

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
December 16, 2024
5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Bethel from the December 16, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 2, 2024 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the December 2, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Perry County Commissioner Scott Owen addressed Council concerning AED's. Owen stated after witnessing a cardiac arrest at an event and seeing how having an AED in the facility saved this gentleman's life, he would like for the police officers in the County municipalities to have one for their cruisers. Owen stated the County receives opioid money and they have worked with the Perry County Health Department to purchase the AED's. Owen asked Police Chief Gill how many units he would like. Gill stated two would be great. These will be placed in the police cruisers.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the Christmas Parade, Santa-Cade, and the toy drive hosted by the Fire/EMS Department, Police Department and Win-Waste Innovations. Thompson thanked the Public Service Department, Police Department and Fire/EMS Departments for all their hard work for the Christmas Parade.

Finance Director Lewis requested a motion to approve the November financial statements.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the November financial statements. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis presented Council a copy of the 2025 payroll schedule and Ordinance No. 24-13 amending annual appropriations. Lewis informed Council she and Administrator Emmert had a meeting with Attorney Barclay to discuss number of hours worked for part-time employees. Lewis stated Barclay recommended using thirty-two hours for part-time employees. Councilperson DePinto asked if Emmert and Lewis have this recommendation in writing. Emmert stated "no", but he will get it from Attorney Barclay. Lewis presented Council a breakdown of wages for EMS. Lewis stated a lot of part-time employees are working more hours than full-time employees. Council discussed the cost of part-time and full-time employees. Mayor Thompson and Councilperson Danison stated they did not want the department to go backwards from where they are now. Lewis suggested having three more positions full-time. Thompson asked Fain if they could make this happen. Fain stated "yes" and asked how much time he had to do this. Lewis stated it would have to be done immediately due to payroll. Councilperson Welsh asked if the money was there to do this. Lewis presented Council a payment listing, an Ordinance to amend the PPM, and an Ordinance for the permanent budget that has to be submitted to the Perry County Auditor on December 17, 2024. Lewis informed Council the Village has received \$35,111 for logging on Airport Road.

Administrator Emmert presented Council a resolution for him to apply for, accept, and enter into a water pollution control loan fund agreement. Emmert reported the Village applied for another Safe Routes to School grant. Emmert presented Council an Ordinance to vacate Somerset Street. Emmert informed Council there was a major water leak from the new reservoir to the old reservoir. Emmert showed Council a slide show of the

repairs that had to be made for the leak. Emmert stated they had to dig approximately 15.2 feet down to do the repairs. Emmert stated the Public Service Department worked long hours for two days to make the repairs. Emmert informed Council he is having Wilson's give him an estimate for residents to tap into the 10 inch line on S. Main St. Councilperson Hooper asked Emmert about the smell of the water. Emmert stated they have been investigating it and that the water is safe. They perform water testing on a daily basis. Emmert stated he informed the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent to contact the EPA, if need be, to figure out what is going on. Emmert stated it could possibly be from the low water level at the reservoir. Mayor Thompson suggested Hooper ask the Water Treatment Plant superintendent to give her a tour of the Water Treatment Plant so she can have a better understanding of how things work.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins presented Council an update on the number of code inspections. Wilkins informed Council he has submitted nine packets to the attorney to be filed with the courts for code violations and has probably another 10 to 15 that need to be submitted for court. Wilkins stated he and Councilperson Pletcher met with Logan, Ohio Code Enforcement Officer Joe Posey and Logan Police Chief Jerry Mellinger to compare the different processes the department uses for code enforcement. Wilkins stated he and Administrator Emmert met with Attorney Barclay to discuss the court cases.

Police Chief Gill reported Emma Joseph graduated from Hocking College Police Academy on December 7, 2024. She will take her OPOTA test on December 27, 2024. She will start working for the Village once she passes her test. Gill stated Officer Dodd retired on December 13, 2024. Gill gave Council an update on training. Gill stated they hosted the Perry County Police Chiefs meeting on December 4, 2024. Gill stated this meeting was also attended by the FBI and ATF. Gill informed Council Officer Wiseman and Operations Manager Crane attended the G288 and 489 classes and completed them with certificates. Gill informed Council he is working on a Chaplain Unit Program with local churches. The Chaplain's will ride along with an officer to help with non-violent crimes. This is to try and help families. Councilperson DePinto asked Gill to educate her on the training the department attends. Gill stated they have to complete continuing education on a regular basis. Gill stated that any accredited training they get reimbursement for the cost. Gill stated he and Commander Biggers are certified instructors.

Fire Chief Fain stated the Christmas parade and Santa Cade went well. Fain reported he attended the Pike Township meeting and the TAC meeting. Fain reported the toy give away will be on December 19, 2024. Fain stated they were able to help sixty-three children and two other families. Council asked if they work with other organizations so there are no duplicates. Fain stated "yes". They work with families from New Lexington first then they try to help with any other request within the County.

Councilperson Hooper thanked several people for their help with stabilizing the Christmas trees at Veterans Memorial Park.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 24-13 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 24-13: **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. 24-13 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 Ordinance No. 24-14 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 24-14: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-14 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 24-15 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 24-15: **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, 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-15 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 24-16 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Spencer. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 24-16: **ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF SOMERSET STREET IN THE SECOND NORTH WESTERN ADDITION OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, PERRY COUNTY, OHIO.**

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-38 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Spencer. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-38: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATOR EMMERT TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND(WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER OR WATER FACILITIES; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-38 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-39 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-39: **RESOLUTION ASSESSING COST OF WATER AND WASTEWATER CHARGES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-39 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

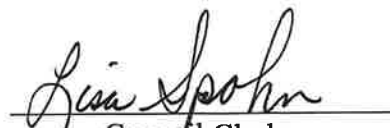
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk