

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013, 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 Chris Schwab, Jim Hall, Andrew Schrauben, Sharon Ellison and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Department of Public Works Director Dan DesJarden, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Mark Mundt and Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

A. March 4, 2013 – Regular Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHRAUBEN and supported by SCHWAB to approve the regular minutes of the March 4, 2013 meeting as corrected.

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

B. March 4, 2013 – Closed Session Meetings

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by SCHRAUBEN to approve the closed session minutes of the March 4, 2013 meetings as written.

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

4. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Councilmember Ellison noted that an invoice from 4Imprint, Inc. was listed and last month an invoice from the same company for the same amount was listed. City Manager Howe stated he would look into and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

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

YEA: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Schrauben, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (03/18/2013)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$50,835.68
MAJOR STREET FUND	12.54
LOCAL STREET FUND	12.53
DOWNTOWN DEVELOP	20.00
AIRPORT FUND	2,398.19
WASTEWATER FUND	41,115.41
WATER FUND	8,089.56
CABLE TV FUND	32,000.00
DATA PROCESSING	923.78
EQUIPMENT FUND	1,537.74
CURRENT TAX COLL	428,291.52
LOOK FUND	15,000.00

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

No comments were received.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECTS REPORT**

City Manager Howe reported that Williams and Works are in the process of finalizing plans and bid specifications for the sidewalk replacement project. We are excited that the funding is in place to replace the “red” sidewalks and that we may be able to leverage additional CDBG money to pave the pathway from the LARA Trail on Gee Drive to connect it with Main Street via Ridgeview Street.

Dave Austin of Williams and Works stated the DEQ permit for the Riverwalk extension project was received with a few minor comments. It is planned to go out for bid in April with work starting in May.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **YMCA PARK USE AGREEMENT**

The City has just completed a one-year agreement for 2012 with the YMCA for the use of Creekside Park. It was recommended that the City Council authorize City Manager Howe to execute an

agreement with the Lowell YMCA for the use of Creekside Park for 2013 at the rate of \$7.50 per participant.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by SCHWAB to authorize City Manager Howe to execute an agreement with the Lowell YMCA for the use of Creekside Park for 2013 at a rate of \$7.50 per participant.

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

B. **RESOLUTION 05-13 DESIGNATING THE CITY OF LOWELL AS A NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL TOWN**

City Manager Howe has been working with the North Country Trail Association, headquartered here in Lowell, to designate the City of Lowell as a North Country Trail Town. This designation means that we will partner with the North Country Trail Association and the National Park Service to promote the trail and that we embrace the trail as a resource to be protected and celebrated.

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHRAUBEN and supported by HALL to adopt Resolution 05-13 designating the City of Lowell as a North Country Trail Town.

YEA: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Schrauben, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

8. **MONTHLY REPORTS**

No comments were received.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Schwab had no comments.

Councilmember Hall stated the Planning Commission is working on updating the sign ordinance.

Councilmember Schrauben stated the Airport Board is working on hangar repair, Parks and Recreation Commission will be meeting tomorrow, March 19th. Schrauben was not able to attend the Lowell Area Recreation Authority this month because he had just brought his wife and their newest son, Roger who was born on March 9th weighting 9 pounds 6 ounces, home. He also noted Giggles and Gumdrops will be closing and it will be a great loss to the community.

Councilmember Ellison reported that the Arbor Board had reviewed the Comprehensive Tree Plan and will be forwarding it to City Council for their review and adoption. LCTV Endowment Fund Committee will meet on March 28th to review the many grants received. Ellison also noted the construction of King Milling and how interesting it was to watch.

Mayor Hodges attended the Light and Power Board meeting and noted they finalized the contract with Litehouse and after the meeting toured the Chatham Street building. The Expo that is sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is on Saturday, March 23rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lowell High School. Also, the Lowell Area Fire Department is having their annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Hodges thanked City Manager Howe for his participation in the Laugh Fest at the Lowell High School on Sunday, March 17th and also noted that King Milling was the underwriter of the event so all proceeds went directly to Lowell's Gilda's Club.

10. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

- A. The following grant requests were submitted by the City of Lowell to the LCTV Endowment Fund committee for review:
- LCTV Endowment Fund Administration Expenses: \$4,000
 - Downtown Streetscape Planning: \$30,000
 - Riverwalk/Library Stage Planning: \$25,000
 - Fairgrounds Electrical Efficiency Improvements: \$3,500
 - Cable Television Building Roof Repair: \$3,000
 - Street Reconstruction: Sibley Street: \$50,000
 - Cable Television Building Exterior Improvements and Tower Removal: \$35,000
 - Urban Forest Initiative: \$12,500
- B. Staff is continuing to work on developing recommendations for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year City of Lowell budget that will be presented to you on April 15. It appears as though we will continue to see declines in revenue particularly property taxes, which is our major source of revenue, making it a challenge to maintain current services, take care of our aging infrastructure and replace equipment needed to meet these needs. The leadership team and management staff is working very hard to identify savings and I am grateful for the hard-working and dedicated employees we have working here.
- C. The Mayor and City Manager Howe participated in a recent field trip to Hastings that included leaders from Lowell and Vergennes Townships, the Chamber of Commerce, and LowellArts! Hastings has had great success in building collaboration among the local units of government and their non-profit partners so we were able to learn about how they built that commitment toward collaboration. The field trip was a component of the Community Vision process which continues to create a positive synergy around the Greater Lowell Community. REGIS (The Regional GIS consortium of which we are a member) is developing applications that can help share geographic data through our website. The City recently completed a GIS cemetery project, for example, where cemetery lots are shown on a map indicating whether or not they are used, reserved or open. In addition, you can find out who is buried on each lot by clicking on the map. The GIS application will allow for a web-based search, allowing users to enter a name and showing them the lot in which someone is buried. We hope to have this link on our web site in the near future.
- D. Howe also announced that Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Mark Mundt received the Operations Professional of the Year award from the Michigan Water Environment Association. This is given to an operator of a municipal facility who, working a day-to-day basis in operation, has demonstrated outstanding dedication to an employer and the MWEA, has excelled professionally,

consistently generated good quality effluent, and has publically promoted the profession of the wastewater treatment plant operator.

11. **APPOINTMENTS.**

No appointments were made.

12. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to move to closed session at 7:23 p.m. as allowed under the Open Meeting Act MCL 15.268 (c) to discuss union negotiations.

YEA: Councilmembers Schwab, Hall, Schrauben, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to open session at 8:02 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk