

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017, 7:00 P.M.**

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Mike DeVore and City Clerk Susan Ullery called roll.

Present: Councilmembers Greg Canfield, Marty Chambers, Jim Hodges, Jeff Phillips, and Mayor DeVore.

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

2. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the regular minutes of the October 16, 2017 City Council meeting.
- Approve and place on file the closed minutes of the October 16, 2017 City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$276,377.36.

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

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Representative Tom Albert of the 86th District gave an update as to what is going on in Lansing. Albert mentioned the Auto No Fault vote that failed. He also advised the Veteran's Compensation Bill recently passed. This requires the state of Michigan to consider an individual's military experience when deciding upon the appropriate compensation. A Student Debt Bill also passed through the Education Committee which would require universities to disclose a student's debt on a yearly basis and how much their monthly payments would be after graduation. Albert went on to state the upcoming year will include work on the Pension and Retiree Health Care Reform.

Dr. James Reagan of 753 Grindle spoke in reference to Medical Marihuana. He reminded everyone of the public hearing that will be held at 5:30 p.m. on November 20, 2017.

Connor Baker from Buzz Solutions thanked the City Council for approaching the topic of Medical Marihuana with open minds. Baker stated that he was "blown away" by the amount of personal time the Council has put into learning about this topic and he looks forward to the public hearing later this month. Baker also thanked Councilmember Jim Hodges for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

There was no old business.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. MERS LL&P Retiree COLA for 2018.

Lowell Light and Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot stated the Lowell Light and Power Board approved a 2.50% Cost of Living adjustment for retirees at the October board meeting, pending City Council approval.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve the 2.50% cost of living adjustment for Lowell Light and Power retirees at a cost of \$78,129.00.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Asset Management Data Collection Agreement.

City Manager Mike Burns stated he has been involved in the Asset Management Pilot project being conducted in both West Michigan and Southeastern Michigan. During this project, we are working on developing a statewide asset management plan to address infrastructure needs for all communities in Michigan. An agreement with REGIS to provide our data to the State of Michigan was provided solely for the purpose of the asset management pilot project.

As part of this pilot, the City along with the Village of Sparta have been asked to provide data that we have through REGIS. This is no cost to the City to participate as the City currently pays dues as members of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council and REGIS.

IT WAS MOVED BY PHILLIPS and seconded by HODGES to approve the Asset Management Data Collection agreement as presented and direct the City Manager to sign the necessary documents.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARDS AND COMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Phillips stated the next Historic District Commission received their grant. He also provided an update on projects that are taking place in the downtown area. Phillips advised the next Historic District Commission meeting will be on November 28, 2017.

Councilmember Hodges had no meetings, but stated he had the privilege and honor to attend a ceremony at the Veen Observatory. Hodges noted the observatory received grants from both the LCTV Endowment Board and the Look Committee.

Mayor DeVore advised the DDA has been cancelled.

7. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Burns reported on the following:

- Tomorrow is Election Day and he wished good luck to the councilmembers running.
- Reminded those elected, there will be a special council meeting on Monday at 6:00 p.m. per the Charter requirement. Also, there will be a short training seminar on the new iPads.
- Committee of the Whole meeting on November 20th at 5:30 p.m. for a public hearing on Medical Marihuana. If the discussion continues after 7:00 p.m., it will be placed as an agenda item.
- Councilmembers were given a memo in reference to researching the purchase of a Street Sweeper.
- Past couple weeks, been meeting with Rich LaBombard and Dave Austin on the Downtown Master Plan. Will probably have a public meeting in January to listen to the public for their ideas or concerns for downtown.
- Infrastructure revenue needs.
- Main Street crosswalk.
- 4-way stop at Amity and Elm removed and have had no issues.
- Pop machine in lobby and the proceeds will be donated to the LPD's winter coat program.
- Thanked Councilmember Hodges.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

By general consensus, the following appointments were made:

- City Manager Mike Burns to Building Authority.
- Councilmember Phillips to Downtown Historical Commission.
- Councilmember Chambers to Light and Power and Planning Commission.
- Mayor DeVore to Arbor Board.
- Mayor DeVore to Fire Authority.
- Dennis Kent to LCTV Endowment, which ends at the end of the year.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Canfield suggested the City review the service contracts every five years. He also thanked Councilmember Hodges for his service to the City over the last 23 years and wished him well on his retirement.

Councilmember Chambers wished Councilmember Hodges well in his retirement. Chambers also thanked Councilmember Hodges for the Coffee with Council book.

Councilmember Phillips thanked city departments and staff for all their hard work and dedication. Councilmember Phillips also thanked Councilmember Hodges for all his help. He is proud to call him a friend and thanked him for the 23 years of service to the community.

Mayor DeVore stated he didn't want Councilmember Hodges to leave and appreciates all that he has brought to the table. There have been tough times, but Hodges helped the City get through it. DeVore then presented Hodges with a couple of gifts as a token of the City's appreciation of his services.

Councilmember Hodges stated there is nothing better than public service. He thanked his wife Chris, who has been a good sounding board and very supportive through the years of his service. He thanked the three City Managers he was able to work with and thanked the two City Clerks Betty Morlock and Sue Ullery. Hodges also mentioned all the Councilmembers he had the pleasure of serving with throughout the years. He believed the City was in good hands.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by CANFIELD to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

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

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Susan Ullery, City Clerk