

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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 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 and City Treasurer Suzanne Olin.

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 MAYER to approve the regular minutes of the October 19, 2015 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 MAYER 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 (11/02/2015)

General Fund	\$23,857.42
Major Street Fund	\$6,467.26
Local Street Fund	\$15,369.24
Historical District	6,416.00
Downtown Development Fund	\$3,386.40
Airport Fund	\$125.42
Wastewater Fund	\$5,209.63
Water Fund	\$9,366.92
Data Processing Fund	\$6,036.74
Equipment Fund	\$3,341.23
Current Tax Collected	\$45,420.05

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

None.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. Strategic Goals Report. Prein & Newhoff has completed a draft report and will be getting it to the City for review in the near future. In the meantime, Howe asked that they prepare a presentation to the Council giving some history on the analysis leading up to obtaining the DEQ SAW Grant and the decision to move the wastewater lift station.
- b. Pending Council Projects Report. Nothing new to report.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Light & Power Retiree COLA. The Lowell Light & Power Board has recommended a cost of living increase for retirees of Lowell Light & Power. Light & Power General Manager Greg Pierce provided a memo outlining the proposed increase.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by MAYER to approve the Flexible E benefit option for the Light & Power Division of MERS with a 2016 COLA increase of one percent.

YES: 3. (Councilmembers Ellison, Mayer and Mayor Hodges).

NO: 1. (Councilmember Altoft) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Mayer introduced his fiance Kelli Carney and her two daughters. Mayer also went on to state this was his last meeting. He thanked those who have encouraged and supported him. He provided advice for the future council. He chose not to run for Council again after seeing deceit and deception that goes on with the city government; he wants no part of it.

Councilmember Altoft attended the Fire Authority meeting. There will be many changes in the agreement. Because this is such an important meeting to attend, there should be an alternate councilmember assigned to the Fire Authority board. Altoft wished all the candidates well in the upcoming election.

Councilmember Ellison stated she was unable to attend the Historic District Commission meeting. She was sorry regarding Mayer's comments. City Council is a hard position to serve on and it is not for everyone.

Mayor Hodges commented on the November newsletter. He also noted the new City Council candidates will be sworn into office on November 9, 2015 at 8 p.m. Hodges wished everyone well in the upcoming election.

9. **CITY MANAGER REPORT.**

1. We have received a letter of interest from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to secure over \$200,000 in a CDBG grant for the proposed Big Boiler Brewing Company. The brewing company

will be located in the eastern portion of the old Superior Furniture building. We will continue to work with the MEDC and developer and look forward to yet another successful downtown business.

2. The annual Community Clean-up was again a success. The clean-up is sponsored by the Lowell Area Vision group consisting of the City of Lowell, Lowell Township, Vergennes Township, Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.
3. The annual audit for the 2014-15 fiscal year is complete and copies will be distributed later this week. The auditors will present the audit and answer questions at the next council meeting.
4. Howe thanked Mayer for his service to the City of Lowell.

10. **APPOINTMENTS.** No appointments were made.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by MAYER to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Susan Ullery, City Clerk