

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on June 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Village Office.

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

Council Members Absent: None.

Public Present: A. Losey, B. Barton, K. Herendeen, T. Brush, 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 \$14,957.76; 5/22/2018 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; Concord Fire Board Minutes 5/16/2018; Deputy Jacobson's May Blotter; Revenue & Expenditure Report thru 5/31/2018; June Village Voice; Concord Pre-School End of Year Celebration Invite Email; Use of Village Commons for Teen Childcare Course Email; Concord Area Joint Master Plan Survey; 6/12/2018 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by A. Meeks, to accept the minutes from the 5/22/2018 meeting as presented. The motion was approved by all.

Public Comments:

K. Herendeen returned to discuss the slope at the corner of Jenks and Paddock streets in the Paddock subdivision as discussed in a previous meeting. Her concern is if people drive too fast through the area they may miss the curve and slide off the road down the steep shoulder and into the swamp. J. Blossom will get back with Village Engineer J. Ripstra to see what he recommends. She also mentioned the lots that need to be cleaned up and mowed in the Paddock Subdivision. J. Bush informed her of an amendment to the blight lawn mowing ordinance made at a previous meeting which should address this issue and will take effect on July 17, 2018. K. Herendeen asked if sheds were allowed on vacant lots in the Paddock subdivision. J. Blossom will check to see if this is allowed and get back with her. Herendeen also had questions on the water/sewer assessments which will be levied in five years now that Jenks St. has been paved. J. Bush informed her all residents affected will be receiving a letter from the Village's Lawyer F. Lucas in the near future.

T. Brush attended the meeting to introduce herself and discuss the Safe Sitter Program she teaches. Safe Sitter is a highly-structured, competency-based curriculum designed to provide teens skills for life. It offers medically accurate instruction, packaged with innovative teaching techniques and student materials. Young teens and pre-teens learn skills to be safe and nurturing babysitters as result of taking and passing the course. Participants also learn how to be safe when home alone as well. Brush was in search of a free venue in which to offer the course as a way to keep the cost for participation down. The Village Council as a whole thought these classes were a community service and it would be beneficial for area teens and pre-teens to have the opportunity to take these courses so close to home. As a result, the Village Council offered Brush use of the Village Commons meeting room on Saturdays and Sundays to hold her Safe Sitter Classes. For more information or to register your teen or pre-teen please go to <https://kidsafebabysitting.com/>.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$14,957.76 was presented. Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by A. Meeks, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$14,957.76. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson reviewed the May Police Blotter. He wanted to inform residents to keep a very close eye on any pet – predominantly valuable dogs –i.e. pugs, bulldogs, huskies, etc. There has been a rash of valuable dogs being stolen in Jackson County with one in Concord Township. A GPS chip is a great idea to deter this activity and find your missing dog! He also wanted to remind residents to lock doors, lock vehicles, put out your trail cams, snag license plate numbers on suspicious vehicles and stay vigilant! Concord is a GREAT COMMUNITY but people are out there looking to take advantage of crimes of convenience. L. Jacobson delivered numerous letters to properties throughout the Village reminding residents to STOP blowing grass clippings in the street as the rain washes them into the drain system and they form an unmovable blob! The Village has to pay a lot of money to jetting companies to clean out storm drains! L. Jacobson mentioned he has been in contact with the owner of the former Shannon's building and has informed him that there is fascia that has fallen and repairs are needed preferably before Concord Classic Weekend. He has also reached out to the owner of the Flower Basket building about the need to fix fascia which is hanging from the top of the building and could fall on a pedestrian. L. Jacobson has responded to several complaints regarding the smell of marijuana coming from homes. He has followed up on these complaints and the residents in question have a valid State of Michigan Medical Marijuana Card and as a result nothing can be done as they are compliant with the law.

J. Blossom discussed the lawn mowing issue with Dollar General as they had not mowed their lawn yet this year and was in violation of the Village's lawn mowing blight ordinance. The Village after making multiple contacts to Dollar General about this issue and giving them a reasonable deadline for completion of the mowing was forced to mow Dollar General. J. Bush stated the Village does not want to mow businesses and resident yards and to deter this practice the Village gives ample warnings and places a substantial fee for mowing these lawns in violation of the lawn mowing blight ordinance. Blossom stated after talking with several local lawn care businesses about what they would charge to mow the Dollar General a decision was made to double the amount and \$300 was charged for the Village to mow Dollar General. Residents in violation of lawn mowing blight ordinance can expect a similar fee will be incurred if residents refuse to address the lawn issue after warnings. If the fee charged by the Village for mowing is not paid the Village places the fee amount on the land taxes and the amount will be paid or the business or resident will run the risk of losing their land for non-tax payment. After numerous more messages left for the Dollar General district and regional managers and no return phone

calls Clerk J. Lefere was able to get into contact with another corporate contact which is taking care of the issue. The Dollar General contact stated the lawn care servicer had claimed they had mowed multiple times and billed for services not rendered

J. Blossom mentioned the resident who had her water shut off a few months ago paid her balance in full and her water is back on. He also mentioned he will be having the parking spot lines refreshed on the new part of downtown in the near future. A handicap parking space will be added near the handicap ramp in front of the Village office when the ramp in front of the office is redone in the fall. Blossom will also be checking into stop bars for the intersection on River St. leading to the Mill Pond Park a Falling Waters Trailhead.

J. Blossom informed the Council, Michigan Rural Water Association has a new energy efficiency program and they will be in the Village on Wednesday June 13th to go over ways for the Village to be more energy efficient. J. Bush offered to assist with any paperwork necessary for the energy efficiency program.

J. Blossom stated the Baseball/Softball club is going to donate the first set of dugouts at Gottschalk Park on the ball diamond behind the Community Center, more dugouts will likely be donated at other ball diamonds around the park in the future. He informed the Council, Village Engineer J. Ripstra is still working on the easement process behind the businesses on the northwest side of Main St. Ripstra is almost done with the engineer report needed in order for Clerk J. Lefere to complete the USDA RD loan application.

J. Bush discussed a lengthy meeting he attended with Councilmembers T. Casey and M. Lovitt, Township Supervisor A. Cavasin and Township Planning Commission Members O. Wetzel, B. Schleede, and C. McCorkle to work on the Concord Area Joint Master Plan Survey. Bush also wanted it noted Casey, Lovitt, and he gave their free time, hard work, and expected no compensation for attending this additional meeting. Motioned by M. Lovitt, seconded by J. Mockeridge to approve the survey as printed and mail out of the survey document with Township Summer Tax Bills. All were in favor. Motion approved.

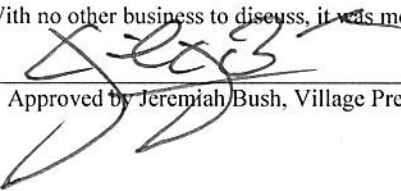
J. Bush also discussed the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Redevelopment Ready Community resolution passed at the 5/22/2018 meeting. J. Bush has completed and returned the application to MEDC to become engaged in Redevelopment Ready Community Program and as a result our current and future business owners in the downtown business district will be eligible for MEDC RRC Grants.

Council Comments:

T. Casey stated that he was approached by two people who are concerned about the Village's recent decision to allow alcohol consumption in Gottschalk Park. The residents did not think it was appropriate for adults to consume alcohol around children. J. Blossom stated he is at the park four to five times a week for baseball games and he has not seen one person drinking alcohol. J. Bush stated he is there often for T-Ball games as well and has only witnessed one person drinking and they were being discreet about it by having the can in a foam shell. Bush stated you would have thought it was a Pepsi. So far it has not been an issue. L. Jacobson will monitor the park frequently. Residents are encouraged to report if someone is being drunk and disorderly in public including the park.

J. Jackson let J. Blossom know T. Karr will be getting with him about the placement of the Little Library at the Mill Pond Park a Falling Water's Trailhead.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by T. Casey, to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Motion approved by all.


Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

6/26/18
Date