

## Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on February 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Village Commons Meeting Room.

Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, T. Norris, T. Thurman, K. George, and M. Lovitt.

Council Members Absent: J. Jackson and A. Meeks.

Public Present: Sheriff G. Schuette, T. Brigham, Deputy M. Coburn, K. Tyler, A. Tyler, County Commissioner E. Poleski, J. Shirk, S. Marsh, Deputy L. Jacobson, Treasurer J. Lefere and DPW Director J. Blossom.

For their review, Council Members were e-mailed or given: Bills to be Paid in Amount of \$42,725.46; Revenue & Expense Report thru 1/31/2024; Concord Area Police Blotter January 2024; December 2023 Fire Runs; February Village Voice; 1-9-2024 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; 2-13-2024 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by K. George, seconded by T. Thurman, to accept the minutes from the 1/9/2024 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Comments:

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.

S. Marsh attended the meeting to ask for her water bill for 107 E. Jackson Rd. to be reduced. During the extreme cold temperatures last month, a pipe burst and flooded the building with 58,000 gallons of water. Since it was clear that the water did not go into the sewer system the council agreed to remove the sewer charge. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt to remove the sewer charges. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Shirk stated that she and her husband pick up trash in the village while they are on their walks and if the village would pick the bags up. J. Blossom stated that she could call the office with the location and the DPW would pick up. She also inquired about the blue house on S. Main St. being a blight issue. L. Jacobson agreed that it doesn't look the greatest but they keep the grass mowed in the summer and that there are no broken windows or missing doors so there's nothing he can do at this time. Also inquired about the three 19-year-olds that were caught tearing up the parking lot at Gottschalk Park and L. Jacobson informed her that they were prosecuted due to the extent of the damage done to the millings. Two of them were ordered to pay restitution, one has paid in full. The third is still going to court.

T. Brigham voiced his concern about property at the edge of the village turning into a cattle farm and felt it would devalue his home. J. Bush and J. Blossom stated that they had contacted the village attorney and with the land zoned Agricultural, that Michigan's Right to Farm Act would trump any ordinances that the village would have on the books and that it is out of the village's hands. It is the Village's understanding that the property will have a couple of cows and possibly a couple of horses.

Sheriff G. Schuette gave a presentation on the Public Safety Millage that will be on the ballot this year. For more information visit their website at <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/167/Sheriff>.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$42,725.46 was presented. Motioned by K. George, seconded by M. Lovitt, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$42,725.46. Motion approved by all.

K. Tyler stated that he has owned the building at 104 S. Main Street for 10-15 years and never had an issue with the library until the last couple of years. The librarian has changed the lock on the door that accesses the upstairs apartment of his building twice claiming that she was unsure of who the stairway belonged to. When the entrance to the opera house was closed off years ago the stairway was abandoned by the library. He also questioned the validity of the quit claim deed because proper legal procedures were not followed and that the village should still own the building and the parking lot behind the building. Village attorney has been consulted and he is unsure of what could be done under due process.

J. Blossom informed the council that bid opening for Allman Road would be Thursday at 10am. In the village office. He also discussed speed signs at a cost of \$6,750.00 for 2 signs. The council decided to table this until all council members are present. He also informed the council that DPW employee K. Thomas will be leaving at the end of the year. J. Blossom has spoken with former DPW employee D. Tom and he would like to hire him in May to work and train alongside K. Thomas for the remainder of the year so he will be ready to take over the position. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to hire D. Tom on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at \$19.00 per hour. All were in favor. Motion approved.

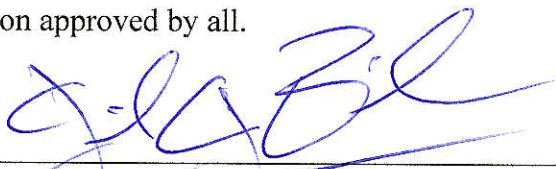
J. Bush informed the council that he, J. Blossom and J. Lefere had interviewed two candidates for the clerk position. They selected Christina Niceswander. The council supported this decision and discussed a starting wage to be \$19.00 per hour at 20 hours per week. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to hire Christina Niceswander at the rate of \$19.00 per hour at 20 hours per week. All were in favor. Motion approved.

L. Jacobson discussed his January 2024 Blotter. To view a copy of L. Jacobson's Concord Area Police Blotter, go to the Village website at [www.villageofconcord.com](http://www.villageofconcord.com) look on the home page – quick links. A copy may also be picked up in the Village Office.

Council Comments:

T. Norris complimented the Tyler's on the progress they are making on their downtown buildings.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt, to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Motion approved by all.

  
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Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

3/12/24  
Date