

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MAY 19, 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 Mayor Hodges and roll was called by Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery.

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery, Police Sergeant Chris Hurst, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, City Treasurer Suzanne Olin and Lowell Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the agenda as corrected.

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

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ELLISON to approve the regular minutes of the May 5, 2014 meeting as corrected.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL that the minutes of May 13, 2014, work session meeting be approved 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, Hall, Ellison, Schwab and Mayor Hodges.

NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (05/19/2014)
General Fund \$8,724.73

Major Streets Fund	453.75
Local Streets Fund	453.75
Downtown Development	116.47
General Debt Serv	211,822.51
Airport Fund	45.08
Wastewater Fund	42,865.68
Water Fund	13,248.38
Equipment Fund	605.88
Current Tax	1,640.40

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

Vergennes Township resident Dave Thompson provided the Council with an update on the Memorial Day activities and placement of the cannon at Oakwood Cemetery.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

A. Strategic Plan Update. Howe reported on the Code Compliance program. The Lowell Police Department has been working with residents on house numbering. Also, property owners along the river have been notified about the environmental impact of dumping yard waste into the river.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Amendment 1 to Lease Agreement between the City of Lowell Energy AD, LLC.

The Light and Power Board has recommended a change to the Lease Agreement with Lowell Energy AD for the bio-digester project. L&P Manager Greg Pierce provided a memo outlining the need for the amendment. As with the original lease agreement, approval will require two resolutions. If the first is adopted, the amendment must stay on file with the City Clerk for 20 days before final approval can be given.

City Manager Howe recommended the Lowell City Council adopt Resolution 08-14.

IT WAS MOVED ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to adopt Resolution 08-14.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Public Hearing – 2014-2015 Budget. City Manager Mark Howe stated a recommended budget has been reviewed during several meetings as well as being available for public review.

No comments were received.

C. 2014-15 Budget Resolution.

Councilmember Schwab made a minor grammatical correction to the resolution.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve Resolution 09-14 as amended.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

- D. Contract Bid – 2015 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD. Howe referred to the four year police vehicle replacement program that was discussed in October, 2013. We would like to proceed with replacement of the second vehicle and with Council approval have it ordered and outfitted to be put into service. The recommended budget for next year allocated \$36,700 for purchase of the vehicle and equipment with 50% of the funds coming from the Lowell Area Community Fund.

It is recommended that the Lowell City Council authorize the purchase of a Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle with associated equipment.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the purchase of a Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle with associated equipment.

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

- E. Airport Report. Airport Manager Jim Sowle commented on his concerns regarding the construction of the new gas station north of the city at the corner of Vergennes and Lincoln Lake Roads. This gas station sits on land approximately 38 feet higher than the airport. This raises great concern. Other concerns include lighting and fuel storage. He noted the airport recently purchased air easements near the station property.

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

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Altoft attended the Airport meeting and agreed with Sowle regarding the airport concerns. Altoft also commented on the cannon project at the cemetery which is looking very good. He stated the sidewalks that lead to the cemetery are new.

Councilmember Schwab stated the Fire Authority met this afternoon.

Councilmember Hall mentioned the Planning Commission is reviewing a mixed use zoning. LARA had its first meeting. Former Chief Getzen has taken on the responsibility of building a friends group for the trails. He also noted the Dollar Tree sign will be installed soon.

Councilmember Ellison stated the Arbor Board met and discussed spring plantings. Trees will be planted at the BP gas station, as part of the Arbor Day festivities soon. The landscaping in front of the Boy Scout Cabin has been completed.

Councilmember Hodges reported he attended the L & P Board meeting. Hodges also read a letter into record from Lowell Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce. He has been named Chair to the Michigan Public Power Association. Work is continuing on the bio-digester. Hodges commented on the report recently distributed in the Lowell Light and Power bills. Chamber of Commerce met last week and discussed health insurance. The Chamber is also looking forward to the Riverwalk Festival which will be held on July 11 and 12, 2014 and the summer concerts will begin on June 12, 2014. Hodges also commented on the Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 26, 2014.

10. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. The Bowes Road project is nearly completed. We worked with the paint striping contractor to paint lines on several other city streets.
2. This last winter was perhaps the worst in at least 15 years according to statistics we have been keeping.
3. Howe thanked the American Legion and Dave Thompson for working on the cannon cemetery project.
4. Howe commented on the Light and Power truck and open meetings issue. Once the review has been completed a report will be provided.

11. **APPOINTMENTS.**

No appointments were made.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk