

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019, 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 Treasurer Suzanne Olin called roll.

Present: Councilmembers Greg Canfield, Marty Chambers, Cliff Yankovich, Jim Salzwedel, and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Michael Burns, Treasurer Suzanne Olin, and Police Chief Steve Bukala.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by SALZWEDEL to go into closed session at the end of the scheduled meeting.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich. NO: Councilmember Chambers and Mayor Devore. ABSENT: None. MOTION DENIED.

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

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of March 4, 2019.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$102,272.37.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CANFIELD to approve the consent agenda as written.

YES: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers 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. ArchiveSocial

City Manager Michael Burns followed up with ArchiveSocial on the question if we were to discontinue their services, are we able to retrieve all our information and the answer is yes, we would have up to 30 days after we notify them we no longer need their services, we would be responsible for exporting our information in that timeframe.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by YANKOVICH to approve that Lowell City Council enter into an agreement with ArchiveSocial to provide archiving services to our social media pages.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield and Mayor DeVore.

NO: None.

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Architectural Services- Showboat.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by CHAMBERS for City Council to accept Michael R. Lynch's proposal to provide Architectural Services for the Lowell Showboat Project for a not to exceed sum of \$26,000.

YES: Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel and Councilmember Yankovich.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Public Hearing – LARA Trail Map.

Mayor DeVore opened the public hearing.

Dave Austin with Williams and Works stated at this time both LARA and the City of Lowell are submitting the applications to MDNR for this current years grant program. Austin went through the trail map and the funding sources.

Mayor DeVore closed the public hearing.

b. Public Input on the proposed applications by the City to the 2019 MDNR GRANT Trust Fund for a grant towards the non-motorized trail improvements.

There was no public input.

c. Resolution 12-19 MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for the River Valley Rail Trail Lowell Connection Project.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH that Lowell City Council approve Resolution 12-19 authorizing the submittal of a MDNR Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$300,000.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore and Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich and Councilmember Chambers.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

d. Resolution 13-19 Lease Agreement with Wind Craft Aviation, LLC.

City Manager Michael Burns explained last year, a student at Lowell High School by the name of Alex Taylor presented his project regarding personalized aircraft. He formed his company named Wind Craft Aviation to work on this endeavor. He is working with Airport Manager Casey Brown and is using space at the Lowell Airport. The City Attorney and Burns have been working with Brown to draft a

lease agreement for this. Attached is the annual lease and resolution for use of Building 3 at the Airport. It will be a one-year lease at \$1,000 per month.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve City Council enter into a lease agreement with Wind Craft Aviation, LLC as presented.

YES: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers and Councilmember Canfield.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

e. Michigan Economic Development Corporation Grant - \$1,300,000.

Assistant City Manager Rich LaBombard stated on December 28, 2018, Governor Snyder signed legislation directing the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to award the City of Lowell a grant in the amount of \$1,300,000. The grant provides working capital to replace the Lowell Showboat with a steel barge structure which serves as a focal point for the citizens and visitors of Lowell. The term of the grant shall commence on January 1, 2019 and shall terminate on January 31, 2021.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by SALZWEDEL that City Council accept the MEDC grant and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Lowell.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield and Mayor DeVore.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

f. Fire Authority Budget.

Mayor DeVore went through the Fire Authority budget that was given to City Council at their January meeting with a breakdown if they choose not to have full time employees and then a breakdown if they choose to have full time employees and stated the only notable increase is \$2,000 to the Chief's salary, a small decrease in operating supplies and travel and then the insurance raises that as it does every year. They will discuss and formalize the budget at their April meeting.

City Manager Michael Burns stated he would like to see a full breakdown analysis for at least the next five years as to what the increase will be for all three municipalities. Mayor DeVore agreed to get the breakdown once the Fire Authority decides on the pay structure, command staff, benefit package workman's comp, and future truck purchase details.

g. Arbor Board – Comprehensive Tree Plan 2019-2020.

Jim Reagan, Chair of the Arbor Board Committee, spoke about the annual Comprehensive Tree Plan and stated that the recipient for the 2019-2020 is Betten Baker and we are waiting to set a date to plant their tree to coincide with their landscaping schedule as they are finishing up their new construction. Reagan also went over the budget for the year and the plan to replace several trees

downtown that have outgrown their locations. Reagan also wanted to recognize some of the committee, Perry Beachum, Diane Lawarre and Melissa Spino.

Councilmember Chambers asked about the tree replacement, whether they would be the fruit bearing trees and Reagan stated he believed they were looking at columnar variety trees.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council approve the 2019-2020 Comprehensive Tree Plan.

YES: Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel and Councilmember Yankovich.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

h. Fireworks.

City Manager Michael Burns stated we received a request from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce for this year's fireworks show at the Stoney Lakeside Park. This is an annual request and the event is being held on Saturday July 13, 2019.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by CANFIELD that Lowell City Council approve the Fireworks application as requested.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich and Councilmember Chambers.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Canfield stated he attended the LARA meetings and the Airport Board meeting and there are some exciting things happening there. Alex Taylor who formed Wind Craft Aviation is working on a flying prototype and the Airport manager Casey Brown applied for a grant with the State of Michigan for \$500,000 for airport improvement and is waiting for the results on that. They were happy to see someone from City Council at their meeting as well.

Councilmember Chambers stated that at the Lowell Light & Power Board meeting, they worked on wrapping up their budget and at the Planning Commission meeting, they discussed recreation marijuana and how they will control the smell coming from the facilities. One more step in the process of creating the ordinance and getting there slowly but surely.

Councilmember Yankovich stated he attended his second Chamber Board meeting and learned the Riverwalk festival is 25 years old this year and they are amping up the music this year. He was also recommended to see the Lowell High School play Mary Poppins and was blown away by the high school kids performance and stated they were spectacular.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated he had the Arbor Board meeting last week and they are working on

standardizing a plaque for anyone donating in the future.

Mayor DeVore stated he sits on the board along with Michael Burn and Rich LaBombard to decide what to do with the Fairgrounds once they leave, so they will have some ideas, options and a bunch of information at the Lowell Expo this Saturday March 23, 2019 from 9:00 to 3:00. The greater Lowell Community Vision Alliance meets Tuesday March 19, 2019 at the school at 4:00 pm.

7. **MONTHLY REPORTS.**

There were no comments.

8. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Mike Burns reported on the following:

- This Saturday at Lowell High School, the Expo will be going on and City Hall will have two booths, one will be our regular Police and City booth but then we will have a booth promoting the Recreation Park design day which is scheduled for April 17, 2019. That day we will have two sessions one between 2 – 4 pm and the second one between 5 – 7 pm. We will have an ariel map of the park and we are going to give them 34 game pieces and people can come in and pick and choose what they want in the park once the fair vacates. We will take that information as our survey and utilize that for our policy planning as we move forward.
- Last week Burns began preparing the budget for the fiscal year 2020, we are going to see a little bit of an increase in property values from last year and still seeing an increase in taxable value and he will continue to get that ready.
- MERS, the Municipal Employee Retirement System for Michigan made their announcement as to what their rate of return reduction is going to be. Beginning July 1, 2021, there will be a reduction from 7.75% to 7.3% and that will be an increase to the City which Burns is currently working on some things to try and reduce that unfunded liability, so stay tuned.
- LARA, the License and Regulatory Affairs Agency for the State of Michigan is currently putting together the Rules and Regulations for Recreational Marijuana and they have a number of different focus groups, one is focusing on the concerns of the distributors, one is focusing on the concerns of the grower and there is also one for the concerns of the municipalities. Burns has been asked to sit on that focus group and he will be meeting with them in Lansing all day next Wednesday, March 27, 2019.
- Next Council meeting he will be bringing revisions to the Purchasing Policy for Council to review.
- MDO'T, Michigan Department of Transportation informed us that the week of April 15, 2019 through April 19, 2019 they anticipate doing traffic counts on Main & Hudson Street to determine whether or not there is enough traffic to get a left hand turn signal.

- April 15, 2019 is our regular Monday Council meeting and Burns will be out of town, so he asked Council to move the meeting to Tuesday, April 16, 2019. All conceded that was fine.
- Today Burns had the opportunity to participate with the Lowell Police Department in honoring a little boy named Peyton Dennis who is struck with Brain Cancer. Burns had Police Chief Steve Bukala tell the story.

Police Chief Steve Bukala explained Peyton has a disease called DIPG which stands for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma and is a devastating aggressive brain tumor of childhood. His prognosis is terminal. Peyton came in to the Police Station today and we noticed he was not feeling well. Peyton also had a cancer treatment scheduled for today and we planned to give him a ride to Devos Children's Hospital in a police scooter with Detective Lauren. His mom texted later this morning that his port had flipped and that was why he was in a lot of pain and so they rushed him into emergency surgery. His mom did say later he was out and wearing the LPD shirt that we gave him and he was on his way home to get some well-deserved rest. If you want to follow his story it is "our cowboy Peyton" on Facebook. We did swear him in as a special police officer, he got his own locker and a couple patches, a challenge coin and his very own badge. Peyton will be asked to come back when he is feeling better.

Assistant City Manager Rich LaBombard announced Brush Clean Up next week Monday through Thursday, March 25, 2019 through March 28, 2019. Please have your brush out to be picked up in front of your house and in the right of way.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

The Historic District Commission has an appointment opening.  
Construction Board of Appeals has an appointment opening.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Canfield stated that before the next Council meeting he is flying out to Colorado Springs for an annual rodeo that Lowell Light & Power partakes in. There will be one here locally in the Fall in Cadillac, Michigan and he will volunteer at that to see what it is all about. Also April 18, 2019 is lineman appreciation day.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by YANKOVICH to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Mike DeVore, Mayor

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Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk