

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

For the Regular Meeting of **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008.**

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

Present: Councilmembers Altoft, Ellison, Pfaller, Mayor Pro Tem Hodges and Mayor Shores.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, DPW Director Dan DesJarden and Lowell Light and Power Boardmember Jim Hall.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by ELLISON to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2008 regular meeting as corrected.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HODGES 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 (02/19/08)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$88,659.38
MAJOR STREET FUND	1,645.89
LOCAL STREET FUND	1,374.20
DDA FUND	364.52
WASTEWATER FUND	525.00
WATER FUND	178,322.26
LOWELL CABLE TV FUND	279.00
DATA PROCESSING FUND	152.95
EQUIPMENT FUND	2,810.39
CURRENT FUND	84,973.78
LEE FUND	500.00

Item #1. **APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC PARK USE AGREEMENT WITH LOWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL.** Councilmember Pfaller stated this is the final agreement for City parks usage. Due to a change in leadership with Lowell Youth Football, the signature has been received from the new president. City Manager Pasquale noted Matt Smith is the new president. Pfaller requested Smith be invited to the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by HODGES to approve the public park use agreement with Lowell Youth Football.

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

Item #2. **CONSIDERATION OF INCREASING ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING FEES.** Building Inspector Doug Hopkins indicated Imperial Municipal Services (IMS) has not had its fees for electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits increased since 1991. Building permit charges were adjusted in 2003.

With the lapse of time, City Manager Pasquale recommended these fees be adjusted as proposed.

Councilmember Pfaller questioned the last time such services were placed out for bid. Pasquale stated IMS has been the City's building inspector for some time. Pasquale believed there were two other area firms which provide inspection services. A letter of inquiry would be sent to these firms. DPW Director DesJarden and Pasquale will provide a recommendation.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by PFALLER to approve the increase of the electrical, mechanical and plumbing fees as presented.

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

Item #3. **APPLICATION TO SOLICIT SERVICES – MATTHEW DEWILDT – EDWARD JONES – APPROVAL OF FEE.** Matthew DeWildt of Edward Jones Investments explained the company wishes to expand within the community. DeWildt requested a peddler permit for one year in order to visit the neighbors and businesses. He wished to introduce himself and Edward Jones Investments.

Upon approval of the permit, City Manager Pasquale recommended a fee of \$50 per month per person.

Councilmember Pfaller suggested an amount of \$300 for a year long permit.

Councilmember Ellison stated she had no problem with the fee, but was not a fan of door to door solicitations. She was especially concerned regarding the senior citizens at Schneider Manor. DeWildt explained Edward Jones prides their selves on conducting their business face to face. He will simply be going through the neighborhoods introducing himself and explaining services which are available.

City Clerk Morlock noted most residents do not have a problem with door to door peddlers as long as each are registered with the City.

Pfaller noted Schneider Manor has a no solicitation policy on their property.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by HODGES to require a \$300 per year fee for for Matthew DeWildt of Edward Jones for door to door solicitation.

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

Item #4. **PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF DPW COMPUTER AND EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE.** DPW Director Dan DesJarden explained the backup system for the data at the DPW is done on disk. He requested permission to purchase a back up system similar to what City Hall has.

Funding for the purchase is available through their office supply fund.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the purchase and installation of the DPW Computer as well as external hard drive and installation for \$1050.

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

Item #5. **RESOLUTION FOR THE EXTENSION OF LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR THE LOWELL TROOP 102 INVOLVING THE CABIN AND ADJOINING PROPERTY.** Because of the concerns expressed by Lowell Troop 102 regarding the proposed property use agreement with the North Washington land, it was proposed to extend the current agreement two months until April 30, 2008. During this time, it is expected that a suitable agreement between the City and the Boy Scouts will be concluded.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by ALTOFT to extend the Boy Scout license agreement to April 30, 2008.

YEA: Councilmembers Altoft, Ellison, Pfaller, Mayor Pro Tem Hodges and Mayor Shores.

NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #6. **MONTHLY REPORTS.** Councilmember Pfaller commented on the report from the Lowell Police Department. He notices the stops made, sited and warned were down a considerable amount from last year as were the aids to citizens. He questioned if this was because of the seat belt campaign which occurred last year. City Manager Pasquale stated he would address this issue to Police Chief Valentine.

Pfaller noted the City is now a full member of the Grand Valley Metro Council.

Item #7. **CITIZEN COMMENTS.** Dirk Ritzema of 829 Shepard Drive questioned the ordinance on snow plowing and citizens plowing their drives across streets. DPW Director DesJarden stated citizens can not push snow into the street right of way. Ritzema stated there is an individual who lives on Grindle and Shepard Drive who plows his drive across Shepard. The snow bank has created a visual problem.

Item #8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Altoft questioned the salt supply. DPW Director DesJarden stated the City is out of salt. Currently, calcium chloride and sand is being used.

Mayor Shores thanked the Parks and Recreation Department as well as the DPW for their work on the ice skating rink. It is being used.

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

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes are provided:
 - Grand Valley Metro Council meeting of January 14, 2008
 - Downtown Development Authority meeting of December 13, 2007
 - Chamber of Commerce meeting of January 8, 2008
 - Lowell Area Recreation Authority meetings of December 12, 2007 and January 9, 2008
2. The Lowell Area Community Fund provided among its awards two of the following grants:
 - \$50,000 to the Downtown Historic District Commission assisting in the restoration of historic downtown buildings
 - \$25,000 for tree planting within the City
3. The Michigan Department of Transportation has selected HH Engineering LTD. to perform the design work on the rehabilitation of the Main Street bridge during the 2010 construction season. Al Halbeisen, a Lowell area resident, is the lead engineer. Williams and Works will provide surveying and utilities design work.

A meeting with local businesses and property owners is expected to be scheduled for the late summer.

4. DPW Director Dan DesJarden has stated there is no snowplow mailbox policy. He requested the Council consider such a policy to address this issue. He wanted a policy similar to what the Kent County Road Commission has.

DesJarden explained the heavy snow has caused the DPW to use a V plow which forces a lot of snow up against residents mailboxes.

DesJarden stated he would present a proposed policy for Council review at the next meeting.

5. A point of initial discussion: is there interest to have LARA provide financial and managerial oversight of the area's parks?

This has been discussed by representatives of the City and the townships regarding

LARA and the possibility for financial and managerial oversight of the area's parks. This is an issue which will not have an immediate resolve. Pasquale did not believe fees would cover all of the cost. One would probably take a huge increase in participant fees. At one point, there may have to be a possible millage which would take care of area parks. Possibly, the Lowell Area Recreation Authority could take care of this.

Councilmember Pfaller stated when LARA was formed he brought up the point when the resolution was passed and he thought it was a good step toward a possible regionalization of the parks. In considering the users of the parks, it would be wise because approximately 25% of the organized activities are users from the City and the remaining are from areas around the City. There is more State wide funding available when there is regional collaboration. The City already has an agreement with the two townships as far as fire protection.

6. Kate Luckert-Schmid from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation will attend the worksession meeting held on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. to review the LCTV Endowment Fund meeting regarding organization of it and also projects. She will act as a facilitator.

Mayor Shores questioned how long the bridge work project would take. Pasquale was unsure. It could take a good portion of the summer.

Item #10. **APPOINTMENTS**. No appointments were made.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, Clerk