

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015, 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, Matt Mayer and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: Councilmember Sharon Ellison.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery, Suzanne Olin, Police Chief Steve Bukala and Interim DPW Director Ron Woods.

2. **EXCUSE OF ABSENSES.**

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

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

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by MAYER to approve the agenda as presented.

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

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the regular minutes of the June 15, 2015 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by MAYER to approve the closed session minutes of the June 1, 2015 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the closed session minutes of the June 15, 2015 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the work session minutes of the June 22, 2015 meeting as written.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by MAYER to approve the accounts payable as presented.

YES: Councilmember Altoft, Hall, Mayer and Mayor Hodges.

NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Ellison.

MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (07/06/2015)

General Fund	\$40,398.88
Major Street Fund	\$205.42
Local Street Fund	\$3,942.38
Downtown Development Fund	\$4,090.37
Riverfront Development	\$8,531.70
Airport Fund	\$402.21
Wastewater Fund	\$2,580.65
Water Fund	\$3,459.21
Data Processing Fund	\$4,668.40
Equipment Fund	\$1,694.05

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

No comments were received.

7. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. Strategic Goals Report. City Manager Howe presented a new Strategic Goals report. This report has been divided into Tier One, Tier Two and Tier Three. He noted there has been further discussion on the street plan at a recent workshop. The Council is in the process of identifying community and high priority streets for repair within the next five years. Also, coordination is being done with future water and sewer work over the next five years.

The downtown banners are in the process of being installed.

- b. Pending Council Projects Report. Howe stated the Council approved the removal of the downtown tower at the previous meeting. Updates will be provided.

The Lime Disposal project is closed and has been completed. By general consensus, the Council agreed to remove this item from the report.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. KDL Annual Report.

Former Branch Manager of the Englehardt Public Library Josh Bernstein provided the 2015 annual report. There are many events happening at the library. KDL received a grant from the Steelcase Foundation to conduct a study to gauge the impact of how story time affects kids. The Lowell branch will be participating in this study beginning in the fall.

Bernstein stated 84% of Lowell residents are library cardholders. This is the highest percentage out of all the KDL districts. Lowell residents appreciate the library and use it regularly. The summer reading club members increased by 20% last summer and this summer appears to be similar.

With the millage increase last year, KDL is bringing their services to other areas in town. The Lowell branch has struck a partnership with the senior center, baby time at the alpha center and FROM. They also have a great partnership with Friends of the Library.

KDL director Lance Werner and trustee Shirley Bruursema were also present. Bruursema stated KDL just approved a three year strategic plan with a special focus on senior citizens, creating young readers, support learning and cultivating creativity. She noted KDL is the second largest library in Michigan.

Werner stated the circulation in 2014 was down slightly. However, since the millage passed KDL has increased their collection. The electronic circulation was extremely high in 2014. He thanked the City for their partnership and being great friends to the library.

Mayor Hodges stated the City is very proud of the library.

- b. Lowell Youth Football Park Agreement. The City has negotiated a Park Use Agreement with Lowell Youth Football to use Burch Field for its fall football program. The term of the agreement is through December 31, 2016, which now completes the alignment of all of our sports agreements to expire at the end of 2016. In addition, the rate is set at \$10 per participant which also aligns with the rest of the youth sports agreements.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by MAYER to approve the Park Use Agreement with Lowell Youth Football through December 31, 2016, and authorize appropriate signatures.

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

- c. Tree Removal – 726 Lafayette. The City had a request from a resident to remove a tree in the street right-of-way at 726 Lafayette Street. The neighbor across the street supports the request to remove the tree. Both attended a recent meeting of the Arbor Board which has recommended removal as well. It is estimated that the cost to remove the tree will be approximately \$2,000. There will be a sidewalk repair of approximately \$300 as well.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYER and seconded by HALL to support the removal of the tree at 726 Lafayette Street.

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

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

- 10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**.

Councilmember Mayer noted the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority meeting was canceled.

Councilmember Altoft had no board updates.

Councilmember Hall also had no board updates. He was happy to see the house on Lincoln Lake has been demolished. Hall stated the banners look good as well as the front of the old Moose building.

Mayor Hodges stated Lowell Light and Power will meet on Thursday, July 9, 2015. The Chamber of Commerce will not meet in July due to the Riverwalk Festival. Look Memorial Fund will meet in the fall.

Hodges thanked Chief Bukala and the officers for the hard work over the weekend.

11. **CITY MANAGER REPORT.**

1. The City was not able to bring the steering committee together as planned to review the draft downtown parking analysis. With vacation schedules of the committee members, Howe did not anticipate scheduling a meeting until late July or early August.
2. Removal of the house at 318 Lincoln Lake should be completed soon.
3. Just a reminder that the annual Riverwalk Festival will be held this week.

12. **APPOINTMENTS.** At this time all appointments are filled.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by ALTOFT to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan S. Ullery, Deputy City Clerk