

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on November 22, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Village Office.

Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, Kayla Bush, Jeff Jackson, Jason Mockeridge, Mike Lovitt and Ashley Meeks.

Council Members Absent: Tim Casey.

Public Present: A. Losey, T. Norris, DPW Director J. Blossom, K. Wyatt, D. Cesco, J. Steers, Fire Chief L. Mosher, Village Clerk J. Lefere.

For their review, Council members were e-mailed or given: Bills to be Paid in amount of \$9,915.24, 11-22-16 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by K. Bush, seconded by J. Jackson, to accept the minutes from the November 8, 2016 meeting, as presented. The motion was approved by all.

Public Comments:

K. Wyatt of the Albion Recorder wanted to know how the online Village bill payment system was working. J. Lefere commented that to date five residents have taken advantage of the system. J. Bush also commented it is going to benefit residents when they are out of town, had been used by those who received shut-off notices, and could be used by all residents to view the amount they owe for Village bills online even if they didn't want to pay online.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$9,915.24 was presented. Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by A. Meeks, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$9,915.24. Motion approved by all.

J. Blossom asked if the council wanted to go ahead and pay off the lift station loan as planned, the council agreed to stick with the plan to pay off the loan early to avoid interest costs. The loan payoff balance is \$9,358.79. J. Blossom stated that leaf pickup was completed on 11/21/16. He also stated that the N. Main St. project is complete, there were a few issues that were fixed on 11-21-16. Frontier is running fibre optech on N. Main St. and J. Blossom informed them they are responsible for clean-up. J. Blossom informed the council that he has completed his portion of the projected 2017 budget with the exception of wages.

J. Blossom stated that he would like to purchase 4 new tires for the backhoe. The cost will be split between water, sewer, major and local street funds. The cost is \$1,984.00 from Albion Tire City. Motioned by M. Lovitt, seconded by J. Jackson that the Village allow J. Blossom to purchase new tires for the back hoe. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Blossom stated that the N. Main St. project came in about \$40,000 less than what is what budgeted for. With that savings he would like to have well #1 cleaned. Well #1 has never been cleaned and was installed in 1952. He would also like to purchase a new hand held meter reader that will also read the old meters, the reader that is currently being used is becoming obsolete as it cannot read the new meters. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Mockeridge to have well #1 cleaned and to purchase a new hand held meter reader. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Blossom stated for several years the Village has been doing small rate increases to water and sewer to get the rates to where it is recommended they be by the State. The Village went without a rate increase for twenty plus years at one point and as a result we have been under the recommended rates for years. Soon the State will be completing a water study and evaluations on our rates to ensure they are where they should be. J. Bush also mentioned the Village is seeing an increase in the rate we are being charged for the Village's garbage service through Granger our garbage service provider. J. Blossom suggested increasing the utility rates by \$1.00 for water \$1.00 for sewer and \$1.00 for garbage. Motioned by K. Bush, seconded by J. Jackson to increase rates effective 1-1-2017. All were in favor. Motion approved.

L. Mosher asked why buildings are billed a ready to service fee but vacant lots are not when the vacant lots have a ready to service water main. J. Blossom will check with Rural Water for recommendations about how other Villages handle the ready to service fee. L. Mosher also stated that the Fire Board had approved a \$2,000.00 a year salary increase that takes his annual salary to \$6,000.00.

Council Comments:

K. Bush informed the council that the Fire Board had completed their budget for 2017 with the total Fire budget of \$115,000.00. The Village approved \$57,500.00 for Fire Department Services.

J. Jackson stated that he was pleased with the N. Main St. project.

J. Bush and the Council discussed the performance reviews for J. Blossom and K. Thomas and were pleased with their work and felt they do a great job. They approved a \$1.00 per hour pay increase for J. Blossom and a \$1.50 per hour pay increase for K. Thomas stating that K. Thomas has had minimal increases in his nine years of service and he was being greatly underpaid according State statistics for someone with his certifications and years of service. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Mockeridge to approve the pay increases for J. Blossom and K. Thomas. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush informed the council J. Blossom was now eligible to go on his spouse's health insurance and to do so Blossom wanted an incentive. After discussion of other workplace insurance practices the council agreed to pay J. Blossom \$9,000.00 per year for as long as he works for the Village for not taking health insurance through the Village. This amount is less than half of what the Village currently pays for J. Blossom's health care. If J. Blossom were to come back on the insurance at a later date for any reason he will be required to pay 10% of the premium cost. That is less than the 21% newly hired employees are required to pay currently. Currently the Village pays Blossom's entire insurance premium at \$18,300+ yearly. Motioned by J. Mockeridge, seconded by A. Meeks to pay J. Blossom \$9,000.00 per year for not taking the Village's health care plan. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush thanked the office staff for their work on obtaining a postage permit for the Village and their work on the budget. The postage permit will save time and money on utility billing as the office staff currently adhere each stamp to bills individually.

J. Bush discussed the lot on 2nd Street which was up for tax sale for the second time but failed to sell at the County Tax Sale therefore the Village was being given the lot. J. Blossom approached neighboring homeowners about their interest in acquiring the lot for the cost of transferring the title and related costs. We have one adjacent owner that may be interested.

J. Bush approached the person in charge of tossing the newspapers in resident's driveways after several complaints. The person in charge mentioned possibly placing the newspapers at a central location, likely the Village Office and residents who wish may pick them up. We would like feedback if resident are displeased with these papers being thrown in their drives or would be interested in the Village Office serving as the pickup point, please call the office or email office@villageofconcord.com with your thoughts.

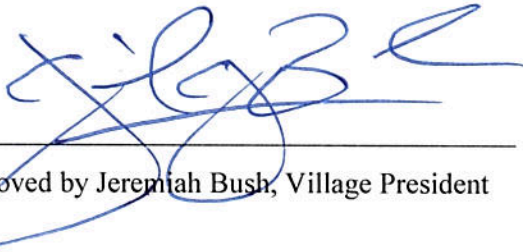
J. Bush noted the Eagle Scout N. Detgen has been working diligently on the Paddock Nature Trail. The DPW Department has been dropping off loads of free wood chips recycled from the Dollar General site for them to use on the trail. It looks like the Paddock Nature Trail will be completed shortly.

J. Bush and J. Blossom discussed a potential plan they came up with to offer free compost to Village residents. For years the DPW has been piling up leaves collected around the Village in a central location and it has become compost over time. This past summer, J. Bush noticed this occurring, brainstormed with regular turnover it would increase compost production, and it could be beneficial to Village residents who wanted to use it in their gardens, lawns and landscaping thus beautifying the Village. J. Blossom talked of plans to make a holding area with concrete barriers as a compost holder

and place the site near the Village's Brush Dump where Village residents would have access to the free mulch. J. Bush mentioned looking into grant opportunities for the project.

The Village Council will meet at 6:30 PM for budget review on 12-13-16 prior to the regularly scheduled council meeting. This will be posted at the Library and the Post Office. The Council plans to approve the budget at the Council Meeting scheduled for 12-27-16. J. Bush will continue to work on the Budget for 2017 with J. Lefere.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by K. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks, to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Motion approved by all.



Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

12/13/16
Date