

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
January 20, 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, Mike Kimble, Dan Bethel and Bob Spencer. Also present were Police Chief Gill and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 5, 2026 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Bethel who abstained due to being absent from the January 5, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported he met with Bob Heavener to discuss the waterline project on Shawnee Street. Bob is going to get him an estimate to replace waterlines. Thompson stated the ELKS Charitable Foundation donated towards the 2026 fireworks display for the 2026 4th of July celebration. Thompson reported he met with Representative Mark Johnson today.

Mayor Thompson reported on behalf of Finance Director Lewis that the 2023 and 2024 audits have been released, and each Council member has a letter from Lewis pertaining to the audit.

Mayor Thompson reported on behalf of Administrator Emmert that the Village was awarded a grant for \$650,000 through Representative Balderson's office for water infrastructure.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins presented Council an update on property maintenance. Wilkins stated the house on Orchard St. has been torn down. The property is now in compliance. This is the seventh house that has been torn down. Several properties have been brought into compliance. Wilkins stated he is still waiting on a court date for three other properties. Wilkins reported they will hold a variance appeal meeting tonight. Wilkins stated he attended the Southeastern Ohio Code Enforcement meeting on January 15, 2026 where he was the speaker. Wilkins presented to the group the procedures that the Village uses for code enforcement.

Police Chief Gill introduced Sergeant Wiseman who just received the promotion to sergeant. Gill stated they are fully staffed now. Officer Isaac Davis is back on auxiliary. Gill gave Council an update on trainings and events. Gill stated Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins is taking the training to be a certified car seat instructor for the Village. This training is paid for by the Perry County Health Department. Gill stated they should know by February 1, 2026 if the department was awarded the JAG equipment grant. Gill stated the department has collected several thousand dollars in stolen property from different locations and three people are in custody, with possibly several more arrests to be made. Gill reported he attended the Cemetery Board meeting to discuss the Village Police Department patrolling the cemetery. Gill requested an executive session.

Fire Chief Fain stated they need to replace Jim Welsh on the Fire Pension Board. Councilperson Kimble stated he would serve on the committee.

Mayor Thompson stated Council had a list of new committees for the 2026 calendar year and requested a motion to approve the committees.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to accept Mayor Thompson's committee recommendations as presented for the 2026 calendar year. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Spencer who voted "no".

Councilperson Bethel asked Spencer his reason for voting "no". Spencer stated he did not agree with the Cemetery Board. Council discussed the committees.

Councilperson Danison explained to Council the responsibility of the Fire Pension Board. Danison stated the board is there to decide what benefits are available to the family if there is a fatality of Fire/ EMS personnel.

Councilperson Danison reported on the Cemetery Board meeting. Danison stated Police Chief Gill and Captain Newlon attended the meeting to discuss the Village Police Department patrolling the New Lexington Cemetery. The Cemetery Board agreed that this would be a good thing. Gill stated Attorney Barclay will draw up the paperwork for this to start.

Mayor Thompson stated that the Eagles inquired about putting a blessing box in front of their establishment. Council did not see a problem with this. Thompson will have them contact Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins to discuss the location of the box.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(1) regarding personnel with Council, Mayor and Police Chief present. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:19 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:43 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 Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk