

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013, 7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Hodges and City Clerk Morlock called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Chris Schwab, Jim Hall, Andrew Schrauben, Sharon Ellison and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Department of Public Works Dan Desjarden, Police Chief Barry Getzen and Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

A. February 19, 2013 – Regular Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by SCHRAUBEN to approve the regular minutes of the February 19, 2013 meeting as corrected.

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

B. February 19, 2013 – Closed Session Meetings

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to approve the closed session minutes of the February 19, 2013 meetings as written.

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

4. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

YEA: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Schrauben, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (03/04/2013)

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$54,323.61 |
| MAJOR STREET FUND | 12.54 |
| LOCAL STREET FUND | 12.53 |
| DOWNTOWN DEVELOP | 2,102.94 |
| AIRPORT FUND | 2,929.66 |
| WASTEWATER FUND | 43,281.17 |
| WATER FUND | 202,620.99 |
| DATA PROCESSING | 196.64 |
| EQUIPMENT FUND | 33,109.39 |
| CURRENT TAX COLL | 380,715.70 |

5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Jim Reagan (680 Bowes Road) stated his concerns with the removal of all parking on Bowes Road during the summer months when residents have family reunions, get together and special events of the city.

Reagan also appreciates all the hard work the Council does for the city.

Mark Mundt (800 Bowes Road) agrees with Reagan on concerns of no parking on Bowes Road during summer events and suggests maybe special permits could be given out.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECTS REPORT**

City Manager Howe had no new updates at this time.

B. **FINAL REVIEW OF CODE OF ORDINANCES; CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION**

An ordinance adopting changes to Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances was presented to Council for consideration. The revisions summarize the previous discussion and review of this section of the code of ordinances.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to adopt the ordinance amending Chapter 2 – Administration as presented.

YEA: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Schrauben, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

C. **SECOND REVIEW OF CODE OF ORDINANCES; CHAPTER 19 - STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES**

Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances was presented for Council review for their second time. Written comments were also provided and discussed at the meeting.

Chief Getzen will incorporate the changes and other information gathered and forward to City Attorney Richard Wendt to prepare an amended ordinance for Council consideration of adoption.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **STREET SWEEP CONTRACT EXTENSION, TRI-US SERVICES**

Last year the City went through a bid process for street sweeping with an option to renew for an additional year if we were satisfied with the services received. Staff recommended a one-year extension of the agreement with Tri-Us Services for street sweeping.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by SCHWAB to authorize a one-year extension on the agreement with Tri-Us Services for street sweeping.

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

B. **RESOLUTION 03-13 PLACING AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4.1(C) OF CHAPTER 4 OF THE CITY CHARTER BEFORE THE VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2013 GENERAL ELECTION**

The Council has discussed placing an amendment to the Charter on the ballot that would clarify the starting date for newly elected councilmembers, setting it as the first regular meeting of the council in January. Adoption of the resolution will start the process for obtaining state approvals and ultimately scheduling the issue for an upcoming election, more than likely the November election.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by SCHRAUBEN to adopt Resolution 03-13 placing amendment to Section 4.1(C) of Chapter 4 of the City Charter before the voters at the November 5, 2013 General Election.

YEA: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Schrauben, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

C. **RESOLUTION 04-13 PLACING AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4.9(A) OF CHAPTER 4 OF THE CITY CHARTER BEFORE THE VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2013 GENERAL ELECTION**

As in the previous issue, this resolution also cleans up language in the Charter stating that appointed councilmembers begin a new term of office at the first regular meeting in January if they are elected to serve at a subsequent election.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by SCRAUBEN to adopt Resolution 04-13 placing amendment to Section 4.9(A) of Chapter 4 of the City Charter before the voters at the November 5, 2013 General Election.

YEA: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Schrauben, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

D. **2013 STRATEGIC PLAN**

City Manager Howe presented the 2013 Strategic Plan for Council review and adoption.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by SCHRAUBEN to adopt the City of Lowell Strategic Plan for 2013 as presented.

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

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Schwab had no comments.

Councilmember Hall noted the Planning Commission will be meeting March 11th and at the February Historic District Commission meeting they approved a mural that will be placed on the east wall of the North Country Trail building at the corner of Main and Monroe Streets. An artist from Grand Rapids will work with Lowell art students on this project.

Councilmember Schrauben had no reports.

Councilmember Ellison stated she had no reports but did note that LCTV Endowment Fund Grant applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2013.

Mayor Hodges noted he attended the Light and Power Board meeting and they are in the final stages of the bio-digester project. A tour for Council and L&P Board will be scheduled in the near future. He also stated the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Winter Gathering was well attended and a very nice event. The Chamber's Expo is on Saturday, March 23rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lowell High School and the Lowell Area Fire Department will host their annual Pancake Breakfast that same day from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

at the Look Memorial Fire Station. Also Laugh Fest, sponsored by Gilda's Club, will be on March 17th and Look Memorial Fund grant applications are due April 30th with the Committee meeting on May 15th.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

- A. REGIS (The Regional GIS consortium of which we are a member) is developing applications that can help share geographic data through our website. The City recently completed a GIS cemetery project, for example, where cemetery lots are shown on a map indicating whether or not they are used, reserved or open. In addition, you can find out who is buried on each lot by clicking on the map. The GIS application will allow for a web-based search, allowing users to enter a name and showing them the lot in which someone is buried. We hope to have this link on our web site in the near future.
- B. Howe is working with the North Country Trail Association to designate the City of Lowell as a North Country "Trail Town." This will create a stronger partnership among the City of Lowell, the North Country Trail Association and the National Park Service. Additional information will be brought to Council at a future meeting.
- C. City Staff prepared a revised schedule for the ordinance reviews and discussion. The reason for the revised schedule is that we are finding that several ordinance sections are requiring more staff research than originally anticipated.

10. **APPOINTMENTS.**

No appointments were made.

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by SCHRAUBEN to move to closed session at 7:40 p.m. as allowed under the Open Meeting Act MCL 15.268 (c) to discuss union negotiations.

YEA: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Schrauben, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to open session at 7:52 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk