



Village of Lawrence
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004
www.lawrencemi.org



Village of Lawrence Regular Common Council Meeting
157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064
May 14, 2024

Call to Order: The Regular Common Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by President Gritter

Roll Call:

- **Present:** John Gritter, President; Alicia Lorenzo, Trustee; Annette Crandall, Trustee; Klass Maring, Trustee
- **Absent:** Phil Glennie, Trustee; Chuck Rowlee, Trustee; Dave Deloach, Trustee
- **Also Present:** Brian Johnson, DPW Supervisor; Paul Bianco, Police Chief; Mike Chappell, County Commissioner; Jason Becht; Phoebe Attili; Glen Cowles and Ruth Cowles, School Board Members; Chuck Williams; Jan Petersen; Brett Doornhaag; Tara Lampe

Additions to Agenda: None

Conflicts of Interest: None

Approval of Agenda May:

No Additions or Conflicts. Agenda approved.

Approval of Prior Council Minutes, Public Hearing Minutes, Special Council Minutes April:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo

All Aye. Motions Carried.

Approval of Bills & Review of Bank Balances April:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Maring

All Aye. Motions Carried.

Presentations & Guests: Ruth Cowles & Brett Doornhaag

- NHS Inductees last week
- May 31st is Commencement/Graduation Ceremony
- Lawrence Elementary School finished MSTEP and awaiting test results; May 24th-Tribute to Veterans
- Brett (head of maintenance) did some research after the concerns about safety that were brought up during the April meeting. He has concerns about moving the current location of buses because he can't control the road but can control the current location, about handicapped students' accessibility if location is changed, ratio of 1 adult to 6-7 students walking approximately 217 paces to the bus, vehicles exiting when the buses are and turning in



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front of them. Parents parking in no parking area at school, asked about consistent ticketing for violators. Would like to encourage parents to park in the bus garage area, post 'No Parking' signs in front of the school on Red Arrow 6:30 AM-4:00 PM, Crossing Guard stripe.

Van Buren County Commissioner: Mike Chappell

- Update on Broadband Expansion efforts-Go to vanburencountymi.gov, scroll down to Quick Links at the bottom, pull up that expansion and it will tell you when you will get broadband and who your provider is going to be.
- Approved the Prosecuting Attorney having a summer intern this year, behind and playing catchup from COVID.
- Approved the adoption and retirement of K-9 Kuno, who was stabbed a few years back, by their handler for \$1.00.
- Approved the Park millage, 0.10 mil.

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner

- Not Present

Lawrence Township Emergency Services: Mike Anchor

- Not Present

Reports:

President's Report:

- No Report

Clerk's Report:

No Report

Village Manager:

- Council up for re-election need to have applications turned back in time to get to County by July 27th.
- "No Mow May"-requires more discussion. Tabled for continued discussion next month.
- Additional infographic on documentation supporting decision making behind chicken ordinance.

Police Department:

- Full Report Attached
- Continuing to run radar and monitor in front of the school. Right Turn Only not a feasible option.
- Talked to several residents about grass length.

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- Continue to advertise for part-time and full-time positions. Have had two interviews. No update on when Officer Dorr will be leaving.
- Next Citizens Police Committee is May 21st at 6:30 PM.
- Finally received invoice for Reserve Deputies from Ox Roast 2023 for \$535.26. Ox Roast is responsible for the invoice and DDA had previously stated they would assist.
- Continue to educate residents on the new ordinances and have cited those who have been given warnings but not come into compliance.
- Radio Upgrade Update-still ongoing. Push back due to it being an unfunded mandate. Lawrence PD can be upgraded for around \$3-4,000. Holding off for the time in the instance that state funding becomes available.
- Traffic Study is not necessary to incorporate a crosswalk. Details would need to be worked out prior to implementing and finding coverage for crosswalk.

Community Development:

- Report Attached

DDA:

- No Report; Next meeting Wednesday, May 22nd at 5:30 PM.

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- Talked to Theresa about Marketing Events & Sponsors. Would need to set-up an account at Arbor and then could start fundraising so they have a location for the donations to go.
- Received quote of \$5,000 to work with Joelle from AbonMarche on the grant application, significantly less than the \$15,000 from Wightman. Will present to Parks committee on Sunday 5/19 at meeting. Hoping the committee will support and can present to Council at June meeting.
- Have 11 days for the Lawrence to Hartford on the Paw Paw River Contract to pay for. Every community from Lawrence to Hartford plus the Tribe pays \$3,470/year once a year for the river trail clean-up; \$500 for admin, signage, and promotion; \$2,970 for pack play (?) maintenance.
- Tim Griffin and Dave Van Zoeren fixed the bouncy bridge at the park playground.

LDFA:

- No Report

Personnel:

- No Report

Planning Commission:

- Lots of public input on proposed ordinance changes including conceptions that our proposed kennel ordinance will affect the Village Groomer; will not affect the business as they are not

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boarding dogs, they don't stay overnight as they are a grooming facility. Anything in place now is also grandfathered in.

- Commonalities in public comments were restriction on electric fences (want to be able to keep fences up to keep deer and critters out of gardens and keeping chickens in yards); chickens and household pet limits; set backs on rebuilds; beekeeping. Many concerns have already been addressed and were explained again.
- No Personal Services businesses currently allowed in CBD (Central Business District) but will be reviewing this as well.
- Not meeting on May 27th, Memorial Day. Next meeting will be June 10th to review in order to have a final draft ready for Public Hearing on June 24th; would then be presented at July Council Meeting.
- Question on how meetings are posted; Meeting schedule is available online on our website, meeting reminders posted on Facebook, and public meetings posted in those formats as well as our Shadow Box, Township, Library and print media. To see more posts from the Village on Facebook, go to "Following" Button near the top of the page and change from Default to Favourites, and then click Update.
- Suggested putting Ordinance Link on Home Page.

Public Services/DPW:

- Full Report Attached
- Andrew from Wightman was in and has concerns about grant and current audit status; can do this from a reimbursement standpoint twice a month. Once audit is completed, we should be able to get back to normal.
- Category B Funding-50/50 Match Grant to work on Exchange St. from St. Joseph to Baker for 2025. Brian got all the paperwork together for DDA, including a workaround for the park. Would be done in phases; 1st phase on Exchange would reshape road, redo the gravel and put in storm drains. Category B would require everything turned in by June, so this wouldn't be until 2025. Will take to DDA so they hopefully can start the catch bases and structures in now to start helping. Can connect with Category B work. Need motion to pursue funding.
- Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Crandall; All Aye, Motion Carried.
- Backhoe back to DPW, roughly \$15,000 (approximately \$30,000 total since 2011) into it but it's 24 years old and never properly taken care of.
- Brian took Water Exam on May 1st and will have results back in 40-45 days.

Citizen Police Committee:

- Next meeting is Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30 PM.

ZBA:

- No Meeting Held.

New Business:

- Items here

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Old Business:

- None

Public Comment:

- Jason Becht and Phoebe Attili-Does not agree with school's proposed ideas for traffic management. Believes that there should be no parking in front of the building. Option to park at bus garage not feasible for those with larger vehicles. Traffic coming down Red Arrow can't always see the pedestrian traffic crossing the road.

Council Comment:

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Maring, 2nd by Crandall
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Theresa Stroud, Village Manager


John Gritter, Village President