

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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 (arrived 7:06 p.m.), 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, Chief of Police Barry Getzen, Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce and City Planner Dave Austin of Williams & Works.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to excuse the absence of Councilmember Schrauben.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

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

A. September 16, 2013 – Regular Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by SCHRAB to approve the regular minutes of the September 16, 2013 meeting as presented.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

B. September 16, 2013 – Closed Session

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by ELLISON to approve the closed session minutes of the September 16, 2013 meeting as written.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

C. September 18, 2013 – Special Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by SCHWAB to approve the special meeting minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting as presented.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

D. September 18, 2013 – Closed Session

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by ELLISON to approve the closed session minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting as written.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Councilmember Ellison questioned the invoice from Biggs Hausserman, P.C. on calculation of water rate 2013. City Manager Howe responded that is for the calculations of the water rates for the Lowell Township.

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, Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. (Schrauben) MOTION CARRIED.

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (10/07/2013)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$32,959.17
MAJOR STREET FUND	10,305.16
LOCAL STREET FUND	3,053.58
DOWNTOWN DEVELOP	137,073.31
RIVERFRONT DEVEL	10,954.70
AIRPORT FUND	13,496.31
WASTEWATER FUND	44,112.81
WATER FUND	12,297.28
DATA PROCESSING	2,135.39
EQUIPMENT FUND	3,145.53
CURRENT TAX COLL	211,467.64

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

No comments were received.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECTS REPORT**

The sidewalk project continues.

A kick-off meeting was held in preparation for the City's application for a Stormwater, Asset Management, Wastewater (SAW) grant. More information will be reported in the future.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2013 AS DR. DONALD GERARD DAY**

It was requested that the City of Lowell and Lowell Area Schools honor Dr. Donald Gerard for his fifty years of service as team doctor to the Lowell Area Schools Football teams and generations of student athletes by proclaiming Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> as Dr. Donald Gerard Day.

IT WAS MOVED BY and supported by that the Lowell City Council proclaim Friday, October 18, 2013 as Dr. Donald Gerard Day.

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

B. **KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENT: CHARLES R. MYERS**

A letter was received from Charles R. Myers requesting the city's approval for reappointment to the Kent District Library's Board of Trustees. Myers currently represents the southeastern side of Kent County including the City of Lowell, Lowell Township, Vergennes Township and Bowne Township. His current term on the KDL Board expires at the end of December.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL that the Lowell City Council endorses Charles R. Myers for reappointment to the Kent District Library Board of Trustees.

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

C. **SIBLEY STREET RESURFACING BIDS**

The City received two bids for our project to resurface Sibley Street from Valley Vista to Ridgeview Drive. The bids were as follows:

Olin Excavating	\$157,414.52
C & L Trucking	\$167,922.50

Olin Excavating was the contractor for our Hillside Court project in 2011. The project is relatively straight forward and includes some curb, driveway apron and sidewalk ramp replacement. Webber Concrete would be the concrete subcontractor. We have not had any experience with them. Williams and Works will provide construction supervision. The overall budget for the project is broken down as follows:

Construction	\$157,415
Contingencies	\$15,742
Engineering	\$18,500
TOTAL	\$191,657

This project was anticipated in our Capital Outlay budget (\$225,000) in the Local Street Fund. We have secured a grant of \$50,000 from the LCTV Endowment Fund and will cover the remainder within our Capital Outlay budget. In addition, we had set a portion of our CDBG allocation aside for this project; however, making this a CDBG project would have increased the cost somewhat because it would have to be bid with a prevailing wage requirement. My recommendation is to reallocate CDBG toward another project in a future year, combining it with another CDBG allocation.

In addition, since the bids were favorable, we are looking at the cost of extending the project to capture a portion of Roberta Jayne just north of Sibley, assuming we can cover the expense within our Capital Outlay budget.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by ELLSION to accept the bid of \$157,415 from Olin Excavating for the Sibley Street Project (from Valley Vista to Ridgeview).

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

#### D. POLICE PATROL VEHICLES BIDS

The current police vehicle fleet consists of Chevrolet Impala's, two 2009's and two 2010's. The past practice has been to lease vehicles several vehicles at one time (approximately every three years); however, this option tends to be more costly and also creates greater fluctuations in our maintenance costs as the entire fleet ages.

The City was successful in obtaining a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund for \$54,521 to pay for declining portions of a four-year vehicle replacement plan. The grant will pay for up to 75 percent of replacement the first year, 50 percent the second year and 25 percent the third year. During the fourth year we will need to appropriate 100 percent of the replacement costs.

At the same time, 2014 will be the last year that the police version of the Chevrolet Impala is produced and the 2014 version has different interior dimensions than previous models. That means that the equipment in our current vehicles cannot be transferred to new vehicles. After 2014, there will be four different models of police vehicles from which to choose: Chevrolet Caprice and Tahoe and Ford Sedan and Utility. Both versions of the Chevrolet have a base price higher than the Fords, so we began looking at the Ford Sedan and Ford Utility.

Police officers spent a great deal of their shift in patrol vehicles. With the deployment of the records management system to mobile computers, officers spend even more time in their vehicles and on the street than previously. The mobile computers and various other equipment installed in police vehicles has made the sedan versions a very tight fit. In addition, police officers carry other safety and investigative equipment in the vehicle trunks. The utility vehicle offers more space for this equipment as well. Finally, the utility vehicle sits higher, giving police officers a better perspective on the road, other motorists and their surroundings. They are also easier to get in and out of, helping to minimize worker strain and making it easier to place individuals who have been apprehended into the rear of the vehicle.

Estimated cost of the sedan with equipment replacement is \$35,644 while estimated cost of the utility vehicle is \$37,535. The grant will cover \$26,733 leaving the city's estimated cost at \$8,911 or \$10,802, respectively. We have budgeted \$10,000 for police vehicle replacement this year.

Assuming a three percent inflationary increase in the base cost of the vehicles, if we replaced the entire fleet with the utility vehicles our total cost (after the grant) would be \$100,257 as opposed to \$92,349.

We have had versions of both vehicles to test and I have had the chance to see them both. There is a marked difference in the interiors of the vehicles despite similar sizes in terms of wheel base and length. The average gas mileage was similar for both vehicles as well as our current Impala's, about 13 miles to the gallon. The City of Ionia has started replacing its fleet with the utility vehicle and the city manager reports that they have not experienced any noticeable change in maintenance costs.

City Manager Howe's recommendation is that the city begin a four-year vehicle replacement program with the purchase of a Ford Utility vehicle. This would provide a year to evaluate it against the additional expense and can decide next year whether or not to continue with the utility or sedan version.

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHRAUBEN and supported ELLISON to authorize the purchase of a Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle with associated equipment at a cost not to exceed \$37,535.

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

**E. RES. 17-13 TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 36 IN THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

This is the first of two resolutions asking to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council to add a new member. Amendment No. 36 would add Ada Township and withdraw the Village of Sparta and Sparta Township.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by SCHWAB to adopt Resolution 17-13 to approve amendment No.36 in the Articles of Incorporation of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

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

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

F. **RES. 18-13 TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 37 IN THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

Amendment No. 37 of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Articles of Incorporation will add the Village of Sand Lake.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by HALL to adopt Resolution 18-13 to approve amendment No. 37 in the Articles of Incorporation of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

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

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Schwab noted the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority will meet later this month but reminded everyone of the Fire Department's Open House on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Also, Ball's Ice Cream is closed for the season.

Councilmember Hall stated the Planning Commission met and started discussion on keeping animals within the city limits. Hall also stated that the October meeting will be Chair Maryalene LaPonsie's last meeting due to moving out of the city. LaPonsie has been a great asset to the city and will be greatly missed.

Councilmember Schrauben noted the Airport Board is in the process of acquiring an engineer to assist in getting General Utility status for the airport. Also kudos to Lori Gerard, the administrative assistant to the Airport Board, in updating the billing system for the hangar rentals and so forth at the airport. The new system is user friendly. The Parks and Recreation Commission met at Recreation Park and discussed the past, present and future of this park. The October meeting will be at the Boy Scout Cabin property on North Washington.

Councilmember Ellison stated her boards will meet later this month but did note she walked the riverwalk extension and stated it is beautiful and a great addition to the area.

Mayor Hodges noted Lowell Light and Power will meet this Thursday, October 3 at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. The Harvest Celebration will be on October 12<sup>th</sup> with Light and Power providing bucket rides and hot dogs. Larkin's will have their annual Chili Cook Off.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. There is a scheduled completion date of November 15 for the riverwalk extension project. In addition, the city was able to secure three mature maple trees to add to the site from another project on which the contractor was working.
2. The Historic District Commission was successful in obtaining a \$50,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund for façade improvements on Main Street.

3. The Fact Finding session with the IBEW was held on Wednesday, October 2. The attorneys presented the positions of each party and will provide written briefs to the fact finder in the next 45 days.
4. Eight candidates will be interviewed for the position of Police Chief on Monday, October 7. The interview panel consists of police chiefs from the cities of Montague, Zeeland and East Grand Rapids, City Attorney Dick Wendt and City Manager Mark Howe.
5. A council workshop is scheduled for October 28 at 6 p.m.
6. Howe also presented information concerning Proposal III of the Charter Amendments on the November 5, 2013 ballot.

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 8:08 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 9:22 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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James W. Hodges, Mayor

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Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk