

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
OF THE CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, September 29, 2014

**1. CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor James Hodges.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Altoft, Sharron Ellison, Jim Hall, Matt Mayer and Mayor Jim Hodges.  
Absent: None.  
Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery, City Treasurer Suzanne Olin, DPW Director Dan Desjarden and Police Chief Steve Bukala.

**2. REVIEW AGENDA.**

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

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were received.

- 4. LIFT STATION UPGRADE.** Brian Vilmont of Prein & Newhof provided an analysis of the primary lift station at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He discussed two different options, retrofit the existing pump station and replace the force main or construct a new pump station and gravity main. Vilmont believed a new pump may be a better long term benefit rather than rehabilitating the existing lift station.

City Manager Howe explained this presentation is to provide information regarding the upgrade. He asked the Council to consider both options prior to him asking for approval to begin engineering.

- 5. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.** Councilmember Altoft discussed the idea of the City operating the Wastewater Treatment Plant rather than United Water. There are several municipalities that do this. Altoft requested this possibility be investigated.

- 6. POLICE DEPARTMENT.** Councilmember Hall questioned if money could be saved within the police department by having one or two less officers. Such funds could then be put into the repair and maintenance of streets. Howe believed the department, as well as all city operations, were already understaffed.

Police Officer Scot VanSolkema stated he has already seen the police budget decline. Part-time officers are very helpful. The department has considered many other ideas to save money.

Howe noted thinning the police department may result in eliminating services such as zoning/code enforcement, parking violations, car seat inspections and vehicle lockouts.

7. **PARKING.** Councilmemeber Hall suggested odd/even off street parking. Councilmember Altoft also believed this was a good idea. DPW Director DesJarden stated odd/even parking would create more of a safety hazard for snowplowing and that new signs would have to be posted throughout the City.
8. **STRATEGIC PLAN.** Howe provided a list of accomplishments and goals for consideration. He asked the Council to rate each task in order of importance and bring back to the next City Council meeting. Further discussion will be held during the next work session. By doing this, Howe will have a better understanding of Council priorities.
9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Altoft commented on the Light and Power Board and asked that the ordinance of putting underground standards in place be on the next regular meeting agenda. He also believed any new electrical upgrades should be placed underground and wanted this placed on the next agenda as well.

Councilmember Ellison stated all city employees are doing a great job. Also, because there are new Councilmembers, priorities could have changed since the last time the strategic plan was reviewed.

Mayor Hodges stated he appreciates all the employees. Everyone does a great job.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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James W. Hodges, Mayor

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Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk