

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 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, Police Chief Steve Bukula, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Mark Mundt, Police Dispatcher Theresa Mundt, Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce and City Mechanic Ralph Brecken.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the agenda as written.

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 February 18, 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 February 18, 2014 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ELLISON to approve the worksession of the February 24, 2014 meeting as written.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSTAIN: 1. (Schwab) 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 (03/03/2014)

General Fund	\$21,485.92
Major Streets Fund	12.57
Local Streets Fund	20.53
Downtown Development	2,505.29
Wastewater Fund	5,364.63
Water Fund	12,142.38
Equipment Fund	3,670.64
Current Tax Collection	381,810.70

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

No comments were received.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

A. Strategic Plan Update. City Manager Howe provided the 2014 Strategic Plan Goals. He asked if the format was acceptable by the Council. After some discussion, Howe stated he would present a draft at the next meeting for their review, and that it was a working document and could be adjusted based on future council input.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. 2014 Strategic Plan. The 2014 Strategic Plan was presented for discussion and adoption. The plan is available on the website and at City Hall.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ELLISON to adopt the 2014 Strategic Plan.

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

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Altoft referred to Don DeJong's monthly report which indicated he was digging graves by hand. He questioned if he had all the safety equipment necessary. Altoft also commented on the water main break. He wanted to make sure all contractors were following safety guidelines.

Councilmember Schwab had nothing to report from the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority. Schwab hoped families and communities can work together and be peaceful throughout the year.

Councilmember Hall stated County Commissioner Diane Jones attended Coffee with Council on March 1, 2014. She very knowledgeable about the community and seems easy to work with.

Councilmember Ellison stated the Arbor Board will be meeting March 10, 2014. The LCTV Board met and had initial discussion about the applicants February 26, 2014. The Board will meet again on March 5, 2014. The Historic District Commission will meet the end of the month.

Mayor Hodges stated Lowell Light and Power held a ground breaking ceremony for the bio-digester on February 20, 2014. This was a successful event. Also, the Chamber of Commerce held their annual

banquet on March 20, 2014 and highlighted many of the successful businesses. He congratulated Liz Baker and the Board of the Directors for all they do in making the community a better place. Hodges also commented on the recent newsletter he received. Hodges stated he had a nice conversation with Kent County Commissioner Diane Jones.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

1. The Stage/Showboat Plan is in high gear. Stakeholder meetings are currently being conducted and general input is being requested from the community. You can access the form from the link under Latest News on the front page of the city website (www.ci.lowell.mi.us). Conceptual ideas will be developed for display at the city booth during the Lowell Community Expo on March 22 at the high school. A Public Open House is also tentatively scheduled for April 17 at city hall.
2. You may already know that legislation was passed last year to phase out the personal property tax along with a statewide ballot proposal scheduled for this August that would provide 80 percent replacement revenue (100 percent for essential services such as police and fire) to local units of government. As adopted, this would have a dramatic effect on DDA revenue since most of the personal property taxes collected are within the DDA district. A new set of bills, with a new ballot proposal, are being introduced that would provide 100 percent replacement revenue. The new plan would replace the old one and seems to have a wide range of support among local governments and the business community.
3. We are on track with the calendar that you adopted and have started having budget meetings with staff in order to prepare a recommendation for the 2014-15 budget. During your workshop in March I will have tentative projections on overall revenue and expenses.

10. APPOINTMENTS

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHWAB and seconded by HALL to appoint Todd R. Cooper to the Historic District Commission expiring 01/01/2017.

YEA: 5. NO. 0. 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 7:33 p.m. as allowed under the Open Meetings Act MCL 15.268(c) to discuss union negotiations.

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

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to return to open session at 8:38 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk