

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on March 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Concord Community Center.

Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, Jeff Jackson, T. Norris, A. Meeks, Kyle George and Mike Lovitt.

Council Members Absent: T. Casey.

Public Present: Jackson County Commissioner E. Poleski, K. Wyatt, A. Losey, C. Laeder, P. Laeder, M. Lehman, DPW Director J. Blossom, Village Clerk J. Lefere.

For their review, Council Members were e-mailed or given: Bills to be Paid in Amount of \$104,142.48; USDA Pay Approval in Amount of \$98,233.80; Revenue & Expense Report thru 2/28/2021; February 2021 Police Blotter; February 2021 Fire Run Report; April 2021 Village Voice; Athletic Boosters Raffle Tickets Email; Forwarded Fred Lucas Village Attorney Ordinance Updates Email; Updated Ordinances Email; 2-23-2021 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; 3-23-2021 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by K. George, seconded by A. Meeks, to accept the minutes from the 2/23/2021 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Comments:

K. Wyatt asked if there were any updates on the situation at 203 N. Main. J. Bush stated that it is still ongoing and Village attorney F. Lucas is working on it.

E. Poleski asked about the trail and if a decision had been made on the route. J. Bush informed him that the April meeting has been canceled and they will meet in May to continue the discussion. 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.

M. Lehman attended the meeting to discuss the Concord Classic and ask if anyone had questions about why it was being held at Gottschalk Park this year. This is what was stated on the Concord Classic Facebook Page - There was a lot of thought that was put into the decision and frankly Jason Blossom and I (Matt Lehman) felt that the park would be the best option this year.

1. Better parking! This has been a major issue during the weekend and with the road project, it's even more of an issue.
2. Fewer detours to allow better traffic flow. We will only block off from Allman to Spring St. This has also been a major issue and with the road construction, it's an even bigger issue.
3. Covid...whether we like it or not, Covid guidelines may still be in place, and having it at the park, which is a bigger space, is smarter for 2021.
4. The park will allow us to better utilize the volleyball courts, basketball courts, community center, baseball/softball fields, and other spaces, including more space for the bounce houses that are very popular with the kids.
5. The pavilions at the park will allow shelter from the elements and provide a place for bands. This is a cost-saving since we will not need to purchase as many tents as normal.
6. Set up...we will have more time setting up the park and getting things ready during the week. This includes moving bounce houses and detour signs.
7. We will have the normal fixings of food and beverages. The beverages will be coordinated by the Concord Athletic Booster Club.
8. The 4th of July Celebration was always held at the park and from what I've heard, it was the highlight of the year and very successful...just like Concord Classic Weekend!
9. The fireworks show was going to have to move regardless. M & K Jetting and Televising donated \$10,000 towards the show for this year. The park allows for a better place to view and more space.

10. There will be a lot of people in town for this weekend and we still feel businesses will flourish during the weekend.

Seven years ago, I approached Jason on the idea of having a festival. This was a partnership between the village and the school. Each year it has gotten better and grown. It has become an event for everyone to come back to Concord if you're a native/graduate or come to check out Concord because it a nice place to visit. I have loved having it downtown and would certainly revisit it again in 2022. But under the circumstances I described above, we will have it at the park and you won't be disappointed!

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$104,142.48 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by K. George, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$104,142.48. Motion approved by all.

USDA RD Water Main Project Pay Approval in the amount of \$98,233.80 was presented. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by J. Jackson, to approve the payment of Expense for Water Main Project in the amount of \$98,233.80. Motion approved by all.

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

J. Blossom informed the council that another new house is being built in the Paddock subdivision by Allen Edwin Homes. He also gave an update on the water main project. Harmon Ave. and Michigan St. to the well house are complete. The old main has been terminated and they have been hooked up to the new main. They have started hooking up services on S. Union St. The storm sewer on Main Street from Third to Center must be rebuilt. It will be paid form Major Street and some from Local Street. The total cost will be \$145,023.20. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded M. Lovitt to pay \$145,023.20 to have the storm sewer on S. rebuilt. All were in favor. Motion approved. J. Blossom also informed the council of the electricity at the park and that it is in bad shape. Aladdin gave a rough estimate of \$3,490.00 to make the repairs. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to have Aladdin fix the electricity at the park. All were in favor. Motion approved. J. Blossom informed the council that Bill Mulally, baseball tournament coordinator, donated a scoreboard for the baseball field at the park. The high beams for it to stand on are being donated by Precise Machine and Blossom Farms. He also stated that Consumers, who the village has had a tree removal contract with for years is no longer doing tree removal. The Village is accepting bids from other tree removal companies. J. Blossom and J. Bush are working on a grant for Major/Local Streets. The grant is a 50/50 match. They will be crunching the numbers in the next few days to see what the village has available to work with in these funds.

J. Bush discussed the Ordinance updates that were redone by Village attorney F. Lucas. The council was emailed the new ordinances to review. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt to adopt the updated ordinances. Roll call vote as follows: J. Bush – aye, J. Jackson – aye, T. Norris – aye, A. Meeks – aye, M. Lovitt – aye, K. George – aye. Absent – T. Casey. Motion approved.

J. Bush asked the council if they would like to reinstate late fees on utility bills. All agreed that the 12 months of not applying late fees was very generous but will resume with the April 2021 payment due date.

Council Comments: A. Meeks informed the council that at the March Fire Board meeting they approved the purchase of a new Fire Engine. It will be delivered in the Fall.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Bush, to adjourn at 7:42 pm. Motion approved by all.


Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

4/27/21
Date