

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on July 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Concord Community Center.

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

Council Members Absent: None

Public Present: K. Wyatt, A. Losey, Jackson County Commissioner E. Poleski, L. Mosher, C. Leader, P. Leader, L. Schultz, E. Schultz, B. Smith, 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 \$79,201.18; June Concord Area Police Blotter; Revenue & Expense Report thru 6/30/2020; July Village Voice; August Village Voice; June 2020 Fire Board Meeting Minutes; July 2020 Fire Board Meeting Minutes; June 2020 Fire Run Report; Fireworks Ordinance Email – J. Bush; 640 Hanover St. Additional Sewer Hook-up Letter Email – J. Lefere; Baseball/Volleyball Tourneys Covid Concern and Cancellation Email – J. Bush; Copier Quote – J. Lefere; Former Flower Basket Building/Water Main Issue Email – J. Bush; 108 N. Main St. Email – J. Blossom; 6/23/20 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; 7/28/20 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by K. George, to accept the minutes from the 6/23/2020 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Comments:

K. Wyatt asked J. Blossom to address the narrowing of the streets. J. Blossom stated that the engineer is working on the plans to narrow the streets as discussed at the previous meeting. E. Schultz expressed his concerns that the intersection of Hanover St. (a class A street) and Michigan St, as being dangerous. J. Blossom stated that he previously spoke with E. Schultz and the engineer and felt that the concerns had been addressed. By narrowing the street, the intersection will be straightened out. M. Lovitt added that studies show that people don't drive as fast on narrow streets and are hopeful that will reduce the speeding on Hanover St. L. Schultz is concerned because it is a main East/West road through Concord. J. Blossom also noted the substantial savings was the main reason behind the Council exploring the narrowing of the streets.

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

A. Losey announced that he is running for Jackson County Commissioner District 6 and how great it is to work with the Concord Village Council.

L. Mosher attended the meeting to discuss Bonfire Permits and address the burning ordinance violations. He has allowed a couple of burn in place fires if there are no structures near the burn area. If a complaint gets called in, he goes out and warns the resident and educates them on what can and cannot be burned. If he has to go out several times law enforcement may need to get involved. If the DNR issues a statewide burn ban there can be no fires! He would like an explanation on the bonfire/burn permit on what a social fire is and require the resident to sign it when the permit is issued. The council and the fire chief will review and finalize the permit.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$79,201.18 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by M. Lovitt, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$79,201.18. Motion approved by all.

Deputy Jacobson discussed his February 2020 Police Blotter. To view a copy, go to the Village website at www.villageofconcord.com look on the home page – quick links. He also noted that the owner of the building located at 101 N. Main has vanished again. A couple of weeks ago a few bricks fell from the chimney landing in the alley. He has sent numerous citations with no response. The council agreed to get the opinion of Village Attorney F. Lucas on how to proceed. L. Jacobson also mentioned that a couple of deputies working midnights checked out the trailers behind the building located on the corner of N. Main and River St. and it appears that no one is living in them. He also discussed the guy all dressed in black with his face completely covered was not Antifa, he was just an idiot that was trying to get a reaction from people. He stated the complaints of a man on the trail making inappropriate comments to women had been identified as Andrew Ryan Yount, a homeless person, he was arrested and back out in 24 hours. He informed everyone that there were numerous break-ins in the Parma area recently. T. Casey stated residents should know there are security cameras on Amazon that are not very expensive.

J. Blossom informed the council about residents misunderstanding what a zoning permit is. We have had several residents that when told they need a zoning permit to put up a shed, pool, fence, etc. they think that we are rezoning their property. He asked the council to consider renaming the permit to Site Evaluation Permit. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to change the name of a Zoning Permit to Site Evaluation Permit. In favor – J. Bush, A. Meeks, J. Jackson, T. Norris, M. Lovitt and K. George. Opposed – T. Casey.

Motion approved.

J. Blossom gave an update on the water project – W. Center St, Homer Rd. Spring St. and Hanover St. – all connections have been tied into the new main. The old main has been disconnected. The contractor started on Monroe street and hopes to have it completed by the end of the week. J. Blossom asked the council to consider Driveway Permits as the Village wants to be able to review resident's driveway plans. The council asked J. Blossom to put something together and they will discuss it at the next meeting. J. Blossom also wanted to remind everyone of the water/gravity sewer hook-up fees. \$1500.00 for water and \$3000.00 for gravity sewer.

J. Bush discussed the property at 640 Hanover St. In January of 2019 the property owner came to the council and asked if he did a land split to build a second home on the property if he would be able to run the water and sewer from Hanover St. instead of Mill St. so he could avoid the cost of a grinder pump. The council agreed and informed the owner he would be responsible for the cost of the hook ups. The owner does not want to pay the full cost of the hook up fee. The council will send a letter to the owner stating the cost, \$3000 to hook up to the gravity sewer on Hanover St. will need to be paid by 8/15/2020. If it is not paid by this date, he will need to hook up to Mill St. gravity feed sewer.

J. Lefere discussed issues that the office has been having with the current copy machine and presented the plan to purchase a new copy machine. The new copy machine will be able to accommodate all the needs of the office and will also allow for color copies if/when needed. The cost is \$4199.99 with a monthly service payment of \$19.50. The Village currently pays \$79.59 for the monthly service payment through our current provider. *Service plan includes all toner/ink, service labor, supply items and parts excluding paper and staples*. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to purchase a new copy machine at the cost of \$4199.99 with a monthly service fee of \$19.50. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush discussed the Fireworks Ordinance and asked the council if they would like to add a number of feet from any structure. The council agreed that a number of feet from a structure should be added. J. Bush will add and email to everyone and they will approve at the next meeting.

Council Comments:

T. Casey felt the cancellation of baseball/volleyball tournament park event cancellations was a good decision. He also commented on E. Poleski and A. Losey for how well they were running their campaigns. He commented on how some residents thought that the council was getting a pay increase by going to one meeting a month when actually they are taking a pay cut and saving the village \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year. He also stated that he was sad about the reclosing of the office.

J. Jackson wanted to let everyone know that the CSLHC is open and is available for sports physicals and vaccinations. Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 5pm. Closed from 12pm to 1pm.

M. Lovitt commented that he feels the water project is going very well and that they are doing a good job.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Bush, to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Motion approved by all.

Approved by  Jeremiah Bush, Village President Date

