

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
May 18, 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, Janie DePinto and Bob Spencer. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Finance Director Lewis, Fire Chief Fain and Police Chief Gill. Absent was Councilperson Debra Hooper.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Hooper from the May 18, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 4, 2026 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Kelly Clapper addressed Council about the Villages status as a Tree City USA. Clapper stated he has been a certified arborist for 45 years. Clapper stated he has been helping the Tree Commission. Clapper informed Council that the Village of New Lexington has been a Tree City USA for 36 years and that they are on the verge of losing this status. Clapper stated there is a three-year plan in place and that the Village is on time with every aspect of the plan except for we are failing to plant trees. Clapper reported that in the last 10 years only 25 trees have been planted and 14 of them were donated. This leaves the Village planting one tree per year. Clapper stated ODNR will not accept this. Clapper asked Council to please support the Village and Community by planting trees. Clapper proposed the Village plant 10 trees per year so we can keep the status of a Tree City USA. Clapper stated he has a list of approved trees to be planted for whatever area the tree is planted. Mayor Thompson asked Clapper what he proposed Council do to help. Clapper asked that the Village invest \$4,000 a year for the next 3 years to plant 10 trees per year.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion for the Village to commit to planting 10 trees per year for the next 3 years starting immediately. Seconded by Councilperson Kimble. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Clapper stated the Village has a great Public Service Department who is always willing to help him in any way they can. Councilperson Pletcher asked Clapper about the trees at MacGahan Park. Clapper stated he went and looked at the area today. Clapper stated he spoke with Mayor Thompson and recommended just trimming the trees for now. Clapper stated the Village has a tree ordinance and they need to follow it. Administrator Emmert thanked Kelly and his wife Margarette for the amazing job they have done since getting involved with the Tree Commission.

Mayor Thompson reported he has spent time at the swimming pool and the MacGahan Park project.

Finance Director Lewis requested a motion to approve the April 2026 financial statements.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the April 2026 financial statements. Seconded by Councilperson Kimble. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewins presented Council a payment listing and an Ordinance to amend appropriations.

Administrator Emmert informed Council Dave Ratliff is stepping down as the pool manager. Emmert asked for a motion to hire Quincee McCord for the position.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to hire Quincee McCord for the 2026 swimming pool manager. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert stated they hope to have the pool ready to open next week. They are filling the pool today. Emmert reported that all leaks have been repaired. Emmert stated our insurance company is fighting us on the claim for the water leak caused by the extreme cold temperatures this winter. The Village representative from Public Entities Pool is working with us on the claim. The cost of repairing everything is \$180,000. Emmert reported he was notified by Troy Balderson's office that the Village did not receive any grant money this year for sewer. Emmert presented Council a letter from the Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control asking if the Village wanted a hearing about the transfer of the liquor license from HJR Newlon LTD to G&G Food Mart LLC.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion not to request a hearing for the transfer of the liquor license from HJR Newlon LTD to G&G Food Mart LLC. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert stated they will be starting on the fluoride building at the Water Treatment Plant in a few weeks. They are still working on the sludge press at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Emmert stated they are still trying to secure funding for the mechanical bar screen at the WWTP. Emmert reported they are securing funding for the critical waterline improvements on Carroll Street, S. Main Street, Broadway St. and Lincoln St. Emmert stated we are about 4 weeks away for the full conversion of the income tax to the Regional Income Tax Agency. The Hometown Hero Banners will start going up tomorrow. Any aluminum banners purchased after today will not be done in time to be hung up before Memorial Day. Emmert stated they will be resurfacing the basketball court at Madison Park with grant money received. Emmert reported Acadis Company will be pot holing for lead and copper lines. Emmert stated Administrative Assistant Browning participated in the town cleanup and stated it went well.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins reported he has been placing high grass letters on doors. Some people have been taking care of the issue, but others have been ignoring the letter, and he may have to send official letters for all code violations. Wilkins presented Council an update on the code enforcement court cases and demolitions. Wilkins stated there is an appeals hearing scheduled after the Council meeting tonight.

Police Chief Gill reported Cody Palmer started on May 6, 2026. Gill presented Council an update on the department's training and events. Gill stated that narcotics which were obtained from several traffic stops will be taken to the lab

Fire Chief Fain stated the department along with the American Red Cross installed smoke alarms on Lincoln Street this past weekend. Fain requested a finance committee meeting to discuss a new fire truck. Fain requested an executive session.

Councilperson DePinto gave an update on the Finance Committee meeting held on May 11, 2026. DePinto stated Council has a quote from MAPSYS for IT. DePinto scheduled a Finance Committee Meeting on May 26, 2026 at 5:30 pm at Village Hall.

Councilperson Spencer reported on the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting that was held May 11, 2026 with representatives from the Perry County Health Department, Administrator Emmert and Administrative Assistant Browning. They discussed improvements to Madison Park.

Fire Chief Fain presented Council a spreadsheet with a quote from MAPSYS. Fain recommends having MAPSYS do this. Fain stated at the end of the year if the Village chooses to have someone else for IT support for the Village, we will keep all the equipment. Finance Director Lewis stated the cost of this will hit the general fund hard. Lewis stated the budget for the Police Department that Police Chief Gill submitted for the year does not include the money for replacing the equipment in the server room. Administrator Emmert stated anything over \$75,000 must be bid out.

Councilperson DePinto made a motion to move forward with MAPSYS to upgrade the server room. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson DePinto asked Councilperson Bethel to explain Sunshine Laws to Council.

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 Council Clerk present. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:42 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:45 pm.

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

Meeting suspended at 6:47 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 7:12 pm.

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

Councilperson Pletcher made a motion to pay Jim Fain \$1,100 a month stipend for IT consultation. Seconded by Councilperson Kimble. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 26-7 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 26-7: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TO APPLY FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 26-7 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 26-3 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 26-3: **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-3 as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Pletcher stated he and the mayor have been discussing running lights across Main Street to enhance the Village.

Councilperson Pletcher made a motion to put lights across the street. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

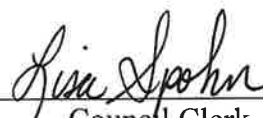
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk