

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 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 City Clerk Susan Ullery.

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Clerk Susan Ullery, City Treasurer Sue Olin, Interim DPW Director Ron Woods, Light & Power Director Greg Pierce and Police Sergeant Chris Hurst.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

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

YES: 5.            NO: 0.            ABSENT: 0.            MOTION CARRIED.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PRECEDING REGULAR MEETING.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to approve the regular minutes of the February 1, 2016 meeting as written.

YES: 5.            NO: 0.            ABSENT: 0.            MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

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

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

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (2/16/2016)</u>	
General Fund	\$18,101.86
Historic District Fund	\$1,893.00
Downtown Development Fund	\$579.86
Airport Fund	\$1,807.58
Wastewater Fund	\$33,218.40
Water Fund	\$157,513.51
Data Processing Fund	\$9,644.23
Equipment Fund	\$1,319.02
Current Tax Collected	\$50,030.64

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

Chris Becker introduced himself and noted he is running for Kent County Prosecutor.

Citizens Jeff Dickeman, Perry Beachum, Jim Salzwedal and Shawn Bowne all spoke regarding various concerns.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. Strategic Goals Report.

This item was tabled.

b. Pending Council Project Report.

The Council reviewed the report.

c. Council Training and Information Schedule.

City staff has been working together and with others to schedule the next few presentations. Pasquale asked the Councilmembers to let him know if there is something in particular that they would like to see moved up on the list.

d. Equipment Purchase.

Ron Woods recommended that they move forward and replace the door on the skid steer.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to move forward with the door replacement.

YES: 5.                      NO: 0.                      ABSENT: 0.                      MOTION CARRIED.

e. Strategic Plan Overview.

Nothing new to report.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Fireworks for Riverwalk.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is requesting approval of a permit for a fireworks display on Saturday, July 9, 2016. This will be part of the annual Riverwalk Festival and, as in recent years, the fireworks will be launched from Stoney Lakeside Park. The fireworks are sponsored by and paid for in full by the Laurels of Kent.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by PHILLIPS to approve the request from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce for a fireworks display on Saturday, July 9, 2016.

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

Teelander and Mayor Altoft. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Riverwalk Festival Street Closure Request.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is requesting several street closures relating to events that are part of the annual Riverwalk Festival.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the request from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce to close Avery Street, west of Monroe Street, beginning on Thursday, July 7, 2016, at 6 a.m. through Saturday, July 9, 2016 ending at 6 p.m.; and to close Avery Street, east of Monroe to the Nazarene Church Parking Lot and Washington Street, north of Main to the Lowell Area Schools Parking Lot, on Saturday, July 9, 2016, from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

c. Big Boiler Brewing, LLC – Resolution 01-16.

Brent Slagell of Big Broiler Brewing, LLC and City Attorney Dick Wendt spoke regarding the status of the brewery project at the Superior Furniture building. They asked for approval of Resolution 01-16 to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to approve Resolution 01-16 for Big Boiler Brewing, LLC.

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

d. New Union Brewery – Resolution 04-16.

Tyler Velting from New Union Brewery stated that their site plan had been approved last week and stated that the last thing that the State of Michigan needed in order for them to continue moving forward was the Council approval for the brewery to come into Lowell.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by HODGES to approve Resolution 04-16 for New Union Brewery.

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

e. Interim City Manager Contract Agreement.

An agreement was presented that outlined the terms of employment for David Pasquale who is serving as the Interim City Manager.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and seconded by HODGES to approve the Interim City Manager Contract Agreement.

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

f. Interim City Manager Resolution 02-16.

Resolution 02-16 was presented that states the Council's agreement to employ David Pasquale as Interim City Manager and Pasquale's acceptance of the position.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the Interim City Manager Resolution 02-16.

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

g. Wastewater Inflow & Infiltration – Presentation by Prein & Newhoff.

Brian Vilmont of Prein & Newhoff presented a schedule of recommended projects regarding the wastewater inflow and infiltration project. The projects include the main lift station replacement, the Valley Vista lift station and replacing the sanitary sewer river closing and reconstructing the sanitary sewer by King Milling.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to approve the wastewater inflow and infiltration.

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

h. Assessors Agreement.

Jeff and Debra Rashid have been the City's assessors since April, 2010. The agreement adjusts compensation from \$36,000 to \$45,000 a year, effective March 1, 2016. No additional fringe benefits would be included and no additional monies would be paid for a contracted duration of two years. There has been no increase in the past six years.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the Assessors Agreement.

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

i. Assessors Resolution 03-16.

This is a resolution approving and authorizing the execution of the property tax assessor employment agreement between the City and Jeffrey and Debra Rashid.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by PHILLIPS to approve the Assessors Resolution 03-16.

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

8. **MONTHLY REPORTS.**

No comments.

9. **BOARD/COMMISSIONS REPORTS.**

Councilmember Hodges updated everyone on the three Boards he serves on.

At the latest Arbor Board meeting, there was discussion about various trees in the community, specifically one on Lafayette Street. They will be revisiting the issue at their meeting in March.

The LOOK Committee will be meeting in May. Proposals to the LOOK Committee are due April 29.

LCTV Endowment Board will begin its meetings on March 3.

Councilmember Teelander updated everyone on the latest Planning Commission meeting. They discussed the Union Brewery which they believe is a good thing to be coming into the City. They also discussed the overlay for the floodplain which has been adjusted. It was also noted the Planning Commission has two vacancies.

Councilmember Phillips stated the next Historical Meeting will be on the February 23.

Councilmember DeVore discussed the last Parks and Recreation meeting and stated they are discussing what to name the Boy Scout cabin on the North Washington property. They are working on new pamphlets and booklets as well as a couple of grants for the parking lots at Stoney Creekside Park. Next meeting is March 15.

Mayor Altoft updated everyone on the Airport Board's last meeting and said they are in the process of hiring a new fixed base operator. They are expecting many new planes.

Mayor Altoft went to his first Vision meeting. Many good ideas were presented.

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

a. Citizen Appointments.

There are currently two positions available on the Planning Commission.

Mike DeVore will be sitting on the LARA Board.

11. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

1. A question was raised regarding the City participating in the Rental Rehabilitation Program. We have provided a copy of Resolution 06-14 in which the Council approved the termination of participation in the Urban County CDBG program with Kent County at its May 5, 2015 City Council meeting.
2. We were asked to provide a copy of Ordinance 11-06. This is an ordinance to add Article 111, "Sidewalk Inspection and Compliance upon Sale or Transfer of Abutting Property," to Chapter 19, "Street, Sidewalks and Other Public Places," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell. This was approved at its May 2, 2011 City Council meeting and went into effect on May 14, 2011, ten days after publication.
3. We are conducting an internal staff review of our Cemetery Rules. Once we have completed our internal review, we will bring any recommended changes to you for consideration. We want to get the word out that we are reviewing the rules and looking for public input and feedback prior to our recommendation to you. Please help us spread the word that we are going through this process and that we welcome any comments or suggestions. People can contact Luanne at City Hall at 897-8457 or by email at [lwisniewski@ci.lowell.mi.us](mailto:lwisniewski@ci.lowell.mi.us).

12. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Teelander thanked everyone for coming and stated that he welcomes all comments and invited anyone to call him and he'd be happy to talk.

Mayor Altoft discussed the sidewalks and stated that the Council is going to work with Pasquale and the staff to get a new policy in place.

The remaining councilmembers had no further comments.

13. **CLOSED SESSION.**

- a. Consideration of request made for confidential agreement – closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(h).

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR ALTOFT to go into closed session, but no second was received.

No closed session was held.

Discussion commenced regarding the contract settlement for Mark Howe.

IT WAS MOVED BY TEELANDER and seconded by DEVORE to approve the contract settlement for Mark Howe as presented on this date with the exception of deleting paragraph 15.

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

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

14. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Jeff Altoft, Mayor

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Susan Ullery, City Clerk