

Regular Council

July 10,

23

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Brian White presiding.

ROLL CALL

The following Village Council members were present: Zack Alleshouse, Adam Gongwer, Bob Jarvis, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little, and Jeff O'Brien.

Other officials present: Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Brett Pauley, Captain Troy Weaver and Village Administrator Andrew Smallstey.

Residents and other guests: Keith Bacin of 419 Cedarwood; Vaughn Robinson of 201 West Main Street Apartment A4; Charles Comstock of 199 Essex Road; Robert Heckathorn of 150 Sherwood Drive, Linda Daugherty of 1785 Yorktown Road; and Hunter Bullis of 1560 Middle-Bellville Road.

Motion by O'BRIEN to excuse
Councilman Wise.

Seconded by LITTLE.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by ALLESHOUSE to approve the minutes
of June 5, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Seconded by LITTLE.

Roll call. Yea: 6; Nays: 0; Abstain: 0.

Motion carried.

FIXING TIME OF ADJOURNMENT

Motion by JARVIS to set the time of adjournment
for 8:30 p.m. Seconded by KEARNS.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mayor White requested any Village resident wishing to address Council concerning Council business to please stand, state their name and address for the record, and their purpose for attending Council.

Vaughn Robinson of 201 West Main Street asked Council to consider an artistic event for the Village's skate park. Mr. Robinson, a musician, asked that Council consider revitalizing the skate park. He would be willing to help the cause by providing musical entertainment. Councilman Kearns asked if utilities were in the park to provide electricity. There is electric available at the poles surrounding the skate park.

Councilman O'Brien asked if enough space was available for an event this size. Mr. Vaughn confirmed the skate park and swimming pool parking lot would provide ample space for a fundraiser. Mr. Smallstey told the two a permit will be necessary for the event to take place. Possible dates are September 2nd, Labor Day weekend or September 9th. Councilman Kearns stated final approval by Council will be necessary and to return with proof of insurance. Councilman Gongwer encouraged Mr. Robinson to stay in contact with Buildings & Grounds Council Representative, Zack Alleshouse.

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Boy Scout Troops A and B were in attendance tonight to earn their merit and citizenship badges.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RULES AND PERSONNEL: No report.

FINANCE: Met before Council. Bills have been checked.

SAFETY SERVICE: No report.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: No report.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS: Committee will meet July 18th at 6:00 p.m.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS No report.

FINANCE REPORT

No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As reported by Administrator Andrew Smallstey:

USG Water is in town for the beginning stages of the Water Meter Replacement Project. Five meters were installed throughout the Village; all residents are employees of the Village. This will be for a test run. After all tests are completed installation for all residents will begin.

The drive between Patriot Park's two parking lots have been graded and asphalted. Councilman O'Brien commended a job well done.

We held pre-construction meeting with Kokosing last Wednesday regarding street resurfacing. Weather permitting work will begin July 24th.

Peter Them and I attended an online meeting with ODOT District 3 regarding East Main Street Safety Improvement Project. That project is part of tonight's legislation.

The article regarding the \$227K grant awarded to the Village for water/sewer infrastructure improvements was not requested by the Village but was abandoned because of an oversight in engineering.

Still waiting for finalization of our new website with GovOffice. All data has been submitted.

I have hired Bryer Miller to work full-time in the street department. Breyer has proven his worth through hard work as a seasonal employee.

I have received some options from KEM for parking across the street. These will be reviewed by CIC. There will also be discussion regarding accessibility for the lot across the street.

The mayor and I met with Richland County Health Commissioner, Julie Chaya, and Fiscal Officer Kevin VanMeter regarding potential federal grant funding for numerous park picnic tables, both regular and ADA compliant, park benches, drinking fountains for the park and the square, and bike repair station.

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Mayor's Report

As reported by Mayor Brian White:

I attended Mayor's conference in Columbus June 21st and 22nd. Good talks regarding budgeting and the state. Also some good conversations regarding the need for more police officers.

We will hold a meeting regarding Main Street revitalization project at the Lexington Depot on the 27th of July at 6:00 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

As reported by Chief Weaver:

The new Chevy Tahoe is at Bucyrus getting all equipment installed. Will be ready by the end of the week.

We have received some applications for the several positions we have available in the Police Department. Patrolman Alex Keding will be resigning as of July 17th. We are short three officers.

PARLIMENATARIAN REPORT

As reported by Parliamentarian Councilman Gongwer:

Special election August 8th. Early voting starts tomorrow.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance NO. 23-17 by Mr. Kearns

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON, OHIO, THREE AMENDMENTS TO THE VILLAGE CHARTER AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION, ONE SUPPLEMENTING THE RESIDENCY QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, THE SECOND SUPPLEMENTING THE RESIDENCY QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE MAYOR, AND THE THIRD AMENDING THE POSTING OF PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Motion by KEARNS to adopt.

Seconded by GONGWER.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Gongwer noted this will appear on November ballot for residents to vote on.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

Ordinance NO. 23-18 by Mr. Wise

AN ORDINANCE GIVING CONSENT OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE AND USE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MATERIAL ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATION LIMITS.

Motion by O'BRIEN to waive rules of Council requiring that an Ordinance comes from a standing committee.

Seconded by GONGWER.

Roll call. All yeas: 6-0.

Motion carried.

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Motion by O'BRIEN to waive rules of Council
requiring that an Ordinance is read on
two separate occasions.

Seconded by GONGWER.

Roll call. All yeas: 6-0.

Motion carried.

Motion by O'BRIEN to adopt.

Seconded by GONGWER.

DISCUSSION: A request by ODOT has been established, this will be done yearly.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 23-19 by Mr. Little

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT BUDGET AMENDMENTS
AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR JULY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL
AND WATER FUNDS.**

Motion by LITTLE to waive rules of Council
requiring that an Ordinance comes from a
standing committee.

Seconded by ALLESHOUSE.

Roll call. All yeas: 6-0.

Motion carried.

Motion by LITTLE to waive rules of Council
requiring that an Ordinance is read on
two separate occasions.

Seconded by ALLESHOUSE.

Roll call. All yeas: 6-0.

Motion carried.

Motion by LITTLE to adopt.

Seconded by ALLESHOUSE.

DISCUSSION: New money needed in the engineer line for the upgrading of East Main Street. \$24,500.00 monies moved has been approved by Finance Committee who met prior to tonight's meeting.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

Resolution No. 23-20 by Mr. Little

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF
LEXINGTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.**

Motion by LITTLE to waive rules of Council
requiring that a Resolution comes from a
standing committee.

Seconded by ALLESHOUSE.

Roll call. All yeas: 6-0.

Motion carried.

Motion by LITTLE to waive rules of Council
requiring that a Resolution is read on
two separate occasions.

Seconded by ALLESHOUSE.

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Roll call. All yeas: 6 – 0.

Motion carried.

Motion by LITTLE to adopt.

Seconded by ALLESHOUSE.

DISCUSSION: Annual housekeeping task.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0

Motion carried.

Resolution No. 23-21 by Mr. Wise

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR ROADWAY AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by O'BRIEN to waive rules of Council requiring that a Resolution comes from a standing committee.

Seconded by KEARNS.

Roll call. All yeas: 6 – 0.

Motion carried.

Motion by O'BRIEN to waive rules of Council requiring that a Resolution is read on two separate occasions.

Seconded by KEARNS.

Roll call. All yeas: 6 – 0.

Motion carried.

Motion by O'BRIEN to adopt.

Seconded by KEARNS.

DISCUSSION: Monies for the East Main Street project; ODOT will begin project in 2025.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Kearns reported he met with Cemetery Board tonight at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Worley's house caught on fire and was not able to attend the meeting. Discussion whether to have levy on November ballot was held. Attorney Studenmund advised of necessary details needed to be complete prior to placing on the ballot. Councilman Kearns stated one opinion for new levy money is high and another opinion is low. Mr. Kearns would like to see the current levy monies modified and maybe go for the May 2024 primary election. Mr. O'Brien stated a primary election will be held on March 19, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Gongwer confirmed that Ordinance 23-19, the debt service for water department and the oversight corrected for next year's payments.

MISCELLANEOUS

No comments.

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Motion by GONGWER to adjourn
before the appointed hour.
Seconded by KEARNS.
Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0
Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Wilson
Clerk of Council

Brian White
Mayor