

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014, 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 Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery and roll was called.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Altoft, Chris Schwab, Jim Hall, Sharon Ellison and Councilmember Jim Hodges.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery, Department of Public Works Director Dan DesJarden, Police Officer Chris Hurst, City Mechanic Ralph Brecken and Police Dispatcher Theresa Mundt.

Item #1. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATION**. Councilmember Altoft requested discussion be held prior to nominations. He requested a letter be read into record from Barb Barber of 318 King Street.

Alan Teelander of 802 Hunt Street stated he had applied to be on the Lowell Light and Power Board. Discussion was held with Mayor Hodges who had indicated Teelander would not be selected as Hodges was interested in having a female serve on the board. From their conversation, Hodges indicated discussion was held with City Manager Howe, Lowell Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce and Lowell Light and Power Boardmember Greg Canfield. Teelander believed all were discriminating against him because of his gender.

Tony Ellison of 407 N. Division attended the last meeting where Teelander spoke regarding "Proposal Three" from the last election. Somehow he tied this into the "old boys club" and City Council. Ellison understood this proposal had to do with a 10 year versus a 99 year lease on property. Ellison did not believe Teelander had a clear understanding. Serving on the Light and Power Board requires much thought and understanding. Ellison stated he would be against Teelander being a Lowell Light and Power Boardmember and asked that Teelander be excluded from consideration.

A. Mayor

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to appoint Jim Hodges as Mayor.

YEA: 4. (Councilmembers Ellison, Hall, Hodges and Schwab) NAY: 1. (Councilmember Altoft)

ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

At this time the meeting was turned over to Mayor Hodges.

B. Mayor Pro Tem

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to appoint Sharon Ellison as Mayor Pro Tem.

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

- C. Review and Adoption of the Council Rules of Procedure. Councilmember Hall stated the “aye” be changed to “yes or no”. The City Charter, Section 5.5 F, states any votes should be “yes or no”.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to adopt the Council Rules of Procedure with the minor change.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the regular minutes of the December 16, 2013 meeting as written.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the closed session minutes of the December 16, 2013 meeting as written.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHWAB and seconded by HALL to approve the special meeting minutes of the December 30, 2013 meeting as written.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSTAIN: 1. (Ellison) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

YES: Councilmembers Altoft, Schwab, Hall, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (01/06/2014)

General Fund	\$53,725.99
Major Streets Fund	1,761.10
Local Streets Fund	6,337.39
Designated Contributions	27,532.15
Riverfront Development	44,623.79
Airport Fund	1,430.08
Wastewater Fund	233.33

Water Fund	1,145.31
Data Processing	244.30
Equipment Fund	477.07
Current Tax Collection	99,021.80

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

Allen Teelander of 802 Hunt commented on Tony Ellison’s comment regarding “Proposal Three”. Teelander stated he wasn’t referring to the proposal but rather from the City Council, Light and Power Board as well as other boards.

Tony Ellison of 407 N. Division stated Teelander is throwing a lot of accusations around. It seems that the City Council and Lowell Light and Power are doing the very best they can do for the City. Everyone seems to have the best interest for the City at heart.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECT REPORT**

No further updates

- B. School Property Sale – We have completed the 20-day waiting period and will need to consider the resolution to sell an 8.3 foot strip of Lots 1 and 10 in Avery’s Plat to Lowell Area Schools.

It was recommended that the Lowell City Council adopt Resolution 01 – 14 to finalize the sale of the property to Lowell Area Schools.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHWAB to adopt Resolution 01 – 14 to finalize the sale of the property to Lowell Area Schools.

Altoft referred to property that was transferred to King Milling years ago. At that time Hodges abstained from voting because his wife worked for King Milling. In this situation, Ellison works for the Lowell School system. Altoft believed this was a conflict of interest. Ellison stated she read the Charter, which states she must abstain if she has any financial gain. Because she is under contract with the school system, she would not receive any financial gain from this.

YES. Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Altoft, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Annual Authorization of Signatures for City Bank Accounts and Designation of Depository Banks

The following designations are recommended:

Authorized signatures:

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem

City Manager Mark Howe
City Treasurer Suzanne Olin
Police Chief Steve Bukala

Deputy City Treasurer Lori Gerard

Safety Deposit Box:

Betty Morlock
Susan Ullery
Luanne Wisniewski

Depository Banks:

Comerica Bank-Grand Rapids	(Grand Rapids)
Huntington Banks	(Lowell)
National City Bank	(Grand Rapids)
Fifth Third Bank	(Lowell, Ada, Grand Rapids)
Bank One-Grand Rapids	(Ada, Grand Rapids)
Standard Federal Bank	(Ada, Grand Rapids)
Firstbank	(Lowell)
Mercantile Bank of West Michigan	(Wyoming)

It is recommended that the Lowell City Council approve the annual authorization of signatures for City Bank Accounts and designation of depository banks as proposed.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHWAB to authorize the signatures for the City Bank Accounts and Designation of Depository Banks.

YES: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Altoft, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Budget Calendar

The council is required to annually adopt a budget calendar that outlines the process and dates by which a budget for the ensuing fiscal year will be prepared and adopted. A proposed calendar is being presented for your review and adoption.

It is recommended that the Lowell City Council adopt the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget Calendar.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to adopt the Fiscal Year 2014 – 15 Budget Calendar.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Lowell Historic Museum Update – Pat Allchin. The item was postponed until the next meeting in January, 2014.

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Altoft stated DPW Director Dan DesJarden and his staff have done a great job keeping the streets clear of snow.

Councilmember Schwab had nothing to report from the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority. His prayers go out to people to stay safe and warm during the upcoming days.

Councilmember Hall had nothing to report.

Councilmember Ellison had nothing to report.

Mayor Hodges had nothing to report from Lowell Light and Power, Chamber of Commerce, Look Memorial Fund. The Chamber of Commerce is always busy supporting businesses. Hodges reminded everyone of the "After the Holiday Party".

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. City Manager Howe stated the DPW employees have been busy clearing the streets and doing a great job as well as the police officers and city office staff. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated.

10. **APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Hodges announced the following appointments:

	<u>Expires</u>
Airport Board	
Tom Grimm	01/01/2017
Paul Nichols	01/01/2017
Jim Sowle	01/01/2017
Building Authority	
Chuck Myers	01/01/2017
Downtown Development Authority	
Greg Canfield	01/01/2018
April McClure	01/01/2018
Downtown Historic District Commission	
Greg Canfield	01/01/2017
LCTV Endowment Board	
Patty Sellner	12/31/2016
Lowell Area Recreation Authority	
Perry Beachum	11/15/2015
Parks and Recreation Commission	
Paula Mierendorf	01/01/2017

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHWAB and seconded by HALL to concur with the recommended appointments.

YES 4. NO 1. (Altoft) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Hodges named Tamela Spicer to be appointed to the Lowell Light and Power Board.

Councilmember Ellison stated she knows Spicer and believes she will do a very good job serving on the Lowell Light and Power Board. Ellison would support this appointment.

Councilmember Schwab asked if there was a balance followed between genders when appointing individuals to boards and commissions. Mayor Hodges indicated this is considered. He noted he is very proud to have appointed the first woman to the Lowell Rotary Board 25 years ago.

City Manager Howe referred to the comment made earlier by Alan Teelander. Howe noted he greatly respects Teelander and they have had great conversations. Howe's goal is to encourage more civic involvement and public participation. As a part of this goal, Howe is also looking at maintaining civility. He did not think it is right or fair to throw out accusations. As part of Teelander's public comment he accused Howe of some type of discrimination. This is an unfounded accusation.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to appoint Tamela Spicer to the Lowell Light and Power Board.

YES: 4. NO: 1. (Councilmember Altoft) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to move to closed session at 7:31 p.m. as allowed under the Open Meetings Act MCL 15.268(c) to discuss union negotiations.

Councilmember Altoft did not believe a closed session was necessary if there is no new discussion.

YES: Councilmembers Hall, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NO: Councilmembers Altoft and Schwab. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to open session at 7:46 p.m.

City Manager Howe explained a motion needs to be considered regarding a Letter of Understanding between the City of Lowell and the Fraternal Order of Police regarding MERS Contributions.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the Letter of Understanding between the City of Lowell, Michigan and the Lowell Police Officers Association affiliate with Michigan Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council dated January 3, 2014.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk