

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

March 18, 2019

6:30 PM

MUNCIPAL BUILDING

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

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 4, 2019 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the March 4, 2019 meeting and Councilperson Fox who abstained due to not being sworn in as a Council member on March 4, 2019. Motion carried.

Dan Bethel addressed Council as a resident concerning the zoning laws of the Village. Bethel intends to place three new single-wide trailers on a parcel of land on Jefferson Street as a mobile home park. Bethel stated he obtained a license for a mobile home park from the State of Ohio. Councilperson Chute stated Bethel still has to follow Village zoning laws and procedures. Chute stated the matter should be discussed with the Zoning Board of Appeals. Bethel stated he would pay for a variance hearing. Administrator Powell stated he would contact Dave Pletcher to schedule a meeting.

Mayor Thompson reported Dan Cech, from the office of Speaker of the House Larry Householder, met with him on March 12, 2019. Thompson stated he took Cech on a tour of the Village showing him the drainage issues in the Fowlers Lane area, Brown Street Bridge project, Pleasant Street Bridge project, State Route 13 water line project and problems with the Nuzum Street Bridge. Thompson stated they also toured the New Lexington Fire Department to show Cech the aging equipment. Thompson reported himself, Cech, Administrator Powell and Bob Jablonski of Poggemeyer Design Group discussed all of the projects. Thompson stated Cech accompanied him to the pre-construction meeting for the Brown Street Bridge project. Thompson reported he is looking forward to working with Mr. Householder's office in the future. Thompson reported on the Health Department meeting that he and Administrator Powell attended on March 13, 2019. Thompson stated one of the issues discussed was the Perry County Land Bank. Thompson stated he was appointed a position on the Perry County Land Bank Board. Thompson stated the Brown Street Bridge project will begin on March 19, 2019.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the February 2019 Bank Reconciliation, February 2019 Financial Reports and the February Credit Card statement. Rockwell informed Council she received the new credit card and the statement reflects a credit for the fraudulent charge previously reported. Rockwell presented Council with a 2019 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and an Ordinance for 2019 Permanent Appropriations. Rockwell requested a motion to approve the January Financial Statements presented at the last meeting. Councilperson Chute inquired about the increase in the Fire and EMS deficit on the reports. Rockwell stated Fire/EMS levy funds will be distributed within the next few weeks which will decrease that deficit. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the January 2019 Financial Statements and the January 2019 Bank Reconciliation. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Powell informed Council the Village received \$2,303.28 for the month of February 2019 for license tax. Powell informed Council he will be out of the office on March 22, 2019 and March 25, 2019 for personal days. Powell stated the Ohio Department of Transportation informed him trees by the Pleasant Street Bridge would need to be removed before they could start the project in mid-July. Trees need removed no later than April 15, 2019. Powell stated the Public Service Department removed the trees. Powell stated the bucket truck was inspected and red tagged. Powell stated the truck he thought the

Village might obtain from the County is not available at this time, but the Village can use the County's bucket truck if needed. Powell stated the Brown Street Bridge project which is to begin on March 19, 2019 should be completed within two weeks. Powell presented Council with a Resolution to contract with Gary Hynus, a Class III Water Operator, to work at the Water Treatment Plant when Richard Kleinert takes vacation. Powell stated he contacted Alyssa Parrott, the Village Solicitor, to prepare the contract and will present it with the second reading of the Resolution. Powell informed Council New Lexington City School is going to make all repairs needed to bring the concession stand up to code and then donate the property to the Village. Councilperson Chute inquired about the time line for the Pleasant Street Bridge. Powell stated it should be completed by June of 2020 and construction will take about a year. Councilperson Chute inquired if the Village receives the license plate tax monthly. Powell stated "yes". Councilperson Bethel asked which fund receives the revenue. Rockwell stated Ohio Revised Code dictates that 92 ½ % is allocated to the Street Fund and 7 ½ % is allocated to the State Highway Fund. Mayor Thompson asked Powell if he had checked out Fowlers Lane. Powell stated he was waiting for the water to go down.

Council asked Thompson if he and Dan Cech discussed the condition of the LEMPCO building and other properties in the Village that need addressed. Thompson stated they did not. Police Chief Ervin stated until the property on Elizabeth Street is completed he is not moving forward on any other properties. Administrator Powell informed Council he located the owner of the Elizabeth Street property and sent him a certified letter. Powell also forwarded the information to Attorney Baughman to move the issue forward.

Police Chief Ervin expressed his gratitude for all the condolences and help this past week. Ervin stated his department did a great job in his absence.

Fire Chief Fain reminded Council of the smoke alarm canvass in the Village on April 6, 2019. Fain stated the department is going to host a breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 13, 2019. Fain reported he was going to meet with New Lexington City Schools on March 21, 2019 to discuss an explorer program at the High School. Fain stated he is going to request that the Fire Department be included in career day at the school. Fain reported that Medic 3 will be returned on March 19, 2019. The Fire Department will inspect the medic to ensure all items were repaired. Fain reported the department is planning to begin hydrant testing at the end of April. Fain informed Council he is still waiting on the Township contracts from Administrator Powell. Powell stated there were some mix-ups with the contracts and he will give them to Fain as soon as they are returned to him. Fain requested an executive session under 121.22 (G)(1) to discuss a personnel investigation.

Councilperson Welsh reported he has been approached by several residents who expressed their gratitude for the kindness and helpfulness of the New Lexington Police Officers and the New Lexington EMS personnel.

Councilperson Bethel reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 15, 2019. Bethel stated representatives from MAPSYS discussed changes to the IT infrastructure quote with the committee. Bethel stated Councilperson Chute asked if time clocks are dependent on infrastructure upgrades. Finance Director Rockwell stated "yes". Bethel stated the committee agreed to include the infrastructure upgrades in the permanent budget if revenue allows. Bethel reported Jim Organ of Public Employees Benefit Association (PEBA) discussed the employee insurance HRA. Organ presented the Premium Saver program as an alternative to the large deposit that is required to be budgeted by Ohio Revised Code 9.833. Funding for more paving and Nuisance Abatement was discussed. Bethel reported the committee was informed about a situation with the land bank and the Village should have a plan in place to continue cleaning up properties. Bethel stated Fire Chief Fain discussed the needs of the Fire Department to be compliant as well as the Fire & EMS deficit. Fain discussed the need to update the Fire & EMS levies. Bethel stated the committee agreed that a baseline budget will need to be passed at the Council meeting

tonight to meet the deadline dictated by Ohio Revised Code. Bethel stated budget requests would be reviewed by Mayor Thompson with each department head and an amended budget will be prepared by Finance Director Rockwell that will include the items that Mayor Thompson approves.

Councilperson Goodfellow reported East Water Street is slipping away bad. Police Chief Ervin and Councilperson Bethel stated Tile Plant Road and Factory Street are bad also. Mayor Thompson stated it would be nice if the Village could budget to pave extra streets each year in the Village when the CDBG grant paving is being done. Finance Director Rockwell stated the upcoming paving project includes 4 to 5 streets. Councilperson Chute asked if they could look at the contract between the company doing the paving and the Village to see if they could be held responsible for where the newly paved street is cracking. Ervin stated the Village needs to enforce sidewalks within the Village. This would help with water flow on the streets. Ervin stated this is already in the current zoning code and is part of the building permit. Goodfellow stated a bus driver asked if a light could be placed on State Route 345 and Panther Drive. Council stated that is a State of Ohio issue because it is a State Route.

Councilperson Boyle reported on the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held on March 11, 2019. Boyle stated Laura Berry would like to join the Parks and Recreation Committee. Boyle stated the committee is holding a fundraiser at Pizza Hut on April 2, 2019 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm for the Fall Festival. Councilperson Boyle stated other fundraising events include a booth at the 4th of July celebration, candy bar sales and possibly a \$1.00 hat day at New Lexington City Schools. Boyle stated the New Lexington Library is going to sponsor some entertainment for the Fall Festival and other activities were discussed. Councilperson Bethel asked if the money from the fundraisers goes to the Fall Festival or parks. Boyle stated it is for the Fall Festival. Boyle stated they are in need of a stage for the Fall Festival. Mayor Thompson stated he would take care of getting a stage.

Councilperson Welsh stated he and Administrator Powell attended a HAPCAP meeting. Welsh stated the Village might be able to get a grant through HAPCAP for park improvements. Councilperson Chute asked what they need to do to get a grant. Welsh stated the Village would need to apply. Council asked Welsh to move forward and apply for the grant. Boyle stated a Parks and Recreation meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Building. Councilperson Bethel recommended to Mayor Thompson that Laura Berry be added to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Mayor Thompson approved.

Finance Director Rockwell asked Council what they wanted to do about the HRA for employee insurance. Rockwell provided a summary of the situation at the request of Councilperson Bethel. Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to enroll in the Premium Saver Insurance Program with Standard Life. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Finance Director Rockwell stated other problems have arisen with the current insurance broker. Rockwell and Councilperson Bethel stated the Village needs to start looking at insurance brokers earlier in the year.

Councilperson Bethel asked if people canvassing in the Village are all from New Lexington. Police Chief Ervin stated not all are from New Lexington and this is why permits are issued to canvass. Ervin stated there is no charge for the permit. Some groups are still failing to obtain permits. Councilperson Chute asked if it could be put on the Village website and Facebook page that a permit, free of charge, is needed to canvass within the Village.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to file the 2019 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources with the Perry County Auditor. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 19-4 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 19-4: **AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 19-4 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 19-5 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution 19-5: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH GARY HYNUS AS A CLASS III WATER OPERATOR.**

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) regarding a personnel investigation with Mayor Thompson, Fire Chief Fain, Police Chief Ervin, Finance Director Rockwell and Administrator Powell present. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended for executive session at 8:15 pm.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 8:21 pm.

Councilperson Bethel stated no decisions were made as a result of executive session.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.



Mayor



Council Clerk