

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, April 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, Jim Hall, Sharon Ellison and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: Councilmember Schwab.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, Police Chief Steve Bukula, Deputy Clerk Susan Ullery, DPW Director Dan DesJarden and City Treasurer Suzanne Olin.

IT WAS MOVED BY Ellison and seconded by Hall to excuse the absence of Councilmember Schwab.

YEA: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

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

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the regular minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting as written.

YES: 3. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. ABSTAIN: 1. 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, Hall, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (04/21/2014)

General Fund	\$40,992.06
Major Streets Fund	1,133.86
Local Streets Fund	1,137.06
Downtown Development	836.69
Designated Contr.	471.26
Airport Fund	9,987.71
Wastewater Fund	54,809.60

Water Fund	26,682.79
Data Processing Fund	1,139.11
Equipment Fund	1,583.69

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

Greg Canfield, 403 N. Washington spoke regarding the negative publicity for the City of Lowell.

Perry Beachum, 924 Riverside Drive, said he is representing himself, and not a Lowell Light and Power boardmember. He said he was deeply saddened to see the recent article written in the ledger regarding the past April 7, City Council meeting.

Barb Barber, 318 King mentioned the voice has sought the opinion of a lawyer regarding the alleged violations by the voice of L & P.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

A. **Strategic Plan Update.** City Council reviewed the report provided by City Manager Howe regarding the 2014 Strategic Goals Report. Howe reported on two updates to the strategic plan. He stated we will need to make a final decision at the first meeting in May regarding the Rental Rehabilitation Program. He also mentioned an open house was held April 17 and the next stage is the stakeholder group and guidance.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. **Kayak Launch Bids.** Howe reported the last phase of the riverwalk project is to install a Kayak Launch that is handicap assessible. It should be noted that the bids were \$2,544 more than anticipated and will put us over budget on this project. We will need to have some discussion about where to come up with additional money to complete the project. Another outstanding issue is the installation of picnic tables and/or chairs at the overlook sites installed as part of the project. We have received \$2,500 from the LCTV fund and will be looking at prices and options for the tables/chairs, but we do not believe \$2,500 will be sufficient. A rough estimate at this point is that we will need another \$5,000 total to complete the project.

Councilmember Ellison stated during an LCTV Endowment Fund meeting, it was discussed that a memorial project be established which would allow citizens to purchase a picnic table or chair in memory of a loved one. Possibly, she suggested the Parks and Recreation Commission may want to take on such a project.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL that the Lowell City Council approve the bid from Camp & Cruise for \$27,544 for the Riverwalk Kayak Launch.

YES: 3. Councilmembers Ellison, Hall and Mayor Hodges.

NO: 1. (Councilmember Altoft) ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

B. **2014 – 2015 Budget Recommendation.** City Manager Howe provided a power point presentation regarding the 2014 – 2015 Budget. He noted a workshop meeting has been established for April 28,

2014 at 6:00 p.m. for further review. Copies of the budget are available at City Hall, Library and on the website.

8. **MONTHLY REPORTS.** No comments were received.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Altoft stated he made no allegations toward anyone in particular. However, he felt policies and procedures are not being followed as well as the Lowell City Charter. Altoft felt it was a good idea to have the Parks and Recreation Commission review the idea of possible memorial donations for tables and or chairs.

Councilmember Hall said the Planning Commission recently began review of mixed use zoning. Also, a special use permit was issued for 211 ½ W. Main which would allow a residential apartment on the second level. He also attended the Lowell Area Recreation Authority whereby trail maintenance and budgeting was discussed.

Ellison thanked the Council for excusing her from the April 7, 2014 City Council meeting. She stated she was unable to attend the Arbor Board meeting. However, she did attend the Historic District Commission meeting. Ellison was pleased to see the City Council accepted the LCTV Endowment Board Recommendations. After reviewing the City Council meeting from April 7, 2014, she understood there are issues that we don't always agree on and sometimes the subjects are controversial. The Council always encourages citizen participation. However, the negativity and accusations were very disappointing.

Mayor Hodges stated the Lowell Light and Power Board approved the next phase of the engineering for the turbine. Perry Beachum and Tom Russo attended the lineman workers rodeo in Oklahoma City. A brochure will be coming out soon from Lowell Light and Power to discuss the work they do as well as explaining how our electrical system works. Greg Northrop of LEAD is in the process of finalizing service agreements with the details for the final approval of the bio-digester. Greg Pierce has met with both Greg Pratt and Mark Howe concerning the pipeline route from Litehouse to the bio-digester facility for an easement from the school district. Construction should begin in late summer. The Board had a productive Strategic Planning session as they move forward and look into the next five years. The Chamber of Commerce met last week and reported on the merchants meeting which was held on April 9, the breakfast club which was held at the YMCA on April 16, and a lunch and learn held on April 17 at City Hall. Girls Night Out also occurred the evening of April 17, 2014. This Thursday will be a business after hours mingling at CandleStone Golf Course as a co-meeting between the Belding Chamber and Lowell Chamber of Commerce. The next great event will be the Riverwalk Festival. The Look Memorial Fund will meet on May 21, 2014.

10. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Howe reported the City has been spending a great deal of time working on employee health insurance in light of the changes due to the Affordable Care Act. We are currently taking input from employees and working with represented groups to come to a consensus. Priority Health will allow us to maintain our current plans for one more year, however, they will no longer cover retirees under these plans which puts retiree health care in jeopardy.

2. Just a reminder that we have a work session scheduled for April 28 at 6 p.m. at city hall. Following last month's work session and questions about council responsibilities relating to the charter, we will have Peter Letzmann on hand to walk us through the discussion. You will recall Mr. Letzmann provided council training last November and you all responded positively to the training and particularly his expertise in local government.
3. The first round of street sweeping occurred last week.
4. Work on Bowes Road should begin soon if it hasn't already started by the time you receive this report.
5. We will be conducting our annual sidewalk inspection in the near future.
6. Howe explained he had an update for the Council regarding union negotiations. However, it was not necessary to go into closed session if the Council so chooses. Council agreed to hear the update during open session. Howe explained the proposal made to the IBEW. This proposal was rejected and it is now their turn to submit a proposal.

11. **APPOINTMENTS.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to appoint Tamela Spicer to the Arbor Board with a term expiring 06/30/2016.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk