

**MUNICIPALITY OF NEW LEBANON,  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday May 21, 2024, 7:30 PM**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Verbal Roll Call of Council Members Present for the Record
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Approval of minutes from the May 7, 2024, Regular Council Meeting
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Public Comments or Questions (limit 3 minutes per citizen. No donation of time.)
- VIII. Administrative Staff Comments
- IX. Municipal Manager's Comments
- X. Council Members' Comments (limit 5 minutes per Council Member)
- XI. Vice-Mayor's Comments
- XII. Mayor's Comments
- XIII. Requested to be Added to Agenda (limit 5 minutes per presentation)
  - A. Shannon Bemis
  - B. Joshua Farley
- XIV. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF NEW LEBANON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
May 7, 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
Acting Village Manager Anderson
Interim Law Director McNamee

Mayor Nickerson stated the law director requested time to speak before the start of the regular meeting minutes approval.

**LAW DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

Mr. McNamee discussed and provided a legal opinion regarding meeting minutes requirements and reviewed them with council.

Mr. McNamee also reviewed the council meeting parliamentary procedures. PowerPoint slides were shown as part of the presentation.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Approval of the April 16, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

6 yes votes and 0 no votes, minutes approved.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. McNamee gave updates on the investigation he is conducting. Mr. McNamee reviewed previously presented slides to the council addressing laws, terminations, contracts, cause, violations/illegalities, Mr. Farley's case, and conduct of administration, council members, employees, and intimidation. Mr. McNamee discussed a leaked video of a conversation between an officer and a citizen and that a complaint was filed. PowerPoint slides were shown as part of the presentation.

Council member Adkins spoke about the conversation between her husband and Officer Weir stating this took place over a year ago, it was never brought to her attention, and has nothing to do with her.

Mr. McNamee spoke on management changes, the personnel appeals board, Glenna Madden's suit, Mr. Smith's case, and cost savings.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joshua Farley, 136 Bronwood Street, spoke on Mr. Schiff having responsibility in the Smith case, not having confidence in the police department, Mr. Stamper's accident, an unredacted video of his that was leaked and the consequences he has faced due to this, asking if Officer Goad turned this issue over to Homeland Security as he stated he would, and asked for Council member Loch and Council member Joy's resignation. He also referenced the fire department holding onto death records for years, not releasing, and is a violation.

Natasha Farley, 136 Bronwood Street, expressed gratitude that her husband's case was reviewed, asked Council member Joy and Council member Loch to step down, asked Council member Adkins for an apology; expressed her displeasure with Lieutenant Wortman and Detective Weir, and asked Lieutenant Wortman to resign.

Paul Boggs, 138 Glenada Court, discussed resolution 2024-05 subsections 2 and 3 regarding the employees that were placed on paid administrative leave stating they shall not access village intel or communicate with employees or individuals involved with village affairs. Mr. Boggs stated he personally witnessed Council member Joy and Council member Loch directly violate this with the above-mentioned employees, asking for the dismissal of both council members. Mr. Boggs addressed the anonymous emails Council member Loch's reads suggesting a name be attached so the rest of council could address. In closing he thanked the new council members, law director, and interim village manager for looking out for everyone.

Shannon Bemis, 130 Bronwood Street, clarified a previous statement made regarding Mr. Edds and discussed meeting minutes not having to be verbatim.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COMMENTS**

None

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

Interim Municipal Manager Anderson spoke on the position of a municipal manager, changes in council, some employees stepping up and thriving, while having some difficulty with certain employees not wanting to move on and viewing the new accountability as a negative. Mr. Anderson stated he has stellar records from previous employers and is professional in his management, summarizing that some employees will rise to the challenge or not. Mr. Anderson informed the council that after inquiring for two months into the sinkhole on Parkview that AES was contacted that day and arrived at the home within an hour.

Council member Adkins brought up the sidewalk that has been damaged for over a year on Main Street on the west side of town. She expressed her concern about safety, it not being taken care of previously, and that it needs to be addressed.

Council member Loch asked who was organizing the village community event taking place in the summer, what the status of the Blosser Street project was, and who does the meeting minutes.

Council member Back addressed the sidewalk on Blosser Street being too narrow.

Council member Sexton said there was more than one area of sidewalk that needed repair, there was also a spot near the new dollar store.

Council member Loch requested a copy of Mr. McNamee's PowerPoint.

Council member Sexton asked for an update on the Pickleball court.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Council member Joy discussed Glena's contract review, gave condolences to Mr. Gauvey's family, and stated his appreciation to the employees, agreeing with their lack of confidence in leadership and displeasure with management.

Council member Back discussed the letters the police and service department sent out and how the interim manager is handling, citizens not having confidence in previous council, employment within the village and state, the previous manager's contract terms that were changed, the preliminary investigation being public record, debt, spending, compensation, council member OML training, and a lot of things they were told previously that were wrong,

Council members Adkins and Sexton verified the things they were previously told were incorrect and learned a lot from the training.

Council member Back discussed costs for the court building we have been paying, working for the best interest of the community, there should not be sides, and asked Lieutenant Wortman about Mr. Farley's arrest asking him to review his body cam. Council member Back sent condolences to the Gauvey family for their tragic event, as well as Council member Perkins dealing with health issues.

Vice-Mayor Adkins discussed the lack of review of Glena Madden's contract, executive sessions, and apologized to Mrs. Farley for not being able to disclose executive session discussion because at that time she thought it was a legal session. Vice-Mayor Adkins also stated that police officers on duty should not discuss citizens within the community to other citizens or give out certain information. She stated she doesn't like a torn council and they all need to work together to do what is right for the community.

Council member Sexton discussed a previous, unknown seasonal employee that was paid throughout the winter that could not provide an outline of her work and nobody knew about. She questioned the sudden influx of anonymous emails/requests and her concern with them taking away from getting things accomplished as well as two council members suddenly having a problem because people are being held accountable. Council member Sexton stated everyone needs to move on and take care of the community.

Council member Loch sent prayers to Council member Perkins and the Gauvey family. She expressed her mistrust and stated she has asked and will continue to ask questions. She apologized to the employees and citizens and agreed with their concerns with management. Council member Loch appreciates the employees, first responders, prays for their safety, and states she will continue to fight for the community.

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

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Nickerson spoke on walking the town and speaking to the citizens that voted for a change by electing him as the new mayor. He promised to take care of the community, and questioned why there was so much pushback if there was nothing wrong with the investigation. Mayor Nickerson discussed the sinkhole on Parkview.

### **ADDED TO AGENDA**

Shannon Bemis, 130 Bronwood Street, reiterated that the sinkhole on Parkview was brought up by Council member Sexton over a year ago to council. She mentioned several other residents and their ongoing issues that have never been addressed by previous management and council over the years. The residents were never replied to, called back, and were disregarded. Mrs. Bemis questioned Council member Loch and Council member Joy about why they have questions now and never did in the past, nor have any concern for all the citizens that have been coming up for years. Mrs. Bemis requested again that Council member Joy email her the information he gave about laws and violations that were broken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council member Sexton motioned to adjourn; Council member Back seconded.

Roll Call:

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

6 yes 0 no, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.by Mayor Nickerson.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_

Date