

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016, 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 Jeff Altoft and City Clerk Susan Ullery called roll.

Present: Mayor Jeff Altoft, Councilmembers Mike Devore, Jim Hodges, Jeff Phillips and Alan Teelander.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Interim City Manager Dave Pasquale, City Clerk Susan Ullery, City Treasurer Sue Olin, Interim DPW Director Ron Woods and Police Chief of Steve Bukala.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to approve the agenda as amended adding item “d” “N. Washington discussion”.

YES: 5 NO: None. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PRECEDING REGULAR AND/OR SPECIAL MEETINGS.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the regular minutes of the April 18, 2016 meeting as written.

YES: Mayor Altoft , Councilmember DeVore, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips and

Councilmember Teelander. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.**

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (05/02/2016)</u>	
General Fund	\$23,370.54
Major Street Fund	\$20,757.74
Local Street Fund	\$6,479.97
Downtown Development Fund	\$4,818.75
General Debt Service	\$200.00
Airport Fund	\$5,049.99
Wastewater Fund	\$91,446.18
Water Fund	\$121,218.82
Data Processing Fund	\$2,067.19
Equipment Fund	\$24,927.71
Current Tax Collected	\$479.74
Lee Fund	\$750.00

IT WAS MOVED BY TEELANDER and seconded by PHILLIPS to approve the accounts payable as presented.

YES: Councilmember DeVore, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember

Teelander and Mayor Altoft.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Peggy Covert of 982 N. Washington spoke regarding concerns she had with members of Forward Lowell.

MaryAnn LaPonsie responded to some of Peggy's concerns. She also asked Interim City Manager Dave Pasquale if he had been approached by any council members in the last week with recommendations on who he should hire for the DPW Director. Dave responded by saying yes.

Perry Beachum discussed some issues with Lowell Light & Power and whether or not they could have been moved to City Hall back in 1995. He also discussed some wiring issues that Mayor Altoft had concerns about being too shallow, and confirmed that those have since been dug up and are now encased in concrete. Mayor Altoft confirmed that yes, this had been done. Some other wires have been discovered, and those are being taken care of as well.

Jim Salzwedel of 505 N. Jefferson addressed each council member and asked them if they had to give a State of the City Address, what would that be? He would like to have answers in two weeks. He would also like to know what is on their agenda for the City as a team and as individuals. He also spoke about his concerns regarding some of the old business issues, stating that they have been on the agenda for months. He would like to see some of those issues get taken care of.

Roger LaWarre thanked the Mayor for admitting some things that went wrong at the prior meeting. He also announced that enough signatures have been received to put Mayor Altoft on the November ballot for a recall.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. Strategic Goals Report.

Nothing new to report.

b. Pending Council Projects Report.

Nothing new to report.

c. Council Training and Information Schedule.

Nothing new to report.

d. Strategic Plan Overview.

Nothing new to report.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Department of Public Works Director.

Richard LaBombard of Grandville has been selected as the Public Works Director. He possesses both a Bachelors and Master's degrees in Administration from Central Michigan University and 14 years working in local government in engineering and facility management. LaBombard has worked on a variety of public works projects ranging from street improvement, sidewalk replacement, utility, water distribution and sewage management. In his current role as Facility Operations Manager of Allegan County, he oversees parks, facilities, parking lots, water quality and water distribution, snow removal and ground maintenance.

LaBombard will start on May 9.

b. Preliminary Budget Review 2016-17.

The 2016-17 budget for all funds was given to council for review. Council was asked if they wanted to have a work session and when. A public hearing should be established for the May 16 meeting. Interim City Manager Dave Pasquale went over a few itemized items from the budget.

A work session was planned for Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to establish a public hearing on May 16, 2016 to discuss the preliminary budget.

YES: Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Mayor Altoft and Councilmember DeVore. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

c. City Manager Search – Progress Report.

The advertisement for resumes regarding the City Manager position will be submitted shortly. The Michigan Municipal League has requested that a salary range be provided. As noted in Kathie Grinzinger's memo, several scenarios were discussed. Interim City Manager Dave Pasquale recommended that the salary range be \$75,000 - \$105,000, but noted that the salary must ultimately be negotiated. By general consensus, the Council agreed.

d. Arbor Day Proclamation.

A proclamation by the Mayor was prepared establishing the last Friday in April as Arbor Day. This year, Arbor Day was on April 29.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to approve the Mayoral proclamation to establish the last Friday of April in each year as Arbor Day in the City of Lowell.

YES: Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Mayor Altoft, Councilmember DeVore and Councilmember Hodges. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

e. North Washington Discussion.

There has been discussion with the Kent County Road Commission regarding paving N. Washington Street, north of Fremont by the cemetery. The proposed cost is approximately \$30,000 which would be split in 3 ways - \$10,000 would be paid by the Road Commission, \$10,000 from Vergennes Township and \$10,000 from the City of Lowell. The City would be allocating funds from the General Fund. The Road Commission would undertake the administration and overseeing of the project.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and seconded by DEVORE to approve the paving of N. Washington Street in part with Vergennes Township and the Kent County Road Commission.

YES: Councilmember Teelander, Mayor Altoft, Councilmember DeVore, Councilmember Hodges and Councilmember Phillips. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

8. **BOARD/COMMISSIONS REPORTS.**

Councilmember Hodges spoke about the tree planting that happened last Friday and stated that it was successful.

The Look Committee will meet next Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. to review the various applications that have come in and they will have decisions on the applications by the following Wednesday, May 18.

At the last DDA meeting, Chief Bukala asked the DDA for funds to purchase interactive speed signs. Mark Anderson with LARA asked for assistance to extend the trails from Gee Drive to M-21. Other business included \$1,080 for port-a-jons at the boat launch, \$13,500 to LowellArts! for a handicapped ramp to the new building and \$234,000 towards water/sewer upgraded on various downtown projects.

Councilmember Phillips stated the next Historic District meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24.

Councilmember Teelander attended the last Historic District meeting where they met with a new women's clothing store that is coming into the community. It will be located across the street from Dr. Reagan's office.

The DDA had a special meeting last Friday to approve the expenditure of \$30,000 toward the land swap so S. Monroe parking lot can be built.

Councilmember DeVore stated that Parks and Recreation Department met with all council members last month and plan to meet again at 6:00 on Tuesday, May 17 at Riverwalk.

The next LARA meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, but there has been talk about possibly moving it to the 18th.

9. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS.**

Mayor Altoft said they are still taking applications for the vacancies on the boards.

10. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

1. Ron VanOverbeek has been selected as the new Fire Chief. He has been a longstanding member of the fire department, as well as an employee of Lowell Light & Power for a number of years. He will be a good addition to the administrative team.
2. The City of Portland has proposed hosting our Mayor Exchange on Thursday, June 30.

11. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Hodges had no further comments.

Councilmember Phillips recently went on vacation, but is happy to be home. He looks forward to working with everyone in a positive and productive manner.

Councilmember Teelander wished all of the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilmember DeVore thanked Mayor Altoft and Matt Mayer for stepping up on behalf of the firefighters and helping the Fire Authority hire their new chief.

Mayor Altoft commented on all of the road construction downtown and said he knows it is an inconvenience, but the road crews are working hard. He also asked that the intersections be swept because its motorcycle season and there is a lot of gravel in the intersections.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Jeff Altoft, Mayor

Susan Ullery, City Clerk