

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
June 15, 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, Debra Hooper, Janie DePinto and Bob Spencer. Also present were Finance Director Lewis, Fire Chief Fain and Police Chief Gill. Absent was Councilperson Kimble.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to excuse Councilperson Kimble from the June 15, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 1, 2026 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Spencer who abstained due to being absent from the June 1, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Spencer introduced the Parks and Recreation committee members to Council. Spencer thanked them for all the work they have been doing to improve the parks in the village and helping the 4th of July committee with the 4th of July celebration. Councilperson DePinto asked if the Parks and Recreation committee would be taking over the 4th celebration next year. Spencer stated "yes". Councilperson Hooper stated since it is the 250th anniversary maybe some of the businesses could be contacted to get them to participate in the parade.

Mayor Thompson stated he had a meeting with the Center for Appalachian Innovation. Thompson reported he attended all the festivities for the MacGahan Festival and the flag ceremony held by the ELKS at the fairgrounds.

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

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

Lewis presented Council a memo regarding the financing of the new fire truck. Lewis informed Council Peoples State Bank, and the Village Solicitor recommended a bond loan instead of a traditional loan. Lewis stated a motion was made at the last meeting to suspend the bidding for IT but a second motion is needed to approve the project after competitive bidding was suspended.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to move forward with IT purchase after bidding was suspended. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis presented Council Resolution No. 26-4 regarding a new position in the Police Department. Lewis stated Sue Boyle asked on behalf of the VFW Women's organization if the Village would purchase a flag to drape over a casket that is being donated by Wiley Funeral Home to hold a silent watch in front of the Fire Department on September 11, 2026. This watch

is to bring awareness to the escalation of Veteran suicides. They chose this date due to September being suicide awareness month.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to purchase a flag for the VFW Women's organization for the silent watch being held on September 11, 2026. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Lewis informed Council Kristin is not going to be able to do the Council Clerk position when Council Clerk Spohn retires. Lewis presented Council the payment listing.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins presented Council an update on the high grass and trash issues. Wilkins stated the next court date for code violations is July 22, 2026. Wilkins stated he attended the OCEAO meeting held on June 4, 2026 and the land bank meeting held on June 11, 2026.

Police Chief Gill reported he had a meeting with the New Lexington CSD concerning the School Resource Officers. The school stated they did not have the funds to keep two officers. Gill stated he is going to hire Officer Abram to work in the department as the Community Relations Sergeant Position. Gill presented Council an update on the department's training and events. Gill stated they were finally notified that the JAG equipment grant awarded to the department was \$18,000. However, this grant has not yet been funded to the State of Ohio, so they are still in a holding pattern regarding using the funding. Gill stated several seized suspected narcotics items were taken to London for processing along with a phone connected with a trafficking case. The field drug test that was ordered has been received and already used in first case. Gill reported he had a meeting with Pike TWP trustees about patrolling the cemetery. They are going to speak to the Prosecutor's Office about having an MOU (memorandum of understanding) drafted. Gill stated the Village needs an Ordinance with guidelines pertaining to charitable solicitation in the roadways. Gill informed Council that HB948 was introduced concerning having to have an endorsement to ride an electric scooter or bicycle. This would require you to be 16 years old.

Fire Chief Fain reported he attended the MacGahan festivities and the flag ceremony at the fairgrounds. Fain stated they need to make sure the field where they set off fireworks on the 4th of July is mowed and gravel put down. Mayor Thompson stated the Public Service Department will have a dump truck with gravel ready if it is needed. Fain stated he was called over the weekend because the server was going in and out. Fain requested a job description for what he is going to be responsible for with IT. Mayor Thompson stated he thought this would need to be put in a resolution. Councilperson Spencer stated it would need to be a resolution since they are creating a new job position. Mayor Thompson stated he would have it at the next meeting.

Councilperson DePinto gave an update of the Finance Committee meeting held on June 15, 2026. DePinto stated the meeting was to discuss the School Resource Officers and the Public Service Departments need for a new bucket truck. The current truck can't be repaired. Finance Director Lewis stated the Public Service Department had budgeted for a new pick-up truck, so they are going to use the money for the bucket truck. Police Chief Gill stated he wanted to hire SRO Abram full-time in the department. He stated he and Finance Director Lewis went over his

budget for the year and right now he can do it. Council discussed the new position. Lewis presented Council a memorandum pertaining to the new police position.

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

Councilperson Spencer stated the Parks and Recreation Committee applied for an Appalachian Grant through the County to help purchase playground equipment for the parks to go along with the Natures Works Grant that the Village has received. Spencer stated Wednesday will be the last meeting before the 4th of July. Mayor Thompson stated he received a donation from Randy Moore Petroleum and Park National Bank towards the purchase of fireworks for the 4th of July celebration.

Mayor Thompson stated he has the proclamation for Dr. Haggenjos but is having trouble getting in touch with him. Thompson stated a parent of the 12U girls' softball team asked him to host a parade for the girls since they won the state championship. Thompson reported he could have them come to a Council meeting and receive a proclamation, but he could not host a parade. Finance Director Lewis suggested they participate in the 4th of July parade to be recognized for this great achievement.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 26-4 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 26-4: **A RESOLUTUION SETTING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY CONTRACTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-4 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

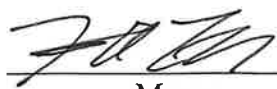
Councilperson Danison asked if they needed a motion to move forward with the financing of the fire truck. Finance Director Lewis stated "yes".

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to move forward with financing the fire truck. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried.

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 6:28 PM.


Mayor


Council/Clerk