

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEETING

April 6, 2026

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 Ty Danison, Debra Hooper, Dave Pletcher, Janie DePinto, Dan Bethel, Mike Kimble and Bob Spencer. Also present were Finance Director Lewis, Fire Chief Fain and Police Chief Gill.

Councilperson Danison made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 16, 2026 meeting as read. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Thompson reported he attended the Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Perry County Community Club at Arethusa Springs Park.

Finance Director Lewis presented Council with the payment listing and Ordinance 26- 5 amending appropriations.

Code Enforcement Officer Wilkins reported he has been leaving cards on doors asking people to mow before things get out of control. Wilkins stated they have another court hearing on May 6, 2026. Wilkins reported he has been working with Demo Don to tear down several vacant structures. Wilkins stated Jenifer Lewis at 405 Mill Street requested an appeal for her property to be exempt from property maintenance codes. This is the 2nd attempt at an appeals meeting with her. It is scheduled for April 6, 2026 after the regular council meeting. Wilkins stated he attended the Southeast Ohio Code meeting on March 25, 2026 and there is a land bank board meeting this Thursday.

Police Chief Gill stated the department had 817 total calls for service in March 2026. Gill presented Council a breakdown of the calls. Gill reported they have two students from Tri-County doing an internship with the Village until the end of the school year. Gill stated they hired Darbie Harris for the part time operations manager. Gill presented Council an update on the department's training, evidence and events. Gill stated a young man was in an accident on an e-scooter in the Village on a State Highway. Gill stated he investigated the laws for e-scooters in Ohio and Council can change some of these laws. Mayor Thompson suggested hosting a town meeting to get the residents' opinions on e-scooters. All council agreed this was a good idea. Gill will work on setting something up.

Fire Chief Fain stated the department has been very busy in the month of March with all the weather issues. Fain stated they had 43 fire runs in March. Fain stated they attended the Easter Egg Hunt at Arethusa Springs Park.

Councilperson Spencer asked Mayor Thompson to approve Hannah Barnett as a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Mayor Thompson approved. Spencer stated the committee is working with the 4th of July committee so the Parks and Recreation Committee can take over the 4th of July celebration in 2027. Mayor Thompson thanked Spencer for his work with the Parks and Recreation Committee. Spencer stated they have been working with Jenny LaRue from the Perry County Health Department on getting grants for the Village and other projects.

Mayor Thompson stated he received a donation from the New Lexington Eagles for the 4th of July fireworks in the Village. Thompson thanked them for their donation. Thompson stated they received the first piece of aluminum that a banner would go on, and Public Service Director Ross is working with it to see if it will work.

Mayor Thompson stated he would like Councils approval for Josh Castro to fix up MacGahan Park. The cost to upgrade areas of the park would be \$9,500. Thompson stated he has received a donation of \$5,000 for this project. This leaves the cost to the Village of \$4,500. Council discussed the project and agreed to move forward.

Councilperson Kimble made a motion for Josh Castro to restore MacGahan Park at a cost of \$4,500. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel requested an executive session.

Councilperson Bethel made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 26-5 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson DePinto. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Danison who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 26-5: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TO APPLY FOR AN ANMENDED CERTIFICATE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Councilperson Bethel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 26-5 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 Bethel made a motion to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22(G)(3) with Council and the Mayor present. Seconded by Councilperson Danison. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting suspended at 6:25 pm for executive session.

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

Meeting resumed at 6:40 pm.

Council person Bethel stated no decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

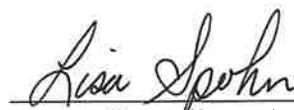
Mayor Thompson entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.



Mayor



Council Clerk