

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012, 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 Hodges and City Clerk Morlock called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Sharon Ellison, Jim Hall and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: Councilmembers Andrew Schrauben and Jim Valentine.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, City Clerk Betty Morlock, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, Police Chief Barry Getzen, Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce, Light and Power Electric Distribution Manager Tom Russo and Light and Power Board Chair Greg Canfield.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to excuse the absence of Councilmembers Andrew Schrauben and Jim Valentine.

YEA: 3. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to approve the agenda as presented.

YEA: 3. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

A. September 17, 2012 – Regular Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by ELLISON to approve the regular minutes of the September 17, 2012 meeting as written.

YEA: 3. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

B. September 17, 2012 – Closed Session Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by ELLISON to approve the closed session minutes of the September 17, 2012 meeting as written.

YEA: 3. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

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

YEA: Councilmembers Ellison, Hall and Mayor Hodges. NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 2. (Schrauben and Valentine) MOTION CARRIED.

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (10/01/12)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$19,971.75
MAJOR STREET FUND	455.45
LOCAL STREET FUND	455.46
DDA FUND	103,486.97
AIRPORT FUND	18,000.17
WASTEWATER FUND	43,661.84
WATER FUND	8,355.67
CABLE TV FUND	8,037.00
DATA PROCESSING	3,594.39
EQUIPMENT FUND	376.80

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

No comments were received.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECTS REPORT**

City Manager Howe had no new updates at this time.

B. **RESOLUTION: OPPOSING THE 25 X 25 RENEWABLE ENERGY INIATIVE**

As noted at the September 17, 2012 meeting, Michigan voters will be asked to require electrical companies, including our own Lowell Light and Power, to generate or purchase 25 percent of its energy from renewable sources. There is already a legislative requirement that Lowell Light and Power meet a 10 percent standard by 2015. This has contributed to the motivation behind efforts to locate a bio digester in the City of Lowell. The ballot question is troublesome from the local point of view in several ways:

1. It burns into the Michigan Constitution public policy that should be open for discussion and debate at a legislative level.
2. It ignores the current standard and does not allow for ample opportunity to evaluate the 10 percent by 2015 standard as to its impact on opening renewable energy markets while balancing the cost to the consumer.

City Manager Howe added “Whereas, the City of Lowell is supportive of renewable energy initiatives and is taking a lead by working to implement a bio digester project” to the resolution.

IT WAS MOVED COUNCILMEMBER HALL and seconded by MAYOR HODGES to adopt the resolution opposing the 25 x 25 renewable energy initiative.

YEA: Councilmember Hall and Mayor Hodges. NAY: 1. (Ellison)

ABSENT: 2. (Schrauben and Valentine) MOTION CARRIED.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business presented.

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Hall had no comments.

Councilmember Ellison had no comments.

Mayor Hodges stated Lowell Light and Power hosted the Michigan Municipal Electric Association Fall Conference this past week and he and City Manager Howe had the opportunity to attend a portion of the conference. Hodges also attended the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day on Friday, September 21. Hodges also noted that October 24 will be “Art of the Heart” honoring City of Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell for his involvement with the Heartside Ministry.

Mayor Hodges read a proclamation of special recognition for Dirk Ritzema acknowledging 50 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America.

9. **MANAGER’S REPORT.**

1. Options for disposing the lime at the Water Treatment Plant are being reviewed. Various details of the options were discussed.
2. Howe will be meeting with Lori Ware of Revitalize, LLC, to start working on the rental rehab program for the downtown area. Howe would like to have them develop a public information session where downtown building owners would be invited to discuss the program and answer questions.
3. The Greater Lowell Community Café’s will be held on October 10, 23 and 25 at the Lowell High School in the Freshman Cafeteria. Please let your friends and neighbors know about these important visioning sessions.

10. **APPOINTMENTS.**

No appointments were made.

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to move to closed session at 7:30 p.m. as allowed under the Open Meeting Act MCL 15.268 (c) to discuss union negotiations.

YEA: Councilmembers Ellison, Hall and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. (Schrauben and Valentine) MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to open session at 7:58p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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James W. Hodges, Mayor

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Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk