

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
January 21, 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, Ty Danison, Debra Hooper, Dave Pletcher and Bob Spencer. Also, present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent were Councilpersons Dan Bethel and Janie DePinto.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilpersons Bethel and DePinto from the January 21, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 16, 2024 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Spencer. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Hooper made a motion for Councilperson DePinto to serve as Council President for the 2025 calendar year. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported on the state of the Village budget. Thompson stated the budget is in great shape. Thompson gave a breakdown of the revenue and expenses for each department.

Finance Director Lewis stated all employee W2's have been mailed. Lewis requested a motion to approve the December financial statement.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the December 2024 financial statements. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Administrator Emmert presented Council with a list of completed projects for calendar year 2024. This list includes infrastructure projects, public facilities projects, special projects and awarded grants. Emmert gave Council a breakdown of revenue from water delinquencies and income tax delinquencies for calendar year 2024. Emmert stated we finally received the blacktop box that was ordered. Emmert stated Finance Director Lewis, Administrative Assistant Saffell, Water Clerk Towning and Income Tax Clerk Spohn do a great job of running the administration offices. Emmert presented Council with two Resolutions. Emmert stated he has been working with the EPA directly to correct the water issues. Emmert reported the discoloration of the water and the water smell have been fixed. Emmert stated there are two water leaks, but due to the weather conditions the public service department will repair them on January 23, 2025. Emmert stated the EPA stated it is the Villages job to put out safe water and according to them with the testing that is being done the water is safe. The EPA will be doing a tour of the Water Treatment Plant. Emmert stated he and Finance Director Lewis would like to remove Village Facebook. Emmert stated there is a Village App and Website to receive information. Council stated they can just turn off the comments on the page. Councilperson Hooper addressed her concerns about the water. Emmert stated everything has been fixed. Councilperson Welsh asked about the Carroll Street Corridor project. Emmert stated it will now be included in the Broadway Streetscape project which will begin in 2026. Councilperson Spencer inquired about speed limit signs within the Village. Emmert stated he and Police Chief Gill will drive around the Village to see what signs need replaced.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins presented Council a year end update on code enforcement for calendar year 2024. Wilkins stated a house on N. High Street was condemned. The interior conditions of the house were discovered when Officer Moore was doing a wellness check and he and the occupant were transported to the emergency room for carbon monoxide exposure. Wilkins stated with the help of the Columbus Code Enforcement Department he was able to contact the owner of the property who came to New Lexington to meet with him the next day. Wilkins stated in 2024 the total number of new cases was 96 with 55 of those cases still

open and compliance was achieved in 43% of cases. Wilkins informed Council he will attend the Ohio Code Enforcement Officers quarterly meeting in February. Wilkins stated he was asked by the Ohio Health Department to make a presentation to state and county health department employees from across the state at their conference in March.

Police Chief Gill stated Emma Joseph started employment on January 7, 2025 and is currently in field training. Gill reviewed the different training the department is doing and several meetings he and Commander Biggers have attended. Gill stated on January 28, 2025 there will be a Point-in-Time count for people experiencing homelessness in New Lexington. Gill informed Council they have established a Chaplin Unit Program. One of the Chaplin's is currently working with a family. Gill reported 706 calls for service in the month of December. Gill presented Council with a breakdown of the calls. Councilperson Spencer commended the department for their presence within the Village. Spencer stated he has received many positive comments about the patrols the department is doing.

Fire Chief Fain reported 2,460 calls for service for calendar year 2024. EMS had 2,070 EMS runs with a 60% transport rate and 390 fire runs. Fain stated the fire roster is at its highest. They have thirty-one fire card holders. Fain reported they will be implementing their largest tool for rope rescue equipment. The department will begin training soon. Fain stated EMS has expanded their training.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 25-1 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-1: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER KIRK BROS. CO., INC. FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-1 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 25-2 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-2: **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, OF OHIO, SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-2 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 24-16 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No. 24-16: **ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF SOMERSET STREET IN THE SECOND NORTH WESTERN ADDITION OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, PERRY COUNTY, OHIO.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-16 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. 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 6:30 PM.


Mayor


Council Clerk