

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
February 17, 2026
5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting being called to order at 5:30 PM. Council Members present were Ty Danison, Debra Hooper, Dave Pletcher, Janie DePinto, Dan Bethel and Mike Kimble. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Lewis, Fire Chief Fain and Police Chief Gill. Absent was Councilperson Spencer.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Spencer from the February 17, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 2, 2026 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Bethel who abstained due to being absent from the February 2, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Carolyn Carnes introduced herself to Council as a candidate for Perry County Juvenile Judge in the May 2026 primary. Carnes stated she works for Perry County Prosecutor Terry Rugg. Carnes reported she has been an attorney for 30 years.

Mayor Thompson reported he has been present for many water leaks and has attended the Fire meeting.

Finance Director Lewis presented Council a payment listing from January 1, 2026 to present. Lewis presented Council a letter addressing false allegations on social media against her and Council concerning the 2023 and 2024 audits. Lewis reported she would have to rescind Ordinance No. 26-1 that was passed at the last council meeting because she used the wrong numbers. Lewis presented Council the corrected ordinance. Mayor Thompson stated he spoke with the State of Ohio Auditors today, there is nothing wrong with the audit.

Administrator Emmert addressed the false claims posted on social media against Finance Director Lewis and Council. Emmert stated people should be ashamed to post these false allegations on anyone because it hurts families and everyone involved. Emmert asked Council's permission for Finance Director Lewis, Administrative Assistant Browning and himself to go to a conference in Columbus on March the 19 and 20, 2026 for Local Government Officials.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Lewis and Administrative Assistant Browning to attend the Local Government Officials Conference in Columbus, Ohio on March 19 and 20, 2026. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert reported the Village was awarded \$526,625 from the CDBG grant for the replacement of the sludge tank at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Emmert stated the Village insurance is up for renewal April 1, 2026 and that they are going to shop around to try and find a better rate. Our current insurance wants to raise the rates 15% - 30%. Councilperson Bethel stated he would be

on a committee to help with the insurance search. Emmert stated he received a notice that the Village will receive \$37,763.97 from the State of Ohio for the marijuana tax from having a dispensary within the Village. Emmert recommended the Village use the money for parks. Councilperson Bethel asked if he needed a decision tonight and Emmert stated "no".

Police Chief Gill stated the department is starting an internship program with the New Lexington CSD and Tri County Schools. Gill stated he is looking into hiring a part-time person to help Operations Manager III Galleher with records requests. Gill stated they have been receiving a lot of requests for officer's body cam video, and they are using it to make You Tube videos which they can make money from. Councilperson Bethel asked if they could make the fee high enough so it would deter people from doing this. Gill stated they can only charge a certain fee, and most people can make more money off the video than it would cost to get a copy. Gill stated he has spoken with Ohio Representative Miller about this situation. Gill presented Council an update on the department's training and events. Gill stated the Point-in-Time count that was held on February 2, 2026 revealed there are 52 homeless within the county and 19 in New Lexington. Gill stated the SRO vehicle donated by Reynoldsburg has been decaled. Gill requested an executive session.

Fire Chief Fain stated things are going well in the department. Fain reported the department received the grant money they were awarded for training last year. Fain stated they are still looking at trucks.

Councilperson Kimble reported he asked the apartment manager on Center St. about their fire hydrant. Emmert stated that hydrant belongs to the apartment complex. Kimble stated he would follow up with the manager and that the manager was not aware of this.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to rescind Ordinance 26-1 due to wrong numbers being used. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 26-2 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 26-2: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TO APPLY FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 26-2 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(6) regarding security arrangement and emergency response protocols cybersecurity incidents with Council, Mayor, Administrator, Finance Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief and Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:12 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:50 pm.

Council person Bethel stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

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 6:51 PM.


Mayor


Council Clerk