

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 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 DeVore and City Clerk Sue Ullery called roll.

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Michael Burns, Chief of Police Steve Bukala, DPW Director Dan Czarnecki and City Clerk Sue Ullery.

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

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the regular and closed minutes of the August 5, 2019 City Council Meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$318,143.14.

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

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

There was none.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Adult Use Marijuana Ordinances – (only if necessary).

Discussion was held earlier at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

b. City Income Tax.

City Manager Michael Burns stated since our last meeting he met with Mary Ann Sable a couple of times to start preparing the informational pieces, and our first piece of material will go out with the water/sewer bills at the end of the month. We are working on finalizing those documents. Later this week, we will set dates for at least two informational meetings. Regarding the administration of the income tax, Burns recently met with Rick Carpenter from Innovative Software Services in Eaton Rapids. This company services all 24 Michigan cities in the administration of their city income tax. Innovative Software Services provides municipal income tax services for many communities in Michigan, Ohio and Georgia where

income tax communistically are more prevalent. He met with him to discuss administering all aspects of the City Income tax if the ballot proposal is approved by voters.

City Manager Michael Burns then introduced Rick Carpenter who explained what they do and what services they can provide for the City of Lowell.

c. Main and Hudson Traffic Signal.

City Manager Michael Burns stated that last Wednesday Chief Bukala and himself met with representatives from MDOT regarding the possibility of a left hand turn signal at the eastbound and westbound intersection of M-21 and Hudson. In that meeting, there were two pieces of data that they made us aware of as to their decision. Their concern is the way the traffic signal is configured currently. MDOT studied the intersection in March through its peak hours (7 am to 9 am in the morning and then from 3pm until 6pm at night) and compiled data for every fifteen-minute increment. In Essence, they found if we had a left hand turn signal added going east and west bound, it would back up north bound in the morning and south bound in the afternoon (during peak hours). Burns noted MDOT would come to the next Committee of the Whole meeting on September 3rd and discuss their findings and give the City some alternatives to consider.

d. Ware Road Update.

City Manager Michael Burns explained a work plan has been submitted to MDOT regarding how we plan to address the monitoring of the site. The plan is to add three additional wells to the lot. The state is supportive of our plan, however there are a couple of things to discuss and review. We plan to begin the testing in approximately four weeks.

Councilmember Chambers asked Chief Bukala if Council could get a five-year report on left and right hand turn crashes on Monroe, Washington, Riverside, Broadmoor. Chief Bukala said he would get the report.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Larkins Restaurant – Chili Cook-Off Street Closure Request.

City Manager Michael Burns stated the Larkins Restaurant is requesting the use of city property for a special event on October 12, 2019 for the 18th Annual Chili Cook Off. This year's recipient of the charitable proceeds will be the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by CANFIELD to approve the request for Larkins Restaurant to close Broadway Street from south of the Post Office to Main Street on October 12, 2019 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Pink Arrow Pride Day and Resolution 27-19.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR DEVORE and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council adopt Friday, September 13, 2019 as Pink Arrow Pride Day – Arrow Force XII in the City of Lowell.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich stated he went to the Chamber of Commerce meeting. No numbers yet on the Riverwalk Festival although they know that it went really well.

Councilmember Chambers stated the Planning Commission had the Riverview Flats PUD presented to them on August 12, 2019. They finalized the conditions and sent it for recommendation to City Council.

Councilmember Canfield stated the LARA meeting was moved as there was not a quorum present, they will meet Wednesday August 21, 2019.

Mayor DeVore stated he had a Fire Authority meeting and the consultant discussion was tabled, they are going to talk more about it in September. Vision Meeting is Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

7. **MONTHLY REPORTS.**

There were no reports.

8. **MANAGERS REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns stated the following:

- Planned Unit Development for Riverview Flats will be coming to the City Council Meeting, on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. This will be a Public Hearing.
- Committee of the Whole will meet with MDOT at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.
- Monday, September 16, 2019 there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting at 5:30 p.m. as well. MERS will present the annual actuarial for our pensions.
- Burns will be speaking on behalf of the City of Lowell at the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Diane Jones will be speaking about what is going on in Kent County. Representative Tom Alberts will be talking about what is going on at State level.

- Beginning the end of this month, we will be bringing back the newsletter and Susan Maxwell Stevens will start writing those for us again.
- Don DeYoung, our cemetery sexton will be retiring on August 31, 2019. DeYoung has worked for the City of Lowell for 24 years and he will be missed as he did an excellent job for the City. We are looking for a replacement but may look at contracting out that position.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

The Historic District Commission has an appointment opening. Mayor DeVore would like to fill that position as a citizen. There was a general consensus among the Councilmembers to approve Mike DeVore's application as a citizen position on the Commission.

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

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Canfield asked if the bids are out for the Showboat yet and City Manager Michael Burns stated they are not. Canfield suggested the boiler for the showboat be housed in the building on land and not on the boat. Councilmembers are requesting to have input on the Showboat plans.

Councilmember Chambers thanked the press for taking pictures of him, DeVore and WRWW station manager Al Eckman in front of the Lego Showboat that he purchased at the Denim and Diamonds auction to help raise money to rebuild the Showboat. Chambers went on to tell the story of how five years ago a Lowell fourth grader named Vivi Bledsoe entered and won a contest called "I want to Build" by submitting a photo of herself in front of the Lowell Showboat. Her prize was a gigantic model of the Showboat constructed entirely out of Legos by master model building David Howard. Bledsoe, now a 9th grader donated the Lego showboat to the auction. The boat is now on loan to WRWW-LP – 92.3 at the Lowell High School.

Mayor DeVore thanked Councilmember Chambers and his wife for all they do for this community including auctioning off all the items on the showboat without a profit and always willing to be wherever and do whatever they can to help the City of Lowell.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk