

PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 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, Police Chief James Hinton, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, Light and Power Boardmember, Planning Commissioner and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Hall, and Lowell Light and Power Manager Greg Pierce.

Item #1. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by LAPONSIE to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Item #2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2010.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by LAPONSIE to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 20, 2010 as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by ALTOFT to approve the closed session meeting minutes of September 20, 2010 as written.

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

Item #3. **APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLES.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by LAPONSIE 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 (10/04/10)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$43,854.29
MAJOR STREET FUND	203.60
LOCAL STREET FUND	504.87
DDA FUND	5,340.00
AIRPORT FUND	2,714.26
WASTEWATER FUND	34,688.78
WATER FUND	5,189.79
CABLE TV FUND	28,194.32
EQUIPMENT FUND	283.63
CURRENT TAX FUND	1,887,934.96

Item #4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** No comments were received.

Item #5. **APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MORE PROGRAM.** At the Michigan Municipal League Convention held recently in Dearborn, the City Councilmembers and City Manager Pasquale learned about the MORE Program (Matching Opportunities and Resources for Entrepreneurs). This provides access for business entrepreneurs so that their commerce can start and thrive.

By joining MORE, Lowell can provide information to those who wish to start a business here. Mayor Hodges was on a video taken at the conference which introduces interested entrepreneurs to the City.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHRAUBEN to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the MORE Program.

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

Item #6. **RESOLUTION APPROVING COMMITMENT OF FUNDS TO THE LOWELL AREA TRAILWAY PROJECT TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.** Dave Austin of Williams and Works explained the Lowell Area Recreation Authority has successfully applied and received a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund in

the amount \$398,000. They also applied with the City's participation to the Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Program and received a grant for over \$277,000. The balance of the funds has been raised locally and through applications to various funding foundations. The reason the City is formally involved in this is because of MDOT's involvement. MDOT will only deal with a formal road Act 51 agency. The Trail Authority is not a road agency nor are the townships.

Construction is scheduled for next Spring with completion in the fall before school begins.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHRAUBEN to adopt the resolution approving commitment of funds to the Lowell Area Trailway Project.

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

NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #7. **SEPTEMBER 21 STORM CLEAN UP REPORT.** DPW Director Dan DesJarden provided a report on the storm damage clean up. He thanked all the departments who worked very well together. The clean up took approximately five days. Two City trees were lost and will be replaced.

Mayor Hodges thanked everyone.

Item #8. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SEARCH AGREEMENT FOR CITY MANAGER WITH THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.** With the retirement of City Manager Pasquale planned for next June 30th, the Council wishes to embark on an executive search with the Michigan Municipal League. Pasquale provided a document outlining the process. Also, Bill Baldrige will act as search consultant facilitator for the Council. Mr. Baldrige has had extensive experience as a City Manager and is very respected in the profession.

Mayor Hodges noted the process will take place over the course of the next six months. There will be a number of meetings and the community will be involved.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and ALTOFT to approve the executive search agreement for City Manager with the Michigan Municipal League.

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

Item #9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Altoft noted the bridge is open. He thanked the DPW for doing a good job cleaning up the storm damage. Altoft also requested a worksession on the west riverbank property regarding the erosion issue. City Manager Pasquale noted he and Dave Austin have discussed this issue. They are in the midst of completing a Parks Master Plan Update. The submission deadline of these grants will be April 1, 2010. In order to

get through the process, Austin recommended it begin as soon as possible. Pasquale noted the Parks update amendment process will be completed within the month. The City will then be eligible for DNR monies. Mayor Hodges suggested a worksession be held on Monday, October 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember LaPonsie commented on the passing of Mayor Jeanne Shores. LaPonsie will always have a special place in her heart for Shores. She was a great pioneer to the City.

Councilmember Schrauben also commented on Shores. The first meeting he attended with Shores, she showed a great amount of strength when listening to criticism. He also commented on the Michigan Municipal League Conference where he learned many good ideas.

Mayor Pro Tem Ellison commented on Shores. She will be greatly missed. Shores loved Lowell.

Mayor Hodges stated Shores is one of his heroes. They encouraged each other in many ways. She will be missed.

Hodges noted he received a letter from Luis and Shirley Luna regarding the improvements on Sibley Street and thanked the City.

Also, a letter was received from Barbara Sweetland of 913 Clark Street thanking the Fire Chief, Lowell Fire Department and Rockford Ambulance for their services and fast response to her call.

Item #10. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.** City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes were provided:
 - Planning Commission meeting of August 23, 2010
 - Downtown Development Authority meeting of August 19, 2010
2. The MDOT ribbon cutting for the completed downtown bridge reconstruction is scheduled for Thursday, October 7 at 9:30 a.m. The bridge dedication with the Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for Saturday, October 9 at 2 p.m.

Pasquale also commented on Jeanne Shores. She was a dear friend as well as friends to so many. She cared very much for the community and one couldn't ask for a better ambassador to Lowell.

City Clerk Betty Morlock commented her and Shores traveled many times to the Dominican Republic. She was a great ambassador to the Country for the City of Lowell. She was very impressive and always represented the City very well.

Item #11. **APPOINTMENTS.** By general consensus, the City Council approved the appointments of David Cadwallader (806 Lafayette) and Amy Hayes (624 Riverside) to the Planning Commission. The appointments will expire on June 30, 2011.

There are still openings to serve on the Board of Review as well as the Airport Board.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk