

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on September 28, 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 and Kyle George.

Council Members Absent:

Public Present: K. Wyatt, A. Medek, Deputy L. Jacobson, and DPW Director J. Blossom

For their review, Council Members were e-mailed or given: Bills to be Paid in Amount of \$188,298.18; Revenue & Expense Report thru 8/31/2021; August 2021 Fire Run Report; September Fire Board Minutes; October 2021 Village Voice; Garbage Day Delay for Labor Day Email; Water Tower Cleaning Email; Ordinance for Vacating Alley and Street Right of Ways Email; Bradley Days Alley Closure Rescindment Text; 8-24-2021 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; 9-28-2021 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by K. George, to accept the minutes from the 8/24/2021 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Comments:

E. Poleski spoke about Jackson County's ARPA Funds Presentation and ARPA Public Meetings held around Jackson County to allow public input on ARPA Fund usage. E. Poleski asked J. Bush if he had seen the webinars being offered by Region 2 on ARPA Funds. J. Bush responded he had.

A. Medek came to ask the Council what the plans were for the traffic light cross walk-in front of the Elementary School, located on S. Main St. and Third St. as she had witnessed people turning right (north) out of the drop off and they could possibly hit kids crossing S. Main St. J. Bush said the intention is to eventually paint cross walks in however we were advised to allow the new asphalt to settle and constrict fully before painting which wouldn't be completed until the Spring of 2022. Other ideas were discussed as well including signage, cross guards, etc. J. Blossom offered to get in touch with B. Hutchinson the Superintendent to discuss other options.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$188,298.18 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by K. George, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$188,298.18. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson gave a brief synopsis of his August Police Blotter.

J. Blossom stated with the approval of permits from the State to replace the water main under the bridge, Concord Excavating would be completing the water main work on Spring St. in the next couple of weeks. J. Blossom stated the Village is now using the USDA grant money the Village received at the time of the loan for this portion of the project and the plan is still to be completed with the entire project by mid-November.

J. Blossom brought up that the DPW has been receiving a number of false call-ins and had been called out again for a grinder pump issue at a resident's home which was not related to the Village's grinder pump and the owner should have contacted a plumber instead for their plumbing issue. Blossom suggested again the Council explore charging residents a service fee for those who call out the DPW for issues which are owner/operator fault and not Village related. Blossom suggested a service charge similar to what other utility companies such as SEMCO and Consumers charge when a homeowner calls them out in error. Blossom mentioned he felt Village taxpayers are being forced to pay for this unneeded overtime, taxpayers shouldn't have to bear the expense and these tax funds could be put to better use elsewhere. The council agreed to further explore and discuss the matter in the future.

J. Blossom mentioned Village Office employees were having parking issues with a neighboring business building owner who came into the Village Office and asked that Village employees not park across from the Village Office in the public parking spots located there because he would like these spots reserved for his employees. The businesses' employees have been pulling up very close to Village Office employee's vehicles and parking them in. Blossom suggested the Council should explore making the parking spots in the downtown business district two-hour parking only.

K. Wyatt asked about if the Village was aware of the issues at the Dam, if the Village was aware if people from the State had been out to inspect the dam and if the Village had been in contact with the State about the dam. J. Blossom mentioned the MDNR and MDEQ

had been in contact with the Village in regards to the Mill Pond Dam about the inspection of the adjacent Main St. bridge and the dam the Village has been waiting almost two years on to be completed. Blossom stated the MDNR and MDEQ had made contact with the dam owner's the Joers family and they would be responsible for payment of the inspection of the dam and the Village for the bridge inspection. J. Bush stated the Village had been contacted by a concerned Mill Pond adjacent business owner who thought the dam had given away as the water level had dropped three feet over a two-day period. Bush stated he had seen on social media residents were posting about a large fish kill in the Mill Pond as well. Bush stated he went to the dam and meet with the individual who called in shortly after they had contacted the Village Office and noticed the water level was down considerably but the dam was still largely intact. Immediately after the meeting Bush stated he reached out to the Joers family and let them know that the Village had been contacted about the poor state of the dam and would be calling into the MDNR and MDEQ to make them aware as it was our responsibility as first responders and to protect the Village from liability if something worse were to occur.

J. Blossom brought to the Council that ten large trees in the Village right of ways were in need to be taken down as part of the annual tree cuttings budgeted. Blossom stated he had put out a request for bid from several tree cuttings services to take the ten trees down. The Village only received one reply from Professional Tree and the company's bid came in at \$10,950 to take down the ten trees. J. Bush mentioned this was a fair price considering the average cost of taking down trees in past years was in the \$1000-\$1500 per tree range. Blossom concurred and stated this is a tree cutting company Jackson County and Consumers uses to remove trees. Motioned by J. Bush to have Professional Tree remove ten trees in the Village at a cost of \$10,950. Seconded by A. Meeks. Motion approved by all.

J. Bush asked the Council if they had the opportunity to review the Ordinance for Vacating Alley and Street Right of Ways put together by Village attorney F. Lucas. J. Blossom spoke about how a tree went down in one of these unused right of ways behind several homes in Brigham Subdivision and the Village was responsible for the cleanup. There are quite a few of these unused lands which were plotted for potential roads, alleys, and utility right of ways which never came to fruition and is highly unlikely to be used in the future. The ordinance would allow the Council to deed these lands over to adjacent property owners. J. Bush noted that this would be done on a case-by-case basis as there are properties the Village intends to use for these roadway, alley and infrastructure right of way purposes. This Ordinance would need to first be passed by the Planning Committee and passed on to the Council for passage. Motioned by Meeks to pass the Ordinance for Vacating Alley and Street Right of Ways to the Planning Committee for review and potential passage. Seconded by K. George. Motion carried by all.

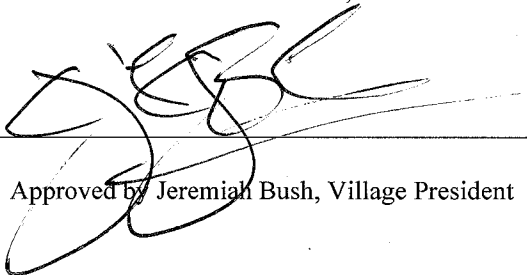
J. Bush asked the Council if they had come with any ideas to explore on what to spend the Village's ARPA funds. J. Blossom stated he thought investing the money in the office building was a good idea including tuck pointing the brick, replacing the roof, HVAC updates, etc. J. Bush said he thought the funds could possibly be used to update the kitchen in the Community Center. J. Blossom mentioned maybe putting in a drive-up window in the alley.

Council Comments:

A. Meeks stated the new fire truck purchased by the Concord Fire Department was finishing being built and was on track for delivery.

T. Norris stated he had been contacted by L. Root and that many of the flag pole sleeves located on Main St. for American flags put up on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, etc. were not put back in with the new construction of the road. J. Blossom mentioned he would look into it and get with Concord Excavating.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Bush, to adjourn at 7:54 pm. Motion approved by all.


Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

10/26/21
Date