

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on July 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Village Office.

Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, Ashley Meeks, Tim Casey, Jeff Jackson, Tom Norris M. Lovitt and J. Mockeridge.

Council Members Absent: None

Public Present: A. Losey, B. Barton, K. Herendeen, D. Harrison, N. Coffie, L. Murphy, B. Watson, K. DeChalk, Village Attorney F. Lucas, Village Treasurer C. Gibbs, K. Wyatt, Deputy L. Jacobson, DPW Director J. Blossom, and Village Clerk J. Lefere.

For their review, Councilmembers were e-mailed or given: Bills to be Paid in Amount of \$24,844.70; 6/26/2018 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; June 2018 Concord Area Police Blotter; Revenue & Expense Report thru 6/30/2018; SEMCO and Village Cooperative Sewer Line Mapping Email; Welcome to Redevelopment Ready Communities Program Email; 7/10/2018 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by J. Mockeridge, seconded by A. Meeks, to accept the minutes from the 6/26/2018 meeting as presented. The motion was approved by all.

Public Comments:

N. Coffie asked about the water bill increase and the almost four-million-dollar loan that the Village is applying for. According to her calculations the water bills bring in over \$30,000.00 each month and she is wondering where that money goes. J. Blossom and J. Bush explained that the money is used for operation and maintenance of the water system, maintenance for the water tower and the wells need to be rebuilt every three years. J. Bush informed N. Coffie that she or anyone else is welcome to come and look at the Village's books at any time to see where revenues are being spent.

L. Murphy asked why a sixty-day notice was not given to residents prior to increasing the rates. Clerk J. Lefere stated that the Village is not legally required to publish motions. L. Murphy stated that according to someone she spoke with at the State of Michigan said it was required. Clerk J. Lefere asked Village Attorney F. Lucas if he would like to comment which he stated a response would be put in writing and emailed to the Village. J. Lefere asked L. Murphy for her contact information in order to forward the response from F. Lucas.

D. Harrison asked about the four way stop at the intersection of Main/Homer/Hanover. She inquired as to whether or not people know the rules of a four way stop. She stated she observed autos not taking their proper turns and endanger those using the crosswalk. L. Jacobson stated it is hard to monitor as there is really no place to patrol the intersection without being seen, he is doing the best he can. He also stated in the time he has worked in the Village there has been only one accident at the intersection and alcohol was a definite factor.

K. Herendeen thanked the DPW Department for the reflectors on Jenks St. She also asked about sheds at Paddock and if a shed could be built on an empty lot. J. Blossom stated that a shed can only be built on a lot with a home on it. She said there is an issue with a shed on a lot in the Paddock Subdivision. L. Jacobson and J. Blossom will look into it. K. Herendeen also commented on how impressed she was back in the winter meetings with how concerned the Council was in how the residents would react to an increase in the rates and how she knew it was a difficult but necessary decision. She was also impressed with the presentation from John Holland with Michigan Rural Water Association who made it seem fixing the cast iron water pipes was not just a suggestion but was necessary.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$24,844.70 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by T. Casey, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$24,844.70. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson discussed his June 2018 Police Blotter. He discussed an ongoing mowing issue with a resident on S. Main St. He had given multiple warnings to no avail so it was necessary to issue a civil infraction.

J. Blossom was able to reach a deal with M&K Jetting and SEMCO Energy to televise and locate underground utility lines at the cost of \$200.00 per home. That amount will be split between SEMCO and the Village. SEMCO is planning on starting their natural gas main and service replacements in September. The new standby generators have been delivered for the Paddock and Hanover lift stations. Natural gas and electricity will be hooked up to them by the end of the month and they will be operational.

J. Bush discussed the lack of an easement behind the west side of the Main St. buildings in the Downtown Business District. K. DeChalk stated her, B. Watson, and K. Palon have agreed to a 30-foot utility easement necessary for replacement of the cast iron water pipes and possibly a 15-foot alley right of way. K. DeChalk would like to meet with Engineer J. Ripstra, J. Bush, J. Blossom and other affected building owners to discuss the alley right of way. F. Lucas stated there can be no construction over/on the utility easement. He also stated he had a title search completed by American Title Company and there is no legal verbiage in the deeds allowing business owners on the west side of Main St to access the back entrance of their buildings. The Council was unanimous in their opinion that an alleyway which offers owners and their patron's access to the rear entrance on these buildings was a necessary component for the Village to replace the cast iron water pipes.

Council Comments:

J. Bush stated he will be attending a round table meeting tomorrow at the home of K. Snow along with Pulaski Township Supervisor Bob Jones, Concord Township Supervisor Al Cavin, and Concord Schools Superintendent Dan Funston to discuss the future of the Concord Area Community. He will have an update at the next meeting.

J. Bush stated Treasurer C. Gibbs was up for her annual employee review. Treasurer C. Gibbs asked to have her employee review completed in a closed meeting.

It was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Mockeridge to adjourn open meeting at 7:52 pm. Motion approved by all.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Mockeridge to enter a closed meeting at 8:00 pm. Motion approved by all.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to adjourn closed meeting at 8:17 pm. Motion approved by all.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by T. Casey to return to open meeting at 8:18 pm. Motion approved by all.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by J. Jackson to give Treasurer C. Gibbs a \$1.50 per hour wage increase. Motion approved by all.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Mockeridge, to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Motion approved by all.


Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

7/24/18
Date