

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
November 4, 2024
5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington met in regular session with Mayor Thompson presiding and the meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Council Members present were Jim Welsh, Ty Danison, Janie DePinto, Debbie Hooper and Dave Pletcher. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill and Finance Director Lewis.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Bethel and Spencer from the November 4, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 21, 2024 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the Caring for Kids Auction, Veterans Extravaganza and Trick or Treat. Thompson stated he attended a meeting with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission at the Perry Count Opportunity Center with a follow up meeting at Village Hall. Thompson stated he observed the grass fire out by Bristol.

Finance Director Lewis presented Council an Ordinance for annual appropriations and Resolutions for setting wages. Lewis stated the 2025 budget is complete and she presented Council a copy for their review. Upon Councils approval the budget will be voted on the last meeting of December 2024. Lewis asked Council which date would be best for the employee luncheon December 18, 2024 or December 11, 2024 at 11:00 am. Council stated either is fine.

Administrator Emmert stated the CO2 tank at the Water Treatment Plant will be installed on November 5, 2024. Emmert reported the paving on Moxahala and Oak Street was completed by McKee Paving today. Emmert stated new roofs have been installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Water Treatment Plant. Emmert informed Council the parking lot at Village Hall will be completed on November 6, 2024. Emmert stated he and Finance Director Lewis have been looking at other options for IT services. Emmert reported Attorney Barclay stated he will have the paperwork at the November 18, 2024 Council meeting for the street that the Village is vacating that is adjacent to Keer automotive.

Police Chief Gill reported that the department had 683 calls for service in the month of October. Gill presented a breakdown of the calls. Gill reviewed the training schedule for the department. Gill stated Trick or Treat and Trunk or Treat went well. Gill stated they are working on a BWC grant for body camaras. Mayor Thompson stated he learned a lot from watching the department fly the drone over the grass fires to help the fire departments.

Councilperson Welsh offered his condolences to Somerset Ohio for the passing of Mayor Johnson.

Mayor Thompson reported on behalf of Fire Chief Fain that the fire department had 51 fire runs in the month of October. Thompson stated the EMS department set a record for revenue from January 2024 – October 2024 of \$57,788.95.

Councilperson DePinto reported on the Finance Committee meetings that were held to discuss the 2025 budget. DePinto stated the raises that the committee recommended should be approved. DePinto stated Dr. Larry Nash has started a Nativity Project to purchase a nativity scene for MacGahan Park. Nash has been receiving donations from members of the community for the purchase. Councilperson DePinto asked if the Village would like to donate. The Nativity Scene will be stored at Village Hall during the year. An account was set up at Peoples State Bank and any donations left over will be given to a charity.

Councilperson Pletcher made a motion for the Village to donate \$1,000 to the Nativity Project. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Hooper stated she was asked by a resident about how dangerous it is to pull out of the new Peoples State Bank Drive-Thru.

Councilperson Hooper asked Administrator Emmert if the Public Service Department could help put lights on the trees at Veterans Memorial Park. Hooper stated some residents have asked her to put white lights on the trees.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 24-11 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 24-11: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TO APPLY FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-11 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-31 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-31: **A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY CONTRACTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-31 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes” except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-34 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-34: **A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 2 OF THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR ERIC EMMERT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-34 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-35 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 29-35: **A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 2 OF THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND VILLAGE FINANCE DIRECTOR CHELSEY LEWIS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 29-35 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-36 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 29-36: **A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 2 OF THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON AND VILLAGE POLICE CHIEF DOUGLAS GILL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 29-36 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-37 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-37: **A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGE RATES FOR THE VILLAGE SWIMMING POOL EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-37 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.


Mayor
Council Clerk