

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on March 27, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Village Office.

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

Council Members Absent: Tim Casey.

Public Present: A. Losey, K. Wyatt, K. Mills, B. Murray, 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 \$93,494.87; 3/13/2018 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; March Fire Board Minutes; February Fire Run Report; April 2018 Village Voice; Library Community Planning Harwood Email; New Jackson County Sheriff Rand Article on MLive Email; Concord Café & MacCready Business Development/Rehab Incentives; Concord Township/ Concord Café & MacCready Business Development/Rehab Incentives; Fred Lucas Lawyer Concord Café & MacCready Business Development/Rehab Incentives; 3/27/2018 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by A. Meeks, to accept the minutes from the 3/13/2018 meeting as presented. The motion was approved by all.

Public Comments:

K. Wyatt asked about the Village changing to a City and if any comments from the residents had been received. J. Bush stated that he had not received any comments and the Council has not pursued at this time due to other pertinent issues.

B. Murray attended the meeting to ask what she could do to get her water turned back on. Water had been shut off a week earlier due to non-payment. She stated she is a senior citizen on a fixed income and questioned if the Village could offer a Senior Citizen Water Rate. J. Bush stated it was his understanding that legally this could not be done as everyone was expected to pay the same amount and no favoritism was allowed. Murray explained she was having issues with her financial institution making direct withdrawal payments for her bills. J. Jackson stated Murray needed to contact legal representation if her bank was engaging in the activities she was describing. She also stated that she was only a month behind on her bill. Clerk J. Lefere informed the Council that B. Murray had made a couple of payments however the checks were returned for non-sufficient funds. The Village mailed B. Murray a shut off notice two weeks prior to the water being shut off giving B. Murray the opportunity to set up a payment plan for her utility bill. She called the office the week before the water was shut off and was to stop in the office and make a small payment and then make weekly payments until the balance was paid in full. Murray did not follow through with the payment arrangement. J. Bush gave Murray several opportunities during the meeting to share what type of payment plan she could offer at the time of the meeting. B. Murray stated she had no money and excused herself from the meeting.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$93,494.87 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Jackson, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$93,494.87. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson stated he had just returned from a weeks' vacation. He also stated that the 2nd suspect in the C.J.'s Party Store robbery has been arrested and they may be charging the parties with attempted robbery for their activities in the Concord Dollar General.

J. Blossom stated hydrant flushing has been completed. He also mentioned the Concord Baseball and Softball Club has donated money to the Village to purchase two batting cages for Gottschalk Park. He also informed the Council that J. Ripstra from Ripstra & Scheppelman is 95% complete on his portion of the cost estimate needed for the USDA Loan Application for the Village's large Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan. Rural Water will be completing another rate study to see where our rates need to be to pay for the USDA Loan. J. Blossom also asked the Council if they would like to run four circuits on each end of the Downtown Business District lighting system to avoid running generators during the Concord Classic Weekend. J. Bush motioned to allow Aladdin Electric to install

extra circuits to the lighting system not to exceed \$5,000.00. Seconded by A. Meeks. All were in favor. Motion approved. He also recommended having an informational meeting on Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan and the USDA Loan for our residents at the first meeting in May. J. Bush stated before a public meeting occurs on the Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan and the USDA Loan the Council would like to have the all information necessary to present the plan thoroughly to the public i.e. rate study, map of streets effected, Ripstra's cost estimate, etc. J. Blossom also stated the water main running across the back of Gottschalk Park along the trail is in and the DPW will be turning on service around mid-April.

J. Bush mentioned a prospective buyer interested in purchasing a local business and completely renovating the historic building it was located in and reached out to the Council about what types of incentives the Village could offer. Bush stated he was in correspondence with the MEDC, MML and the Village's Lawyer to see what type of incentives the Village can and cannot offer. The Council would like to give anyone who would be willing to use their own monetary resources to open a business and/or renovate one of our commercial buildings (particularly in downtown historic district) the same incentives the Village would be expected to offer someone receiving an MEDC Rehab Ready Community Grant.

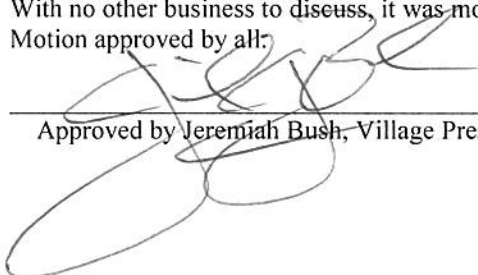
Council Comments:

A. Meeks informed the Council that the Fire Department Cash Bash will be held at the Concord Community Center on May 5th. See any firefighter to purchase a ticket.

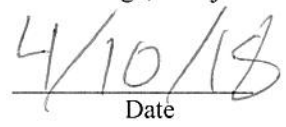
J. Mockeridge brought up the possibility of placing the resident's garbage bills on their taxes. This would reduce the amount of the resident's monthly utility bill and instead residents would pay their garbage bill yearly as part of their taxes.

J. Bush noticed the Village's portion of the asphalt trail in Concord's Mill Pond Park a Falling Water's Trailhead has some cracks that need to be repaired with crack sealing. J. Blossom stated he will look into and get with the Council about cost of needed repairs. Blossom mentioned possibly having this short section seal coated.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Mockeridge, to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Motion approved by all:



Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President



Date