

# VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

June 1, 2026

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 Ty Danison, Dave Pletcher, Dan Bethel, Mike Kimble, Debra Hooper and Janie DePinto. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Fire Chief Fain and Police Chief Gill. Absent was Councilperson Spencer.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Spencer from the June 1, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 18, 2026 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Hooper who abstained due to being absent from the May 18, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported he helped the public service department clean up Memorial Park for the Memorial Day ceremonies. Thompson stated he attended all the ceremonies on Memorial Day in New Lexington and Junction City, the pancake breakfast at the fire department and has been at the pool.

Administrator Emmert stated he received a call from Richard Anderson stating Dr. Haggenjos is retiring after 47 years of practicing medicine in New Lexington. Anderson asked if the Village was going to recognize him in some way. Council decided to invite Dr. Haggenjos to the next Council meeting to be recognized. Emmert reported Richard Kleinert superintendent at the Water Treatment Plant informed him he is going to retire December 19, 2026. Emmert stated Kyle Gabbard, the WTP assistant, has his class III water license so he will be able to take over the position. Emmert informed Council the claim for the swimming pool was denied but is under review and he has requested all documentation on why it was denied. Emmert stated so far, the Village has spent \$33,000 to get the pool ready to open. The pool is scheduled to open June 8, 2026. The pool manager is still looking to hire three more lifeguards. Emmert stated there was a bridge inspection on the E. Water St. bridge and it needs replaced. Emmert was informed there are funds out there to help with this cost, and he is going to start searching to see what is available. Emmert stated the Village will go live with the Regional Income Tax Agency on July 1, 2026. Emmert asked Council if they wanted to put the park levy on the ballot for renewal. Council stated "yes".

Police Chief Gill presented Council an update on code inspections. Gill stated the NLPD Chaplain Unit hosted an officer appreciation cookout on May 26, 2026. Gill gave an update on all the events the department has participated in. Gill stated they will be releasing who was awarded the JAG grant soon. Gill stated the department obtained a search warrant for a residence which resulted in 30K to 40K in seized drugs. They had a traffic stop that resulted in 3.5 grams of meth and an OVI in which they seized a firearm. Gill reported the department had 772 calls for service in May 2026. Gill presented Council a breakdown of the calls. Gill informed Council the MacGahan Festival will be held on June 13, 2026. It will start at 11:00 am at the New Lexington Cemetery.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department hosted the pancake breakfast on Memorial Day and participated in the New Lexington and New Straitsville Memorial Day parades.

Councilperson DePinto gave an update of the Finance Committee meeting held on May 26, 2026. DePinto stated the committee recommends purchasing a new fire truck. DePinto asked Councilperson Danison to inform Council about the truck. Danison stated this truck is smaller so more people will be able to drive it, but it has the same capabilities as the bigger trucks. The cost of the truck with equipment is \$497,085.

Councilperson Kimbel made a motion to purchase a new fire truck. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Councilperson Hooper stated she will be contacting the members of the Municipal Concerns Committee to schedule a meeting.

Mayor Thompson stated two more businesses have contributed to the fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

Councilperson Bethel stated they spoke to Attorney Barclay and he said the quote for the IT hardware is over \$77,000 they would need an emergency motion.

Councilperson Bethel made an emergency motion to suspend the competitive bidding process for the IT hardware. The project is for a total of \$104,500 and this motion is to suspend the bid process. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson DePinto requested an executive session.

Mayor Thompson stated he has a meeting scheduled tomorrow with a group to talk about the opportunity zone.

Fire Chief Fain discussed the software updates to the time clocks and training session on them once this is completed.

Councilperson DePinto stated a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and she wanted to thank Councilperson Kimble for doing electrical work at MacGahan Park, Councilperson Danison and Fire Chief Fain for the work on getting a new fire truck and Councilperson Spencer and his committee for all their work on the parks.

Mayor Thompson asked Administrator Emmert to let people know the bridge on E. Water St. is safe. Once construction begins, it will take two to three years to complete. .

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

Meeting suspended at 6:14 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:48 pm.

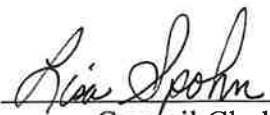
Council person Bethel stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

  
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Mayor

  
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Council Clerk