

Regular Council

March 18,

2024

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

ROLL CALL

The following Village Council members were present: Keith Bacin, Adam Gongwer, Aaron Hoptry, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien, and Todd Wise.

Other officials present: Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver, Administrator Peter Them, Finance Director Jim Banks and Assistant Finance Director Rachel Fagan.
Residents and other guests: Rachel Pugh of Hello Events in Lexington; Charles Comstock of Essex Road; Tyler Getz of Getz Builders Inc.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by O'BRIEN to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

Seconded by LITTLE.

Roll call. Yea: 6; Nays: 0; Abstain: 1 (Wise).

Motion carried.

FIXING TIME OF ADJOURNMENT

Motion by GONGWER to set the time of adjournment for 8:45 p.m. Seconded by KEARNS

Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Jarvis 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.

Rachel Pugh, owner of Hello Events, expressed interest in working with the Village for special events throughout the year. Including, but not limited to, Light Up Lexington and other future events. Ms. Pugh volunteered her help for last year's Light Up Lexington. Ms. Pugh's office is located in the new *The Note* building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RULES AND PERSONNEL: No report.

FINANCE: Committee met before tonight's Council meeting. There is an Ordinance on the agenda. First reading only

SAFETY SERVICE: No report.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: The minutes from March 4th Public Utilities meeting are approved.

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STREETS & SIDEWALKS: No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Park Board has budget meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. in Chambers.

FINANCE REPORT

As reported by Finance Director Jim Banks:

All financial books for month of January have been balanced. Council has my notes before them.

Motion by LITTLE to approve
Finance Report as presented.

Seconded by BACIN.

Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As reported by Finance Director Peter Them:

Due to Andy Smallstey's retirement, there is a seat open to serve on the board for NOPEC. I have been asked to serve.

Motion by BACIN

to appoint Administrator Peter Them
to serve on the NOPEC Board of Directors
and serve as representative for the Village
of Lexington and Richland County, Ohio.

Seconded by O'BRIEN.

Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

Mayor's report

As reported by Mayor Bob Jarvis:

Mr. Them, the Edge Group, and I met with Senator Romanchuk for assistance in obtaining state capitol funding for our downtown revitalization. I was told by Senator Romanchuk that Representative Marilyn John did not ask for monies for the Village of Lexington for any assistance for the revitalization in Lexington and therefore I had to resubmit my request to Mr. Romanchuk. Approximately \$850 million dollars is available. Senator Romanchuk has guided us into a scenario to produce best results with decreasing our request, and priming the pump with Village of Lexington funding.

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Motion by WISE for request
for \$1.1 million grant money;
and the Village of Lexington will input
\$60,000.00 of own monies
for revitalization at Lexington Senior Depot
Seconded by LITTLE.
Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

Richland County's Regional Planning Committee pay is \$2,915.00, is well worth the monies. They currently are assisting with the connector grant money we seek.

Also noted, Richland County Regional Planning will hold a CRA meeting to approve NEXT Generation CRA.

U.S. Route 42 ODOT grant money was submitted and received.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

As reported by Chief Weaver:

The Department will be participating in the next Drug Take Back on April 27th this year from 10:00 AM till 2:00 PM. Please make drop offs in the lobby of our building or drive through the back parking lot.

PARLIMENATARIAN REPORT

As reported by Parliamentarian Keith Bacin:

Voting tomorrow. Six-thirty a.m. till 7:30 p.m. No voting at the Longview address. Parties can vote for their candidate only. Third parties can vote on issues.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 24-10 by Mr. Little

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT BUDGET AMENDMENTS
AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARCH FOR GENERAL FUND
UNALLOCATED RESERVE AND ADMINISTRATION OTHER CONTRACTED
SERVICES.**

Motion by LITTLE to waive rules of Council
requiring that an Ordinance comes from a
standing committee.
Seconded by WISE.
Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

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

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Seconded by WISE.
Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

Motion by LITTLE to adopt.
Seconded by WISE.

DISCUSSION: Administrator Them stated this is strictly money in and money out. Side-car Health Insurance paid a dispute; we bring in and pay out.

Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

Resolution No. 24-11 by Mr. Gongwer

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RICHLAND COUNTY FINAL 9-1-1 PLAN.

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

Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

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

Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

Motion by GONGWER to adopt.
Seconded by LITTLE.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Jarvis all preliminary discussions are completed. This is the final report in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 24-12 by Mr. Little

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT BUDGET AMENDMENTS
AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARCH FOR PARKS, ADMINISTRATION,
GENERAL FUND, STREETS C, M, & R, ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDY, SWER,
AND WATER FUNDS.**

HELD TO FIRST READING

Ordinance No. 24-13 by Mr. Kearns

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW RATES FOR WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION TAP FEES FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Seconded by LITTLE.

Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

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

Seconded by LITTLE.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 1; (Hoptry) Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

Motion by KEARNS to adopt.

Seconded by LITTLE.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Hoptry was concerned because Council did not read on two separate occasions, thereby allowing homeowners, builders, and contractors to attend the Council reading and voice their opinion. Mr. Studenmund explained that the emergency language creates immediate effect and without it the effect is 30 days post approval. Councilman Kearns noted that the Ordinance was approached approximately one year ago but never came to fruition until last week. Councilman Little emphasized that the owner of the land pays for the tap fee when purchasing the property. Councilman Kearns explained if the Ordinance is turned down with the majority of votes; the Ordinance can be restructured and returned to Council for another vote.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 1; (Hoptry) Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Kearns attended most recent Cemetery Board. Monthly reconciliation was read for the first time. A levy for the cemetery is on March 19th 2024 ballot.

NEW BUSINESS

No comments were heard.

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Motion by O'BRIEN to adjourn to
Executive Session to discuss purchase or sale of property.
Seconded by GONGWER.
Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

Mayor Jarvis stated no action will be taken.

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

Motion by LITTLE to reconvene
to Regular Council Session.
Seconded by GONGWER.
Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.
Motion carried.

Council reconvened to Regular Session at 8:13 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council President Gongwer noted a grand opening will be held at The Note on East Main at 4:00 p.m. Friday March 22, 2024.

Motion by BACIN to adjourn
before the appointed hour.
Seconded by KEARNS.
Roll call. Yeas: 7; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0
Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Wilson
Clerk of Council

Bob Jarvis
Mayor