

Regular Council
December 14, 2021



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.

All I-Motion carried.

No further discussion.

Presentations and Guests

Don Hanson

The storm on Dec. 27th took down the core network switch for some time. That is now back on system.

Covert will be paying the state tax tributyl of 2.3 million owed to attorneys.

Paul DeLong was appointed to the Building Authority.

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Mort Wescott has passed away.

The county has been awarded 7 million dollars for internet to over 450 homes. This project should be complete by the middle of the year.

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 to approve and sign purchase agreement made by Webster, 2nd by Glennie.

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 and move it on to Planning.

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 2nd by Glennie; Motion passed.

I will need budget requests 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 Layendecker.

I will have quotes for replacing the furnace and windows 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



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

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.
- 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 Tazers, 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 Rudd presented proposal for water system evaluation. Updates on pipes, hydrants. Look at pipe conditions. Rate these by 1 being not critical to 5 being very critical. Provide color coded maps. Could record any outage time and and timing on main breaks.
- Provide water system reliability plan. How are pumps performing.
- Cap improvement plan can provide looking into grants, funding possibilities.
- Would look into work on James Street first.
- Would take 4-6 months to get through process with USDA bond.



Township- Donna Spenner

Marijuana administrators working with a supplier in Colorado for odor control on the outdoor grow facilities. Of the two that are in the township, the larger grow facility is getting several complaints about the odor. Currently the outdoor growers are halted until there is some kind of odor control in place.

Glennie suggest that the Township/Village have an information source for the community about financials and how much revenue is coming in when it comes to the marijuana revenues.

Spenner also states that the marijuana agency that is working for the Township will soon have their own wing at the Township office.

Fire Department- Mike Anchor

Chief Anchor reports that they have received two VIN numbers for truck orders that they expect to get at the end of December.

Also, there has been an influx of drivers coming into town westbound during parades. Chief Anchor suggest putting a fire truck blocking off Blackman St east of town and one at the school blocking off the west side of town for future parades.

DPW- Brian Johnson

Have a meeting with the state coming up on the sewer side involving reporting and sampling. Also, a high level evaluation. The last one being done in 2012. A required sludge testing on all 3 ponds.

Will be getting the booster station up and running by the end of January. The parts are on order and should be in by then.

305 farms is scheduled to open in January.

Jim Groth is back to work with no restrictions as of December 6th.

Wells 1 & 2 are out. Consumers was out to look at them and they have some power but not full power.

Received word from a resident that there is a large limb hanging out of a tree on James St. That tree will be taken down tomorrow, 12-15-21.

Manager- Theresa Stroud

- The road projects are approved for East St Joseph and N Paw Paw St. St Joseph will start in 2022 and N Paw Paw in 2024. Have been checking around for CD's for these projects and have found the best rates with Arbor.
- Budgets are coming out. Need those by the end of January.

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- Community development and DDA need to coordinate better when it comes to welcoming new businesses. Both want to participate but there isn't enough communication between the two. Would like to have someone from the Village and Counsel also to be involved and need to be made aware of ribbon cuttings and such so that it is more of a combined effort.
- It is time to think about replacing the furnace and possibly the windows. That cost will be in the budgeting.
- Would like to move forward with the fiber in the park project. Hoping to have fiber by spring or shortly after.
- We have almost completed 100% of the building projects that consumers had suggested for the Village hall. Just installed two new smart thermostats. Helping the temperature throughout the building to be more even. There is only one old LED light left in the building that needs replaced.
- New meeting invites will be coming out as most of them have ran out.

Police Department- Paul Bianco

Had a couple animal complaints. Had a few assist to the fire department.

A complaint was called in by the Superintendent of the elementary school about a 6th grader making threats. The safety director at the ISD, School and Chief decided not to go further. Did not meet the threshold of a creditable threat.

Very impressed with the school and ISD in regards to their preparedness on threats.

The new police car is done. Will use the old car as a back up and for events such as parades.

The numbers on Covid in Van Buren County are very high. Almost as high as this time last year.

James Lear of the Van Buren County Animal Control passed away recently from Covid. He will be greatly missed.

Parks & Rec

None

LDFA-

Approved invoice for phase 1 of fiber at business park and additional payment of \$20,000 for water tower to the Village.

Administration-

None

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Community Development- Phil Glennie

- Met on December 4th to organize Christmas events
- Planning on recognition day, will be holding an event for Chuck Moden in the park.

DDA-

- Applied for and received their own EIN number so now there will be split bank accounts.
- Working on their budget.
- Dale will be attending the webinar on MEDC funding. He is also having some difficulties coordinating with the electrician regarding the street lights so that has been put off until spring.

Personnel-

Recommend Suzie Weston to go to full time.

Motion to promote Suzie by Quick, 2nd by Glennie.

ARPA funds received this year was \$51,078.50. The Personnel committee has approved to make contributions for premium pay for essential workers. There is a list of our employees to receive premium pay.

Accept motion to pay by Quick, 2nd by Webster

All I- motion carried

Pay scale evaluations are coming up. Annual evaluations will be completed by the end of January.

Personnel committee will meet again to set raise recommendations prior to budget workshop.

Planning Commission –

- Held a special Planning Commission meeting 12-14-21. Went over Doll site plan that was presented 3 months ago. Approved part of the plan. The sheds were in compliance and was approved. The driveway was not. The fence was out of compliance as well and was not approved.

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- He was told to get in touch with Safe built. Safe Built will come out and help him to get these things into spec. This inspection by Safe Built will give us some kind of report and we are willing to work with him.
- We will give him so much time to reach out to Safe Built and will receive a letter from the Village if he does not.

Redevelopment Ready – Theresa Stroud

Had been attending classes on decorating the Village for different seasons. Focusing on the park, that will bring people into town to visit the park.

New Business:

None

Old Business.

None

Public Comment:

Jan Peterson – Would like to present a plaque to the Village for the Paw Paw River water trail project. This is the fun side of water resource management. Thank you for working with the other groups to make this project happen. Paul Garrod is here to take a picture of President Quick and Manager Stroud with the plaque.

Council Comments:

Phil Glennie- Thank you to the Village and Fire Department for your contributions on the Christmas events in the Village. Unfortunately, we could not do the chili cook off because of health department regulations that were made aware to us just 4 days before the event. This is something we will work on for next year so we can have this event.

Mary Webster- As a result of an email from DDA that was circulated to me about the pavilion and conversations at counsel about putting Wi-Fi in the park and because the Farmers market exist and the Ox roast exist I've volunteered to chair a task force with stakeholders to look at a comprehensive plan for the park. So I will be calling together Ox roast, DDA, Garden club, Village Ops, DPW, Farmers market, Police. Anybody that utilizes the park. Because the more things we start putting in the less space we have. Everybody has good ideas but we need to start coming to a consensus about how we're gonna manage those request. In January I will organize that meeting so if you're interested let me know.

2nd item; Phil, it was a really nice event Saturday. I always like to watch the kids and lighted trucks. Merry Christmas to everyone and have a safe New year.

John Gritter- I would like to reiterate how important our James St project is.

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Dave Quick- I would like to wish everybody happy holidays. Be safe, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you everybody for your contributions. Moving forward, we are getting it done slowly but surely.

Motion by Quick to adjourn. 2nd by DeLoach

All I-motion approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Suzann Weston, Clerk

Attest:



David Quick, President