

Regular Council
February 08, 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, Steve Lowe (LFD), Don Hanson, Donna Spenner, Andrew Rudd, Derek Miller, Theresa Heaton and Jeff Heaton.

Additions to Agenda

None

Conflict of Interest items

No conflict of Interest

Review bills, Consent Agenda and Minutes from January

Motion by Glennie 2nd by Lorenzo to approve.

All Aye Motion carried.

No further discussion.

Presentations and Guests

Don Hanson- County Commissioner

- The ARPA committee approved \$400,000.00 for highspeed internet for 52 homes in Hamilton, 31 homes in Keeler, Almena has committed 90% of their ARPA funds to highspeed internet. Bloomingdale has a tentative release date.
- We have reappointments to Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. Jan Peterson, Sandy Hanson and Matt Newton.

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Donna Spenner- Township

- Thursday at our meeting we will be setting budget dates for our budget coming up in March. Board of review date, the times are already set and in the book.
- We're working on getting a Permit Tech from Safe Built in house full time which will serve Paw Paw Township and Village. Lawrence Township and Village and Covert.
- Thursday we are having an Open House for Charlie Moses at 6:00 for over 50 years of service to the Fire Department and over 40 years as Township Sexton. Charlie retired October 2021.
- The LTES agreement with Arlington Township is done. That'll be signed Thursday and then next Wednesday by Arlington Township. We reduced their rates this year. We went based on number of calls.
- We have an outdoor grow moving in on CR 365. We also have an indoor grow, That site plan is getting ready to be reviewed. That will be going in at Buskirks old processing plant on Red Arrow Hwy east of town.

Steve Lowe- Emergency Services

- We recently purchased 2 3M (space suits). They are self contained. We will use these for hazmat conditions, Covid calls, etc. They were \$1800.00 each. They were purchased for us out of the marijuana fund. We're working on getting bags for those. One will be in the Chiefs truck and one in the QR Rig.
- We are going to do our years of service with Charlie
- LTES Officers have been keeping up with the Chiefs duties as best we can. We have 3 or 4 of us on Medicals. A couple on nights. We have Scott during the day. A couple of us work in town to take care of rounds. So, we're doubled up.
- The 4x4 mule that we ordered is here. It is at Leaders in South Haven and we will be picking it up on Friday. Then it will go to Anchor Signs to get wrapped and then Craigs to get the radio. Looking to put it into service in March. Using it for the festival, looking for missing people, etc. Shepards Auto Body took pictures of it and started prepping for it to be painted. It will have bright LED lights as it will also be assisting on highway calls.

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- We've finalized the stations security cameras. It is a \$20,000.00 project. We are tripling the cameras that we have right now. They go 24/7 video for 90 days. They have a 15 year life.

Reports:

President- David Quick

- There has been a press release going on recently for 305 Farms. The ribbon cutting is March 15th. I've talked with Matt and Brian Pierce. They are going to send us the invites for Council. The business is quite impressive. At this point Matt has indicated that they have hired 32 full time employees and when all three phases are complete they are looking at a total of 240 full time employees. That is great for the Village and it is exciting that they are almost complete with phase one. They will be the largest indoor grow in the State of Michigan with completion of the three phases in 2025.

Clerk/Treasurer- Suzann Weston

- The Van Buren Conservation Recycling Program has asked us to partner again with them this year and to give financial support.
- Manager Stroud suggest we keep the donation at what it has been previously which is \$500.00.

Motion by DeLoach to continue donation.
2nd by Gritter

All Aye- Motion carried

Manager- Theresa Stroud

- I've left you a proposal for Pella to replace the four windows at the front of the building. This is the first proposal. The other companies that I've called are just starting to return my phone calls so I haven't had a chance to schedule them in yet.
- I've had two furnace companies out. The first declined to bid on the job. The 2nd one, I will be returning their phone call, which is Fields. I have a couple more companies that are starting to return my phone calls.

Chief of Police- Paul Bianco

- We wrote 14 LPD incident reports during the period Jan. 01 to Feb. 07, 2022. Which ranged from a motor vehicle theft, juvenile runaway, CSC 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 (very little activity in the snowy weather)
- Regular patrol at the business park to keep an eye on businesses. Stopping to check with employees.

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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 0 written traffic citations, took 1 UD10 traffic crash report and made approximately 15 traffic stops for traffic offenses that resulted in verbal warnings.

During the month of January, Van Buren County 911 dispatched LPD to 16 calls for Service. 10 police calls, 5 medicals and 1 fire call. MSP was dispatched to 5 calls (5 primary & 0 as to 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.
- Worked on proposed FY-2022 police budget.
- Purchased an enclosed evidence cage for garage, a 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.
- Have put a lot of time into preparing for the CJIS/LEIN audit on the Police Dept. for Feb. 10, 2022.

Wightman & Associates- Andrew Rudd/Derek Miller

- I have a new proposal for the James Street lift station project. Last month we talked about the wastewater systems improvements project. We talked about James St. lift stations poor condition. The cost estimate for the project also included sludge removal as well as some equipment purchases, primarily a Jetter for about \$70,000.00. The cost estimate for James Street Lift Station replacement is the same as last month at \$482,750 The North Paw Paw Street Force main replacement is \$491,665. Sludge removal is right around \$225,500. With the total estimated construction cost at 1,663,000.
- Looking at the sewer rates and how they could fund the project, USDA will require that you hire a licensed Municipal Advisor who would do a rate calculation. To give you an idea of what the rate should be.
- The sewer bond that we would want to take out with USDA would be a total cost of \$1,663,000 with an annual cost of approximately \$58,159.
- I will be doing the preliminary engineering report in the next 4 months. Also, the environmental review. We'll get those completed and I will come back with those. Then we'll finalize the application, get it in and get funding terms in July or August.

Motion to proceed by Glennie. 2nd by Gritter All Aye- motion carried

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DPW Supervisor- Brian Johnson; PSC

- All copper levels came back below action level.
- I have a couple meetings with the State coming up. One on the water side. The sewer report came in so I have that to do that 18th of this month. Still working through on the booster station.
- Have been doing a lot of snow removal.
- We had the tower freeze up at the business park. Kept having to run pumps in manual to keep pressure good and pump up the ice. It's thawed out now.

Community Development-

None

DDA-

- See minutes from meeting January 26, 2022. They approved their budget. DDA is going to fund the new pavilion at the park. They also will be putting in a sidewalk to the pavilions, both the existing one and the new one.

Parks & Rec.

- Part of 2022 goals will be recruiting new members. Creation of Joint Parks & Recreation. Build small wooden dock for our kayak launch and seek grant funding.
- MEDC has a program called RAP that could have some possible funding/grants projects.
- Agenda for next meeting; Discuss the contract between the school and Township in regard to Tiger Den complex use. Draft new master plan to reflect committee goals for 2022-2027 and discuss millage.

LDFA-

- The agenda was the budget. Also, to pay the Village water fund \$20,000.00.

Planning- Quarterly meetings

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Quick

- Gave an update on property on Main St. The owner has ignored the direction from Planning and approval was contingent on his compliance so I'm going to draft a letter and send it to him and give him 10 days to get with Safe Built and get in contact with the Village. If he doesn't, then we take it to Planning. I will make the recommendation that we deny his site plan and if anything is out of ordinance then we will address it accordingly. He has had ample time.

Redevelopment Ready –None

ZBA- None

- Meeting scheduled for the 15th of February.

New Business:

- Budget Workshop, will send a copy to all Council. If there are any questions send them to David, Theresa or Brian. We will address those and look it over. Approval for budget will be the 22nd of February at 6:00.

Old Business.

None

Public Comment:

Jeff/Theresa Heaton

We live at the edge of the Village. Our property butts up against the 10 acres north of town that is for sale. We are here because we heard that the property is for sale and we have an interest in it. Could the property be split into two parcels? As our neighbors have an interest in it as well.

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Council Comments:

- Mary webster- The first meeting of the Park Planning Committee was held last week. Good group, I thank everyone very much.
- The objective of the project is to develop and agree on a long range plan for the park. We looked at what DDA currently has planned. The Village planning including putting WIFI in the park. We talked about Parks & Rec. plans. Incorporating some of this stuff. The tennis courts, a sidewalk around the park, a splash pad, creating a quiet space for WIFI use and meetings, trails. We also talked about expanding the Braush park at the Business center. Action items right now are to track down the contract between the Township and the school for use of the Tiger den. Explore pickle ball requirements. Track down the original trail map from the PUD. People have assignments and our next meeting is March 10th. We expect to have this project done by April.
- John Gritter- Thanks for the timely and effective snow removal. Some other towns didn't look so great.
- Alicia Lorenzo- I just want to say Theresa came up with this phenomenal new slogan, Come grow with us. That could encourage all types of residents.
- David Quick- February 22nd at 6:00 p.m. is going to be the budget workshop. You will get a copy of the budget at least a week before. For questions, comments or concerns get a hold of me, Theresa or Brian.

Quick moves to adjourn.

Motion by DeLoach, 2nd by Gritter

All Aye -motion approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suzann Weston".

Suzann Weston, Clerk

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Quick".

David Quick, President