

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 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 Mayor Hodges and roll was called by Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Altoft, Jim Hall, Sharon Ellison and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: Councilmember Schwab.

Also Present: Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery, Police Chief Steve Bukala, City Treasurer Suzanne Olin and Lowell Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce.

2. **EXCUSE OF ABSENCE.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to excuse the absence of Councilmember Schwab.

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

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

Mayor Hodges proposed to table Item D regarding the resolution for the amendment to the City Charter until the July 7, 2014 meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the agenda as amended.

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

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the regular minutes of the June 2, 2014 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT that the minutes of June 2, 2014 closed session meeting be approved as written.

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

5. **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.

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

NO: 0. ABSENT: Councilmember Schwab. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (06/16/2014)

General Fund	\$17,060.11
Major Streets Fund	123.43
Local Streets Fund	54.99
Downtown Development	987.30
Designated Contr.	2,108.55
Airport Fund	230.69
Wastewater Fund	10,772.69
Water Fund	22,419.27
Cable TV Fund	3,450.00
Data Processing	354.20
Equipment Fund	1,174.33
Current Tax	290.72

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

No comments were received.

7. **OLD BUSINESS.**

A. Strategic Plan Update. An updated report was provided. Councilmember Altoft commented on the sidewalk plans that were not completed last year. Police Chief Bukala stated he did not have an update on the sidewalks. However, DPW Director Dan DesJarden and DPW Employee Scott Fosburg have completed their walk thru.

Bukala stated on June 28 the Valley Vista Trailer Park clean-up project will take place from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. An additional clean-up project will take place on July 26, 2014.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Water Treatment Plant Award Presentation.

Dave Stinson with the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) presented an award to the City of Lowell for the best tasting water competition. Brian VanVeelen, Ralph Brecken, Todd Phillips and Bob Robinson were recognized.

B. Review Airport Hangar Rates and Fees. The Airport Board has recommended adjustments to the airport rates.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to adjust the airport fees as recommended.

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

- C. Riverwalk Stage/Showboat Plan Recommendation. Dave Austin of Williams and Works and Pat Cornellsee presented the conclusion of many months of hard work from many individuals including residents of the community who participated in stake holder meetings, steering committee meetings and various forms of public input regarding the Riverwalk Stage/Showboat plan.

The existing stage along the riverwalk is in need of a more substantial structure due to many events taking place. Much discussion was also held regarding the structure of the Showboat and what can be done to maintain and keep the structure including restructuring the Showboat as a more permanent structure, which would allow for many activities. Cornellsee presented different ideas for further development of the riverwalk area. It was noted the various plans are available for public review.

Councilmembers Hall and Ellison believed these plans were well thought out with much input.

- D. Final approval of Resolution 11-14 and Amendment 1 to Lease Agreement with Lowell Energy AD, LLC related to the Lowell Light and Power Alternative Energy Project. The Council has already approved a change in the lease agreement for the Lowell Energy AD project. City Charter requires that property leases must be held by the City Clerk for a period of 20 days before final approval can be given. That time period has passed and we are recommending final approval of the lease.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to adopt Resolution 11-14.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Schwab. MOTION CARRIED.

- E. 2013-14 Budget Amendments. The annual budget amendment were provided for consideration.

Councilmember Ellison questioned the Designated Contribution Fund. City Treasurer Suzanne Olin explained this is a fund whereby various grant projects are placed in this fund and they may be carried over from year to year.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to adopt Resolution 12-14.

YES: Councilmembers Altoft, Ellison, Hall and Mayor Hodges

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

9. **MONTHLY REPORTS.** No comments were received.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Altoft attended the Airport meeting. Paving in between some of the hangars was discussed. He also noted all of the hangars are rented except for one. Fuel is now available again at the airport. A new airport manager will also be taking over soon.

Councilmember Hall mentioned the Planning Commission is reviewing a mixed use zoning and how this may impact the Historic District. LARA is continuing to review trails.

Councilmember Ellison stated none of her boards and commissions have met. Ellison commented on all the activity along the Riverwalk.

Councilmember Hodges stated he attended the L & P Board meeting. Things are going very well and everything is on target with the bio-digester. The Chamber of Commerce met last week. There was lack of a quorum but an informal discussion was held. The Look Memorial Fund Committee will meet to discuss various forms of investments with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

11. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Currently the City has been informed that we may not be eligible for participation in the state's rental rehab program for another year. Howe is working with Kent County and HUD on the specifics. If that's the case, the good news is that we will have a CDBG grant for another year and we will need to have some discussion to identify a project.
2. We have been doing some computer network upgrades and are still in the planning stages of the wireless project that will connect various city buildings.

12. **APPOINTMENTS.**

Arbor Board

Vacancy – City (Diane LaWarre currently serving)	06/30/2014
Vacancy – City (Melissa Spino currently serving)	06/30/2014

Board of Review

Vacancy – City (Leah Vredenburg currently serving)	06/30/2014
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Planning Commission

Vacancy – (David Cadwallader currently serving)	06/30/2014
Vacancy – (Shannon Hanley currently serving)	06/30/2014

Light and Power Board

Vacancy – (Perry Beachum currently serving)	06/30/2014
Vacancy – (Tamela Spicer currently serving)	06/30/2014

By general consensus, the Council agreed.

Mayor Hodges also read into record the resignation from Greg Canfield who is currently serving on the Downtown Development Authority and the Historic District Commission. Canfield will be asking these groups for some help with regards to the Moose Building he recently purchased. Hodges wished Canfield well.

Also, Rachel Schwab has submitted her resignation from the Planning Commission.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk