

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 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, Department of Public Works Director Dan DesJarden, Chief of Police Steve Bukala, Light and Power Board Chair Greg Canfield and Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHWAB 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 18, 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 18, 2013 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the work session minutes of the November 25, 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 (12/02/2013)

General Fund	\$14,264.67
Major Streets Fund	4,500.00
Local Streets Fund	6,978.29
Downtown Development	550.00
Riverfront Development	726.00
Waste Water Fund	1,549.31
Water Fund	2,861.70
Data Processing	332.03
Equipment Fund	99.62
Current Tax Coll	6,928.53

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No comments were received.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. PENDING COUNCIL PROJECT REPORT

The SAW Grant was filed today, December 2, 2013. The DEQ has 180 days to review these grants but most likely it will take 60 to 90 days.

A Strategic Plan Report was provided to Council with various goals to be outlined. Howe will be using this format for the future "Old Business" item.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECYCLE BID DEPOSITS

The city is in the process of ordering more bins for recycling. There has been a \$10 deposit for bins which barely covers the cost of purchase. In addition, the return rate is poor and the bins are often used for purposes other than recycling. It is getting to the point where the \$10 deposit is less than the cost of a comparable tote that can be purchased at a local store. Staff is recommending that the deposit for recycling bins be set at \$25. Staff believes this would encourage residents to return the bins for their deposit rather than just taking them and this would also help staff in knowing how many residents use the recycling program.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to set the deposit for recycling bins at \$25.

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

B. 2014 CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALENDAR

A list of the 2014 meeting dates for council consideration was provided.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the 2014 meeting dates as presented.

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

8. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Altoft stated the work session on November 25th was very helpful and he hopes more such work sessions could be scheduled in the future. Altoft also requested that the enforcement of winter parking and snow removal ordinances be addressed.

Councilmember Schwab also noted how informative the work session was for him.

Councilmember Hall stated the work session was very good and more need to be scheduled.

Councilmember Ellison stated the LCTV Board will be meeting this Thursday, December 5th at 7 p.m. to set a timeline for the 2014 grants. Ellison also noted she celebrated Small Business Day on Saturday, December 30th by shopping downtown Lowell and saw many Lowell residents.

Mayor Hodges stated the Look Memorial Fund had a strategizing meeting concerning investments on Wednesday, December 20th. Hodges also mentioned the article and picture of Chief of Police Bukala that was in the December newsletter.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. The city is advertising for bids for property for sale to complete a process that was started several years ago when the city purchased the river front property along the old amphitheater. At the time, the city had agreed to convey to Lowell Area Schools an 8.3 foot strip of Lots 1 and 10 of Avery's Plat, giving the school district a 5-foot buffer on the river side of the old copy center building. The process to convey the property had never been completed. Council will have a special meeting December 9 for the consideration of the sale of this strip of property. Council will not be able to take final action until the January 6, 2014, meeting.

- B. City Attorney Dick Wendt is working with Light and Power, SPART and representatives of the investor to put together the various agreements for the bio-digester project. Several agreements will need to be in place by the end of the year in order for the investor to purchase a portion of the equipment so that the project will qualify for certain tax credits. Some, but not all, of the agreements will require council action. This too will be part of the special meeting on December 9 for council consideration of these agreements.
- C. The city's proposal to locate the National Parks Service at the old cable television building was rejected by the Government Services Administration. It was indicated to us that we would need to lower our proposed rental rate by as much as 75 percent in order for our proposal to be considered. You will recall that our proposal was based on recovering renovation costs based on the federal government's specifications, noting that we are not in a position to fund the renovation without cost recovery. Unless council directs Howe otherwise, he does not plan to submit another proposal.
- D. As was mentioned during the audit, investments in the Look and Lee Funds have not been doing well during the past few years, to the point where we have experienced a paper loss in the funds leaving little money available for grants. Staff is working with the Look Memorial Fund Committee to discuss short-term investment strategies in an effort to ensure that the fund can be sustainable over a long period of time. Howe's plan is to apply this same strategy, once developed, to the Lee Fund.
- E. Council was presented with a copy of the Cemetery ordinance and rules and regulations.
- F. City Manager Howe, Chief of Police Bukala and DPW Director DesJarden had met and discussed notifying the public on winter parking. Rules are being sent out on winter parking and will be enforced. This will also be posted on the website.

10. **APPOINTMENTS**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT that the following appointments be made.

Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority	Councilmember Schwab
Airport Board	Councilmember Altoft
Parks and Recreation Commission	Councilmember Altoft
Lowell Area Recreation Authority	Councilmember Hall
City Planning Commission	Councilmember Hall
Downtown Historic District Commission	Councilmember Ellison
Arbor Board	Councilmember Ellison
LCTV Endowment Fund Board	Councilmember Ellison
Downtown Development Authority	Councilmember Altoft
Lowell Light and Power	Mayor Hodges
Chamber of Commerce Board	Mayor Hodges
Look Memorial Fund	Mayor Hodges

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

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

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

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

NAY: Councilmember Altoft. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to open session at 7:38 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk