

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017, 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 Mike DeVore and City Clerk Susan Ullery called roll.

Present: Councilmembers Greg Canfield, Jim Hodges, Jeff Phillips, Alan Teelander and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mike Burns, City Clerk Susan Ullery, Police Chief Steven Bukala and DPW Director Rich LaBombard.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

IT WAS MOVED BY PHILLIPS and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the consent agenda as written.

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the regular minutes of the February 6, 2017 City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$310,240.88.

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

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

There were no comments.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. Bio-digester Update.

City Manager Mike Burns provided an update on the bio-digester, noting that he, LL&P General Manager Steve Donkersloot and City Attorney Dick Wendt have been in communication with Lowell AD regarding the direct action of Council in December. Burns explained that Lowell AD has submitted a proposal to resolve the issue and a decision will be made soon.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Presentation – Municipal Employees’ Retirement System.

MERS Representative Mike Overley provided a presentation to the Council regarding the city’s current financial position in the retirement system. Currently, the City is approximately 66 percent funded into the system and approximately a \$3.4 Million unfunded liability. Overley also discussed potential options for the Council to consider reducing the amount of unfunded liability.

b. Motor Carrier Enforcement Training.

Chief of Police Steve Bukala gave a presentation on Motor Carrier Enforcement Training and noted Officer Gordy Lauren has been attending this training for the past nine months. Bukala explained that there have been some trucking violations that are occurring within the City limits. Most of these are third party trucking companies for various businesses in town. In doing research, Bukala discovered many trucking companies will go through Lowell to bypass the Ionia Scales located on I-96 east of M-66.

Bukala requested to use salvage inspection money that is in their revenue account to purchase two portable weighing devices or scales from Loadometer Corporation at a cost of \$4895.00 each. There are enough funds in salvage inspections to make this purchase with zero dollars coming from the general fund.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by CANFIELD to approve the purchase of two portable weighing devices or scales from Loadometer Corporation at a cost of \$4895.00 each. Salvage inspection money from the revenue account will be used to pay for these devices.

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

c. Ordinance Discussion for the Showboat.

City Manager Mike Burns explained that the Showboat Committee, formed by the Chamber of Commerce, is working toward establishing their fundraising campaign to repurpose the Showboat. The committee had discussions of different options regarding where the donated funds will be placed. The option of a designated fund in the City's Chart of Accounts has been discussed, however; before moving forward, Burns wanted to have a discussion with the Council. He advised the committee has considered establishing an ordinance for the funds, which would ensure such funds could only be used for the Showboat. By general consensus, the Council agreed to establish an ordinance for approval by the Council.

d. Goals and Objectives.

City Manager Burns stated on January 20 and 21, the City Council met with Dr. Lew Bender to discuss goals and objectives for working together and moving the City forward. Burns wanted to engage the City Council on a follow-up discussion from this session.

Burns shared the four goals for the year to the public 1) Promoting and Marketing Plan, 2) Improve sustainability, 3) Downtown/Riverwalk – finalize a plan, 4) Livability - continue to be a livable community.

Mayor DeVore mentioned having a calendar of topics set for discussion once a month before Council meetings. Burns advised he would put together a calendar of events.

6. **BOARDS AND COMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Phillips advised the next Historic District meeting will be on March 28th.

Councilmember Hodges advised the Arbor Board meeting was cancelled this month. The Lowell LCTV Board will meet on March 1st to go over the various grant proposals. Hodges also commented on the Fire Authority Board meeting, which was held on February 13th. He discussed the 1-800 Board-up for houses that are involved in a fire, etc. He advised that there will be a State of the Department meeting in the Council Chambers on March 30th at 7:00 p.m. The next Fire Authority meeting will be held on March 13th.

Councilmember Canfield commented on the Parks and Recreation meeting held earlier in the evening. He advised that the Committee formed to replace the playground equipment at Stoney Lakeside Park has raised \$14,000.00 as well as receiving a \$28,000.00 grant. Their goal is to raise an additional \$14,000.00 over the next 90 days. Canfield also commented he and Mayor DeVore attended the election official training in Frankenmuth and it was very informative.

Councilmember Teelander commented that he attended the Showboat Committee meeting. He advised that the Lowell Rotary Club is starting the fundraising kickoff for the Showboat. He attended the Lowell Light and Power meeting on February 9th and advised that they approved tablets for the Boardmembers. He also commented that he attended the LARA Trail meeting.

Mayor DeVore advised that he attended the elected official training with Councilmember Canfield and he was struck with quite a sense of pride living in Lowell.

7. **MONTHLY REPORTS.**

There were no comments.

8. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Burns reported on the following:

- On March 6th, there will be two presentations, one being with insurance provider Dustin Draebek. The second presentation will be with a representative from Dickinson and Wright as to the changes in the law with medical marijuana dispensaries in the City.
- I-Pads will be ordered for the City Council to eliminate the paper agenda packets.
- Last week, Steve Donkersloot, Rich LaBombard, Ryan Teachworth and Burns went to Sebawaing to investigate and learn about their fiber internet system that they provide for residents.
- The 2018 budget is being worked on and will be presented to the Council.

- Burns is working with Treasurer Sue Olin and City Attorney Dick Wendt to finalize the installment purchasing for the Bobcat and the Front End Loader and also a compressor that Lowell Light and Power are looking to purchase, hoping to get a lower interest rate.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Phillips commented there were many walking in the community over the weekend and enjoying the downtown area. Phillips also wished everyone a good week.

Councilmember Hodges advised that the Chamber of Commerce is having their Awards Banquet to honor various businesses in the community and “Person of the Year”, Greg Pratt. Hodges also congratulated Greg Pratt and the various businesses. Hodges commented that “Coffee with Council” will be on Saturday, March 4th from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Hodges also mentioned losing one of our residents and sent his condolences to Jan Johnson’s family.

Councilmember Canfield congratulated Greg Pratt, noting he is very deserving of the award.

Councilmember Teelander commented on the session with Dr. Lew Bender. He referred to the external “threats” and the State of Michigan is one of them. Teelander also sent his condolences to the family of Jan Johnson.

Mayor DeVore congratulated Greg Pratt and noted he does a great job with the schools. DeVore also commented on how the State of Michigan came up as a “threat” during his conference with Canfield at Frankenmuth over the weekend.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by CANFIELD to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

DATE:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

APPROVED:

Susan Ullery, City Clerk