

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, AUGUST 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, and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: Councilmember Alan Teelander.

Also Present: City Manager Mike Burns, City Clerk Susan Ullery, Police Sergeant Christopher Hurst, and Lowell Light and Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot.

2. **STATEMENT FROM CITY MANAGER MICHAEL BURNS**

City Manager Mike Burns read a statement concerning the Showboat and its name.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the August 7, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting.
- Approve and place on file the closed minutes of the August 7, 2017 City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$167,475.02.

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

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

NO: None. ABSENT: 1 (Teelander). MOTION CARRIED.

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

Shaw Rentfrow of 351 North Jefferson, Zeeland, Michigan spoke in reference to removing the name Robert E. Lee from the Lowell Showboat.

William Onan of 722 North Washington Street, Lowell spoke in reference to removing the name Robert E. Lee from the Lowell Showboat.

Tonya North of 1040 Lincoln Lake, Lowell spoke in reference to removing the name Robert E. Lee from the Showboat.

Michael Pavek of 120 North Jefferson, Lowell spoke in reference to removing the name Robert E. Lee from the Showboat.

Carol Lee of 34 Lincoln Lake, Lowell spoke in reference to removing the name Robert E. Lee from the Showboat.

5. **OLD BUSINESS.**

There was no old business.

6. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Resignation of Councilmember Alan Teelander.

Alan Teelander expressed his gratitude for all the support he has gotten from the community and citizens throughout the State. Teelander reiterated that he is resigning on his own free will.

Mayor DeVore advised that with Council consensus, he would like the vacancy open to public. Interested individuals should submit their application no later than Thursday, August 31, 2017 at noon.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by CANFIELD to accept the resignation of Alan Teelander.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Request from Larkin's Restaurant – Close Broadway from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on October 14th for the Chili Cook Off. Larkin's Restaurant is requesting the use of city property for a special event on October 14, 2017 for the 16th Annual Chili Cook Off. This year's recipient will be the Lowell Showboat. We have reviewed the permit and are recommending approval.

IT WAS MOVED BY PHILLIPS and seconded by HODGES to approve the Special Event Permit for Larkin's Restaurant to close Broadway Street from south of the Post Office to Main Street on October 14, 2017 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Resolution 23-17 - to provide for the designation of September 15, 2017 as "Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day". The Michael J. Bost Chapter 18 of the Vietnam Veterans of America will observe Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day on Friday, September 15, 2017. A brief ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Michigan Home for Veterans in Grand Rapids.

The attached resolution proclaiming Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day will be presented by Mayor DeVore during the above mentioned ceremony.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by HODGES to approve Resolution 23-17 to provide for the designation of September 15, 2017 as "Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day".

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Airbnb – Discussion.

City Manager Mike Burns advised the City received a couple of complaints regarding a homeowner within the City of Lowell renting their house out as an Airbnb or short term rental. This type of use is not allowed by right or by special land use within any district of the City.

The City has informed this individual that they have the right to pursue a possible zoning ordinance amendment (specifically in the Suburban Residential District) and have invited them to be part of developing such a use within the district if the City Council wishes to choose for consideration.

Such an ordinance would specify that the individual hosting the Airbnb register with the City, designate a local contact agent, and allow the City to contact such entities as the Lowell Police and Fire Departments.

Something else to consider is the tax assessment because they are residential homeowners receiving a Homestead Exemption and once you turn them into rental properties, they could lose their Homestead Exemption.

There is no recommendation at this time; however, if the council so chooses, the topic could be brought to the Planning Commission for further review and provide a recommendation back to the Council for consideration.

Councilmember Hodges suggested the City Planning Commission consider this.

Mayor DeVore suggested bringing this to a Committee of the Whole meeting.

City Clerk Susan Ullery read an email she received from the homeowner of this property for the record.

7. **MONTHLY REPORTS.**

There were no questions or comments.

8. **BOARDS AND COMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Phillips had no comments since the Historical Commission meeting was cancelled.

Councilmember Hodges advised the Fire Authority and Emergency Services board met last Monday and there was a personnel matter brought before the board and they will be reviewing this situation. There are twenty-three firefighters on staff currently and the fund equity cap reserve was discussed. Hodges mentioned the Fire Department will be serving chicken at Fallasburg Fall Festival; there will be an open house to show off the fire equipment and meet personnel on October 5th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Hodges also announced there will be a pancake breakfast on October 14, which is the day of the Harvest Festival.

Councilmember Canfield advised that there was a Parks and Recreation meeting was last week and they discussed the Dog Park. The Dog Park runs on donated funds and Canfield encouraged people who use the park to help out the Dog Park by putting in donations. Canfield also mentioned they toured four out of the six parks in the City and they discussed improvements to those parks. Canfield advised he attended the LARA meeting on Wednesday and they are waiting the results of a grant they applied for.

Mayor DeVore had no reports, but did ask City Clerk Susan Ullery if she could get him a list of the Boards and Commissions that Alan Teelander served on so the Council could get those filled.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Burns reported on the following:

- Beginning the process for new Website/server and meeting with Addorio this week
- In process for new laptops

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Canfield thanked City Manager Mike Burns for taking the Council to Fenton to review the programs he put in place through the DDA. Canfield advised Lowell is looking better than they have in a lot of years and there's a lot of exciting things coming. Canfield advised that one of the presenters in Fenton made the comment that "when things go right, it's more than the people that are sitting in the helm at the time, you have to look back over the last twenty years and previous Councilmembers and boardmembers and different committees that people have been on, it's a community effort that brings the community around. It's not just the people that are here at the time that deserve the recognition". Canfield also thanked people that helped in the past to get where we are.

Canfield also thanked Alan Teelander for his commitment to the community. Canfield encouraged anyone who is interested in serving on the Council to get their application into the City Clerk.

Councilmember Hodges advised the Fenton experience was very positive. The Streetscape work that City Manager Burns worked on was very impressive. Hodges mentioned that Pink Arrow Pride Day last Thursday went well and stated this is a wonderful thing our community does.

Councilmember Phillips thanked City staff and departments for all their hard work and dedication. Phillips thanked City Manager Mike Burns for the trip to Fenton and stated it was very enjoyable. Phillips advised that it is a gorgeous community, walkable, great restaurants, artwork everywhere and you saw people out and about walking through the community. Phillips advised Burns did a great job there and he's got a lot of great ideas. Phillips also mentioned he likes going to difference communities because you come back with new ideas.

Mayor DeVore mentioned that he spent five of the seven days at the Fair. Also, the Pink Arrow Community Day was fantastic even though the weather did not cooperate.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by CANFIELD to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

YES: 5. NO: NONE. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Susan Ullery, City Clerk