

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 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, City Treasurer Suzanne Olin, Police Chief Steve Bukula, Police Sergeant Chris Hurst, Police Officer Dustin Brown, City Mechanic Ralph Brecken, DPW Employee Todd Phillips, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Brian VanVeelen, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Mark Mundt, Receptionist Luanne Wisniewski, Police Dispatcher Theresa Mundt, Light and Power Boardmember Perry Beachum and Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce.

**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 SCHWAB to approve the regular minutes of the January 6, 2014 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the closed session minutes of the January 6, 2014 meeting as written.

YES: 5. NO: 0. 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 (01/21/2014)

General Fund	\$24,423.76
Major Streets Fund	3,298.10
Local Streets Fund	10,311.83
Riverfront Development	18,572.50
Airport Fund	1,709.13
Wastewater Fund	5,382.17
Water Fund	10,207.15
Data Processing	1,917.27
Equipment Fund	6,276.84
Current Tax Collection	1,346.27

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

Tony Ellison of 407 N. Division referred to a letter written by Barb Barber, 329 N. Monroe that was read into record during the January 6, 2014 meeting. He felt such letters should be read by the individual themselves or a representative.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Strategic Plan Update. City Manager Howe explained the change to this agenda item and plans to gear the former pending council projects to the strategic plan. He provided copies of the recommended goals for 2014 as well as the “laundry list” of items that have been developed over the past two years as a result of strategic planning. Focus will be given to 2014 goals during the January 27, 2014 workshop meeting. He noted there were many accomplishments from 2013, which will be posted to the website and Facebook.

By general consensus, Council agreed and was in favor of the concept.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Lowell Historic Museum Update – Pat Allchin. Vice President of the Lowell Area Historical Museum Lisa Plank presented an annual report. The Museum served over 25,000 people throughout 2013. One of the main functions of the museum is to collect and preserve the history of Lowell. This past year, 592 artifacts have been collected. The Museum also took on a four year project of installing interpretive boards, which covers different topics of the city’s past. Plank stated children activities continue to grow.

Howe stated Plank has been a tremendous volunteer and there are some accomplishments that could not have been done without her.

B. Striking of Delinquent 2008 Taxes. Each year City Treasurer Suzanne Olin reviews delinquent personal property taxes that cannot be collected and recommends that the council approve striking them from the rolls. Olin requested to strike \$165.78 from the personal property tax rolls.

It is recommended the City Council approve striking \$165.78 from the personal property tax rolls due from River City Auto and Regal Insurance.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to approve striking \$165.78 from the personal property tax rolls of 2008.

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

8. **MONTHLY**. Mayor Hodges shared a magazine from Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Mark Mundt. He thanked Mundt for all of his hard work.

No other comments were received.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Altoft attended the Airport Board meeting. There are lots of good renters and the Airport is looking great.

Councilmember Schwab had nothing to report from the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority. He prays for safety and peace within the community, as schools and homes continue to deal with violence.

Councilmember Hall stated the Planning Commission did not have a quorum to hold a meeting. However, an informal discussion was held. An important factor to remember is how important the Planning Commission is to a community and the type of projects that are reviewed. Hall noted there is a vacancy on the Commission for anyone interested in volunteering.

Councilmember Ellison stated the Arbor Board meeting was canceled, as there was not a quorum.

Mayor Hodges stated things are going well with the Lowell Light and Power. A groundbreaking ceremony has been scheduled for the bio digester on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. The Chamber of Commerce will also hold their annual banquet on February 20, 2014. Hodges noted the Lowell Community Expo will be held on March 22, 2014.

Hodges stated the Chamber of Commerce held its first meeting with new officer's, Betsy Davidson as President, Cliff Yankovich as Vice President, Kurt Lardy as Treasurer and Liz Baker as Secretary.

10. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. City Manager Howe stated during the most recent round, the City applied to the Lowell Area Community Fund for the following grants:

• Restoration – Lowell Civil War Memorial Site	\$10,000
• Public Building Wireless Connection	\$5,000
• Handicap Accessibility – Creekside Park	\$5,675

- B. The current phase of the EVIP program is that the City provide a consolidation plan and report. One of the requirements is that we present one or more new proposals or provide a detailed explanation of why increasing the existing level of collaboration is not feasible. Our ongoing efforts with Lowell and Vergennes Townships, Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce on the Community Vision project and the Greater Lowell Community Alliance go well beyond what we believe is the intent of this requirement.

- C. Chief Bukula stated there have been some changes in the Lowell Police Department over the last several months due to the retirement of Chief Getzen. Dustin Brown was promoted to a full time Police Officer and Officer Christ Hurst was promoted to Sergeant.
- D. Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Mark Mundt provided highlights of the Wastewater Treatment Plant throughout the last year.

11. **APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Hodges announced the following vacancies:

	<u>Expires</u>
Arbor Board Vacancy (Light and Power Board Representative)	06/30/2016
Planning Commission Vacancy	06/30/2015

12. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

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

YES: Councilmembers Hall, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

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

Council returned to open session at 7:53 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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James W. Hodges, Mayor

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Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk