

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

September 16, 2024

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 Jim Welsh, Dan Bethel, Ty Danison, Janie DePinto, Debbie Hooper and Bob Spencer. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Pletcher.

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

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 3, 2024 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson stated he attended the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Fall Festival.

Administrator Emmert reported paving at the park started today. Emmert asked Council for permission to fix the parking lot at the Village Administration Building. Emmert stated last year \$30,000 was approved for the parking lot. Emmert reported he spoke to Finance Director Lewis and if they split the cost of repairs to the parking lot from the five departments in the administration building, they would still need \$25,000 out of the general fund. Emmert reported he has three quotes.

Councilperson DePinto made a motion to use \$25,000 from the general fund to repair the parking lot at the administration building. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert reported the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant roofs are leaking. Emmert stated he received an estimate of \$60,000 to \$80,000 and \$43,500 for the roof at the Water Treatment Plant. The estimate to repair the roof at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is \$15,000.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to repair the roof at the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Emmert stated the reservoir is really low. He is going to post on the Village Facebook page and website and ask residents to conserve water. Councilperson Hooper expressed her concerns on how dangerous the intersection of West Brown Street and State Street is. Emmert stated to do it right they would need a traffic study. Emmert is going to ask Kleinfelder for an estimate to do a traffic study.

Kenny Wilson and Eric Hutchins from Keer Automotive addressed Council about vacating a street that was never in use from years ago so they can expand their business by building more service bays. Wilson stated that Keer owns the property around the street, and they have maintained it for years. Wilson stated by expanding their business it will add more employees. Wilson stated they like the location of their business in New Lexington and would like to stay here, but with the growth of the business they need to expand. Mayor Thompsons thinks it is a good idea to vacate the street. Councilperson Bethel stated there is a process that needs to be followed when vacating a street. Administrator Emmert stated he thinks the Village should vacate the street. Emmert stated there is a process and he will contact Attorney Barclay.

Councilperson DePinto made a motion to move forward with getting a legal opinion on vacating a street. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins presented Council an update on code enforcement. Wilkins stated three structures have been torn down and several properties are actively being worked on by homeowners. Wilkins

stated he will gladly work with anyone who is trying to resolve their code issues. Wilkins stated he is waiting on the Village solicitor to file a court case on one of the properties. Once the process he is using is approved by the solicitor he will have more court cases.

Police Chief Gill presented Council with an update on the departments training. Gill stated he participated in a focus group for the health department on disparities within the county. Gill reported this is car seat safety week. There will be a booster seat check in New Lexington on September 20, 2024. Gill stated he and Commander Biggers met with the New Lexington CSD and School Resource Officers for operations planning for this school year. Gill and Biggers attended several other events. Gill reported the kennel has been installed in unit four. Gill stated they have two college students who will be working with the department. Councilperson DePinto asked Gill how the meeting went with the school. Gill stated it went well. Gill stated he and Commander Biggers will be doing active shooter training with the staff at the New Lexington CSD. Gill gave an update on upcoming events and the events they have attended.

Fire Chief Fain reported the department hosted the ceremony for 9-11. Fain stated they attended the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Fall Festival. Fain stated the department received a grant from the Shriners for \$1873.50 for EMS equipment.

Councilperson Bethel informed Council the Health Department is purchasing paint for the tennis court and he is paying to have someone paint it. Bethel stated they are also going to paint pickleball lines on the court so it can be used for tennis and pickleball. Administrator Emmert stated Jenny LaRue from the Health Department is working on a Mindfulness Trail at the park.

Councilperson Hooper asked Administrator Emmert if the electric at Veterans Memorial Park is ready to decorate for Christmas. Emmert stated the electrician stated they should use LED lights.

Councilperson Spencer asked about the police patrolling residential areas and how many speed limit signs there were in these areas. Police Chief Gill stated there are not a lot of speed limit signs in the residential areas. Councilperson Bethel asked if the Village was all one speed limit and Gill stated it needs to be posted. Administrator Emmert stated there are 91 streets in the Village.

Administrator Emmert stated they are working on updating the meters to drive by readings.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 24-26 as a first reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Bethel who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried. Resolution No. 24-26: **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.**

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk