

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 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 Deputy City Clerk Theresa Mundt called roll.

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mike Burns, Deputy City Clerk Theresa Mundt, Police Sergeant Christopher Hurst, Department of Public Works Director Rich LaBombard, and Lowell Light and Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the regular and closed session minutes of the May 15, 2017 City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$457,826.34.

YES: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, and Councilmember Teelander.

NO: None. ABSENT: None. Abstain: 1 (Canfield). MOTION CARRIED.

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

Connor Baker of 423 Pine Street in Belding spoke in reference to being a Medical Marijuana Caregiver and the desire to operate a Medical Marijuana Provision Center in the City of Lowell.

Will Miller of 2714 Sandstone Terrace in Grand Rapids spoke in reference to being a Marine Corps Veteran and is/has suffered from PTSD and Medical Marijuana has helped him. Miller stated that this would be a great benefit for Lowell.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

No old business.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. KDL Annual Report.

KDL Boardmember Chuck Myers spoke on behalf of the KDL and the positive things they have been doing during the past year. One new program involves partnering up with the Kent County Airport. KDL has given the airport 10,000 books as part of an outreach program where books are offered free to travelers (take one leave one program). Another program involves sending over 4,000 books overseas in the middle east, which doubled the size of the library there. They are also forming partnerships with the senior living facilities. In 2015 KDL received an award from the Disability Rights organization.

Director of KDL Lance Werner, stated 2016 was a great year for the library. Werner advised E-books are very popular and the “book mobile” is coming back after over 60 years. It is important to make sure everyone can have access to the library.

Englehardt Library Branch Manager Heather Wood-Gramza stated that they have seen increases in all areas of the library including physical items, number of people served, computer logins and people using digital items at the library. Gramza advised they continue to reach outside the walls of the library and have continued their relationship with Lowell Senior Center, FROM, Methodist Preschool and they have also partnered with Lowell Area Schools. Gramza thanked the City Council, Rich LaBombard and City Manager Burns for meeting all of the library needs.

b. Resolution 15-17 – Amending Resolution Adopting City of Lowell Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18.

At the last meeting, the Council approved Resolution 14-17 approving the millage for the museum of .2424 mills and the City operating 15.70. Upon receiving the Kent County Department of Equalization tax rate request, the maximum millage for the museum for the 2017-2017 fiscal year should be .2423 mills.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by PHILLIPS to adopt Resolution 15-17, amending Resolution 14-17 to approve the public museum tax rate for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to .2423.

YES: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, and Councilmember Canfield. NO: None. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Resolution 16-17 Approving application of Litehouse, Inc., for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate and Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Related Property Tax Abatement Agreement.

The City received a request from Litehouse seeking a Public Act 198 Industrial facility Tax Credit. They are currently expanding the footprint of their property to place additional freezers for their food processing operation. There is currently an Industrial Development District established in the area of the City and this request would be legal for the abatement under the Public Act.

This credit allows for a 50 percent abatement for the investment of new real and personal property for up to 12 years. Litehouse has submitted their application and would have up until October 31, 2017 for both the City and the State of Michigan Department of Treasury to approve the application and provide the credit for the 2018 tax year.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to adopt Resolution 16-17, Approving application of Litehouse, Inc., for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate and Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Related Property Tax Abatement Agreement.

YES: Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Councilmember Canfield, and Mayor DeVore. NO: None. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Stoney Lakeside Playground Discussion.

City Manager Mike Burns stated Bob Rogers is present to discuss the fundraising project for new playground equipment at Stoney Lakeside Park. In addition, funds have been set aside for donations for this account. City Manager Burns noted this occurred prior to his arrival. However, the City Council has never provided any sort of directive regarding this. There were some requests to utilize some of the funds from the donations for the equipment, but Council approval is necessary.

Bob Rogers stated he represents Impact Church and they work on projects called "Love Week", which is a community wide project. Rogers explained that this year "Love Week" is scheduled for June 26-30<sup>th</sup>. The church has 33 projects planned and 24 of such projects are within the City Limits. Rogers noted installation on the playground is scheduled for the week of June 26-30.

Rogers explained the company would like to have a deposit before sending the equipment. Burns advised Rogers to have all invoices from the vendor sent to the City and in turn these would be paid for through the City.

Attorney Richard Wendt advised the money has been raised and it would be a good idea to pay the vendor directly from the City. Wendt also suggested DPW Director Rich LaBombard inspect the equipment to assure he would be comfortable with it before the final payment is made. He advised the City should contact the insurance company and see if the volunteers would be covered.

By general consensus, the Council agreed to have invoices sent directly to the City for payment.

Jim Salzwedel of 505 North Jefferson stated this is a great project, but expressed his concerns about how hot this equipment can get at times.

6. **BOARDS AND COMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Phillips mentioned the next Historical District Commission meeting will be on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Hodges had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Canfield had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Teelander advised the Showboat Committee met on May 17<sup>th</sup> and after discussion, they were looking at a modular pontoon barge type structure. Teelander also advised the next Light and Power board meeting will be moved to June 7<sup>th</sup> so the board members could attend the Sizzlin' Concerts.

Mayor Mike DeVore had no report.

7. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Burns reported on the following:

- Walked in the Memorial Day parade, which was very enjoyable.
- Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> traveling to Wayland for Mayor Exchange.
- Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> traveling to Fenton for a walking tour of the downtown area.
- Upcoming bridge closure—South Hudson will be one-lane during the construction hours from June 14 through June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- No updates on Chief Bukala.
- Jefferson Street project is completed and have received positive feedback and only minor complaints during the project.
- Tentative agreement with the Police Department, which will be discussed further in closed session and then will return to open session.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

Mayor DeVore advised appointments will be moved to the next meeting because he's waiting to hear back from of few people.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Phillips thanked all City employees, departments and staff. He also thanked Don DeJong and his staff for the work they do around town. He mentioned DeJong takes a lot of pride in the City and it looks good.

Councilmember Hodges noted the June newsletter is out. There is a lot of information in the newsletter and thanked Amanda Schrauben for her writing. He also mentioned the Sizzlin' Summer Concert list is out and starts on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Canfield commented that DeJong and his staff did a phenomenal job on the cemetery and the town looked great. He also advised Jefferson Street is done and it looks great. He commented that C&L Trucking did a great job and finished early. He went on to note infrastructure of the City and explained the Council is still working on the issue.

Councilmember Teelander also thanked DeJong and the rest of the staff. He went on to commented on the presentation from KDL. He always enjoys hearing the things they do for the community.

Mayor DeVore stated he has been to the cemetery three times in the last few months and has heard many positive comments and how beautiful it is.

10. **CLOSED SESSION.**

a. Discussion on Labor Negotiations.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to go into Closed Session at 7:48 p.m. to discuss Labor Negotiations.

YES: Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore and Councilmember Hodges. NO: None. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED

11. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.**

Mayor DeVore reopened general session at 8:18 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by CANFIELD to ratify the Police Contract as provided by the City Manager.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, and Councilmember Teelander. NO: None. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

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

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Mike DeVore, Mayor

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Susan Ullery, City Clerk