

New Lebanon Regular Council Meeting, January 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:33pm by Mayor Nickerson. The invocation was given by Stephen Betts from the First Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verbal Roll Call of Council Members:

Council Members:

Nicole Adkins	Absent
Timothy L. Back	Present
Gale B. Joy	Present
Lyndon Perkins	Present
Melissa Sexton	Present
Tammy Loch	Present
David Nickerson	Present

Others Present:

Police Chief Hensley
Fire Chief Keyser
CFO/Clerk of Council Hinson
Municipal Manager Madden
Law Director Keener
Zoning Compliance Officer Davis
Service Department Brock

Approval of the December 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

6 I's and 0 no, minutes approved.

Council Organization.

Selection of Vice Mayor. Opening of floor nominations.

Council Member Joy nominated Tammy Loch.

Council Member Back nominated Nicole Adkins.

Mayor Nickerson closed the floor for nominations.

Voting for Vice Mayor.

Roll Call:

Council Member Perkins	Adkins
Council Member Loch	Loch
Council Member Joy	Loch
Council Member Sexton	Adkins
Mayor Nickerson	Adkins
Council Member Back	Adkins

4 for Adkins, 2 for Loch, Council Member Adkins is now Vice Mayor.

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Delegate and alternate. By Charter, the Mayor is the first delegate.

Mayor Nickerson opened the floor for nominations for an alternate.

Council Member Perkins nominated Nicole Adkins, seconded by Council Member Sexton.

Mayor Nickerson closed the floor for nominations.

Voting for Vice Mayor Adkins as alternate.

6 I's and 0 no, Vice Mayor Adkins is now the alternate.

Volunteer Firefighter Fund. Two members of Council to serve on the board for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2024.

Mayor Nickerson opened the floor for nominations.

Council Member Joy nominated Timothy Back, seconded by Council Member Perkins.

Mayor Nickerson volunteered, seconded by Council Member Loch.

Mayor Nickerson closed the floor for nominations.

Voting for these council members to serve on this board.

6 I's and 0 no, Council Member Back and Mayor Nickerson to serve.

Appointment to Municipal Boards. Reappointment of George Markus to Planning Board.

Council Member Back noticed a discrepancy with two places saying different term lengths.

Some discussion was had.

Manager Madden clarified that it's a six-year term.

Motion to reappoint George Markus to Planning Board by Council Member Joy, seconded by Council Member Perkins.

Roll Call:

Council Member Loch	yes
Council Member Joy	yes
Council Member Sexton	yes
Mayor Nickerson	yes
Council Member Back	no
Council Member Perkins	yes

5 yes 1 no motion carries.

Law Director gave a review of the Municipal Charter, covering the Charter's creation, the structure of Council and Village administration, ordinance passage, and Charter Review and amendments.

Old Business, none.

New Business, none.

Public Comments.

Tim Back, 31 E Main St, congratulated the new members of Council and expressed his disappointment with the reading of the letter at the last council meeting.

Natasha Farley, 136 Bronwood Street, congratulated new members of Council and asked for Council to review Resolution 2023-15, for a state audit, for an investigation into the Service Superintendent and the Service Department, for an investigation into the Police Department and its spending, to look into new legal counsel, and to abolish the Village Charter. She also brought up time clocks and the reappointment of George Markus.

Josh Farley, 136 Bronwood Street, asked if Service Superintendent was at all the meetings he was supposed to come to, expressing that he believes he didn't. He seconded the abolishment of the Village Charter. He also stated that he wants his case against him to be investigated.

Shannon Bemis, 130 Bronwood Street, remarked on the loss of a student and friend of the community the previous day, commented that she believed that Service Superintendent was present for all the required meetings but the Zoning Officer was not, congratulated new council members, expressed disappointment with the reading of the letter, and asked for the timing of the public comments to be reviewed.

Administrative staff comments.

Police Chief, nothing.

Fire Chief, nothing.

Mayor Nickerson asked the status of the house on Cain that had a structure fire.

Manager Madden stated that would be Zoning.

Zoning Compliance Officer updated that the house on Cain, they applied for a grant to tear it down, but they're still going through the legalities of it.

Council Member Sexton asked who the grant writer is.

Manager Madden stated that it depends – there are multiple.

Chief Financial Officer, nothing.

Service Department Superintendent, nothing.

Council Member Perkins asked if the Service Department has enough salt.

Service Superintendent answered yes.

Municipal Manager's comments.

Manager Madden welcomed all new council members and Mayor.

Council Member Perkins asked for a count on how many water meters were installed.

Manager Madden stated that she would get that number for him.

Council Member Comments.

Council Member Joy welcomed the new council members and addressed the public comments that come up and shared that he believes in readdress of grievance.

Council Member Back expressed disappointment with the letter, spoke about the silent majority, apologized to Mrs. Bemis, expressed his thanks to his support and his excitement to serve, and extended a prayer to the young man that passed.

Council Member Perkins asked the Chief Financial Officer if we have any loans and when they would be paid off.

Chief Financial Officer explained that there is a loan for the Firehouse with three more payments and would be paid off by May 2025.

Manager Madden added that the Firehouse loan is our interest-bearing loan and that we also have the OPWCs.

Council Member Perkins asked the Manager if the potential housing development would have the new water meters instead of the old ones.

Manager Madden answered yes.

Council Member Sexton congratulated new council members, expressed disappointment with the letter, apologized to Mrs. Bemis, and shared kind words about the family that lost their son and brother.

Council Member Loch welcomed the new council members and spoke on the loss in the community and hoped that the community could come together.

Mayor Comments.

Mayor Nickerson appreciated everyone who came out and promised to take care of the community.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Perkins, seconded by Council Member Loch.

Roll Call:

Council Member Perkins	yes
Mayor Nickerson	yes
Council Member Sexton	yes
Council Member Back	yes
Council Member Loch	yes
Council Member Joy	yes

6 yes 0 no motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm by Mayor Nickerson.

Approved:



Mayor

16 Jan 2024

Date



CFO/Clerk of Council

1/16/24

Date