

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MAY 6, 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, City Treasurer Sue Olin, Department of Public Works Director Dan DesJarden, Police Chief Barry Getzen, Lowell Officers Compensation Commission Members Roger LaWarre, Teresa Beachum, Barb Vezino and Barb Zandstra 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. April 15, 2013 – Regular Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by SCHWAB to approve the regular minutes of the April 15, 2013 meeting as corrected.

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

B. April 15, 2013 – Closed Session

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to approve the closed session minutes of the April 15, 2013 meeting 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.

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (05/06/2013)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$16,672.03
MAJOR STREET FUND	1,158.84
DOWNTOWN DEVELOP	731.13
WASTEWATER FUND	6,721.34
WATER FUND	58,495.64
EQUIPMENT FUND	740.52
CURRENT TAX COLL	2,662.89

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

Jeff Altoft (611 W. Main, 109 Riverside Dr.) asked the Council to respond why they had approved the Special Event Request for the 2013 Bicycle Stage Race that was scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2013 and expressed concerns about not getting the information he requested.

Al Mathews (822 Grindle Dr.) commented on the flooding of properties on Foreman Road east of the old railroad tracks to Beech Street. He also complimented the community on how everyone was willing to help in any way they could.

Chris Sell (767 Foreman) commented on his concerns as to why his basement flooded and who is responsible for it.

Jeff Altoft (611 W. Main) also commented on the great job the City, City Manager and community did to take care of the flooding crisis.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECTS REPORT**

The City did not apply for the S2 grants but are seriously reviewing the new round of state grant funds called the SAW. Howe is gathering information to do a qualifications based search for an engineering firm to assist with evaluating the system and grant writing. The City has also learned a lot from the recent flood. As we were receiving record rainfall, we measured the water levels in manholes and will be able to compare that data to measurements taken during the drought last summer. In addition, DPW Director Dan DesJarden has some interesting information on lines running into the lift station. Once we get through the flood recovery and the "spring rush" we'll analyze what we've learned and report back. In the meantime, Howe plans to get the process started to hire an engineering company to assist the city.

B. 2013-2014 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Howe stated a proposed budget was presented to Council at the previous meeting and a workshop was held to go over details of the recommendation. The four major modifications in the proposed budget are:

- A modest millage rate reduction.
- A 21 percent increase in the General Fund transfer to Streets.
- A six-percent decrease in the Police budget while maintaining 24/7 coverage.
- An adjustment to water/sewer rates amounting to an increase of less than three percent for the average residential user.

A public hearing will be held at the May 20, 2013 meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Compensation Committee members Roger LaWarre, Teresa Beachum, Barb Zandstra and Barb Vezino presented the Compensation Committee report. LaWarre noted the committee unanimously proposed that an Elected Official would receive \$40 per meeting for up to 35 meetings (maximum annual compensation of \$1,400) and the Mayor would receive \$47 per meeting for up to 35 meetings (maximum annual compensation of \$1,645).

Mayor Hodges and the Council thanked the Compensation Committee for their report.

B. 2013 PATHWAY AND SIDEWALK PROJEC BIDS

The City received favorable bids for the 2013 Pathway and Sidewalk Project. This project will replace all sidewalks designated as “red” during our annual sidewalk inventory. The plan has been to secure grant funds to replace sidewalks this year, and then begin enforcement efforts to notify homeowners that they will be responsible for future sidewalk replacement. Our annual inventory will help us identify sidewalks in “yellow” condition so that homeowners can plan for future replacement.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by SCHWAB to approve the bid of \$72,268 from Michigan Landscaping and Concrete Construction for the 2013 Pathway and Sidewalk project.

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

C. FLOOD 2013 UPDATE

City Manager Howe updated the Council on the 2013 Flood noting that Flat River Outreach Ministries had taken the leadership role in assessing the damage. Howe also stated his amazement in all the volunteers from the community that stepped forward to help.

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Schwab noted the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority had not met but stated how thankful he was for the community we live in.

Councilmember Hall noted the Planning Commission will meet on May 13th and discuss signage and a special meeting is scheduled for May 28 to review and consider a site plan.

Councilmember Schrauben noted the Airport Board will be meeting May 7th and the Parks and Recreation Commission is working on the Community Garden and Capital Improvements Plan and Lowell Area Recreation Authority will be meeting on May 8th. Schrauben attended the Kent County Parks and Recreation Workgroup and discussed everyone having a common purpose. Schrauben also noted how impressed he was with the City and the volunteers of the community during the flood.

Councilmember Ellison noted the Arbor Board did not meet but there is still a vacancy on the board so if anyone is interested contact City Hall. Ellison also noted the good job not only the City did, but all the volunteers of our community during the recent flood.

Mayor Hodges noted Lowell Light and Power, Chamber of Commerce and Look Memorial Fund will be meeting next week. Hodges also praised the volunteers from the community and the staff of the City. It was very humbling; we have a great community in which everyone was willing to help.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

A. While an update on the flood is part of your agenda it is worth repeating that I am proud of our city employees and the way they responded to the needs of the community.

B. We applied for the following grants through the Lowell Area Community Fund:

* Riverwalk/Library Stage Planning	\$13,000
* Street Reconstruction: Sibley Street	\$50,000
* Urban Forest Initiative	\$12,500

10. **APPOINTMENTS.**

By general consensus the Council appointed Brian McLane to the Downtown Historic District Commission to a term that expires January 1, 2016.

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to move to closed session at 8:12 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 8:23 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk