

**VILLAGE OF NEW LEBANON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
August 6, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Nickerson. The invocation was given by Mayor Nickerson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**VERBAL ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Council Members:**

Timothy L. Back	Present
Gale B. Joy	Present
Lyndon Perkins	Present
Melissa Sexton	Present
Charles Cooper	Present
Nicole Adkins	Present
David Nickerson	Present

**Others Present:**

Fire Chief Keyser
Acting Manager Anderson
Interim Law Director McNamee

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Approval of the July 15, 2024, special meeting minutes. Council Member Sexton made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2024, Special Meeting. Council Member Back seconded.

6 yes votes and 1 no vote, minutes were approved.

- Approval of the July 16, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Council Member Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2024, Regular Meeting. Council Member Sexton seconded.

6 yes votes and 1 no vote, minutes were approved.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council member Back confirmed with the Acting Village Manager that he was looking into time clocks and a work order system for the Service department.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**PROCLAMATION** – A Proclamation Declaring August 6, 2024, as Firefighter Steve Kautz Day in the Village of New Lebanon.

Mayor Nickerson invited Firefighter Kautz to the podium to read the proclamation in its entirety, accompanied by Fire Chief Keyser.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joshua Farley, 136 Bronwood, inquired into complaints he has filed against police officers and the process to investigate the complaints.

Natasha Farley, 136 Bronwood, congratulated new Council member Cooper and asked Council member Joy for clarification on the reason for his “no” vote on approving meeting minutes. Mrs. Farley expressed her frustration with Council member Joy for not responding to citizens, wanting him removed, and asked that he help move the town forward.

Shannon Bemis, 130 Bronwood, stated she emailed Council member Joy and did not receive a reply. Mrs. Bemis also asked for clarification on the reason for his “no” vote on approving meeting minutes. She expressed her disappointment with Council member Joy being paid and not participating as an elected official, stating it is a disservice.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COMMENTS**

Fire Chief Keyser reminded everyone about the ceremony on August 24th at the fire department and wanting to utilize the parking lot at the court and municipal building. Chief Keyser stated there have been several fires during the week and a citizen wrote a thank you letter that he read to the council. Chief Keyser informed the council that all permits, and necessary paperwork, are complete for fireworks at Saturday’s event. Chief Keyser stated his department is ready and they will be helping with inspections of

rides, food vendors, and fireworks. The fire department will also have a tent at the event giving out free carbon monoxide detectors.

Law director, Mr. McNamee stated there will be an executive session at the end of the meeting.

### **MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

Acting Village Manager Anderson informed the council that the Blosser Street curbing on Comer Court will be started within the next week and all property owners have been notified. The annual tire recycling event will be on Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 9 a.m-3:30 p.m. Mr. Anderson commended the service workers for replacing broken fence rails and updating the parking lot lighting at Don Rusk Park. He informed the council that carnival rides are starting to arrive for the upcoming event, A Day at the Park. Mr. Anderson informed the council that there are multiple vacant positions within the village and will be emailing them an update with the applicants. He also discussed his desire to rebuild trust by having a more public process in hiring.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Council member Cooper stated he has been by the community garden, and it looks great, is excited for the event on Saturday, and expressed his appreciation for our first responders. Mr. Cooper also mentioned how nice the pond looks and it's nice to see improvements.

Council member Sexton asked who put on the fishing derby in the past and it was stated it was done by the Rotary club. Mrs. Sexton thanked the fire chief for everything he has done. She invited everyone to the event, A Day at the Park, on Saturday stating there has been overwhelming support from the community and volunteers that have reached out. Council member Sexton stated two more judges were needed for the pie baking contest.

Council member Joy thanked Steve Kautz for his impressive 50 years of service.

Council member Back congratulated Steve Kautz on his outstanding 50 years and was excited for the event on Saturday. Council member Back thanked the service department for helping get things ready at the park.

## **VICE-MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Vice-Mayor Adkins asked about department heads coming to council meetings and Mr. Anderson stated they would be at the next council meeting. She asked if the police and service department could start doing monthly reports like they used to do and thanked Steve Kautz for his 50 years of service.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Nickerson discussed A Day at the Park and stated if you do the 5K there is a free pancake breakfast afterwards. Mr. Nickerson said it will be a great time, is very proud of the accomplishments that are being made, the garden is in full swing, appreciates the service department's work at the park, and his joy seeing all the people utilizing the pond. Mayor Nickerson discussed a couple of Halloween ideas and welcomed anyone that wanted to volunteer or be involved. Mr. Nickerson thanked Fire Chief Keyser and expressed his appreciation for Firefighter Kautz and his 50 years of service.

## **ADDED TO AGENDA**

None

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to C.O. Section 30.03(B)(2)(c) There is a need for an executive session for the purpose of a conference with the Interim Law Director for the municipality concerning disputes involving the municipality that are the subject of pending court actions.

Mayor Nickerson stated that the Council will not be taking any action after the Executive Session.

Council member Sexton motioned to adjourn to executive session, Vice-Mayor Adkins seconded.

## Roll Call:

Council member Cooper	Yes		Council Member Back	Yes
Council member Perkins	Yes		Council Member Joy	Yes
Mayor Nickerson	Yes		Vice Mayor Adkins	Yes
Council Member Sexton	Yes			

7 yes votes and 0 no votes, the motion passes. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:07 pm.

Mayor Nickerson reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:33 pm. Mayor Nickerson stated the topics discussed during the Executive Session were:

1. An update from the Interim Law Director on the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Appeals case, Glenna Madden v. Rob Anderson et al.
2. An update from the Interim Law Director on the federal lawsuit filed by Joshua Farley against the Village of New Lebanon.

Council Member Perkins made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Vice Mayor Adkins seconded the motion.

## Roll Call:

Council member Back	Yes		Council member Cooper	Yes
Council member Joy	Yes		Vice Mayor Adkins	Yes
Council Member Perkins	Yes		Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Council member Sexton	Yes			

7 yes votes and 0 no votes, the motion passes. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council member Back motioned to adjourn the regular meeting. Vice Mayor Adkins seconded.

Roll Call:

Council member Back	Yes		Council member Cooper	Yes
Council member Joy	Yes		Vice Mayor Adkins	Yes
Council Member Perkins	Yes		Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Council member Sexton	Yes			

7 yes votes and 0 no votes, the motion passes. The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Approved:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor

8/20/24  
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 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acting Clerk of Council

8/20/24  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date