

**MUNICIPALITY OF NEW LEBANON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 18, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.**

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 Present for the Record

Council Members:

Timothy L. Back	Present
Charles Cooper	Present
Gale Joy	Present
Chris Sands	Present
Melissa Sexton	Present
Nicole Adkins	Present
David Nickerson	Present

Others Present:

Acting Manager Anderson
Interim Law Director McNamee
Interim Police Chief Wortman
Fire Chief Keyser
Service Director Dennis Easom

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of the February 4, 2025, regular council meeting minutes.

Council Member Back made a motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Sexton seconded the motion.

6 yes votes, 1 no vote, minutes approved as presented.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance 2025-01 - AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE 2025 PAY SCALE FOR NON-BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES. (Second Reading & Public Hearing).

New Business

Resolution 2025-06 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACTING VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY (“RITA’), A REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX FOR THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEBANON, OHIO.

Council Member Sand’s motion to approve was seconded by Council Member Sexton.

Roll Call:

Council Member Sexton	Yes
Council Member Joy	Yes
Council Member Sands	Yes
Council Member Back	Yes
Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Vice-Mayor Adkins	Yes
Council Member Cooper	Yes

7 yes votes, 0 no votes, motion carries.

Resolution 2025-07 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACTING VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW LEBANON YOUTH ATHLETICS, INC. FOR THE USE OF DON RUSK MEMORIAL PARK.

Mr. Anderson informed council that the contract is fairly standard in what they have had in the past years, there will be minimal if any changes, and this allows the manager to execute the contract after meeting with the N.L.Y.A.

Council Member Cooper’s motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Adkins.

Roll Call:

Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Council Member Joy	Yes

Vice-Mayor Adkins	Yes
Council Member Back	Yes
Council Member Cooper	Yes
Council Member Sands	Yes
Council Member Sexton	Yes

7 yes votes, 0 no votes, motion carries.

Resolution 2025-08 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACTING VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, LLC TO PROVIDE ONGOING FINANCIAL CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE VILLAGE OF NEW LEBANON.

Council Member Joy asked why we were engaging with a finance service and not hiring a financial officer.

Mr. Anderson stated we need to do both. Mr. Anderson referenced the budget work session and advised there is a need for training of staff and guidance from professionals in finance, also allowing time for the new manager to find a CFO. He stated that Public Finance Solutions will help train employees coming in and help set policies and move the village forward.

Council Member Joy asked what the cost would be.

Mr. Anderson stated it is \$105.00 per hour and not to exceed \$10,500 a month.

Council Member Joy asked if this would be in addition to the finance officer and for how long.

Mr. Anderson stated yes, and it would be for the remainder of the year. He stated it doesn't need to be for the entire year, and can be terminated with notice, but covers the year if need be.

Council Member Cooper asked if they would do a bill each month showing their hourly charges.

Mr. Anderson stated yes, they will account for their hours each month.

Council Member Back asked if this would help with the new CFO and guiding them through proper procedures.

Mr. Anderson stated yes. He said there aren't many CFO's out there anymore and we may get someone that has finance experience, but not with municipal finance and this will help train for things like the budget and get them up to speed.

Council Member Back's motion was seconded by Council Member Sexton.

Roll Call:

Vice-Mayor Adkins	Yes
Council Member Sands	Yes
Council Member Cooper	Yes
Council Member Sexton	Yes
Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Council Member Back	Yes
Council Member Joy	Yes

7 yes votes, 0 no votes, motion carries.

Resolution 2025-09 - A RESOLUTION: APPROVING AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH WILLIAM DRAUGELIS FOR THE POSITION OF VILLAGE MANAGER.

Council Member Joy stated he hasn't talked to any potential candidates and wanted to know why we didn't make an offer to Steven Woolf. He said the comment was made that he wasn't interested, but his resume was submitted again.

Mr. Anderson stated he is currently the manager of the Village of Phillipsburg, so he does have another job. Mr. Anderson stated he did speak with him at length and with everything that transpired last time, it made sense to hire from outside.

Council Member Joy stated he looked at resumes and titles and there were several that had municipal manager experience and wants to know why we went with who we went with when there are currently people that are doing what we need done.

Mr. Anderson stated there were only a couple that had manager experience in local government. He stated Mr. Draugelis has been a manager for 25 plus years in the Montgomery County Court system and has a master's degree in public administration. He stated management is management at some level and this job requires a strong manager and through my course of conversations with Bill and evaluating him, along with other conversations with other candidates, I think he will be an excellent manager and do an outstanding job and the limited interaction he has had with him so far has been terrific and is impressed by him. He stated council will be impressed with him as well once they get to know him.

Council Member Back's motion was seconded by Council Member Sexton.

Roll Call:

Council Member Cooper	Yes
Council Member Sexton	Yes
Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Vice-Mayor Adkins	Yes
Council Member Back	Yes
Council Member Joy	No
Council Member Sands	Yes

6 yes votes, 1 no vote, motion carries.

Mr. Draugelis addressed council stating he is grateful for the opportunity and promises not to let them down, to his colleagues he looks forward to working with them as a team for the success of the village, and to the community he promises to give 110% putting his best efforts forward. Mr. Draugelis thanked everyone.

Council Members congratulated and welcomed Mr. Draugelis.

Public Comments or Questions

Keith Moody, 297 Shock Drive, asked Mayor Nickerson about him stating there were a lot of people having interest in the vacant council seat. Mayor Nickerson said there were several, three written and others called expressing their interest. Mr. Moody said he did a request and there were only two letters. He stated this is not transparent or truthful.

He asked if the new village manager was planning on moving to New Lebanon. Mr. Anderson stated no and deferred to the law director. Mr. Moody stated section 4.01 of the charter stated he must become a resident and pay taxes. Mr. Anderson stated they received an opinion that the provision is illegal, and the provision is not enforceable. Law Director McNamee stated he issued a legal opinion that the charter provision is unlawful by higher statutes and case law. It is unenforceable and his recommendation to council has been to form a charter review committee to address other charter provisions including the one that was just discussed.

Shannon Bemis, 130 Bronwood Street, thanked Officer Meyers for noticing their son's car interior light was left on one evening and came to their door to let them know. She also thanked Mr. Anderson for stepping in and leading the village during a difficult time and even extending his time here so we weren't left hanging. She stated he opened her eyes to a lot of things, the way local government should work, and the way things should be done and appreciated it.

Michelle Nadolsky, 301 Ledgewood, brought photos of the house on the corner of Lawson and Church with the huge ruts in their yard, the semi that is parked at 452 Holderman (Interim Police Chief Wortman stated he would send someone over there), she thanked Interim Police Chief Wortman for tagging the Excursion on Avon Oak again.

Mrs. Nadolsky then spoke as the commander of the American Legion thanking New Lebanon, Brookville, and Farmersville Fire Departments for keeping the building standing when they had the fire on January 19th. She informed everyone that she signed a lease and a contract with Miller Contracting, the architectural drawings are in the final proof, and in the next two weeks going to the county for permits. American Legion's new address will be 519 E. Main Street and is looking at 6-7 months move in time. She would like to get the Legion running at the current location in the meantime but that is between the insurance agency and landlord. She stated nothing has been done in five weeks. She stated if anyone needs anything or needs help from the Legion to please contact her. She said they will still have their Turkey Shoots on Sundays starting on March 9th which will be one of their socials and a fundraiser. They will do the shoots for seven weeks straight, skipping Easter, is open to the public, and park at the church on Church Street. Mayor Nickerson asked if they were accepting donations and Mrs. Nadolsky stated absolutely and if anyone wanted to become a member she could get them an application. She spoke about the damage to the building and that they winterized the building for now.

Heidi Pence, 659 Holderman, asked how many people applied for the village manager position and if we considered anyone that lived in town. Mr. Anderson stated there were around 40 plus that applied and only a handful lived in town. He stated nobody that lived in town had the education/experience to qualify for the manager. Ms. Pence stated online it stated no education was required. Mr. Anderson stated that was correct, but when you are evaluating candidates against each other you look at experience and/or education and in evaluating candidates there were others at the top of the list. She then asked Interim Police Chief Wortman about a robbery they had back in July and hadn't received any follow up. He told her to get with him after the meeting so he could gather contact information from her and look into it.

Deb Brumback, 14302 Old Dayton, stated in August a handful of Perry Township residents got together and formed a non-profit organization, Friends of Perry Township. She stated they had two great events already and have two more coming up. She said they are trying to get Perry Township back as a community along with Brookville and New Lebanon. She said they have an easter egg hunt on April 5th at Sycamore Park and a fishing derby on June 14th at Sycamore Park at the overlook picnic area. She handed flyers out to council and asked if she needed a permit to say they accepted donations. Mr. Anderson stated no permit is needed as long as you aren't going door to door soliciting which would require registration.

Administrative Staff Comments

Service Director Easom stated they have got a lot of work done at the WW plant and a lot more to go. He said they are working on a NPDES permit for the WW plant that is coming due and is for five years. He said they are gathering information to turn over to the EPA so if there are any hiccups it gives them time to correct it. Mr. Easom stated he is looking at bids from different chemical companies to supply them for water and WW treatment. He said they currently use Chemicals, Inc. and he just received a bid from Hawkins to review to see if we could save money switching chemical companies or staying with what we have. He stated he is also looking at different labs for water and wastewater lab work that we aren't set up to do to see if there is cost savings there.

Council Member Sexton stated they did a fine job on the snow removal and thanked them. Mr. Easom stated he will pass it along to the guys.

Mayor Nickerson asked how the water main breaks have been coming. He stated he thinks they have only had one since the last meeting but there is road work that will need to be done when we have fair weather. He said they have a lot of potholes and

main break holes that need to be filled and come back with a more permanent fix. Mayor Nickerson asked if they had enough salt and Mr. Easom stated they did.

Fire Chief Keyser stated the tornado siren company came out to look at their sirens. He said the siren at Don Rusk Park needed new batteries that the service department replaced. He said when the tornado siren company comes out next, he will have them double check all the chargers and batteries. He thanked the service department for picking up the batteries and installing them at Don Rusk Park and on Access Road.

Mayor Nickerson stated JC invited him to the Independent Insurance Agency banquet where Teddy received an award for his 50 years of service as a firefighter in this community. Mayor Nickerson thanked Chief Keyser for the invitation, for being the chief that he is, and congratulated Teddy again for his 50 years of service and still going.

Interim Police Chief Wortman stated council had two things from him in their packet. He reviewed the first round of stats he was able to pull for 2023, 2024, and January of 2025. He stated they are still working on stats and training people in different jobs and tasks. He then reviewed the speed analysis report from the new radar unit with council. He said they have used the radar unit at three different locations. He said the reports give them time frames and locations on the best place to sit for violations. He said they are also working on getting the speed trailers up and running.

Law Director McNamee updated council on projects he is working on. He stated the police department requested an investigation from BCI and he provided all the documentation and is waiting to hear back from the Attorney General's office. He stated that Mr. Anderson gave all the information to him regarding the Johnsville-Farmersville flooding issue and is getting a group together to try to get this resolved. He discussed the Charter Review Commission, and he is reviewing the charter for other provisions aside from the residency requirement as well as all ordinances and will be recommending deletions or edits of numerous sections. Mr. McNamee stated he is putting finishing touches on new legislation regarding the mobile home community regulations. Mr. McNamee thanked him for his service here and gave him his best wishes.

Council Member Sexton discussed multiple calls she received regarding the mobile home park and stated there are two ladies living in their car that got kicked out as well as two veterans, one that is just lying there to die. She stated another person received a violation with no explanation and the owners refused to tell them what it is for. Mrs. Sexton stated they are elderly and on a fixed income and cannot afford to pay, so they

will probably get evicted as well. Mr. McNamee asked her to forward him this information.

Municipal Manager's Comments

Mr. Anderson congratulated Bill and stated he has the right temperament. Attitude, and experience to be successful in this job. He thanked the council and the staff for the opportunity to work here and work with you. He appreciates everyone, will miss coming here, and is only a phone call away if we need anything.

Council Member Sexton thanked Mr. Anderson for stepping into a mess and staying even when he didn't have to. She thanked him for what he has done and for showing the utmost respect to everyone she has seen him talk to and you don't see that often. Council Member Back thanked Mr. Anderson for his time here and had great discussions even when they didn't see eye to eye being treated with respect and Mr. Anderson always maintaining composure. Mr. Back thanked him for his service to our community and wished him the best in his next endeavor.

Council Member Sands asked what his policy is on *office* employees working on a Saturday or on a holiday unsupervised.

Mr. Anderson stated there's not a whole lot they can do in there and it isn't like we are keeping the secrets to the launch codes. He stated if they have work to do and he trusts the individual he doesn't have a problem with it.

Mr. Sands asked if we are paying this person overtime for this.

Mr. Anderson said it depends on who it is and if they are salary or an hourly employee. He stated they aren't there just to rack up their time it's either income tax things need to be done or other tasks that need to be done or if it is a part-time person then it is just straight time.

Vice-Mayor Adkins thanked Mr. Anderson and stated she was going to miss him, especially all the meetings they had to do. She hopes everything goes well and hopes he succeeds in whatever he is going to do.

Council Members' Comments

Council Member Back thanked the service department for keeping the streets looking good knowing how hard it is to work through the cold. He thanked Mr. Anderson again and expressed his appreciation.

Council Member Cooper thanked the service department, fire department, and police department especially on these long cold days. He appreciates them coming through

and plowing and the streets look good. He also thanked Mr. Anderson for his time and has enjoyed their conversations and meeting him.

Council Member Sexton asked if the zoning department could put out a report just like the fire and police departments do. Mr. Anderson stated yes. Mrs. Sexton stated the tentative date for A Day at the Park is August 9th. Mrs. Sexton read something that a good friend shared discussing local government.

Vice-Mayor's Comments

Vice-Mayor Adkins thanked the service, police, and fire departments. She then welcomed Bill as our new village manager, stating she looks forward to getting to know him and working with him.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Nickerson stated it has been a long year. He appreciates everything Mr. Anderson has done and stated they have both taking it on the chin quite a bit, stuck it out, and are still sticking it out. Mr. Nickerson stated they are doing this for the betterment of the community and that is what they will do. Mr. Nickerson stated he appreciated what Mr. Anderson has done and thanked him. He welcomed Bill and thanked the chiefs and Mr. Easom for the great job they are doing. He stated there are a lot of good things coming up like A Day at the Park and opening the community garden again. Mr. Nickerson said we are moving forward, striving, and doing the best that we can.

Request to be Added to the Agenda

None

Adjournment

Vice-Mayor Adkins motioned to adjourn, Council member Back seconded.

Roll Call:

Mayor Nickerson	Yes
Council member Sands	Yes
Council Member Back	Yes

Council member Joy	Yes
Council Member Cooper	Yes
Council member Sexton	Yes
Vice-Mayor Adkins	Yes

7 yes votes, 0 no votes, the motion passes and the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m. by Mayor Nickerson.

Approved:



Mayor Nickerson

3/7/25

Date



Clerk of Council

3/10/25

Date

*Minutes amended in italics.