee that the contract for a Law Director has expired.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on February 4, 2019. Bethel stated the committee discussed the Fire/EMS Fund deficit and giving the department the opportunity to establish a plan on their own for recovery. Bethel stated Councilperson Chute reported on the December meeting with Local Government Services. Bethel reported the committee discussed IT and timekeeping solutions. Bethel stated Administrator Powell is working on getting quotes for prepaid cards for the bulk water plant. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for February 6, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Finance Director Rockwell reported there is a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled for February 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

Council Clerk Spohn reported to Council on the Municipal Income Tax Centralized Collection Lawsuit that the Village joined with other municipalities. The court ruled in favor of the State of Ohio. The law firm representing the municipalities is going to file an appeal. Spohn also informed Council she received a request from Paul Werth Associates Inc. for e-mail addresses of Village Council members. Council requested Powell call the business to find out what they represent.

Councilperson Thompson made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 19-2 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 19-2: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 18-31 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE GENERAL FUND WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE.** Councilperson Thompson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 19-2 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.


Councilperson Chute asked Administrator Powell if he expressed to Attorney Baughman that the Village wanted to be more of a priority. Powell stated "yes". Chute stated they need to get a contract with Dagger Law Firm prepared. Police Chief Ervin stated we need a working document to stay on top of all the projects. Chute stated she would start a working document again if everyone would pay attention to it. Councilperson Thompson stated they would pay attention to the document. Chute stated she would have the working document at the next meeting.

Councilperson Thompson made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 19-1 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution 19-1: **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO A CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES.**

Acting Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilperson Chute made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Thompson. All Council voted "yes", except for Councilperson Welsh who voted "no". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.



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Mayor



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Council Clerk