

**VILLAGE OF NEW LEBANON
COUNCIL MEETING
May 21, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Council Chambers**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm 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
Tammy Loch	Present
Lyndon Perkins	Absent
Melissa Sexton	Present
Nicole Adkins	Present
David Nickerson	Present

Others Present:

Police Lieutenant Wortman
Fire Chief Keyser
Interim
Acting Village Manager Anderson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of the May 7, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

Vice Mayor Adkins made a motion to approve the May 7, 2024, minutes as presented. Council Member Sexton seconded.

4 yes and 2 no votes, minutes were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council member Back discussed conflict of interest based off the Ohio Ethics Commission language and referenced our charter regarding conflicts of interest.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Nickerson moved to introduce the following appropriation ordinance for consideration. Accordingly, for the ordinance to be added to the agenda, he made a motion as follows:

ORDINANCE NO: 2024-03 – An ordinance authorizing supplemental appropriations totaling \$105,000 from Community Enrichment Fund (C017B) – Capital Equipment (C017B52520) to General Fund Under Leisure Tim Activities – Camps and Festivals (A013B52392) totaling \$5,000, the General Fund under Administration/Finance Small Tools and Minor Equipment (A017A52440) totaling \$100,000 and to appropriate \$37,976.18 to Security of Person or Property – Administration/Finance – American Rescue Plan Act (B017A52700) from ARPA Funding that was not appropriated into the budget; and declaring an emergency.

Council members were given a copy of the ordinance for review.

Mayor Nickerson’s motion received a second by Council member Sexton.

Council member discussion regarding the ordinance.

Mayor Nickerson asked if there were any public comments regarding the proposed ordinance.

Shannon Bemis asked questions regarding the breakdown of the appropriation.

Joshua Farley spoke on the budget that was previously approved and was done under the previous manager.

Roll Call:

Council member Sexton	Yes
Council member Joy	No
Council member Loch	No
Council member Back	Yes
Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Vice-Mayor Adkins	Yes

4 yes 2 no votes, the motion passes.

ORDINANCE NO: 2024-03 – An ordinance authorizing supplemental appropriations totaling \$105,000 from Community Enrichment Fund (C017B) – Capital Equipment (C017B52520) to General Fund Under Leisure Tim Activities – Camps and Festivals (A013B52392) totaling \$5,000, the General Fund under Administration/Finance Small Tools and Minor Equipment (A017A52440) totaling \$100,000 and to appropriate \$37,976.18 to Security of Person or Property – Administration/Finance – American Rescue Plan Act (B017A52700) from ARPA Funding that was not appropriated into the budget; and declaring an emergency.

Vice-Mayor Adkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-03, Council member Sexton seconded.

Roll Call:

Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Council member Back	Yes
Council member Loch	No
Council member Joy	No
Council member Sexton	Yes
Vice-Mayor Adkins	Yes

4 yes 2 no notes, motion passes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Bundy, 124 Laredo Avenue, asked who is responsible for maintaining the land between the rear of his property and the cornfield at his home. Interim Law Director McNamee asked for the property address, and he would give a legal opinion on who is responsible for the maintenance.

Joshua Farley, 136 Bronwood Street, explained to the council why he began coming to meetings and the discoveries he has made along the way referencing corruption in the village.

Natasha Farley, 136 Bronwood Street, followed-up on a previous question she had, asked the two council members why they did not approve the meeting minutes,

expressed her disappointment in those two council members, and reiterated her displeasure with Lieutenant Wortman.

Shannon Bemis, 130 Bronwood Street, inquired into why the two council members did not approve the meeting minutes, discussed Mr. Bundy's question above, questioned why the two council members didn't approve the appropriation ordinance, asked Council member Loch about a previous question she has not received an answer for and requested a reply, and questioned if Mr. McNamee has investigated Council members Perkins, Joy, and Loch.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COMMENTS

Fire Chief Keyser stated the new medic is now in service, the tanker is anticipated to be completed in August, and it is National EMS week.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Acting Municipal Manager Anderson spoke on hours and trash service for the Memorial Day holiday, thanked the EMS/Fire department for all they do, stated it is also Public Works week and expressed appreciation for the service department and what they do for the village, and informed council of a water main break.

Council member Adkins asked about zoning and the car lot on Main Street.

Council member Sexton asked about the vehicles in the village lot that don't have legal tags and if the village will be able to recover money based on the preliminary results of the initial investigation.

Council member Loch asked about the code enforcement vehicle.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council member Loch congratulated the class of 2024 and Officer Weir for her 18 years of service in New Lebanon. She stated the library had a Friday Night Out with different activities and thanked everyone that helped out with the N.L.Y.A. parade. Council member Loch was pleased that Nick Emrick and Kinady Howard were honored at the event. She extended prayers for Council member Perkins, as well as the community, fire, police, and village employees to stay safe. Council member Loch asked for continued prayers for Mr. Gauvey and his family and informed the council of an upcoming fundraiser for him.

Council member Sexton discussed the community event, A Day at the Park, on August 10th. She gave a brief overview of the day that will include rides, games, food, events, and a 5K run. She stated if anyone would like to sponsor, donate, or volunteer to please reach out.

Council member Back congratulated the graduating class of 2024, and expressed appreciation for our police, fire, and service department.

VICE-MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Vice-Mayor Adkins congratulated the class of 2024 and wanted everyone in the community, the police, and fire to stay safe.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Nickerson said he is impressed with the community and appreciative of the fire, police, service department, and the council members. He touched on the community event in August and said everyone is welcome to help. Mayor Nickerson discussed the community garden and said if anyone wants to help or donate anything for the garden it would be appreciated.

ADDED TO AGENDA

Shannon Bemis, 130 Bronwood Street, thanked the police and fire for their service and thanked the service department for hanging the Hometown Hero banners. She inquired about potholes being patched throughout town and followed up on her offer to volunteer her time to help in the village. Mrs. Bemis followed up again with Council member Joy on his claim that laws and violations were broken stating she could not find what he was referring to and asked for more clarity. Mrs. Bemis discussed his one claim that the agenda order is incorrect per the charter. Mrs. Bemis provided copies of examples of previous meeting minutes as well as the charter language disputing his claim.

Joshua Farley, 136 Bronwood Street, stated Mayor Nickerson is working within his duties under the Ohio Revised Code, obstructing official business violations, the violation of his rights, violations of oaths when he was arrested, village corruption, and all the stories he hears from residents claiming harassment by our police officers. He provided copies to the Council of the ORC sections he feels were violated. Mr. Farley informed the council of a video that was leaked illegally and his displeasure with Officer Weir's actions in the video while on duty. He also spoke on the accident involving a

suspected drunk driver and the discrepancies of the investigation, as well as documentation in Officer Weir's personnel file.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Sexton made a motion to adjourn, Council member Back seconded.

Roll Call:

Council member Joy	Yes
Council member Back	Yes
Council member Loch	Yes
Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Vice-Mayor Adkins	Yes
Council member Sexton	Yes

6 yes 0 no, motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.by Mayor Nickerson.

Approved:



Vice Mayor

6-4-24

Date



Clerk of Council

6/4/24

Date