

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 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, Ellison, Jim Hall, and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery, Police Sergeant Christ Hurst and DPW Director Dan DesJarden.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

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

YES: 4. NO: 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 July 21, 2014 meeting as written.

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

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

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

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

NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (08/04/2014)

General Fund	\$32,979.73
Major Streets Fund	571.94
Local Streets Fund	1,165.64
Downtown Development	1,021.98
Designated Contr.	420.00
General Debt Ser.	200.00
Airport Fund	6,196.08
Wastewater Fund	14,454.29
Water Fund	36,387.01
Data Processing	3,352.25

Equipment Fund	9,292.35
Current Tax Collection	122,851.61

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

Sandy Johnson, 1201 Sibley, voiced her concerns regarding Self Serve Lumber at 925 W. Main. Their service bell rings constantly throughout the day and it is very annoying. The bell rings from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. City Manager Howe stated he would contact her tomorrow.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

A. Strategic Plan Update. An updated report was provided. City Manager Mark Howe commented on the Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation. There has been discussion about evaluating whether or not we want to upgrade the current lift station or move it and eliminate the force feed main that is going to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We received a preliminary report from Prein & Newhoff. They are scheduled to be at the August 25, 2014 workshop for discussion.

Councilmember Altoft noted his concerns regarding “old business” include the completion of City Manager Howe’s review, the sidewalks and the underground electric at the BP Gas Station and Subway as well as wanting the dollar amount left in the street fund each month.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Councilmember Appointment.

Several city residents have completed an application to fill the council vacancy left by Chris Schwab. Also, provided were copies of relevant sections of the charter that address eligibility for office and filling vacancies. The term for this appointment would begin immediately and end at 8 p.m. on November 9, 2015.

Councilmembers Ellison and Hall were happy to see there many applicants.

Mayor Hodges listed the six candidates who submitted applications as follows; Andrea Ketchmark, Stephen Thurtell, Jim Salzwedel, Matt Mayer, Brian McLane and Allan Teelander.

Andrea Ketchmark introduced herself.

Hall nominated Matt Mayer for the City Council opening. Mayer ran in the last City Council election. Altoft and Ellison agreed. The Councilmembers agreed everyone was qualified and encouraged them to serve on other boards.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to appoint Matt Mayer to the City Council filling the vacancy left by Chris Schwab with the term expiring November 9, 2015.

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

B. City Hall – Outside Trim Work.

Bids were sought from five contractors for repair of the trim work of the lower section of city hall. We will be seeking bids for the upper section next year. Only one response was received and it was from

Architectural Building Restoration for \$11,500. We have also received a grant from the Historic District Commission in the amount of \$9,200 for this work.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by HALL to approve the bid of \$11,500 from Architectural Building Restoration for trim repair work at city hall.

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

c. MERS Annual Meeting Officer Delegate.

The 2014 Municipal Employees' Retirement (MERS) Annual Meeting is being held this year on September 24 – 26, 2014 at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center. Council needs to appoint an Employer Delegate and Alternate to the Annual Meeting. Ballots were distributed to the employees and they selected Tom Russo as their delegate and Bob Robinson as their alternate to represent the City of Lowell employees.

It is recommended the Lowell City Council appoint Dan DesJarden as the Employer Delegate and Lori Gerard as the Employer Alternate for the 2014 MERS Annual Meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and seconded by ELLISON to appoint Dan DesJarden as the Employer Delegate and Lori Gerard as the Employer Alternate for the 2014 MERS Annual Meeting.

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

8. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Councilmember Altoft commented on the City of Lowell becoming a "Tree City USA". He believed the tree trimming rules need to be reviewed again to ensure they are being followed correctly. Altoft referred to the resolution that was brought forward to place an amendment on the November 4, 2014 ballot regarding additional parking behind the old Moose Building. He voted no on the issue only because he had not been educated very well on the issue. Altoft had a local business man recently address him thinking the union negotiations had been completed. We need to work hard on resolving this issue by the end of the year.

Councilmember Hall had no meetings to report on. He welcomed Matt Mayer to the City Council.

Councilmember Ellison stated the Arbor Board will be meeting on August 11, 2014. Altoft stated he would attend. Ellison thanked all of the individuals who submitted their applications for the Council position. She thanked Mayer as well.

Mayor Hodges congratulated Mayer. He also noted the Kent County Youth Fair opened today. He encouraged everyone to vote in the primary election held on August 5, 2014. The Pink Arrow Resolution will be recognized during the August 18, 2014 City Council meeting. He encouraged Councilmembers to wear a Pink Arrow T-shirt to the next meeting. Also, there will be a resolution for the annual POW/MIA day which will be recognized on Friday, September 19, 2014.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

1. We received notice from Flat River Outreach Ministries announcing that Dawn Broene will be its Interim Executive Director. The City of Lowell has always enjoyed a positive working relationship with FROM and we look forward to welcoming Ms. Broene.
2. The sidewalks in need of repair that were identified in an earlier report to you that were not completed last year have been completed. If there are other sidewalks that need to be inspected, please provide addresses. The sidewalk on Broadway sparked a review of our criteria where it was found we are not addressing the issue of grass growing over the sidewalks and up through the cracks.
3. A separate memo regarding the question raised at your most recent council meeting with regards to the red truck being used by the Wastewater Treatment Plant was provided. This truck has been with the plant since 1999. Originally, it was driven by Fire Chief Frank Martin and was split between the Fire Department and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Wastewater Treatment Plant paid for the maintenance on the truck and the Fire Department paid for the mileage. As we created the Fire Authority, the truck was purchased from the Fire Authority by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. United Water is now paying for the gas and we have continued the same arrangement. The truck is 15 years old and has 72,000 miles. It is in very good shape.
4. July 17, 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of our contract operations with United Water. Howe congratulated Mark Mundt and United Water. It was been a very positive relationship. To celebrate the occasion, United Water will be giving away free ice cream at the Sizzling Summer Concert on August 21, 2014. Members of the Council are invited to attend and help hand out ice cream.
5. Lowell Light and Power Board will have a board meeting on August 16, 2014 at 6 p.m. The meeting will begin at the energy center and then a tour of the bio-digester will take place. Members of the Council and the public are invited. The board will then bring their meeting back to the office of Lowell Light and Power.
6. Howe congratulated Matt Mayer on his appointment to the City Council.

10. **APPOINTMENTS.**

Historic District Commission

Vacancy –

01/01/2017

Planning Commission

Vacancy –

06/30/2016

Vacancy -

06/30/2015

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk