

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 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, Bob Spencer, Dan Bethel and Janie DePinto. Also, present were Administrator Emmert, Police Chief Gill, Finance Director Lewis, and Fire Chief Fain.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2025 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Jenny LaRue addressed Council to discuss the Perry County Transit zero loop for the Village of New Lexington. Currently there are six stops in the Village that loops to Somerset and back to the Village. This takes approximately two hours. LaRue stated she would like to stop going to Somerset and add more stops in the Village to make it more efficient. Zero loop is zero cost and zero emissions. LaRue stated she would like to start the route at 6:00 am to help residents get back and forth to work. LaRue stated if these services are not utilized, the program could lose the funding. LaRue stated that the zero loop is different than transit.

Mayor Thompson reported he has been assisting the Public Service Department in trying to locate water leaks.

Finance Director Lewis reported she has completed closing out the 2024 calendar year. Lewis presented Council an Ordinance for amending the fees for emergency medical services. Lewis stated they decided to stay with the same medical insurance that we currently have, which is Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Lewis stated there is a 12% increase.

Administrator Emmert informed Council they had Water Leak Locators come to the Village last week to look for water leaks and nothing was found. Emmert stated the Highland Dr. water tower is back up to 17 feet and the Airport Road tower is back up to 19 feet. Emmert stated by next week they should be back to normal. Emmert presented Council a Resolution for the Surface Transportation Block Grant. Emmert reported he attended the Buckeye Hills meeting, and the Village was the number one selection out of five in the area for the OPWC funding. This will be forwarded on to the State of Ohio for selection. If selected this money will be used for the new mechanical bar screen at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Emmert informed Council Administrative Assistant Saffell submitted her resignation effective May 2, 2025

Police Chief Gill presented Council with updates on Code Enforcement and trainings. Gill reported on the results of the Point-in-Time count that the department participated in on January 28, 29, 2025. Gill stated there were thirty homeless people within the county. Gill stated they are preparing for the upcoming basketball fundraiser on March 21, 2025. Gill informed Council they had 750 calls for service in January 2025. Gill presented Council a breakdown of the calls. Gill stated the department will be receiving a reimbursement check for \$8,481.74 for training. Gill stated they have assisted in locating

water leaks with the drone. Gill reported they made progress on a major case resulting in a search warrant and arrest of all suspects involved on multiple felony charges.

Fire Chief Fain reported EMS had 37 fire runs for the month of January. Fain stated he attended the Drug Coalition meeting. Fain reported he and Police Chief Gill have been working with the Public Service Department using the drone to look for water leaks. Fain stated that the Southeastern Ohio magazine has contacted him to report on the Villages drone program. Fain reported a healthy baby girl was delivered by the EMS crew in the medic.

Councilperson Spencer asked about the committees for the 2025 calendar year. Council President DePinto stated she was going to keep the committee members the same as last year. Mayor Thompson asked Council Clerk Spohn to bring the list of the committees to the next Council meeting.

Councilperson Welsh reported he spoke with several of the Chaplain's in the new Chaplain Unit Program with the police department. Welsh stated they said they were very impressed with the officers they are riding with. Welsh stated Broadway Street is looking very dirty. Mayor Thompson agreed and said maybe in the spring they could get some cleanup done.

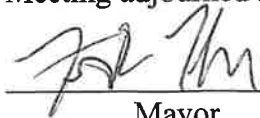
Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 25-1 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 25-1: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 20-2, "PROVIDING FEES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY."** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 25-1 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Councilperson Welsh made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution No. 25-3 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Bethel. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Resolution No. 25-3: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO SUBMIT TO THE BUCKEY HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE THORN STREET FAIRGROUND MULTI-USE TRAIL PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Welsh made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-3 as read. Seconded by Councilperson Pletcher. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

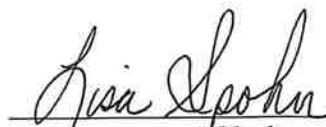
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk