

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on November 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Village Commons Meeting Room.

Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, Jeff Jackson, T. Norris, T. Casey, A. Meeks, M. Lovitt.

Council Members Absent: Kyle George

Public Present: K. Wyatt, E. Poleski, B. Raut, 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 \$51,879.04; USDA Loan Payment in Amount of \$96,145.12; Revenue & Expense Report thru 10/31/2021; October 2021 Fire Run Report; October Fire Board Minutes; November Fire Board Minutes; December 2021 Village Voice; Concord Area Police Blotter October 2021; 10-26-2021 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; 11/9/2021 Village Council Budget Meeting Proposed Minutes; 11-23-2021 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by J. Bush, to accept the minutes from the 10/26/2021 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by J. Jackson, to accept the minutes from the 11/9/2021 budget meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Comments:

B. Raut inquired about lines on the streets. J. Blossom stated that the lines will be painted in the spring and that by waiting the paint will not seep through the pavement causing fade and then the Village would have to pay to reapply the paint. She also inquired as to whether there is an ordinance in the Village regarding downtown businesses to have a store front on the main level and only residential in the upper level. J. Bush stated that there is not an ordinance however the main level zoned for residential is approved by the Council on a case-by-case basis.

K. Wyatt asked with winter coming up does the Village have any plans on how to help the cats in the Village. The Council stated that the Village does not have any plans and that the cat population has declined possibly due the person that is trapping them and getting them spay or neutered.

E. Poleski gave an update on the County Commissioners meeting. For information on the Jackson County Commissioners meeting go to <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/365/Jackson-County-Commissioners> and select the news tab.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$51,879.04 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Jackson, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$51,879.04. Motion approved by all.

USDA RD Water Main Project Pay Approval in the amount of \$96,145.12 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Bush, to approve the payment of Expense for Water Main Project in the amount of \$96,145.12. Motion approved by all.

J. Bush informed the council that Pete Behnke of Comco Wellness was unable to attend the meeting. He will give his presentation at a later date.

J. Bush presented the 2022 projected budget. Since there was no public in attendance for the Budget Hearing on November 9th he decided to wait until the December meeting to approve the budget.

J. Lefere informed the Council that there was an MML Workers Comp Payroll Audit a few weeks ago and that everything was in compliance. These audits are done every 3 years. J. Lefere informed the council that with the retirement of building inspector M. Levy that the village has hired a new inspector, Phil Beemer, who will start on December 1, 2021. The fee per inspection will increase to \$100.00 to cover the inspection fee and the monthly retainer fee.

L. Jacobson was unable to attend the meeting. To view a copy of L. Jacobson's October Concord Area Police Blotter, go to the Village website at www.villageofconcord.com look on the home page – quick links.

J. Blossom stated he has no update from Village Attorney F. Lucas on the K. Stuart case. He also informed the Council he has extended leaf pick-up to December 1st. J. Blossom stated the USDA project is 90% complete. They were unable to pave the rest of Spring St. and Main St. The USDA was able to roll the funds over to next year and the paving will be completed in the Spring and it looks like we will be able to complete the project without going over budget. The Village Christmas lights are up. The three DPW employees took the sewer test on November 10th and should have the results by mid-December.

J. Bush discussed an increase in the water/sewer rates is necessary as part of the USDA loan agreement the water rates need to increase each year. Due to the rising cost of supplies and needing to replace numerous grinder pumps in the Village, J. Blossom felt the sewer rates should also be increased to cover these expenses.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt to increase the water rates by \$1.00 and to increase the sewer rates by \$1.00 effective on 1/1/2022. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush discussed the Alley and Street Vacating Procedures Ordinance that was created by Village Attorney F. Lucas. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt to adopt the Alley and Street Vacating Procedures Ordinance. The Ordinance will take effect 20 days after its adoption. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush discussed the employee reviews that were performed at the November 9th meeting. He discussed how valuable the staff is and how the Village has a great team that works well together. He felt with the cost-of-living increase at 5.9% and the staff working through the pandemic that he was willing to give the 10% increase to all staff that they requested. The Council was in agreement.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt to increase all staff wages by 10% effective 1/1/2022. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Council Comments:

T. Norris asked if the Crosby's were pleased with the repairs made to their driveway. J. Blossom stated "yes" and that S. Crosby had stopped in the office to thank the Village.

A. Meeks stated that the Fire Budget was complete and emailed to everyone and will be approved with the Village budget at the next meeting.

J. Bush discussed the trail route going to Albion and the discussions are going well.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Bush, to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Motion approved by all.


Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

12/14/21
Date