



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
September 8, 2026

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Gritter

Roll Call:

- **Present:** John Gritter, President; Phil Glennie, Trustee; David Deloach, Trustee; Alicia Lorenzo, Trustee; Annette Crandall, Trustee
- **Absent:** Chuck Rowlee, Trustee
- **Also Present:** Donna Spenner, Township Supervisor; Rich Glista, Cannabis Administrator; Lola Harris, Employment Services; Danielle Pickens, Employment Services; Jakab Selner

Additions to Agenda:

- None

Conflicts of Interest:

- None

Approval of Agenda Month:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo
All Ayes. Motions carried.

Approval of Prior Council Minutes Month Prior as Corrected:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach
All Aye. Motions carried.

Approval of Special Council Closed Session Minutes:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo
All Ayes. Motions carried.

Finance Manager Report-Kim Thompson:

- The budget for the Police Fund was discussed at the Special Meeting on July 29, 2026, and included the proposed full-time salary, which was approved by Council. The proposed revised budget was also presented to support the salary change but a motion was not made to make the associated budget amendments.
- Motion to approve the Police Fund budget amendments as follows by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie:
 - o Salaries-Original budget \$132,080 amended to \$128,300;
 - o FICA Expense-Original budget \$11,000 amended to \$13,000;



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- o Health Insurance-Original budget \$700 amended to \$7,950;
- o Retirement Benefits-Original budget \$0 amended to \$3,400;
- o Equip. Acquisition-Original budget \$75,000 amended to \$85,000;
- o Total Department-Original budget \$266,400 amended to \$285,270.

Roll-call:

Aye: Lorenzo, Glennie, Deloach, Gritter, Crandall

Nay: None

All Ayes. Motions carried.

Approval of Bills & Review of Bank Balances Month Prior:

Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Deloach

Roll-call:

Aye: Gritter, Glennie, Deloach, Crandall, Lorenzo

Nay: None

All Ayes. Motions carried.

Presentations & Guests:

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner

- Intergovernmental Fuel agreement drafted and it will be presented to the Township Board next week.
- Dump passes are available at both the Township and the Village offices. They are good through the month of September.
- Zoning Public Hearing went well and was well attended. There were a lot of good questions, a lot of good suggestions, and comments. Planning Commission did really well receiving all of that information and will now go back to the table to continue working on it.
- Spenner attended an MTA discussion on data centers and solar power at the Conference Center last week. It was really good and there was a lot of information on what municipalities should be doing as far as their moratoriums and ordinances.
- Spenner noted that Indiana recently mandated that one third of their townships and municipalities, village/cities, had to combine to create better flow of their services. She will be keeping an eye on this matter in case talk of it comes up in Michigan.

Cannabis Administrator: Rich Glista

- Glista presented a proposed new chapter for the village's cannabis ordinance. Key changes include removing redundancies and formalizing the "cannabis administrator" position. The Council will review the draft over the next month. Glista will also present the draft to local businesses for their review. It was also suggested to add a requirement for marijuana businesses to be current on their water bills and taxes.

Van Buren County Mental Health Employment Services: Lola Harris and Danielle Pickens



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- Harris and Pickens presented an employment services program to help individuals with challenges find work. They proposed a trial period for a candidate to fill a part-time role for parks and the waste site, with the agency covering wages and liability for up to 40 hours.

Motion to proceed with proposal for employment partnership with Employment Services by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach.

All Ayes. Motions carried.

Reports:

President's Report:

- No Report

Clerk's Report:

- No Report

Village Manager:

- Cordes requested approval for an increase to her Village credit card limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to cover large, necessary purchases such as software and equipment.

Motion to approve Manager Cordes' Village credit line increase to \$10,000 by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie.

Roll-call:

Aye: Lorenzo, Deloach, Crandall, Gritter, Glennie

Nay: None

All Ayes. Motions carried.

- Another candidate for crossing guard was offered the position, accepted the position, and then called and had to decline. We will continue our search for a crossing guard.
- We received another application for the CDBG grant and will get it to Market One. Market One is in the process of finalizing a building inspector for the grant inspections.
- Clark Technical is still in the process of transitioning our services completely over. They have discovered a few items that were not anticipated and will send a list of what is left to order for equipment. Once all equipment is returned to NTM the billing for those services should end.

Police Department:

- An incident report was submitted regarding issues during the lighted truck parade. Roads were not blocked off appropriately allowing traffic to enter the parade route. Children were running towards the parade vehicles as people were throwing candy from them and a vehicle was apparently not aware of the children, creating a potentially bad situation.



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- Manager Cordes provided some recommendations for Ox Roast moving forward, including providing the Village with a Master Map of what needs to be barricaded during the weekend. Glennie suggested that parade vehicles not be allowed to throw candy during the parade. It was also stated that the Lawrence Police Department cannot be the primary coverage during Ox Roast. Doing so creates coverage issues the week prior and the week after.

Community Development:

- No meeting as they were preparing for Ox Roast.

DDA:

- DDA agreed to move the “Music in the Park” event from Wednesday evenings to Saturdays at noon during the summer to coordinate with the Farmer’s Market at the new pavilion and boost low attendance.

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- The total project cost is \$605,000. Public fundraising has reached approximately \$200,000, matched by a grant to total nearly \$400,000. The fundraising thermometer sign will be moved to a more visible location.
- A \$50,000 crowdfunding campaign is on hold pending an updated letter from the Southwest Disability Network, which requires detailed universal design plans for the playground that are not yet available.
- A booth at the Ox Roast event raised \$299. Other fundraising ideas include donation benches and engraved bricks.

LDFA:

- No Report

Personnel:

- Personnel matters will be discussed during closed session.

Planning Commission:

- Held a Public Hearing during the last meeting regarding Short-Term Rentals. An informational session on data center ordinances with an attorney is scheduled for the September 28 meeting, which may be moved to a larger venue, if necessary.

Public Services/DPW:

- Jeff and Jim continue to do a great job helping with mowing around the Village.
- Details to be confirmed with Brian, but there is a potential forgivable loan grant for lead service lines, worth up to \$2 million.

Citizen Police Committee:



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- Meetings scheduled upon request.

ZBA:

- No Meeting Held.

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Public Comment:

- Jakab Selner expressed interest in a vacant Council seat. Cordes will reach out to the County Election Clerk for details to then pass along to Selner on the write-in process.

Motion to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters at 7:51 pm by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo. All Ayes. Motions carried.

Motion to adjourn closed session at 7:58 p.m. by Glennie, 2nd by Deloach. All Ayes. Motions carried.

Council Comment:

- None

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Glennie
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy Cordes, Village Manager

John Gritter, Village President



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