

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016, 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 Jeff Altoft and City Clerk Susan Ullery called roll.

Present: Mayor Jeff Altoft, Councilmembers Mike Devore, Jim Hodges, Jeff Phillips and Alan Teelander.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Interim City Manager Dave Pasquale, City Clerk Susan Ullery, City Treasurer Sue Olin, DPW Director Rich LaBombard and Police Chief Steve Bukala.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by PHILLIPS to approve the agenda as written.

YES: 5 NO: None. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PRECEDING REGULAR AND/OR SPECIAL MEETINGS.**

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the regular minutes of the May 2, 2016 meeting as written.

YES: Mayor Altoft, Councilmember DeVore, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips and

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

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

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (05/16/2016)</u>	
General Fund	\$25,502.34
Major Street Fund	\$42,873.39
Local Street Fund	\$145.76
Downtown Development Fund	\$36,518.38
Designated Contributions	\$7,232.37
Airport Fund	\$1,707.64
Wastewater Fund	\$18,158.94
Water Fund	\$61,265.92
Data Processing Fund	\$1,321.42
Equipment Fund	\$1,066.39

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to approve the accounts payable as presented.

YES: Councilmember DeVore, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember

Teeland and Mayor Altoft.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Jim Salzwedel, Bob Pfaller and Shawn Bowne all got up to speak regarding various concerns.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. Strategic Goals Report.

Nothing new to report.

b. Pending Council Projects Report.

Nothing new to report.

c. Council Training and Information Schedule.

Nothing new to report.

d. Strategic Plan Overview.

Nothing new to report.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Public Hearing – 2016-2017 Budget.

A public hearing has been scheduled for input on the proposed 2016-17 budget for the City of Lowell. Copies of the proposed budget have been made available at City Hall, the library and on our website. We have also offered to print a copy of the budget for anyone who as requested a copy. A Council work session is planned for Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. to review the proposed budget.

b. City Manager Search – Progress Report.

Recruitment for resumes has commenced through the International City/Country Management Association (ICMA) website. The deadline for resume submittal is June 6.

c. Ordinance Amendment for Mineral Removal and Floodplain – Recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Over the last several months, the Planning Commission has reviewed zoning amendments which address the City's Floodplain District and allows for mineral extraction in the Industrial District. This was brought to the City because of Grand Rapids Gravel's proposal for mining at 2104 Bowes Road.

To address these issues, the Commission through its planner, Andy Moore, provided amendments which eliminated conflicts with the Floodplain District clarifying this as an overlay district. A Rivers Edge District was provided to protect those underdeveloped areas in the City which are subject to predictable and regular flooding.

After receiving public comments, the amendments were recommended for approval along with changes to the zoning map by the Commission at its May 9 meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by PHILLIPS to adopt the zoning ordinance amendments recommended by the Planning Commission regarding the Floodplain Overlay District, the River's Edge District and zoning map changes.

YES: Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Mayor Altoft and Councilmember DeVore. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Light & Power – MERS 457 Plan Adoption.

Steve Donkersloot's spoke about the fact that Lowell Light and Power wishes to add another 457 Plan as an optional retirement savings for employees. Under the Municipal Employees Retirement System, there are no costs to Light and Power. The City is also currently reviewing the plan for their employees.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to approve the adoption of a MERS 457 Plan for Lowell Light and Power employees.

YES: Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Mayor Altoft, Councilmember DeVore and Councilmember Hodges. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

8. **BOARD/COMMISSIONS REPORTS.**

Councilmember Hodges attended the Arbor Board meeting last week and agreed to transplant two trees over by Pebble Beach Apartments. They will also be planting 5 new trees there as well.

The Look Memorial Fund met last week. There is only \$691 available and \$34,000 worth of requests. They ask that those groups who requested money, to defer to the fall and they will review the requests again at that time when they have more funds to disburse.

Councilmember Phillips stated that on Tuesday, May 24, the Historic District Commission will hold their meeting at City Hall.

Councilmember Teelander said that the last two Lowell Light & Power Board meetings have been 3 hours long and that says a lot about the dedication of the board and the team there. Ryan Teechworth took Tom Russo's place and is a top notch employee. If anyone needs to speak to someone about any issues there, Steve is a great person to talk to there. All projects are on line. They are working on solutions to get gas to the plant.

Liz Baker from the Chamber has requested that a council member sit on The Showboat Board. He recommended discussing it at the next council meeting once he finds out more information.

Councilmember Teelander then discussed some of his personal goals while on City Council. One of which was to access what the true total number is to fix the local streets.

Councilmember DeVore stated that the Parks and Recreation Department meets tomorrow at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Altoft attended the Fire Board meeting last week. We need to have the building inspected. Ron Woods intends to go through it once he recovers from his surgery. We should know by next month how much money we have to budget this year for the fire trucks.

The Airport Board met last week. Things are looking really good out there. Most of the maintenance out there is done by the board members.

9. **MONTHLY REPORTS.**

The Treasurer will have the monthly reports at the next meeting.

10. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS.**

We are still receiving applications.

11. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

1. Mayor Exchange with Portland is planned for Thursday, May 26. They will be here on that date. We will go there on June 30.
2. We received a blurb from the Michigan Municipal League on their convention at Mackinac Island in September. Registration opens sometime in June. Mayor Altoft recommended that they all attend.
3. The Downtown Development Authority at its May 12 meeting allocated up to \$12,000 for sidewalk replacement in the district.

11. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Hodges reminded everyone that we are currently in National Police Week, as it runs from May 15-21. May 15 was the day to honor fallen police members. He thanked and gave recognition to our police department for all that they do.

He thanked Frank Martin who recently retired at the Fire Chief and for his 45 years of service. There will be a public recognition and a farewell get together to honor Frank on Wednesday, June 15 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Look Memorial Fire Station. The public is encouraged to attend.

Councilmember Phillips went over some of his personal goals that he would like to accomplish as a council member.

Councilmember Teelander reminded everyone that the budget is online and stated that he would like to see a lot of the community at tomorrow night's meeting at 7:30 p.m. Your input is important.

Councilmember DeVore stated that he has information for his personal goals, but he is going to get the budget first. He also recommended that everyone attend the Parks meeting tomorrow.

Mayor Altoft stated that he is working on the road plan along with Rich Labombard. He also has concerns regarding the sidewalks and is looking to get all of the major bad portions fixed this year.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Jeff Altoft, Mayor

Susan Ullery, City Clerk