

PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of TUESDAY, July 6, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Jim Hodges and City Clerk Betty Morlock called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Altoft, Maryalene LaPonsie, Andrew Schrauben, Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Ellison and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Director of Public Works Dan DesJarden, Chief of Police James Hinton and Lowell Light and Power Boardmember and Planning Commissioner Jim Hall.

Item #2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONISE and supported by ALTOFT to amend item #8 of the agenda by adding review of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

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

Item #3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AND CLOSED SESSION MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2010 AND CLOSED SESSION MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2010.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by LAPONSIE to approve the regular meeting minutes of the June 21, 2010 meeting as corrected.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and supported by ELLISON to approve the closed session minutes of the June 21, 2010 meeting as presented.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by ALTOFT to approve the closed session minutes of the June 24, 2010 meeting as corrected.

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

Item #4. **APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by SCHRAUBEN that the bills and accounts payables be allowed and the warrants issued.

YEA: Councilmembers Altoft, LaPonsie, Schrauben, Mayor Pro Tem Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED,

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (07/06/10)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$53,793.73
MAJOR STREET FUND	353.28
LOCAL STREET FUND	353.27
DDA FUND	2,079.85
AIRPORT FUND	549.34
WASTEWATER FUND	13,713.59
WATER FUND	48,884.83
DATA PROCESSING	485.70
EQUIPMENT FUND	6,028.39
CURRENT TAX FUND	714.59

Item #5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** David Clark (712 Lincoln Lake Avenue) requested a street closing for Lincoln Lake from Suffolk south to the diverter at Mercer to Amity for their annual neighborhood block party. The party will be held on Saturday, July 10 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Clark thanked the Council for their support for the past four years. Chief Hinton stated he had no problem with this request.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the request for street closing of Lincoln Lake from Suffolk to Mercer to Amity on Saturday, July 10, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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

Brandon Hall, City of Lowell Videographer, updated the Council on his search for a camcorder that will tie into the microphone system in the Council Chambers and hopes to have a report within the next few months.

Betsy Davidson, on behalf of the 2010 Lowell Riverwalk Festival Committee, updated the Council on the Riverwalk activities this year. The event will run from Thursday, July 8th through Saturday, July 10th ending with fire works at Stoney Lakeside Park.

Item #6. **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GRAND RIVER EXPEDITION 2010.** Betsy Davidson, on behalf of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, explained that the Grand River Expedition 2010 expedition is a journey of discovery down Mid-Michigan's Grand River from its source south of Jackson to its mouth at Lake Michigan. This is done every ten years. This

event begins July 14 and continues through July 26. The expedition is made up of a broad coalition of organizations, individuals and communities that will travel downriver to identify study and enjoy the values, challenges and opportunities of the Grand River and its 5,570 square miles of watershed.

The expedition is coming through Lowell on Thursday, July 22 from 11 a.m. to about 1 p.m. The Chamber is sponsoring a lunch for the group of about 100-150 people at the Fire Station. Davidson had requested the Council be involved by either coming to the lunch to welcome the participants and/or canoe down the river to Ada or wherever they would want to stop. Also she requested the Council adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Grand River and its watershed has been and continues today to be essential to the ecological well being of our community, presenting unparalleled economic, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic opportunities to all of our residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the City of Lowell and its citizens have undertaken numerous actions to use, protect and properly manage the Grand River and its watershed, which emphasized a strong partnership between government, industry and commerce, riverfront landowners and recreational users; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lowell citizens, companies, and public officials are to be applauded for their efforts in helping to make us good stewards of the Grand River and its watershed; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we continue such cooperative efforts to even better manage the Grand River as it flows through our community so that we may enjoy its many values for many years to come;

WHEREAS; a broad base of organizations, businesses and local communities from throughout Michigan have joined together to conduct Grand River Expedition 2010, in an effort to promote awareness and appreciation for the broad range of values inherent in our River that play a vital role in our overall quality of life, and to enhance personal and collective stewardship of these resources; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2010, Governor Granholm and Lt. Governor Cherry issued a Certificate of Tribute to Grand River Expedition 2010, its organizers and partners; and

WHEREAS, Grand River Expedition 2010 will be visiting our community on July 22, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Lowell does hereby declare July 22, 2010 as OFFICIAL GRAND RIVER DAY;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Lowell encourages the citizens of this community to take advantage of the opportunities provided the Grand River and its watershed, and to become better informed and involved in local actions to assure the continued quality of the Grand River and its watershed for today and for future generations.

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHRAUBEN and supported by LAPONSIE to adopt the resolution for local governmental recognition of the Grand River Expedition 2010.

YEA: Councilmembers Altoft, LaPonsie, Schrauben, Mayor Pro Tem Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #7. **ADOPTION OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN 2010-2015.** The CIP provides a six year plan for capital expenditures necessary to implement the Master Plan and is not part of the budget. This does not obligate the Council but shows some of the projects that are stated as priorities. The document covers capital facilities, streets, water distributions, airport and parks. This was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at its June 28, 2010 meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Ellison asked why the Riverwalk was not part this document. Pasquale responded the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is being amended to include both sides of the Riverwalk. When this is completed, it will become part of the Capital Improvements Plan.

Councilmember Schrauben questioned if the dollar amount for the work on N. Center is for reconstruction. Yes, but DesJarden is in the process of obtaining a cost to chip seal N. Center this year, which will just stabilize the road. This will help somewhat, but it needs to be completely reconstructed.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and supported by ALTOFT to adopt the Capital Improvements Plan 2010-2015 as presented.

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

Item #8. **AMENDMENT AND REVIEW OF THE CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS.** City Clerk Morlock and Cemetery Sexton DeJong worked together to clarify Section 3.14 Special Remembrances of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. At this time, it states remembrances are allowed to be placed on a lot or grave space no earlier than one week before the date of the remembered event and removed no later than one week after such event. They proposed for birthdays, wedding anniversaries and anniversary of death are permitted with written notification of the City Clerk and are allowed one week prior and one week after.

After discussion, it was decided to say "Special remembrances such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries and anniversary of death are permitted with written notification to the City Clerk, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331 provided they are placed on a lot or grave space no earlier than one week before the date of the remembered event and removed no later than one week after such remembered event".

Councilmember LaPonsie questioned what would be allowed for the special remembrances. Councilmember Schrauben noted in the Rules and Regulations it stated what was allowed.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and supported by ELLISON to amend Section 3.14 Special Remembrances of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations as "Special remembrances such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries and anniversary of death are permitted with written notification to City Clerk at City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331 provided they are placed on a lot or grave space no earlier than one week before the date of the remembered event and removed no later than one week after such remembered event".

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

The Council further discussed what should be allowed for Special Remembrances. It was felt that people should be reminded what is put down will have to be mowed around.

Item #9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**. Councilmember Altoft commented on Bowes Road. Is it finished and open to the public? DesJarden responded it is open and he will be doing a walk through with the engineer on Thursday, July 8th for the punch list of what needs to be completed. Also, what is the status on Consumers Energy regarding the sidewalks and curbs? DesJarden talked to the contractor for Consumers and they will be doing work for the Lowell Area Schools and will take care of these issues at that time.

Councilmember LaPonsie reminded everyone about Riverwalk this weekend.

Councilmember Schrauben said he'd like to take a minute to talk about Ivan Blough, since he was one of the first people to encourage his involvement with city government and noted the following:.

While Ivan was well known for spearheading big efforts such as the Showboat and Cable TV, I was particularly impressed with Ivan's support of smaller endeavors such as the Dog Park and individual Eagle Scout projects.

Ivan's contagious excitement for Lowell's future wasn't restricted to his own ideals; he also devoted his seemingly boundless energy towards elevating the visions of others. Metaphorically speaking, Ivan painted a vivid portrait of his vision for Lowell, while simultaneously building the wooden easels upon which the rest of us could paint a canvas with our own visions.

In this way, I like to remember Ivan as a builder: a builder within our community; and, a builder of our community.

Thank you everyone for listening, and thank you Ivan for building all that you did.

Mayor Hodges asked if Gary Dietzel and Sandra Bartlett signed the lease for 990 N. Washington. Pasquale responded, yes, the lease is signed.

Hodges also noted as part of the Riverwalk Festival, there will be a parade at 12 noon and encouraged the Council to participate in this by meeting at the Backwater Café at 11:45 a.m. to walk together. Also, there will be a wreath laying at the new memorial which will be dedicated at 1 p.m. He encouraged the community to be part of this event. Mayor Hodges stated City

Manager Pasquale will be in the Flush Tank on the Riverwalk from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. and he follow him from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. and encouraged people to come out and support it.

Item #10. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.**

1. The following boards and commissioners meetings minutes are provided:
 - Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of May 15, 2010
 - Downtown Development Authority meeting of May 20, 1020
 - Fire and Emergency Services Authority meeting of March 22, 2010
 - Planning Commission meeting of May 24, 2010
2. Remember! The Riverwalk Festival is scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 8-10.
3. A letter from the Kent District Library announcing the retirement of Englehardt Branch Manager Jane Aronson on July 5 was read. She had served the Lowell Library for 22 years doing an excellent job and wishes her well in her retirement.
4. Pasquale also announced his own plans of retirement with his last day of serving as City Manager in the office will be June 30, 2011. This allows enough time for the Council to select a new manager. He has been with the City for almost 23 years and found it a privilege to serve this Council and this Community and thanked them very much.

Mayor Hodges thanked Pasquale and stated the Council looks forward to this next year working together and searching for a good replacement for him. It will be difficult because there are big shoes to be filled and thanked him very much.

5. Chief of Police Hinton stated with the recent budget the position of Animal Control Officer was eliminated. Jill Moore had served in this position since November 10, 1995, which is almost 15 years and wanted to acknowledge her service to the community and thanked her very much for that.

Item #11. **APPOINTMENTS.** Mayor Hodges noted with the passing away of Jim Wood, who had served very well on the Board of Review, a position is open. Anyone interested in this appointment should contact the City Clerk or Mayor Hodges.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by LAPONSIE to adjourn to Closed Session at 8:15 p.m.

YEA: Councilmembers Altoft, LaPonsie, Schrauben, Mayor Pro Tem Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk