

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

For the Regular Meeting of **TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2006**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by City Manager David Pasquale and Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery called Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Hodges, Mathews, Myers, Pfaller, and Shores.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery, Public Works Director Dan DesJarden, Planning Commission Chairman Clark Jahnke, Planning Commissioner Mark Mundt and Lowell Light and Power/Cable TV General Manager Tom Richards.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MATHEWS to nominate Charles Myers as Mayor for City of Lowell. No other nominations were received. The vote to elect Myers was as follows:

YEA: 4. NAY: 1. (Shores) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Myers thanked the Council. He noted he would serve the office with the dignity and vigor which Mayor Shores has shown over the past four years.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES to nominate Jim Hodges as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Lowell.

Motion died for lack of support.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MYERS to elect Alan Mathews as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Lowell.

YEA: 4. NAY: 1. (Shores) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

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

YEA: Councilmember Hodges, Pfaller, Shores, Mayor Pro Tem Mathews and Mayor Myers.

NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

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

YEA: Councilmember Hodges, Pfaller, Shores, Mayor Pro Tem Mathews and Mayor Myers.

NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (1/03/06)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$101,295.50
MAJOR STREET FUND	3,598.63
LOCAL STREET FUND	873.41
HISTORIC DISTRICT FUND	984.00
DDA FUND	1,832.24
CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION FUND	275.00
AIRPORT FUND	16.84
WASTEWATER FUND	15,338.71
WATER FUND	15,573.46
DATA PROCESSING FUND	369.95
EQUIPMENT FUND	644.35
CURRENT TAX FUND	8,245.74

Item #1. **ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATURES FOR CITY BANK ACCOUNTS AND DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORY BANKS; REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE.** The City must annually designate its depository banks and authorize signatures for the coming year.

The following designations were recommended.

a. Authorized signatures:

Mayor Charles Myers	City Manager David Pasquale
Mayor Pro Tem Alan Mathews	City Treasurer Suzanne Olin
	Police Chief James Valentine
	Deputy City Treasurer Vickie Videan

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by MATHEWS to support the above individuals as authorized signatures.

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

b. Safety Deposit Box:

Betty Morlock
Susan Ullery
Luanne Wisniewski
Brenda Angelo

IT WAS MOVED BY MATHEWS and seconded by PFALLER to support the above names for access into the safety deposit box.

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

c. Depository Banks:

Comerica Bank-Grand Rapids	(Grand Rapids)
Huntington Banks	(Lowell)
National City Bank	(Grand Rapids)
Fifth Third Bank	(Lowell, Ada, Grand Rapids)
Bank One-Grand Rapids	(Ada, Grand Rapids)
Standard Federal Bank	(Ada, Grand Rapids)
Ionia County National Bank	(Lowell)
Mercantile Bank of West Michigan	(Wyoming)

Mayor Myers abstained from discussion.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by HODGES to approve the depository banks as presented.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSTAIN: 1. (Myers) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Myers referred to the "Rules of Procedure for the Lowell City Council". Councilmember Pfaller questioned the "Closed Meetings Section" which refers to a regular or special meeting. The Councilmembers, elected or appointed and serving, by a two-thirds roll call vote may call a closed session. He noted in the past this has never been done as a roll call vote. City Manager Pasquale explained a roll call vote for a closed session is required.

Pfaller referred to utilizing roll call vote for consideration of all ordinances and resolutions. He did not believe this was always being done. Pasquale stated this can be carried out this way. The Councilmembers by consensus agreed this should be the procedure.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by SHORES to approve the "Rules of Procedure" as existing for the Lowell City Council.

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

Item #2. **PERMISSION TO INSTALL AN INDOOR NEON OPEN SIGN AT THE ENGLEHARDT PUBLIC LIBRARY.** Lowell Youth Librarian Susan VanderVeen requested permission to install a 18" x 23" indoor neon open sign to the library's lobby window. This sign which is lit during the open hours, is in response to patrons' requests for a more visible sign from the parking lot.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by MATHEWS to grant the Englehardt Public Library permission to install an indoor neon open sign near the front entrance.

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

Item #3. **GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE – COLLECTION OF SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2006.** As recently carried out for the Kent County Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids Community College has requested that the City collect the summer property taxes for the district. As part of a continuing resolution, the City collects the GRCC's property taxes at no fee, but is able to keep the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing these monies.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by PFALLER to pass the resolution for collecting the summer property taxes for Grand Rapids Community College.

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

NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – 2006-2007 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS – SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE (1/17).** Kent County has informed the City that \$39,570 in Federal Community Development Block Grant funds is available for various community projects beginning July 1, 2006. City Manager Pasquale and DPW Director Dan DesJarden have worked together on such proposed projects, particularly since the City is restricted as to where public improvements can be made. Significant sidewalk improvements have been made over the years.

Pasquale noted a resident who mentioned the need for sidewalks near Schneider Manor. Installation of sidewalks need to be completed on Pleasant, Center and West Streets.

The sidewalk proposal amounted to \$33,570.

It has also been proposed to continue to assist in helping to fund North Kent Transit in assistance for Senior Citizens and handicapped riders in the amount of \$6,000.

Councilmember Pfaller questioned if funds were allocated from next year to this year in order to complete the sidewalks projects. Pasquale responded yes. Pfaller suggested funds be allocated to put a cement slab for ice skating and rollerblading. He noted the Parks and Recreation Commission has designated an area immediately east of the Water Treatment facility for such activities. He also asked if the funds could be used for the city's portion of the Gee Drive engineering improvements. Pasquale did not believe it was possible to utilize these funds for Gee Drive. However, he suggested the review to utilize Look Memorial Fund monies as well as allocation from the Lee Fund in next year's budget. When federal dollars, one must consider prevailing wages, which add more to the cost of the project. In the mean time, the Council could review the issue and Pasquale could check with the Community Development office. The ice skating rollerblading rink could be placed as a project for consideration during the public hearing.

Mayor Myers questioned the stipulations placed in order to use Federal Block Grant monies. Pasquale explained the federal government wishes the City to use the monies in areas which are low to moderate income residents.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by SHORES to establish a public hearing on January 17, 2006 to discuss and finalize the allocation of the Community Development Block Grants for 2006 – 2007. It was noted the ice skating rink at Stoney Lakeside Park should be included.

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

DesJarden noted there is a frost free faucet located at Richards Park. Also, the City recently invested several thousand dollars in lighting as well as spending a few hundred dollars moving dirt. He did not want to have the rink moved. Myers believed the visibility of the park on the N. Hudson would contribute to the amount of the rink being used. He did not want it moved.

Item #5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**. No comments received.

Item #6. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**. Councilmember Shores congratulated Mayor Myers and Mayor Pro Tem Mathews. Mayor Myers will be very busy.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathews thanked the Council for the opportunity to be Mayor Pro Tem.

Item #7. **MANAGER'S REPORT**. City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes were provided:

- Downtown Historic District Commission meeting of November 22, 2005
- Look Memorial Committee meeting of April 27, 2005

2. The year 2005 has been a busy one for the City. The following are highlights:

- floor repair of the DPW Garage
- approval of the Wellhead Protection Program
- reconstruction of a portion of Grindle Drive
- completion of securing air easements at Lowell City Airport
- approval of new ten year agreement with Earth Tech to operate the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- completion of sidewalks on Beech, Lincoln Lake, Hunt and Ridgeview
- initiated engineering for Gee Drive reconstruction
- approval of new three year agreement with Allied Waste for solid waste, recycling and yard waste pickups
- purchase of speed board for the Police Department utilizing Lowell Area Community Funds and Downtown Development Authority allocation

3. In response to Mayor Pro Tem Myers' inquiry, the City gains approximately \$950 in interest revenue with the collection agreement involving the Kent Intermediate School District.

4. The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2006 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. City offices will be open on Monday, January 16.

Item #8. **APPOINTMENTS**. Mayor Myers questioned the procedure. City Manager Pasquale stated the mayor should contact the individuals and ask if they are interested in seeking a reappointment. Myers requested City staff provide him with phone numbers.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Charles R. Myers, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, Clerk