

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
April 7, 2025
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 Jim Welsh, Debra Hooper, Dave Pletcher, Bob Spencer, Janie DePinto, Dan Bethel and Ty Danison. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 17, 2025 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to being absent from the March 17, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Josh Bowers addressed Council asking to have the security light between the New Lexington Hardware and Perco moved to a different location. Administrator Emmert stated he would meet with him tomorrow at the property to discuss moving the light.

Josh Bowers, John Lindsey and Pastor John Emory addressed Council concerning a water leak at the Baptist Church which was for 282 thousand gallons. The total bill was \$7,793.14. The Church received a sewer credit of \$3,391.31 leaving a balance of \$4,401.83 for the water. They were asking if there was anything the Village could do to help with the cost of the water. Council discussed several options. Administrator Emmert stated he will investigate the cost to the Village for producing the water and bring something back to Council at the next meeting.

Councilperson Welsh requested an executive session.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(3) regarding litigation with Council, Mayor, Administrator, Finance Director, Attorney Barclay and Heidi Milner present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:06 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 7:07 pm.

Councilperson Welsh stated as a result of the executive session Village Attorney Barclay is to proceed with the Ardent dispute per the instructions of Council.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion for Village Attorney Barclay to proceed with the Ardent dispute per the instructions of Council. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported that he attended the annual basketball game between the New Lexington Fire Department and the New Lexington Police Department.

Finance Director Lewis requested a motion to approve the March 2025 financial statements.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the March 2025 financial statements. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Lewis presented Council the March bank reconciliation, payment listing and Resolution 25-7. Lewis stated the State of Ohio Auditors will be in the office on April 16, 17, 18, 2025 to perform the audit. Lewis reported the Village received the first half of the real estate and mobile home tax. Lewis presented Council a report with the breakdown of the fund distribution.

Administrator Emmert reported that the Administrative Assistant position has been posted for the public. Emmert stated he met with Javan Johnson from Troy Balderson’s office last week and the Village did not receive any funding. Emmert stated the Village will apply again next year. Emmert reported phase one of the storm sewer replacement is complete. Emmert stated the EPA will be at the Water Treatment Plant on April 9, 2025 for an inspection. Emmert stated Council is invited to be present during the inspection.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins informed Council the house at 111 Somerset Street (rear) has been demolished. Wilkins stated this brings the total to six vacant structures demolished by owners following the issuance of code violation notices. Wilkins updated Council on the current court cases and legal actions. Wilkins stated he participated in two zoom meetings with the Southeast Ohio Code Group. Wilkins stated he and Councilperson Pletcher will be attending the Southeast Ohio Code Enforcement Group at Hocking College on April 11, 2025.

Police Chief Gill reported 757 calls for service in the month of March 2025. Gill presented Council a breakdown of the calls. Gill stated this is a 14% increase in calls compared to this time last year. Gill reported Officer Dodd returned working full time at the Village and Chad Helser is the new auxiliary officer. Gill presented Council a list of the upcoming trainings for the department and events the department has attended. Gill stated the new radios have been ordered and the newest cruiser has decals and will be outfitted in May. Gill requested an executive session.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department had 27 fire runs in the month of March 2025. Fain reported he attended the PAWS event. Fain stated he emailed the Medicount update to Council.

Councilperson DePinto reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 25, 2025.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 25-6 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-6: **A RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES PER SECTION 721.15 OF THE ORC CHAPTER 7 MUNICIPAL CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-6 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. 25-7 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who voted "no". Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-7: **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HANDLING OF PUBLIC FUNDS AND THE BONDING OF EMPLOYEES IN THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-7 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who voted "no". Motion carried.

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

Meeting suspended at 7:45 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 8:45 pm.

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

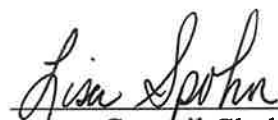
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk