

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, April 7, 2014, 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 City Treasurer Suzanne Olin and roll was called.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Altoft, Jim Hall, Chris Schwab and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: Councilmember Sharron Ellison.

Also Present: Police Chief Steve Bukula, City Attorney Richard Wendt and Suzanne Olin.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to excuse the absence of Councilmember Ellison.

YEA: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

Councilmember Altoft requested an agenda item be added regarding the City Charter and policies, procedures and agreements.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to approve the agenda as corrected.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the regular minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting as written.

YES: 3. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. ABSTAIN: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the closed session minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting as written.

YES: 3. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. ABSTAIN: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT that the minutes of the worksession March 24, 2014 meeting be approved as written.

YES: 3. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. ABSTAIN: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.**

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

YES: Councilmembers Altoft, Hall, Schwab and Mayor Hodges.

NO: 0. ABSENT: Councilmember Ellison MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (04/07/2014)

General Fund	\$19,729.06
Major Streets Fund	4,038.04
Local Streets Fund	2,344.38
Downtown Development	650.00
Designated Contr.	376.03
Riverfront Development	80.40
Airport Fund	1,961.22
Wastewater Fund	37,158.51
Water Fund	5,521.53
Data Processing Fund	1,957.78
Equipment Fund	1,496.62
Current Tax Collection	2,147.98

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

Peggy Covert, 982 N. Washington, commented on her recent FOIA request with Light and Power regarding salaries and the Lowell Light and Power cost adjustment. She suggested the Council review the Light and Power budget carefully.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

A. Strategic Plan Update. City Council reviewed the report provided by City Manager Howe regarding the 2014 Strategic Goals Report.

B. LCTV Grant Recommendations:

Dennis Kent, 1700 Faith stated road projects are eligible under LCTV grant guidelines and the LCTV Board supports the grants as proposed.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and seconded by SCHWAB that the Lowell City Council adopt the recommendations of the LCTV Endowment Fund Board and authorize signatures on the grant agreements.

YES: 4. Councilmembers Hall, Altoft, Schwab and Mayor Hodges. NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Schwab thanked the LCTV Endowment Fund Board for their work on this.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. Arbor Day Proclamation. Mayor Hodges read aloud a proclamation establishing the last Friday in April as Arbor Day. This year Arbor Day will be April 25.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and seconded by HALL that the Lowell City Council concur with the Mayoral proclamation establishing the last Friday in April of each year as Arbor Day in the City of Lowell.

YES: 4. Councilmembers Hall, Altoft, Schwab and Mayor Hodges. NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Schwab questioned if there would be any ceremonial events for the public. Mayor Hodges responded there is a ceremonial planting of a tree.

- B. Discussion of City owned vehicle for personal use. Barb Barber, 318 King St. introduced Ralph Brecken, City Mechanic. Brecken reported on a City owned vehicle allegedly used for personal use at Lowell Light and Power and alleged violations of the open meetings act.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and seconded by SCHWAB to have a special meeting for the purpose of the investigation of the violation of the opens meeting act and the misuse of City owned equipment. This is in accordance with Section 5.4 of the Charter.

Councilmember Schwab requested all sides be present if this meeting is going to take place. He also thought having the City Attorney present would be most appreciated. Councilmember Hall wanted to hear from representatives of Lowell Light and Power. Mayor Hodges concurred. City Attorney Richard Wendt suggested he be directed to prepare a report to use as a basis for holding another meeting. This would set the appropriate ground work for holding such a meeting. Altoft said he would like the process done speedily.

Barb Barber, 318 King St. requested to be notified of the meeting

YES: 4. Councilmembers Hall, Altoft, Schwab and Mayor Hodges. NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHWAB and seconded by ALTOFT to require City Attorney Richard Wendt to be present at the special meeting.

YES: Councilmembers Hall, Altoft, Schwab and Mayor Hodges. NAY: 0.
ABSENT: Councilmember Ellison. MOTION CARRIED.

- C. City Charter and policies, procedures and agreements. Councilmember Altoft raised concerns regarding section 5 of the charter and the open meetings act.

Don Kermeen of 916 Riverside Drive, raised concerns regarding the L & P Board and the City Council.

8. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Councilmember Altoft requested the City continue to work on parking issues downtown. He also requested a list of sidewalks that were repaired and the addresses. He questioned the amount of funds left for sidewalks.

Councilmember Schwab stated the Fire Authority has not met recently and that he had nothing new to report. Schwab took a moment to discuss how important open communication is.

Councilmember Hall said the Lowell Area Recreation Authority will meet this Wednesday. The Planning Commission meets April 14, 2014.

Mayor Hodges stated Lowell Light and Power Board will be meeting at the Lowell Light and Power offices at 5:30 p.m. on April 10, 2014. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will meet at the Chamber offices on April 8, 2014 at 7:30 a.m.

Hodges added Look Fund applications due April 30 and the meeting will be held the May 21, 2014.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

The City Manager's report was presented.

10. **APPOINTMENTS.** The Arbor Board still has a vacancy.

11. **CLOSED SESSION.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to strike closed session.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by SCHWAB to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk