

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on December 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Village Commons Meeting Room.

Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, J. Jackson, T. Thurman, K. George, A. Meeks, and M. Lovitt.

Council Members Absent: T. Norris

Public Present: K. Wyatt, B. Raut, J. Raut, Township Supervisor D. Saenz, E. Poleski, Deputy L. Jacobson, Clerk J. Lefere and DPW Director J. Blossom.

For their review, Council Members were e-mailed or given: Bills to be Paid in Amount of \$59,072.59; Revenue & Expense Report thru 11/30/2023; Concord Area Police Blotter November 2023; November 2023 Fire Board Minutes; October Fire Run Report; December Village Voice; 11-14-2023 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; 11-28-2023 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; 12-12-2023 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by K. George, to accept the minutes from the 11/14/2023 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by K. George, to accept the minutes from the 11/28/2023 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Comments:

B. Raut discussed Light Up Concord. The last event of the season will take place Friday December 15th with a Live Nativity located behind Holton Hardware; awards will be presented to the Light Up Concord Contestants.

K. Wyatt said a Pulaski Township resident inquired about the status of the speed signs. J. Blossom informed him that the signs were not the ones ordered. J. Blossom tried to return them but the company sent someone from Missouri to modify the signs. J. Blossom put the signs up and they failed to work. He called the company to come and pick up the signs. He is going to check into other options.

D. Saenz reported that the township/village electrical inspector is retiring. He plans to interview 3 people for the position. The village has hired Ken Swift for the position.

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 \$59,072.59 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Jackson, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$59,072 59. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson discussed his November Blotter. To view a copy of L. Jacobson's Concord Area Police Blotter, go to the Village website at www.villageofconcord.com look on the home page – quick links. A copy may also be picked up in the Village Office.

J. Blossom informed the council that the DPW along with Concord Excavating upgraded 5 old grinder pumps. After the first of the year the DPW Department and Concord Excavating will be assessing the 21 residents that returned their forms to have the village move their pumps outside and start scheduling the jobs. They plan to replace at least 5 per year. J. Blossom was contacted by the Lookin Sharp Salon owner because the Jackson District Library librarian stopped in and told her that her and her employee were no longer to park behind the salon because the lot is owned by the Jackson District Library. J. Blossom spoke with the librarian and said the library was leased and it is a public parking lot. After much research it was found out that the library is not leased and actually back in 2006 the mayor at the time quit claim deeded the building and property to the library. J. Blossom will contact the village attorney to see how to proceed. The village has repaired/replaced/maintained the lot for the past 18 years and is willing to continue if the parking lot remains public. If not, the village will likely bill the library for these services.

J. Blossom shared with the council that himself, J. Bush and E. Poleski had been the recipients of some text messages from M60 Grill owner K. Foster. J. Bush shared the entire conversation with the council and the public present at the meeting. The original text was Saturday afternoon, K. Foster sent a message to the 3 of them wanting to know why his cardboard dumpster was left in his parking lot and not put back where it was and why aren't they doing their job! J. Blossom responded with – if you had notified the village on Thursday (the day the dumpster was serviced) it would have been taken care of during village and Granger operating hours. He responded at 5am on Sunday that it was still there and the village should hire people that aren't idiots! He proceeded to belittle J. Blossom and J. Bush with such hate and vulgar language it will not be printed in the minutes. When J. Blossom arrived to work Monday morning, he went to take a look at the placement of the dumpster and contacted Granger. The dumpster was not in the parking lot, it was on a patch of grass near the regular trash dumpster. J. Blossom sent K. Foster a picture of where it was placed and that it was not in the parking lot and asked K. Foster to get back with him on what the issue was and invited him to the council meeting to discuss with the council! J. Bush also responded to K. Foster to ask what the issue is and K. Foster had not responded as of the time of the meeting. This treatment to village employees has been an ongoing issue with K. Foster for years which is why all correspondence must be done through text.

J. Bush discussed the letter from ACT 51 regarding two discrepancies on the ACT 51 map. They are – the piece of property between Cecil and Michigan. These streets do not connect. The other discrepancy is the map shows Blossum St as an active street. The street was never developed therefore is not eligible for ACT 51 monies. The village presented a resolution to remove these sections from the ACT 51 map.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to pass the resolution to decertify/vacate Blossum St. (1250 feet) and the piece of land (60 feet) at the end of Cecil and Michigan Streets. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush presented the amendment to the employee handbook regarding employee health insurance. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to amend the employee handbook to provide health insurance for all full-time employees after 3 years of satisfactory employment. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush presented the amendment to ordinance #8132019, section 16, (b), (iii), Covenants that an annual audit be performed. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to amend ordinance #8132019 to allow a biannual audit. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush presented the budget amendments for the 2023 budget. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt to transfer in \$30,000.00 to the water fund and \$50.00 to the trust and agency fund. All were in favor. Motion approved.

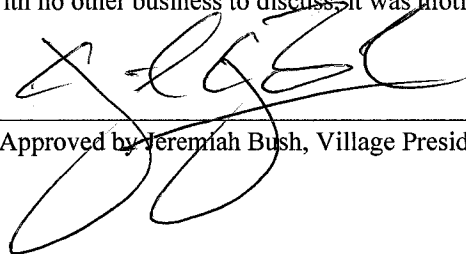
J. Bush presented the 2024 proposed budget. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to approve the 2024 budget as presented. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush stated that to stay in line with the water rate study completed during the USDA Water Main Project the water rates will need to be increased. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to increase the ready to serve fee for water by \$1.50 per month. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Council Comments:

A. Meeks informed the council that two internal candidates applied for the Fire Chief position and the interviews will take place at the December 20th Fire Board meeting.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by K. George, seconded by J. Bush, to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Motion approved by all.


Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

1/9/24
Date