

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Hodges announced there will be a tribute to Councilmember Hall during the citizen comments for items that are not on the agenda.

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 City Clerk Susan Ullery.

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

Absent: None.

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

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

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

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the regular minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting as written.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by MAYER to approve the special minutes of the September 28, 2015 meeting as corrected.

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the accounts payable as presented.

YES: Councilmembers Altoft, Ellison, Mayer and Mayor Hodges. NO: None.

ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (10/05/2015)

General Fund	\$21,258.51
Major Street Fund	\$12.69
Local Street Fund	\$12.69

Downtown Development Fund	\$140.99
Wastewater Fund	\$37,112.10
Water Fund	\$4,718.57
Data Processing Fund	\$258.68
Equipment Fund	\$158.90
Current Tax Collected	\$52,397.86

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

Tribute to Councilmember Hall

Mayor Hodges stated it is with great sadness to have heard of Hall's passing. His wife, Bev Hall passed away on February 2, 2015. City Clerk Susan Ullery, City Manager Mark Howe, Councilmembers Mayer, Ellison and Aloft, City Treasurer Suzanne Olin, Interim DPW Director Ron Woods, and Police Chief Steve also spoke. Citizen Tony Ellison spoke of Councilmember Hall as well.

Citizen Comments

Lowell Rely for Life coordinator Katherine Attwood stated they wish to move the event from the Lowell High School to the Lowell Riverwalk. The event will be held on June 25, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Police Chief Steve Bukala stated public comment was sought regarding the move to the downtown area. Most comments were positive with one concern regarding the time the band stops playing. Attwood noted the live band will end at 9:00 p.m.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. Strategic Goals Report. No new information was provided.
- b. Pending Council Projects Report. No new information was provided.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Council Appointment Timeline.

City Manager Mark Howe stated one correction on the proposed timeline is that notice will be placed in the October 10th Buyers Guide rather than October 3rd.

Mayor Hodges stated notice will be placed in the October 10th Buyers Guide and the October 7th Ledger. Applications will be due by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2015. All applications will then be shared with the City Council in their regular council meeting packets for the Monday, October 19th City Council meeting as part of the regular agenda in order to fill this vacancy.

By general consensus, the Council agreed.

- b. Grand Valley Metropolitan Council – Amendment No. 39 and Resolution 16-15.

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council has asked that the Council adopt a Resolution amending the Articles of Incorporation to add Nelson Township and the Village of Sparta as a member.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to approve amendment No. 39 and Resolution 16-15.

YES: Councilmembers Altoft, Ellison, Mayer and Mayor Hodges. NO: None.

ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Dixon Engineering Agreement.

Public Works is requesting approval of an agreement with Dixon Engineering to provide inspection and technical services relating to the city's 5000,000 gallon water tank. The agreement is for \$1,900 with other services being provided an additional cost on an as needed basis.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYER and seconded by ALTOFT to approve an agreement with Dixon Engineering for water tank inspection services and authorize the signatures of the Mayor and Clerk.

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

d. Well #1 Rehabilitation Bids.

The City has received the following three bids for rehabilitation of Well #1.

- Peerless-Midwest \$24,720
- Layne \$25,535
- Northern Pump & Well \$29,676

This item was included in the capital plan for the current fiscal year. We are recommending you accept the low bid from Peerless-Midwest.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by MAYER to accept the bid from Peerless-Midwest for \$24,720 for rehabilitation of Well #1.

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

e. Review Redevelopment Liquor License Process.

We have developed our internal process for reviewing requests for Redevelopment Liquor Licenses. The document outlining this process is presented for your review and input. While no formal action by the council is required on this internal process, we are asking for your review and input as our process ultimately leads to council action to recommend or not recommend licenses to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Howe questioned if the Council wanted to discuss a policy issue of placing a limit on how many of these licenses are wanted in the City.

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Mayer stated the Fire Authority will meet October 12, 2015 at the Fire Station. Mayer commented on the meeting held at Schneider Manor for “Meet the New Candidates”. Some thought it was a closed meeting, which it was not. It was for the senior citizens to meet these candidates.

Councilmember Altoft believed Howe was correct when discussing how many liquor licenses does the City want. Altoft commented on the sidewalk program. It seems nothing was done with any of the bad sidewalks this year. Quite a bit of grant funds were used to get this program going. The sidewalks around the post office are terrible.

Councilmember Ellison referred to the “Meet the Candidates Meeting”. It was advertised as this. Therefore she thought she would go. She was met at the door and was told this was for new candidates only and that she was not allowed to speak. Ellison also noted there is a process in place for repair of sidewalks. Maybe this should be added to the next work shop for further discussion. Ellison stated she had a resident complain about High Street. It is getting a lot of traffic. The section off Division between Division and Jackson is getting worse. There is little pavement left with deep ruts.

Mayor Hodges stated a joint Planning Commission meeting was held on September 28, 2015. The City and Lowell and Vergennes Townships participated. The City will be hosting the joint meeting next year. Girls Night Out is October 15th. Hodges stated he attended a legislative breakfast with the main topic being “Community Mental Health”. The Look Committee will meet in November. Grant requests are due October 30th at 4:00 p.m. The board will review these grants on November 11th and decisions will be made on November 18th. Peter Letzmann provided an update for boards and commissions on September 29th. The meetings that were held at Senior Neighbors and Schneider Manor were informative. Throughout this process, it came up that “Coffee with Council” should transition to one of those locations. The November 7th “Coffee with Council” will be held at Lowell Senior Neighbors Center from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

9. **CITY MANAGER REPORT.**

1. Most of the utility work on Jefferson and Jackson Streets is nearly completed and we hope to see the first course of paving soon. Also, the Grove/High Streets project will also get underway soon, as well as the Washington Street project from Fremont north to the city limits.
2. Some of the fire hydrants are undergoing a facelift. A part-time employee has been hired to prep and paint several hydrants before winter arrives.
3. The Flat River Connect group met again and keeps moving forward with the idea of converting a portion of the old cable building into a business center. They attended a council workshop months ago to discuss the concept with you, receive your input and ask for a consensus to keep moving forward.
4. Please let Howe know of any topics the Council would like covered at the October 26 workshop.

10. **APPOINTMENTS.** At this time all appointments are filled with the exception of the two vacancies that Councilmember Hall served on. This is LARA and the Planning Commission. This will be left vacant until after the election.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by MAYER to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

DATE:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

APPROVED:

Susan Ullery, City Clerk