

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
March 17, 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, Debra Hooper, Dave Pletcher, Bob Spencer, Janie DePinto and Dan Bethel. Also present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain. Absent was Councilperson Danison.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to excuse Councilperson Danison from the March 17, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 3, 2025 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson DePinto who abstained due to being absent from the March 3, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Heidi Milner presented Council an update of the LEMPCO project. Milner stated two bid items are still outstanding. Milner stated the property can be developed for anything that does not require a basement. Milner requested an executive session.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(3) regarding litigation with Council, Mayor, Administrator and Heidi Milner present. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 5:40 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:14 pm.

Councilperson Welsh stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion that if an extension has not been signed by Ardent LLC as of March 17, 2025 the Village wishes not to continue with the contract. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported that he attended the annual meeting at the Health Department.

Finance Director Lewis presented Council the February bank reconciliation and payment listing. Lewis requested a motion to approve the February 2025 financial statements.

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

Administrator Emmert presented Council a Resolution for Ohio NatureWorks and a Resolution for Safe Routes to School. Emmert reported Kelly Clapper has been removing trees on E. Brown Street and will start removing them on Tunnel Hill Road this week. Emmert stated the traffic light on Main Street by Walnut Street has been removed. Emmert stated he and Police Chief Gill performed a speed limit sign audit and found sixty-six 25 mph signs, two 35 mph signs and four 5 mph signs need replaced. Emmert stated they will be doing a stop sign audit next. Emmert stated Bill Patton signed the easement for the work that needs done on Walnut Street. Emmert stated the pre- construction meeting for the Wastewater Treatment Plant is March 18, 2025.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins presented Council an update on code enforcement properties. Wilkins stated two properties are scheduled for court on March 19, 2025 with four properties awaiting court scheduling. Several other cases have been deferred due to pending owner compliance. Wilkins stated two properties have been demolished. Wilkins informed Council he presented an hour-long session on Code Enforcement to over 150 Ohio Health Department employees at the Midwest Conference.

Police Chief Gill stated School Resource Officer Abram and therapy dog Lexi completed OPOTA Therapy Dog Training. Gill reported multiple officers completed ICS 100, ICS 200, and ICS 800 training which is required for any future FEMA reimbursements. Gill reported on several other training courses the department is attending. Gill updated Council on several events he attended. Gill reported the Perry County Tribune is going to do an article on K9 Lexi. Gill reminded everyone of the upcoming basketball game between the New Lexington Police Department and the New Lexington Fire Department. Gill stated Attorney General Yost will be playing with the police department. Gill stated the department is working on quotes for new body-worn cameras. They should find out this month if they are a recipient for the state BWC grant.

Fire Chief Fain stated he attended the Safe Community and Tac meeting. Fain reported the department is ready for the basketball game. Councilperson Spencer asked Fain if he had copies of the Medicount report he received last meeting. Fain stated he would e-mail them to Council.

Administrator Emmert reported Representatives from Balderson's office will be visiting the Village on April 1, 2025 at 8:00 am.

Councilperson DePinto reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 17, 2025.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 25-4 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-4: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON FOR THE OHIO NATUREWORKS GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-4 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. 25-5 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Welsh. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-5: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR**

AND/OR VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO SUBMIT TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE MILL STREET STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE I, PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilperson Pletcher made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-5 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 25-3 as a second reading. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance No 25-3: **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT FOR THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON, OHIO.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 25-3 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Hooper. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk