

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
September 15, 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 Dave Pletcher, Bob Spencer, Jim Welsh, Janie DePinto, Dan Bethel, Ty Danison and Debbie Hooper. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Lewis, Fire Chief Fain and Police Chief Gill.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 2, 2025 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Perry County Commissioner Chase Bennett thanked Council for the cooperation from the Village during the Perry County Courthouse renovation. Bennett stated there will be an open house at the Courthouse on October 3, 2025 at noon. Bennett stated he visited Cooper Standard Automotive when he heard they would be shutting down the New Lexington facility. Bennett reported he wanted to speak to someone to try and keep the New Lexington facility open. Bennett stated they had no comment. Bennett reported he has spoken on the phone to several Ohio Representatives to try and keep Cooper Standard in New Lexington. Bennett stated this is a corporate decision and they may have to try and contact someone from their corporate office. Bennett stated he witnessed a car accident last Monday. He called 911 and stayed with the elderly gentleman until the New Lexington Fire and EMS arrived. Bennett stated he wanted to thank the New Lexington and Somerset Fire departments, Administrator Emmert and the New Lexington EMS for doing such a great job. Bennett informed Council he will keep them updated on any new information he may receive about Cooper Standard. Councilperson Bethel informed Bennett the Perry County Commissioners need to meet with first responders in the County to figure out how to better serve the residents of Perry County.

Mayor Thompson reported he attended the Classic Riders bike and car show, Eagles car show and a structure fire in Clover Hill.

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

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the August 2025 financial statements. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis reported she sent a check to the New Lexington Cemetery for \$72,683.48. This is money from the Cemetery Levy fund. Lewis presented Council a resolution to update EMS overtime pay for hours worked.

Administrator Emmert asked Council to set a date for Trick-or-Treat in the Village. Council decided Trick-or-Treat would be held on Thursday, October 30, 2025 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Emmert informed Council Brown Street will be down to one lane the morning of September 18, 2025 for them to bring the cannon back to the courthouse lawn. Emmert stated a tentative date of September 29, 2025 has been set for McKee Paving to start work. Councilperson Hooper asked

members of the Municipal Concerns committee what a good time would be to meet to discuss the alley between Maple Heights and Highland Dr. and the suggestion from a resident to make the area around Church St., Walnut St. and Sunset Lane one way. Members of the committee decided they would go individually to look at the areas and report back to Hooper since there was not a time they could all meet. Emmert reported there will be a Fire Chiefs meeting at Village Hall on October 1, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins reported several properties with issues are in the process of being sold and hopes once the new owners take possession there will be improvements. Wilkins stated he has several code violation cases going to court on October 1, 2025. Wilkins stated he attended the Ohio Code Enforcement Official Association meeting on September 11, 2025. Wilkins stated the meeting was very productive with discussions about various code and zoning issues impacting communities.

Police Chief Gill presented Council an update on the department's training and events. Gill stated the new body cameras arrived today and will be in use soon. Gill reported that the department applied for an additional JAG grant and are waiting for the award announcement. Gill stated Ultimate Family Day will be held on September 20, 2025 at Arethusa Springs Park from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Gill stated they will be launching the Blue Envelope Program this week with the Board of DD. Envelopes will be available at the New Lexington Police Department and the Board of DD office, along with other locations throughout the county.

Fire Chief Fain reported the department has been very busy the past few weeks. Fain updated Council on the events the department has attended. Fain stated they are going to be very busy with all the upcoming events in the next few months that the department participates in.

Administrator Emmert reported the reservoir is rapidly dropping again due to the lack of rain. Emmert stated he visited Burr Oak Water Treatment Plant with Jim Stroup and Perry County Commissioner Bennett to discuss future connections. Councilperson Hooper stated a resident asked if any picnic tables were going to be put in the new shelter house at the reservoir. Emmert stated that Jenny LaRue is going to help put more benches at the reservoir. Emmert stated he will get two picnic tables for the shelter house. Councilperson DePinto asked if there were any updates about the Brownfield project. Emmert stated Heidi stated there is currently nothing to report. Emmert will ask Heidi to attend the next council meeting. Finance Director Lewis stated there will be a memorial for Charlie Kirk on September 21, 2025 at Arethusa Springs Park at 5:00 pm with Pastor Emory as the guest speaker.

Councilperson Spencer reported on the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting held on September 4, 2025. Spencer stated it was very informative. Councilperson DePinto asked what information was discussed. Spencer stated the Story Book Trail at the reservoir, Mindfulness Trail at the park and the disc golf course. Spencer stated Jenny LaRue from the Perry County Health Department was in attendance and had a lot of good information for the committee.

Finance Director Lewis reported she contacted the State of Ohio about the Village records retention. Lewis stated they said the last one filed was in 1985 and this was an issue. Lewis stated she is working on getting the information to get this updated.

Councilperson Spencer reported on the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting held on September 8, 2025. Spencer stated the primary focus was on updating ordinances for zoning laws and zoning requirements for tiny houses. Spencer stated they will hold another meeting at the end of September.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 25-14 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted “yes” except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-14: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF OVERTIME TO EMS EMPLOYEES AFTER 96 HOURS IN A 14-DAY WORK PERIOD, EXCEEDING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT (FLSA), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson DePinto made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-14 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel All Council voted “yes” except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 25-12 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-12: **A RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES, FURNITURE, VEHICLES, MOWERS, AND PUMPS.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-12 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. 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 6:32 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk