

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 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 Jeff Altoft, Chris Schwab, Jim Hall, Sharon Ellison and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Chief of Police Steve Bukala, 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 seconded by HALL to approve the agenda as presented.

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

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ELLISON to approve the regular minutes of the November 4, 2013 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the closed session minutes of the November 4, 2013 meeting as written.

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

**4. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

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

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

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (11/18/2013)

General Fund	\$31,300.06
Major Streets Fund	4,371.00
Local Street Fund	50,829.85
Downtown Development	150,959.44
Designated Contr.	9,000.00
General Debt Ser	66,822.51
Riverfront Development	4,080.84
Airport Fund	2,227.80
Wastewater Fund	50,370.80
Water Fund	22,946.08
Data Processing	7,308.07
Equipment Fund	3,098.98
Current Tax Coll	4,542.08
Look	8,000.00

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

Alan Teelander (802 Hunt) stated concerns regarding Light and Power's power cost adjustment factor, process of appointments to boards and commissions and the city's cost for sewer only customers.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECT REPORT**

The sidewalk project is still underway on the west end of town.

The SAW Grant Application for Wastewater Treatment will be addressed later in the Council agenda.

B. **SAW GRANT APPLICATION**

Jim Hegarty, PE of Prein & Newhoff was present to review the application for the SAW Grant (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The application requires the Council to adopt a resolution of approval.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to adopt resolution 21-13 approving the SAW Grant Agreement.

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

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

C. **CANNON DISCUSSION**

The Council was provided with an update on the status of the cannon by David Thompson, Post Commander of the American Legion and a discussion followed on the placement of it at Oakwood Cemetery. Following the discussion it was the consensus of the council that the American Legion proceed as presented.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. GREATER LOWELL COMMUNITY VISION ALLIANCE**

The Greater Lowell Community Vision Alliance had been meeting on a regular basis and requested that the local governing bodies of each jurisdiction approve their participation. If approved, the representatives outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding will adopt a resolution for the Greater Lowell Community Vision Alliance.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the City of Lowell's participation in the Greater Lowell Community Vision Alliance.

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

8. **MONTHLY REPORTS**

No comments were received from materials presented.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Altoft stated it was a great weekend for businesses in the City due to Christmas through Lowell. He also thanked everyone who voted for him in the November 5, 2013 election.

Councilmember Schwab noted Christmas through Lowell was a great success and to keep the Philippians in our thoughts and prayers as they are dealing with the devastation the hurricane has caused.

Councilmember Hall had nothing to report but noted how busy the city was due to the Christmas through Lowell activities.

Councilmember Ellison stated the Arbor Board did meet and discussed that the tree at the Library will need to be removed soon due to it's poor condition. The Arbor Board also discussed the donation of \$900 toward purchasing larger trees for the Riverwalk project.

Ellison also noted the Downtown Development Authority met and approved the \$6,000 request for the 2014 Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series and due to the failure of Proposal III, the south Monroe parking lot expansion will move much slower than anticipated.

Christmas through Lowell had 55 participants this year and is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year. Ellison welcomed newly elected Councilmember Altoft and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Hodges stated Christmas through Lowell was very successful and the Chamber of Commerce Christmas events will start on December 7<sup>th</sup> with the Santa parade scheduled for 6 p.m. The Look Memorial Fund committee will meet on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Also, Kent District Library will hold their November 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting at the Englehardt Public Library at 4:30 p.m. in the community room and the public is invited to attend.

Upon the request of Mayor Hodges, Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce presented an update on the bio-digester project.

10. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. City Manager Howe welcomed Police Chief Steve Bukala and thanked him for handling the issue on Sibley Street during Christmas through Lowell so quickly on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Sibley Street was completed just in time for Christmas through Lowell. We are thankful to our engineers, Williams & Works, and for the contractor, Olin Excavating, for keeping the project on schedule. There was some additional work on Roberta Jayne and Faith that needed to be done. Some final cleanup was completed by noon on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Michigan Department of Transportation gave a presentation to the Greater Community Vision Alliance on the replacement next year of the M-50 Bridge over I-96. The bridge will be replaced with a wider, four-lane version. Public meetings in December and/or perhaps early next year will be publicized when the dates are set.
4. The city is moving forward with the Downtown Development Plan being sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority. The next step will be to identify a schedule and begin the stakeholder input process.
5. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned for December 13, probably at 5 p.m. for the Riverwalk Extension project. Some type of dedication may be done in the spring also.
6. A council workshop is scheduled for November 25 at 6 p.m.

11. **APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Hodges stated the appointment of Andrew Schrauben to the Light and Power board should not have been done at the last meeting due to Schrauben still being on Council and this appointment needs to be done by a motion.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to confirm the appointment of Andrew Schrauben to the Lowell Light and Power board for a term expiring June 30, 2016.

YEA: 4. NAY: 1. (Altoft) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

12. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to move to closed session at 8:27 p.m. as allowed under the Open Meetings Act MCL 15.268(c) to discuss union negotiations.

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

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to open session at 8:39 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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James W. Hodges, Mayor

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Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk