

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on September 11, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Village Commons Meeting Room.

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

Council Members Absent: Ashley Meeks

Public Present: A. Losey, K. Herendeen, T. Wilkison, K. Wyatt, N. Cornstubble, B. Brigham, L. Brigham, B. Barton, M. Berryhill, B. Otto, K. Luttenton, K. George, Deputy L. Jacobson, DPW Director J. Blossom, and Village Clerk J. Lefere.

For their review, Council Members were e-mailed or given: Bills to be Paid in Amount of \$54,219.09; Concord Area Police Blotter; Revenue and Expense Report thru 8/31/2018; Children Play Structures Email; 8/28/2018 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; 9/11/2018 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by J. Mockeridge, seconded by M. Lovitt, to accept the minutes from the 8/28/2018 meeting as presented. The motion was approved by all.

Public Comments:

B. Brigham stated he received an invoice in the amount of \$845.00 from the Village for having his lots in the Paddock Subdivision mowed and stated he was not given the opportunity to state his case before this action. He has a problem with the ordinance and feels it should be amended and the verbiage should be different as it is confusing and could be interpreted differently by readers. He feels the amendment to the ordinance was specifically written to target his lots within the Paddock subdivision. He stated he was never informed of the ordinance amendment and felt the Village should have contacted residents that would be affected by the amendment. J. Mockeridge stated that the Village published the amendment 30 days prior to it taking effect as required by law. J. Bush explained the reasons for the mowing ordinance amendment and the verbiage that was used.

L. Brigham wanted to know why a play structure is allowed on an adjacent lot in the Paddock subdivision if structures such as sheds are not allowed. J. Blossom stated he has talked with the tax assessor and play structures are not given a taxable value where sheds/garages are given a taxable value.

B. Otto attended the meeting to discuss a water leak he had at his home in July. He felt he should not have to pay the \$50 service fee to have his water turned back on. J. Blossom and J. Bush explained that the service fee is a Village ordinance and a common fee charged by the majority of municipalities with water and sewer services to recoup the cost of having an employee come in to work overtime. B. Otto stated it should be a part of the water service he is already paying for by paying his bill on time and felt he is being ripped off and that the Village is double dipping. J. Blossom stated the Village actually could have charged an after-hours fee and wages for the employee coming in on a Saturday night to turn his water off so his basement would not be flooded. J. Bush stated that DPW employee was there to turn the water off in less than ten minutes. J. Blossom added that when he turned the water back on he stayed at the Otto residence for approximately 45 minutes as there were several small leaks that B. Otto needed to repair.

K. Herendeen stated she feels the discussions on mowing in the Paddock subdivision and throughout the Village has been an ongoing discussion for several years and the amendment to the mowing ordinance happened because of several lots in the Village, not just the lots in the Paddock subdivision. She also mentioned at the last meeting B. Brigham stated he had spoken to several council members and they said they had not seen his lots and didn't know if they needed to be mowed or not. However, the ordinance must be enforced by the compliance officer as written. Herendeen also mentioned the cost to have lots mowed should have no bearing on the Village's decision to amend the ordinance as the purchasing of lots was a business decision made by a speculator and the Village is not responsible for assisting a speculator with ensuring their investment is profitable.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$54,219.09 was presented. Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by J. Bush, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$54,219.09. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson discussed his August Police Blotter. He stated he gave out a couple of parking tickets last month to some young kids that were illegally parked overnight on a Village street. He also stated he was second on-scene for the horrible accident at Moscow Rd. and Hanover Rd. involving the fully-loaded hog hauler and it was easily one of the most disturbing scenes he's come across in 20+ years of policing. A lot of different departments, agencies and concerned citizens came together to clear up a terrible situation.

There had been some social media posts and other conversations that the police didn't know what they were doing and merely got in the way. He finds these posts completely without merit and 100% unjustifiable.

J. Blossom stated five large maples went down in the Village during last week's storm. The Village had those cleaned up along with six others that were targeted for removal. There are still 8-10 trees that need to come down possibly next year.

J. Blossom also informed the Council that with a couple of very generous donations, one from County National Bank and the other from a local resident, the Town Clock Fund is currently at \$10,477.00. He stated he has been in contact with the Verdin Clock Company and they anticipate an increase in the price and suggested we order the clock now to lock in the price. We would need to put 50% down (\$8,087.00) and the balance would be due in the Spring of 2019. J. Bush and J. Mockeridge would like to check into a program with the MEDC called Public Spaces Community Places a crowdfunding grant site, which could possibly match 50% of the donations. The Council decided to hold off on ordering the clock until they can check into this further. J. Blossom discussed the bids for the Concord Village Office Entrance Replacement project. The Village received two bids. One from Dysert Concrete in the amount of \$54,123.50 and the other from Concord Excavating in the amount of \$46,417.95. The bids came in quite a bit over the engineer's estimate which was around \$32,000.00. J. Blossom, K. Williams from Concord Excavating and Village engineer J. Ripstra met and made some adjustments to the spec sheet which reduced the bid by \$7,102.50, bringing the cost down to approximately \$39,315.00. Motioned by J. Mockeridge, seconded by J. Jackson for Concord Excavating to complete the work replacing the front of the Village office to make it ADA compliant. Roll call vote: J. Jackson – Aye, T. Norris – Aye, T. Casey – Aye, M. Lovitt – Aye, J. Mockeridge – Aye. A. Meeks – absent. Motion approved.

J. Blossom also stated the new on-site generators are installed, up and running so the Village can now sell their portable generator. An ad will run in the September 16th edition of the Salesman to accept bids for the generator with a minimum bid of \$8,000.00. J. Bush stated that he would like J. Blossom to post the generator on a heavy equipment for sale site as well and feels it would reach more people that may have an interest. J. Blossom will look into other options for listing.

J. Bush discussed Property Tax Receipt Mailing Practices due to a post on social media. The person complaining on social media did receive an emailed receipt and had a hard copy in the Village office to be picked up when he attended the next Planning Commission meeting. It is the practice of the Village and has been for a number of years that if a resident would like a "stamped paid" receipt for their tax payment they must send a self-addressed stamped envelope with their payment. This is a common accepted practice in place in many municipalities around the Village. A resident can also request an emailed receipt or stop into the Village office to have their tax statement stamped during business hours.

Council Comments:

T. Casey stated he would like to look into the mowing ordinance regarding vacant lots. He also mentioned exploring charging a monthly service fee to residents' water bills in lieu of a turn on fee.

J. Jackson stated that whenever he calls a company for service a fee is charged to him when they pull in his driveway.

J. Bush thanked T. Wilkison and his foundation for their generous donation to the Town Clock Fund. He also thanked B. Stacks for donating an overview picture of the Village from the 1800's she found. It has been framed and is located on a wall in the Village Commons meeting room. J. Bush informed the Council that he is coaching Concord Youth 3-5-year-old Soccer this fall and may be a little late for some upcoming meetings. In the case of him being late M. Lovitt pro tempore will start the meetings and J. Bush will take over when he arrives.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by T. Casey, to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Motion approved by all.


Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

9/25/18
Date