

Regular Council
January 11, 2022



Common Council Meeting

Call to Order

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Common Council of Village of Lawrence was called to order by President, David Quick at 7:00 PM via Zoom and live.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Quick.

Roll Call

Present: Gritter, DeLoach, Glennie, Marring, Quick, Lorenzo

Zoom: Webster

Also Present: Theresa Stroud, Suzann Weston, Paul Bianco (Zoom), Brian Johnson, Mike Anchor, Don Hanson (Zoom), Andrew Rudd and Paul Garrod.

Additions to Agenda

None

Conflict of Interest items

No conflict of Interest

Review bills Consent Agenda and Minutes from December

Motion by Glennie 2nd by Lorenzo to approve meeting minutes. Roll call vote, all aye-Motion carried. No further discussion.

Presentations and Guests

Don Hanson

- The storm on Dec. 27th took down the core network switch that cost \$150,000.00 from a lightning strike. Insurance should cover most of this cost. The networking is now back on system.
- Covert will be paying the state tax tribunal 2.3 million owed to attorneys.
- Paul DeLong was appointed to the Building Authority and to the land bank.
- Mort Wescott, a former commissioner passed away.

The county will be using 7 million dollars of ARPA funds for internet to over 450 homes. This project should be complete by the middle of the year.

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Township- None

Reports:

Manager; Theresa Stroud

Joslin has reviewed the Purchase Agreement of the storage barn and all edits are being added. Need approval from to begin closing process.

Motion authorizing Theresa Stroud to approve and sign purchase agreement and complete the sale of the property was made by Webster, 2nd by Glennie. Roll call vote, all aye.
Motion carried.

Sale of 10 acres north of town. Our Realtor has reached out with questions. Would council consider land contract and would the Village allow a camp ground?
Council would entertain this. Site Plans and proposed contracts should be submitted to Council and the Planning Commission.

Sale of .04 acre lot is in question by a resident that is interested in purchasing this. The Village is asking \$2520.00.

Motion by Webster to sell the parcel 2nd by Glennie; Roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

Any budget requests should be submitted by January 21st to be added into the preliminary budget.

We need a formal process for new businesses coming into the downtown area. DDA and Community Development are duplicating efforts and they should be coordinated and executed together. I suggest that the process include the media outlets that will be notified in advance of events to ensure proper coverage. These outlets could include, Courier Leader, Fox 17, News 3 and Paul Landecker.

Quotes for replacing the furnace and windows will be requested prior to the budget workshops.

We would like to move forward with the Fiber in the park project for spring.

Motion by Webster to move forward, 2nd by Lorenzo. Roll call vote, all aye. Motion carried.

Looking into purchasing a building humidifier. The cost is under \$300.00 from Grainger

Police Department - Chief Bianco

We wrote 15 LPD incident reports during the period Dec 1 to 31 2021 which ranged from Larceny from a MV, Damage to property, A & B and General Assistance calls.

- Continue to run radar all over town to bring speeding down and make streets safer.
- Patrolled the park area regularly during work shifts (Minimal activity in cold weather)
- Regular patrol in the business park to keep an eye on businesses. Stopping in to check with employees.
- Spending time in the Lawrence Public Schools and at the ISD walking and talking with staff/students.

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- Downtown business checks during and after hours.
- Continue to keep an eye on blight issues.

During the same time period LPD issued 3 written citations, took 1- UD10 traffic crash report and made approximately 10 traffic offenses that resulted in verbal warnings.

During the month of December Van Buren County 911 dispatched LPD to 17 calls for service. 13 police calls, 4 medicals and 0 fire calls. MSP was dispatched to 8 calls (7- primary & 1- as back up to LPD) and the VBCS & MSP were primary when LPD did not have an officer on duty.

- Still waiting on the 2 shotguns purchased from MSP for patrol duties.
- Working on proposed FY- 2022 police budget.
- Planning on purchasing building supplies for an enclosed evidence cage in garage, weapons storage safe, PBT for second vehicle, two more Tasers, one portable radio and body armor with remaining FY2021 funding in police budget.
- Looking for grant opportunities for the police department.
- Applied for grant to get 2 heart starts for patrol vehicles in July- no word back on status yet.

PSC - DPW

Andrew Rudd from Wightman

- Andrew presented cost and plan of sewer project. Council approved to move forward with the project.
- Motion by Gritter to approve proposal, 2nd by Glennie. Roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.
- Continue to struggle with billing, snow removal.
- Talking about replacing 1 ton truck with ¾ ton lift truck.

Township Fire Department - Chief Mike Anchor

- Had 57 medical calls, 15 fire calls.
- Ordered a batch of pagers and 2 way radios. Will be giving the DPW a radio.
- 2 trucks came in recently.
- Working on a deal with Bangor Fire Department to lease our hydraulic tools (jaws of life) Also, our gas powered tools as they will store these in their department.
- The Firefighter of the year is Steve Lowe.
- Charlie Moses will be retiring.

Administration- No meeting

Community Development- No meeting

DDA-

- Working on budget
- Applied for their own EIN number so they will no longer be under the Village.

LDFA- No meeting

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Parks & Recs- No meeting

Personnel- No meeting

Planning Commission- Special meeting

Robert Doll's site plan was partially approved pending his obtaining the proper permits.

Ready Development- No meeting

New Business-

Quick-

Spoke with Public Relations for 305 Farms. They are planning on having their Grand Opening the end of January. Do not know a specific date yet but once we have that we will let everyone know. We will also contact News 3. This opening will be Phase 1.

The Old Chi Dog building sold to the Crowley's. Currently they have a food truck in South Haven. They will be opening this building as a carry out restaurant.

Old Business- None

Council comment-

Mary- I sent an initial invitation to the "Park Planning Group". I've sent emails to Alicia and Phil. The tentative date for the first meeting will be Feb. 01.

Got through a Covid scare. 8 people in my family got Covid after Christmas. I tested negative.

I would like Theresa to send me a current ariel shot of the park.

Phil- Jan Peterson would like to know when E St Joseph project is going to start. (May)

Alicia- My daughter, Naomi turned one over the weekend on Jan. 08.

Motion by Webster, 2nd by DeLoach to adjourn meeting. Roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

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Respectfully submitted:

Attest:

Suzann Weston, Clerk

David Quick, President