

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL**

For the Regular Meeting of **MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2005**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Shores and City Clerk Betty Morlock called Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Hodges, Mathews, Pfaller, Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Mayor Shores.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, Planning Commission Chairman Clark Jahnke, Lowell Light and Power/Cable General Manager Tom Richards.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by HODGES to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2005 regular meeting minutes as corrected.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by PFALLER that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (10/03/05)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$115,074.37
MAJOR STREET FUND	560.70
LOCAL STREET FUND	11,010.16
DDA FUND	89,151.84
AIRPORT FUND	17,288.74
WASTEWATER FUND	30,914.52
WATER FUND	6,008.64
DATA PROCESSING FUND	991.64
EQUIPMENT FUND	1,402.44
CURRENT TAX FUND	1,420,966.47
LEE FUND	2,534.00

Item #1. **BIDS FOR SOLID AND YARD WASTE, RECYCLING – AWARD.** Bids were received on Monday, September 26 for a three year contract for garbage and rubbish collection, yard waste and recycling. At a pre bid meeting on September 13, four companies had been in attendance. The bids were as follows:

	<u>Allied Waste Ind.</u>	<u>Waste Management</u>
<u>Garbage and Rubbish</u>		
11/01/05 - 10/31/06	\$1.01 per bag	\$1.24 per bag
11/01/06 - 10/31/07	\$1.04	\$1.28
11/01/07 - 10/31/08	\$1.07	\$1.32
 <u>Recycling</u>		
11/01/05 - 10/31/06	\$2.83 per res. per mo.	\$3.25 per res. per mo.
11/01/06 - 10/31/07	\$2.92	\$3.35
11/01/07 - 10/31/08	\$3.01	\$3.45
 <u>Yard Waste</u>		
11/01/05 - 10/31/06	\$.96 per bag	\$1.68 per bag
11/01/06 - 10/31/07	\$.99	\$1.73
11/01/07 - 10/31/08	\$1.02	\$1.78

Aaron MacDonald, Account Representative for Allied Waste Services, was present to answer any questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers wanted as part of the agreement be stipulated the pickup schedule remains to be on Tuesday and Thursday. This would make the transition easier for residents who were already using this service. He was also concerned with garbage trucks coming into the residential areas early in the morning.

DPW Director Dan DesJarden stated one day pickup for the City was discussed at the Pre Bid Meeting and staff felt it would not be an issue. The garbage trucks would be in the residential areas only one day a week.

MacDonald of Allied Waste did not have a problem with the pickup schedule remaining the same.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by HODGES to stipulate in the contract the pickup schedule would be on Tuesday and Thursday, as is presently done by the current hauler.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Pfaller questioned who decides what is recyclable, when there is a change and who is responsible to inform the public. City Clerk Betty Morlock stated a list of what would be recycled was included in the bid package. If there are any changes, the City must be contacted and both the hauler and the City would inform the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers asked how recycle bins are accounted for. City Clerk Morlock responded when residents call the City for a final read on their water/sewer account, they are asked to return their recycle bin in order to receive their \$5.00 deposit back. If they do not return the bin, the City deletes this residence. When the new residents call to obtain their names on the account, they are informed about the recycling program and come to City Hall to get a recycle bin if they wish to use this service.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by MATHEWS to award a three year contract to Allied Waste Inc. for the solid and yard waste and recycling pickup as proposed.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. **APPROVAL OF ADDED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING FOR SIDEWALKS PROJECT.** City Manager Pasquale stated at its September 19 meeting, the City Council received bids for sidewalk work on Beech, Lincoln Lake, Hunt and Ridgeview. The low bid of \$69,622 was submitted by Lyonnais, Inc. for the proposed project. Since \$45,799 had been budgeted for Community Development Block Grant funds, the project was scaled back.

Tom Tilma of the Kent County Community Development Department was contacted regarding additional funding to complete the project as proposed. On September 20, Tilma contact the City stating his department would provide full funding for this project.

Tilma requested that the Council pass a motion stating full funding for the project, rather than a specific dollar amount allowing additional monies, if needed.

Councilmember Pfaller questioned if this would be part of next year's grant fund? Pasquale understood these monies would be an increase in this year.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers expressed concerns of not stating a specific amount as well what would cause the project to be more. Also, what is the City's procedure on approving additional work? DPW Director DesJarden responded until a project is started the City staff is never sure what problems may arise and the City Engineer and he would evaluate the issue before a change would be allowed.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and supported by HODGES to approve using \$69,622 or the full funding of this year's Community Development Block Grant Funds for the sidewalk project.

YEA: 4. (Councilmembers Hodges, Mathews, Pfaller and Mayor Shores).  
NAY: 1. (Mayor Pro Tem Myers). ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #3. **MERS RETIREMENT BENEFIT INCREASE (BENEFIT PROGRAM E) FOR RETIREES.** As adopted for the last sixteen years by Council, a 2% compound benefit increase for cost of living has been provided for retirees. After reviewing the issue with City Treasurer Sue Olin

and City Manager Pasquale recommended the City adopt a 2% increase effective January 1, 2006 for retirees through the Municipal Employees Retirement System.

Councilmember Pfaller inquired why the three different plans. Lowell Light and Power and Cable TV General Manager Tom Richards explained one plan was for Paul Christman, a retired General Manager of Lowell Light and Power and Cable TV, and the other two are for City Employees and Light and Power and Cable TV employees. City Manager Pasquale noted the City and Light and Power/Cable TV employees' plans were the same.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by MYERS to approve a 2% increase effective January 1, 2006 for the MERS Retirement Benefit E Increase retirees.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. **PAYMENT REQUEST NO. 3 FOR THE GRINDLE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.** As noted in Dave Austin's letter of September 27, 2005, this payment request for the Grindle Reconstruction Project covers the balance of the contract with Diversco minus retainage. A total of \$48,396.62 is due. The retained amount of \$7,452.22 is held until all punch list items are completed and restoration is stabilized.

Councilmember Pfaller questioned the life expectancy of a road. DPW Director DesJarden stated it could be two to twenty years, depending on the construction of the road and its use. There are no guarantee on any roads.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MATHEWS to approve payment request no. 3 of \$48,396.62 for the Grindle reconstruction project.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #5. **LOWELL SHOWBOAT RENTAL OUTLINE - REVIEW.** Mayor Pro Tem Myers, Chamber of Commerce Director Liz Baker and City Manager Pasquale met to discuss Showboat rental procedures and presented an outline based on those discussions.

The outline was reviewed and several comments and suggestions were made. The Committee will take these comments and suggestions and prepare a new outline for the next City Council meeting.

Item #6. **WAIVER OF BID PROCESS ALLOWING PURCHASE OF 1984 CHEVY FIRE TRUCK BY THE CITY OF SANTIAGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.** As noted in Betty Morlock's memo, the City Council is requested to waive the bid process allowing the purchase of a City owned 1984 fire truck by the City of Santiago, Dominican Republic. This truck is outdated by U.S. standards and is unlikely to be salable to another fire department in this country.

For the past three years, Morlock has had the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic on behalf of Lowell Rotary Club for District 6290 viewing the bio-sand filter projects. As a Boardmember of Lowell-Rockford Ambulance, ambulances have been placed, which had previously been taken out of service, for communities within the Dominican Republic. Rockford Ambulance has been sending ambulances to the Dominican since 1974 and many good relationships have been formed by these services.

City of Santiago has over 900,000 residents and only five fire trucks and are in great need for more. But located in a Third World Country, the money is the problem. Construction is planned for a new fire station in the part of Santiago known as "Cien Fuegos", which means "100 Fires". This neighborhood was established 25 years ago after a fire destroyed another part of Santiago, forcing 100 families out of their homes. The city government resettled them in Cien Fuegos, which now has more than 100,000 people living in it and it is the poorest district in Santiago. This truck is scheduled to be placed at this station.

Fire Chief Frank Martin was supportive of waiving the bid process and felt \$4,500 to \$5,000 for this truck would be sufficient, especially for this type of use. Morlock is working with Steve Boyer, vice president of the Michigan Chapter of Partners of the Americas. This international organization works with U.S. businesses to address needs in South and Central America as well as the Caribbean. Michigan is partnered with Belize and the Dominican Republic.

Mayor Shores went to the Dominican this past February and took pictures of equipment they were using. It was very old and outdated and poorly supplied. In July, representatives from Santiago visited here and were very impressed with the City Fire Station and equipment.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers questioned if this truck is being housed at the Fire Station and taking space that could be put for a better use. Morlock responded yes.

Councilmember Pfaller asked if the insurance and all fees for shipping and so forth are being paid by the City of Santiago. Morlock responded that all fees, permits and shipping cost will be paid by the City of Santiago.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MYERS to waive the bid process allowing purchase of the 1984 Chevy Fire Truck by the City of Santiago, Dominican Republic at a price determined by staff.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #7. **CITIZEN COMMENTS.** No comments were received.

Item #8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Mayor Pro Tem Myers attended the Michigan Municipal League Conference which was held in Grand Rapids. He had found during the conference information on an archway which contained a clock. He felt this would be a fitting type of

presentation for entry to the riverwalk area off Main Street. As driven by, the showboat would be seen as well as the archway with the clock. This would be a project for the Downtown Development Authority to research.

Myers also noted he received information regarding a Skateboard Park from the same company as had provided the archway. The uniqueness of this skateboard park is every two years the layout is rearranged so it changes the routines for the skateboarders.

Councilmember Hodges inquired when Hudson Street would be striped. DPW Director Dan DesJarden stated he was on the understanding it was to be done last Monday. Hudson Street is a County road and the Road Commission had stated it will be painted soon.

DesJarden also noted MDOT had contacted him to schedule the painting of Main Street parking spaces in the downtown.

Hodges also stated he attended the Michigan Municipal League Conference and found it very informative.

Councilmember Mathews noted a sign was placed in front of Grand Wittenbach Body Shop stating the business is open. But there has been no asphalt. He questioned how the body shop could be open without asphalt. The sidewalks are installed.

Mayor Shores also attend MML Conference and there were excellent sessions and very informative. Also, signs are being put up on Hudson Street saying "Crosswalk Here".

Item #9. **MANAGER'S REPORT**. City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes are provided:
  - Planning Commission meeting of August 22, 2005
  - Downtown Development Authority meeting of August 18, 2005
  - Grand Valley Metro Council-Transportation Policy Committee meeting of July 20, 2005
2. On September 28, 2005, Mayor Shores, Councilmember Pfaller and City Manager Pasquale met with representatives from Vergennes Township regarding a possible 425 agreement for the 177 acres of property near the southeast corner of Alden Nash and Vergennes. At this time, the meeting progressed well and another session is scheduled. If there are any conclusions, these will come to the full Board.
3. The new canopy located over the Main Street doors of City Hall was provided through a grant from the Downtown Historic District Commission. This was duplicated from pictures of the original canopy. DPW Director DesJarden did much work in terms of getting this accomplished.

DPW Director DesJarden stated he would apply for another grant from the Historic District Commission for a canopy for the Clock Tower entrance off Monroe.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers noted these canopies would help protect the doors from the weather.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor

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Betty R. Morlock, Clerk