

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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 and Chief of Police Steve Bukala.

**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 December 2, 2013 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ELLISON to approve the closed session minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the special meeting minutes of the December 9, 2013 meeting as written.

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

**4. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Ellison asked if there was still payments due regarding the Riverwalk Extension. Howe stated this is the final payment to the contractor. We still have to purchase the kayak launch which is going out for bid in the spring.

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 (12/16/2013)

General Fund	\$33,068.98
Major Streets Fund	4,920.00
Local Streets Fund	7,095.84
Downtown Development	6,721.47
Riverfront Development	85,248.94
Airport Fund	496.66
Wastewater Fund	88,542.55
Water Fund	34,590.06
Cable TV Fund	4,176.00
Data Processing	332.03
Equipment Fund	2,313.95
Current Tax Coll	2,184.89

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

Jim Salzwedel (505 N. Jefferson) stated he felt there was a division amongst the city and residents of Lowell and offered to assist in correcting this.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PENDING COUNCIL PROJECT REPORT**

City Manager Howe stated there are no updates at this time but did note that final payment was made for the sidewalk project but \$12,000 is being held until final inspection in the spring.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **KENT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT – COLLECTION OF SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2014**

As in previous years, the Kent Intermediate School District has requested that the City collect the 2014 summer property taxes for the district. The City collects the KISD property taxes at no fee in exchange for retaining earned interest while the monies are deposited in city accounts.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL approve the request from the Kent Intermediate School District to collect the 2014 summer property taxes for the district at no fee in exchange for retaining earned interest while the monies are deposited in city accounts.

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

**B. GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE – COLLECTION OF SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2014**

The Grand Rapids Community College also requests the City collect the 2014 summer property taxes for the district. The City collects GRCC property taxes at no fee in exchange for retaining earned interest while the monies are deposited in city accounts.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the request to collect the 2014 summer property taxes on behalf Grand Rapids Community college in exchange for retaining earned interest while the monies are deposited in city accounts.

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

**C. PARK USE AGREEMENT WITH LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE**

City staff had negotiated a new two-year agreement with Lowell Little League for the use of Creekside Park from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015. Lowell Little League continues to be a good partner with the City of Lowell and provides a valuable recreational activity for our youth.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLSION and seconded by HALL to approve the two-year agreement with Lowell Little League for the use of Creekside Park.

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

**D. PARK USE AGREEMENT WITH THE LOWELL YMCA**

City staff had also negotiated a new two-year agreement with Lowell YMCA for the use of Creekside and Recreation Parks from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015. Lowell YMCA continues to be a good partner with the City of Lowell and provides a valuable recreational activity for our youth.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the two-year agreement with Lowell YMCA for the use of Creekside and Recreation Parks.

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

**E. PARK USE AGREEMENT WITH BACKYARD DREAMS**

City staff had also negotiated a new two-year agreement with Backyard Dreams for the use of Creekside and Recreation Parks from April 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015. Backyard Dreams continues to be a good partner with the City of Lowell and provides a valuable recreational activity for our youth.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the two-year agreement with Backyard Dreams for the use of Creekside and Recreation Parks.

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

8. **MONTHLY REPORTS**

No comments were received on materials presented.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Altoft had nothing to report at this time.

Councilmember Schwab reported that the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority met earlier today and discussed the new fire truck and the job description and evaluation of the Fire Chief. Also he wished everyone a Blessed Christmas.

Councilmember Hall stated he attended his first Lowell Area Recreation Authority meeting and had received many good comments about Andrew Schrauben's work on this board.

Councilmember Ellison stated the LCTV Endowment board had their organizational meeting and are planning to have their recommendations to the City Council in March. Ellison also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Hodges stated he attended the Light and Power Board meeting and the bio-digester project is moving right along. The Chamber of Commerce held their annual Christmas Breakfast Club last Wednesday at City Hall and Santa is now at the Showboat for children to visit. The Look Memorial Fund committee will be meeting in April and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

10. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. The city has been bustling with holiday activities around the showboat and riverwalk in addition to the Night-time Santa Parade.
- B. We held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday night for the riverwalk extension project. The project is now substantially complete and we are looking forward to ordering the kayak launch and installing that in the spring. Mayor Hodges did a great job and he thanked everyone involved with the project.
- C. The Lowell Township board has recently voted to join the Grand Valley Metro Council. As we are focused on collaboration with our neighboring townships it will be very beneficial for the Greater Lowell Community to have another voice at the regional metropolitan level. Congratulations to Lowell Township
- D. Josh Bernstein, the new librarian at Englehardt Public Library was introduced and he invited everyone to stop by and see him at the library so he can tell them of all the activities there.

11. **APPOINTMENTS**

No appointments were made.

12. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Union Negotiations

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to move to closed session at 7:20 p.m. as allowed under the Open Meetings Act MCL 15.268(c) to discuss union negotiations.

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

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to open session at 7:27 p.m.

Council heard a short report from the Chief of Police regarding a pending investigation.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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James W. Hodges, Mayor

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Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk