

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Hodges and City Clerk Betty Morlock called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Jim Hall, Andrew Schrauben, Jim Valentine, Mayor Pro Tem Ellison and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Chief of Police Barry Getzen, DPW Director Dan DesJarden and Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHRAUBEN to approve the agenda as presented.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the regular minutes of the February 6, 2012 meeting as presented.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLES.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL that the bills and accounts payables be allowed and the warrants issued.

YEA: Councilmembers Hall, Schrauben, Valentine, Mayor Pro Tem Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (02/21/12)

GENERAL FUND	\$31,230.85
MAJOR STREET FUND	1,834.06
LOCAL STREET FUND	1,789.05
HISTORICAL DIST.	630.00
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND	4,390.12
AIRPORT FUND	1,756.64

WASTEWATER FUND	5,726.72
WATER FUND	205,377.07
Cable TV Fund	581.10
DATA PROCESSING FUND	1,519.33
EQUIPMENT FUND	1,100.63
CURRENT TAX FUND	139.74

5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** No comments were received.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECTS UPDATE.** City Manager Howe stated Dennis Benoit of Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc. will make a presentation regarding the water infiltration issue at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the City Council at their March 6, 2012 meeting.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES – WATER BOND REFUNDING.** City Manager Howe explained that the City has an opportunity to refinance our current water system bonds and save as much as \$20,000 or more annually on the bond payments. In order to execute the bond refinancing, we need to work with a financial advisor, the payment of which will come from the refinanced proceeds of the bonds. During the city hall bond refinancing process Howe considered the qualifications and experience of three financial advisors and ultimately recommended Kelli Lambrix of PFM to the Building Authority. He recommended using the services of Ms. Lambrix and PFM as financial advisor for the water system bond refinancing.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISION and seconded by VALENTINE to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with PFM for financial advisory services for the purpose of refinancing outstanding water system bonds.

YEA: Councilmembers Hall, Schrauben, Valentine, Mayor Pro Tem Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

B. **CITY HALL BOND REFINANCING RESOLUTION.** The Building Authority has started the process of refinancing the existing debt on City Hall with estimated savings in excess of \$500,000 over the next 20 years. In order to refinance the existing debt, the City Council will need to agree to lease the building from the Building Authority and to pledge the full faith and credit of the city toward payment of the bonds. This is the same action that was taken by the council when the bonds were first financed 10 years ago.

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHRAUBEN and seconded by HALL to adopt the Resolution approving the issuance by the City of Lowell Building Authority of refunding bonds to refund a portion of the

outstanding principal amount of the Building Authority Bonds, Series 2002 and in connection therewith approving and authorizing the execution of a contract of lease and pledging the City's limited full faith and credit as security for such refunding bonds.

YEA: Councilmembers Hall, Schrauben, Valentine, Mayor Pro Tem Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

8. **MONTHLY REPORTS.** No comments were received from materials presented.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Hall had no comments.

Councilmember Schrauben stated the Airport Board discussed the tree clearing issue. Parks and Recreation meeting was cancelled and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority discussed the increase in the budget due to audit cost and will be requesting each municipality to contribute toward this. Schrauben also sent his condolences to Sue Olin and her family regarding the death of her father, John Borg.

Councilmember Valentine had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Ellison noted the Arbor Board will meet next month; LCTV Endowment Board met and welcomed new boardmember Patty Sellner. Ellison noted applications are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell Charter Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Englehardt Public Library, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building and City and townships web sites. The 2012 applications will be accepted beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 13, 2012 and submitted to Betty Morlock, Lowell City Clerk, at 301 E. Main Street in Lowell, Michigan 49331. Ellison also felt the work session was very good and extended her sympathy to Sue Olin and the Borg family.

Mayor Hodges stated the he was unable to attend the last Light and Power Board meeting but City Manager Howe attended in his place and a presentation on the bio-digester was made. Hodges also congratulated Perry and Teresa Beachum and the businesses that will be honored at the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Annual Winter Gathering for the Membership.

10. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.**

1. Once again we were named as a Tree City USA from the National Arbor Day Foundation. In addition, we received the Tree City USA Growth Award which is given to recognize environmental improvement and encourage higher levels of tree care throughout America. We have been a Tree City USA since 2007 and have received the Growth Award since 2008.

2. The Lowell Area Community Fund has been especially helpful in assisting us financially toward achieving the Growth Award. We received word that for 2012 we have been awarded \$15,000 toward our City Trees Program.

3. We have also been awarded \$12,500 for our Electronic Public Records/Technology Upgrades. Our goal is to make more records available to the public electronically through our website.

11. **APPOINTMENTS**. No appointments were made.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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James W. Hodges, Mayor

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Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk